Vorticity in analog gravity

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Abstract

In the analog gravity framework, the acoustic disturbances in a moving fluid can be described by an equation of motion identical to a relativistic scalar massless field propagating in curved space-time. This description is possible only when the fluid under consideration is barotropic, inviscid, and irrotational. In this case, the propagation of the perturbations is governed by an acoustic metric that depends algebraically on the local speed of sound, density, and the background flow velocity, the latter assumed to be vorticity-free. In this work we provide a straightforward extension in order to go beyond the irrotational constraint. Using a charged—relativistic and nonrelativistic—Bose–Einstein condensate as a physical system, we show that in the low-momentum limit and performing the eikonal approximation we can derive a d’Alembertian equation of motion for the charged phonons where the emergent acoustic metric depends on flow velocity in the presence of vorticity.

Keywords: analogue gravity, charged condensate, relativistic BEC, relativistic and nonrelativistic acoustic space-times

1. Introduction

Since the seminal work of Unruh [1] and its subsequent development [2, 3], the analog gravity framework has become a field of intense investigation. Issues such as Hawking radiation [1, 4], cosmological particle production [6, 7], the emergence of space-time, and the fate of Lorentz invariance at short distances have gained momentum within the analog gravity field (for a general review, see [5]).

Analog gravity was born out of the realization that acoustic disturbances in flowing fluids can, under suitable conditions, be described in the formalism of curved space-time. In fact, when taking into account linearized perturbations over barotropic irrotational moving fluids, it
can be demonstrated that the phonon excitations propagate under an effective acoustic metric, which is fully characterized by the background quantities of the flow. This remarkable result is valid both in relativistic and nonrelativistic cases [1, 3, 8–10].

Among the several condensed-matter and optical systems considered in analog gravity, Bose–Einstein condensates (BECs) [4, 11–14] are of particular interest as they provide simple low-temperature systems with a high level of quantum coherence. The phonons in the BECs are treated as quantum perturbations over a classical background condensate, thus providing an attractive scenario to describe semiclassical gravity phenomena, such as acoustic Hawking radiation [1, 15, 16]. BECs have also inspired many interesting analog models for the emergence of symmetries, space-time, and more recently a mechanism of emergent dynamics [17].

It is worth noting that all these analog systems leading to these striking results are characterized by the requirement of zero vorticity, i.e., in their thermodynamic limit they all provide irrotational fluids, e.g. in section 2.3 of [5]. In the case of BECs this is automatically imposed by the fact that the associated current is the derivative of a scalar, i.e., the phase of wavefunction of the condensate. Some works have tried to introduce acoustic metrics for different classes of fluid flows. An important contribution in this subject was made in [18], and we will discuss the relative difference between our and their finds later on.

Our aim in this paper is demonstrate that we, in a charged condensate, for sufficiently low momenta, find a wave equation to describe the propagation of phonons under an effective acoustic metric in the presence of vorticity. First, we investigate the behavior of the mode excitations in a charged condensate. Analyzing the charged fluid we conclude that the electromagnetic minimal coupling introduces vorticity in the system. In the appropriate limit, we demonstrate that it is possible to build an acoustic metric that takes into account vorticity. We perform this analysis in the relativistic and nonrelativistic cases.

The paper is organized as follows: in section 2 we describe how the condensation of a charged relativistic gas can be formed. In section 3, we analyze the perturbations over the top of the charged condensate. The relativistic acoustic metric in the presence of vorticity is derived in section 4. In section 5, we show that the same results appear in the nonrelativistic condensate. Our conclusions and remarks are presented in section 6.

In our conventions the signature of the metric is (−, +, +, +).

2. Charged relativistic Bose–Einstein condensate

Let us start by considering the general theory of Bose–Einstein condensation of a charged relativistic ideal gas (for a general review, see [19]). The U(1) gauge-invariant Lagrangian describing the interaction of the complex scalar field \( \phi \) and the electromagnetic field \( A^\mu \) can be written as

\[
\mathcal{L} = -\frac{\eta^{\mu\nu}}{2} (D_\mu \phi)^* (D_\nu \phi) - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \phi^* \phi - \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu},
\]

where \( F_{\mu\nu} \) (\( = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu \)) is the electromagnetic field strength tensor, \( m \) is the mass of the bosons, \( \lambda \) is a coupling constant, and the covariant derivative is defined by \( D_\mu = \partial_\mu + \frac{\gamma A_\mu}{c} \). The Noether theorem leads to a locally conserved current \( j^\mu \), which is given by
The conserved charge associated to local $U(1)$ symmetry is

$$Q = i \int d^3x \{ \phi (D_0 \phi)^* - (D^0 \phi)^* \},$$

which has an associated bosonic chemical potential, $\mu$. The momentum canonically conjugate to $\phi$ is

$$\pi = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}} = \dot{\phi}^* + i \frac{q}{\hbar} A_0 \dot{\phi}^*.$$

Since we are treating the fields $\phi$ and $\dot{\phi}^*$ independently, the Hamiltonian density will be given by

$$\mathcal{H} = \pi \dot{\phi} + \pi^* \dot{\phi}^* - \mathcal{L}.$$

The partition function is defined by

$$Z = \mathcal{N} \int (DA)(D\pi)^*(D\pi)(D\phi)^*(D\dot{\phi}) \exp \left\{ \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x \{ \pi \dot{\phi} + \pi^* \dot{\phi}^* - (\mathcal{H} - \mu Q) \} \right\} \times \det \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \omega} \right) \delta F.$$

Integrating the momenta away, we arrive at

$$Z = \mathcal{N} \int (DA)(D\phi)^*(D\dot{\phi}) \exp \left[ \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \right] \times \det \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \omega} \right) \delta F,$$

where the effective Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}$ of the theory is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = - \left[ \partial_{\mu} - i \frac{q}{c \hbar} \left( A_{\mu} + \frac{\mu}{q} \eta_{\mu} \right) \right] \phi \left[ \partial^{\mu} + i \frac{q}{c \hbar} \left( A^{\mu} + \frac{\mu}{q} \eta^{\mu} \right) \right] \phi - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \phi^* \phi - \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu \nu} F^{\mu \nu}.$$

Before going on, careful analysis of the effective Lagrangian (8) indicates that the shift

$$A_\mu \to A_\mu - \frac{\mu}{q} \eta_{\mu}$$

will provide an $\mu$-independent partition function. However, if the Lagrangian (8) does not have any $\mu$–dependence, the charged condensate will not be formed because the spontaneous symmetry breaking cannot occur since we are assuming $m^2 > 0$. To circumvent this problem, we can add to the effective Lagrangian a term like $q J_{\mu} A^\mu$, where $J^\mu (\equiv \delta^\mu_0 \eta^{\mu 0})$ is a constant background charge density. Physically, this means that this extra term will compensate for the charge density of the scalar field, making the system electrically neutral, so thermodynamic equilibrium can be achieved and the charged condensate can emerge (for a further discussion, see [19]).
It follows that the effective Lagrangian \( \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \) can be written as

\[
\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = - (D_{\mu}\phi)^* (D^\mu \phi) + \frac{i\mu}{\hbar c} (\phi \partial\phi^* - \phi^* \partial \phi) + 2 \frac{q\mu}{\hbar^2 c^2} A^0 \phi^* \phi - V(\phi)
\]

\[
- \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{q}{\hbar c} j_c \rho^c,
\]

where

\[
V(\phi) = \left[ \frac{\mu^2}{\hbar^2 c^2} - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \right] \phi^* \phi + \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2
\]

is the effective potential. It is clear from the effective potential \( V(\phi) \) that the charged relativistic gas will form a condensate only when \( \mu^2 / (\hbar c)^2 > m^2 c^2 / \hbar^2 \). We would like to remark that besides the many similarities between Bose–Einstein condensation and the spontaneous symmetry breaking mechanism, the physical and mathematical details concerning these phenomena are not completely equivalent. For instance, if we assume \( m^2 < 0 \) in the Lagrangian density (1), the vacuum undergoes spontaneous symmetry breaking and the system ends up with a real scalar field and a massive real vector field. This is the usual Higgs mechanism. However, in the Higgs case, we cannot construct an acoustic geometric description for the perturbations since the conserved current for the real scalar field is identically null and the continuity equation is trivial. Nevertheless, as explained above, when we introduce the chemical potential \( \mu \), the possibility of condensation exists [19].

Now we can apply the mean-field prescription by performing the substitution \( \phi \rightarrow \varphi \), where \( \varphi \) is the classical condensate field. Thus, performing the variation of \( \phi^* \) in the effective Lagrangian (10), the equation of motion for \( \varphi \) assumes the form

\[
\left[ \Box - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} + 2 \frac{\mu}{\hbar c} \partial_0 - \frac{\mu^2}{\hbar^2 c^2} + 2 \frac{iq}{\hbar c} A^0 \partial_0 + \frac{iq}{\hbar c} \partial_0 A^0 - \frac{q^2}{c^2 \hbar^2} A^0 A_0 = U'(\varphi; \lambda) \right] \varphi = 0,
\]

where \( \varphi = \phi^* \varphi \), and \( U \equiv \lambda (\varphi^* \varphi)^2 \) is the self-interaction term. Making a shift \( A_\mu 
arrow A_\mu - \frac{\mu}{q} \partial_0 \), we can factor out the chemical potential dependence and express the field equation as

\[
\left[ \Box - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} + 2 \frac{iq}{\hbar c} A^0 \partial_0 + \frac{iq}{\hbar c} \partial_0 A^0 - \frac{q^2}{c^2 \hbar^2} A^0 A_0 = U'(\varphi; \lambda) \right] \varphi = 0,
\]

which describes a charged relativistic Bose–Einstein condensate.

3. Dynamics of perturbations

We are interested in analyzing the dynamics of the linearized perturbation of the condensate. In a dilute gas, i.e., when the correlations in the gas can be neglected, we can use the mean-field approximation to compute the perturbations. Thus, applying the decomposition \( \phi = \varphi (1 + \psi) \) in the modified Klein–Gordon equation (13), where the classical condensate field \( \varphi \) satisfies equation (13) and \( \psi \) is the relative quantum (i.e., of order \( \hbar \)) field fluctuation, we show that the linearized perturbations obey, at linear order of \( \psi \),

\[
\text{(13)}
\]
\[ \Box \psi + 2i\eta^{\mu \nu} (\partial, \eta_{\mu \nu}) \partial_\nu \psi + 2\frac{i\eta}{c\hbar} A^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - \varrho U''(\rho; \lambda) (\psi + \psi^*) = 0. \]  

(14)

It is very convenient to decompose the degrees of freedom of the complex mean field \( \varphi \) through the Madelung representation, given by \( \varphi = \sqrt{\varrho} e^{i\theta} \), where \( \varrho \) is the density and \( \theta \) is the phase of the condensate. With that, we can define

\[ u^\mu \equiv \frac{\hbar}{m} \eta^{\mu \nu} \partial_\nu \theta, \]  

(15)

\[ c_0^2 \equiv \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^2} \varrho U''(\rho; \lambda), \]  

(16)

\[ T_\varrho \equiv -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (\Box + \eta^{\mu \nu} \partial_\mu \ln \varrho \partial_\nu) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m \varrho} \eta^{\mu \nu} \partial_\mu \varrho \partial_\nu, \]  

(17)

where \( c_0 \) encodes the strength of the interactions and has dimensions of velocity and \( T_\varrho \) is a generalized kinetic operator that in the nonrelativistic limit and for constant \( \rho \) reduces to

\[ T_\varrho \to -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m \varrho} \nabla \varrho \nabla = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2, \]  

(18)

which is the usual kinetic operator [14–16].

In the phase-density decomposition, the locally conserved current and the condensate classical wave assume the form

\[ \partial_\mu (J^\mu) = 0, \]  

(19)

\[ -f^\mu f_\mu = c^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{m^2} \left[ U + \Box \sqrt{\varrho} \right], \]  

(20)

where \( f^\mu \equiv u^\mu + \frac{\lambda}{mc} A^\mu \) is the time-like gauge-invariant four-velocity of the condensate.

Using the above definitions, it is easy to show, following the steps of [20], that the equation describing the propagation of charged perturbations is

\[ [i\hbar f^\mu \partial_\mu - T_\varrho - mc_0^2] \psi = mc_0^2 \psi^*. \]  

(21)

It is instructive to obtain a single equation for the quantum field \( \psi \). This can be done by taking the Hermitian conjugate of the above equation and using the result to eliminate \( \psi^* \). After some manipulation, we find

\[ \left\{ [i\hbar f^\mu \partial_\mu + T_\varrho] \frac{1}{c_0^2} [-i\hbar f^\nu \partial_\nu + T_\varrho] - \frac{\hbar^2}{\varrho} \eta^{\mu \nu} \partial_\mu \varrho \partial_\nu \right\} \psi = 0. \]  

(22)

Equation (22) is a relativistic equation of motion describing the propagation of charged linearized perturbations on top of a charged rBEC. We call attention to the fact that the relative fluctuation \( \psi \) does not change under a gauge transformation, which assures us that equation (22) is indeed gauge invariant as expected. We also note that the electromagnetic field under consideration is endowed with small magnitude. This assumption is very convenient since we intend to neglect background effects coming from electromagnetic fluctuations in the phonon propagation.
4. The relativistic acoustic metric

One of the usual assumptions in analog gravity is the flow must be locally irrotational, i.e., vorticity free. Nevertheless, when the condensate couples with the electromagnetic field, the situation changes and vorticity appears in the system, which can be seen explicitly by inspection of the vorticity tensor $w_{\mu\nu}$ contracted with the charged four-velocity $f^\mu$. Introducing the projection tensor

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu} + f^{\rho}f_{\nu}/f^2,$$

where $f^2 = f^\alpha f_\alpha$, this is given by

$$w_{\mu\nu} = h^\rho_{\mu} h^\beta_{\nu} \nabla_{[\rho} f_{\beta]} = h^\rho_{\mu} h^\beta_{\nu} \frac{q}{mc} (\partial_{\alpha} A_{\beta} - \partial_{\beta} A_{\alpha}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)

We can easily see that the vorticity tensor $w_{\mu\nu}$ cannot be set generically equal to zero since the field-strength tensor $F_{\mu\nu}$ is generically nonzero and the components of its projection on the space-like hypersurface are also orthogonal to $f^\mu$.

The question that arises is the following: Is it still possible describe charged linearized perturbations in the formalism of curved space-time in the presence of vorticity? Remarkably, the answer is yes. Let us specify carefully the conditions under which this can be achieved.

First of all, we note that the charged rBECs lead to a excitation spectra similar to the uncharged case analyzed by [20]. The difference lies in the fact that the electromagnetic minimal coupling modifies the uncoupled conserved current due the presence of the gauge field, which introduces a shift in the four-velocity $u^\mu$, namely,

$$j^\mu = \rho \frac{m}{\hbar} u^\mu \rightarrow \rho \frac{m}{\hbar} \left( u^\mu + \frac{q}{mc} A^\mu \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

Despite having complicated excitation spectra, for sufficiently low momenta the phonon propagation described in equation (22) leads to two quasiparticle modes, a massive and a massless, as in the uncharged case. Keeping in mind that we want to find an energy regime where we can apply the analog gravity framework to describe phonon propagation in the presence of vorticity, we focus on the gapless modes. The appropriate limit in which the aforementioned framework can be acquired needs to satisfy basically two conditions:

(i) we need to be within the so-called the phononic regime, the low momenta range for the gapless excitation, i.e., [20]

$$|k| \ll \frac{2mc_0}{\hbar} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{c_0}{f_0} \right)^2 \right],$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

where the term on the right is a relativistic generalization of the inverse of the healing length for charged condensates, and

(ii) we should be able to neglect the quantum potential $T_q$ in equation (22), which can be achieved assuming that the background quantities varies slowly in space and time on scales comparable with the wavelength $w$ of the perturbations, conditions that can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \mu}{\rho} \ll w, \quad \frac{\partial \epsilon_0}{c_0} \ll w, \quad \frac{\partial f_\mu}{f_\mu} \ll w.$$  \hspace{1cm} (26)

The previous considerations reduce equation (22) to

$$\left[ f^\mu \partial_{\mu} - \frac{1}{c_0} f^\mu \partial_{\mu} - \frac{1}{\varrho} \theta^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\nu} \partial_{\theta} \right] \psi = 0.$$  \hspace{1cm} (27)
Multiplying (27) by \( \rho \) and using the continuity equation (19), we have
\[
\partial_{\mu} \left[ \frac{\rho}{c_0^2} f^\mu f^\nu - \rho \eta^{\mu\nu} \right] \partial_{\nu} \psi = 0.
\]  
(28)

It is obvious that we can express the above equation (28) as
\[
\partial_{\mu} (\gamma^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\nu} \psi) = 0,
\]  
(29)

where \( \gamma^{\mu\nu} \) is
\[
\gamma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\rho}{c_0^2} \left[ -c_0^2 - \left( f^0 f^0 \right)^2 - f^0 f^i \right] - \frac{f^0 f^i}{c_0^2} \delta^{ij} - f^i f^j.
\]

If we identify \( \gamma^{\mu\nu} = \sqrt{-g} g^{\mu\nu} \), then
\[
\sqrt{-g} = \rho^2 \sqrt{1 - f^0 f_0 / c_0^2},
\]  
(30)

and
\[
g^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{\rho^2 \sqrt{1 - f^0 f_0 / c_0^2}} \left[ -c_0^2 - \left( f^0 f^0 \right)^2 - f^0 f^i \right] - \frac{f^0 f^i}{c_0^2} \delta^{ij} - f^i f^j.
\]

Therefore, equation (28) can be cast in the form
\[
\Delta \psi \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \partial_{\mu} (\sqrt{-g} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\nu} \psi),
\]  
(31)

which is a d’Alembertian in a curved background. From the above equation, we promptly realize that the quasiparticle propagation in a nonhomogeneous fluid can be described by a relativistic equation of motion in a curved acoustic space-time, where the emergent geometry is determined by the acoustic metric \( g_{\mu\nu} \). Inverting \( g_{\mu\nu} \), we can then see that the acoustic metric \( g_{\mu\nu} \) for phonons propagation in a \((3 + 1)\)D relativistic, barotropic, rotational fluid flow is given by
\[
g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\rho}{\sqrt{1 - f_0 f^0 / c_0^2}} \left[ \eta_{\mu\nu} \left( 1 - \frac{f_0 f^0}{c_0^2} \right) + \frac{f_\mu f_\nu}{c_0^2} \right].
\]  
(32)

We note that the acoustic metric (32) is gauge invariant. Another useful way to express the relativistic acoustic metric (32) is using the definitions
\[
v^\mu = c \frac{f^\mu}{||f||}, \quad ||f|| = \sqrt{-\eta_{\mu\nu} f^\mu f^\nu},
\]  
(33)

where \( v^\mu \) is the normalized four-velocity and \( ||f|| \) is the normalization factor. With that, the relativistic acoustic metric in the presence of vorticity assumes the form
\[
g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\rho c}{c_s} \left[ \eta_{\mu\nu} + \left( 1 - \frac{c_s^2}{c_0^2} \right) v_\mu v_\nu \right],
\]  
(34)

which is disformally related to the background Minkowski space-time and the speed of sound \( c_s \) is defined as
\[
c_s^2 = \frac{c_0^2 / ||f||^2}{1 + c_0^2 / ||f||^2}.
\]  
(35)
The relativistic acoustic metric (34) describes in a simple fashion perturbations in a charged rBEC, which includes vorticity. It is important to note that this is not the first attempt to incorporate vorticity in the context of analog gravity. An approach through the use of Clebsch potentials can be found in [18]. Nevertheless, the wave equation generated is more complicated than a simple d’Alembertian and the construction significantly more difficult. We further stress that at the level of geometrical acoustics we may incorporate viscosity. However, geometrical acoustics is not enough for many purposes, and an irrotational fluid is a crucial assumption in deriving the wave equation on the effective curved metric.

5. The non relativistic charged Bose–Einstein condensate

We have shown in the previous section that linearized perturbations over a relativistic charged condensate can, under suitable assumptions, be described in the same way as a scalar field propagating in a curved space-time. Now we can therefore ask if this description can be achieved when the charged condensate is nonrelativistic. To see if such a description can indeed be done, we start by considering the nonrelativistic limit of the relativistic equation of motion (22).

To begin with, in the nonrelativistic regime, the external interaction \( qA^0 \) is much smaller than the atomic’s rest energy \( mc^2 \), namely \( qA^0 \ll mc^2 \). Moreover, the self-interaction between the atoms in the condensate must be weak, which means that \( c_0 \ll c \). It is also easy to see from equation (20) that in the nonrelativistic regime \( f^0 \to c \). In addition, the speed of sound \( c_s \) defined by relation (35) reduces to \( c_0 \).

Assuming that these conditions are satisfied, the condition (25) is in turn given by

\[
|k| \ll \frac{mc_0}{\hbar},
\]

which determines the momenta scale where the acoustic description can be applied.

Taking into account the previous considerations in the equation of motion (22) we arrive at

\[
\left\{ i\hbar \left( \partial_t + f^i \partial_i \right) + T_{NR} \right\} \frac{1}{c_0^2} \left[-i\hbar \left( \partial_t + f^i \partial_i \right) + T_{NR} \right] - \frac{\hbar^2}{\rho} \nabla \rho \nabla \psi = 0,
\]

where \( f^i \equiv \nu^i + \frac{z^i}{mc} A^0 \) is the charged three velocity condensate, \( \nu^i \) is the velocity of the condensate in the uncharged case, and the standard quantum potential in the nonrelativistic limit \( T_{NR} \) is

\[
T_{NR} \equiv -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m\rho} \nabla \rho \nabla,
\]

where \( \rho \) is the mass density.

The phonon propagation under an effective acoustic metric can be done only when we can neglect the quantum potential \( T_{NR} \), which can be achieved under the assumptions (26). In this case, the equation (37) reduces to

\[
\left[ \left( \partial_t + f^i \partial_i \right) \frac{1}{c_0^2} \left( \partial_t + f^i \partial_i \right) - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \rho \nabla \right] \psi = 0.
\]
Multiplying (39) by the mass density $\rho$ and using the continuity equation

$$\partial_t \rho + \partial_i (\rho f^i) = 0, \quad (40)$$

we promptly arrive at

$$-\partial_i \left[ \frac{\rho}{c_0^2} \left( \partial_i \psi + f^j \partial_j \psi \right) \right] + \partial_i \left[ \rho \partial_i \psi - \frac{\rho}{c_0^2} f^j \left( \partial_i \psi + f^j \partial_j \psi \right) \right] = 0, \quad (41)$$

which has the same structure as the wave equation describing the propagation of acoustic disturbances in irrotational fluids (see section 2.3 of [5]). Following the standard methodology of analog gravity, we find the usual nonrelativistic acoustic metric

$$g_{\mu \nu} = \frac{\rho}{c_0^2} \left[ -\left( c_s^2 - f^2 \right) - f^j \partial_j \right], \quad (42)$$

where $f^2 = f_j f^j$ is the squared three velocity of the fluid flow.

In nonrelativistic fluids the local vorticity-free condition over the velocity-flow vector $\mathbf{v}$ is assured by the requirement $\nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 0$. In our prescription, we have derived the nonrelativistic acoustic metric without making use of the vorticity-free assumption. To see explicitly that the system is endowed with vorticity, we note that the rotational of the charged three velocity $\mathbf{f}$ is

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{f} = \frac{q}{mc} \nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \frac{q}{mc} \mathbf{B}, \quad (43)$$

which is clearly nonzero and implies the existence of vorticity in the BEC.

A point that deserves careful attention is the absence of the $A^0$ component as a background quantity in the nonrelativistic acoustic metric (42). In the framework of hydrodynamical systems, external potentials do not influence the description of the linearized perturbations. As a physical consequence in the BEC, even when the charged condensate is under the action of a static electric field, the phonons propagation are insensitive to it.

Now, in order to check that our derivation of the nonrelativistic acoustic metric in the presence of vorticity is correct, we can take the alternative route to impose the electromagnetic minimal coupling directly to the equation that describes the condensate in the nonrelativistic limit, namely

$$ih \partial_t \phi = \frac{1}{2m} (-ih \partial_j)^2 \phi + V_{\text{ext}} + g |\phi|^2 \phi, \quad (44)$$

where $V_{\text{ext}}$ is an external potential, $m$ is the mass of the bosons, $|\phi|^2$ is the atomic density, and $g$ is the effective coupling constant that describes locally the scattering of atoms. The equation (44) emerges quite naturally in the analysis of BEC up to a first-order approach, and it is formally equivalent to the Schrödinger equation with a nonlinear term $g |\phi|^2$. It is worth noting that the Ginzburg–Landau theory of superconductivity [21] is a particular case of (44). Performing the electromagnetic minimal coupling, equation (44) assumes the form

$$ih \partial_t \phi = \frac{1}{2m} \left( -ih \partial_i + \frac{q}{c} A^i \right)^2 \phi + g A^0 \phi + g |\phi|^2 \phi. \quad (45)$$

Proceeding exactly the same way as in the relativistic case to obtain the equation for $\psi$, we insert $\phi = \varphi (1 + \psi)$ in equation (45) and get, at the linearized level,
where \( c_{sNR} = g \rho/m \) is the speed of sound in the nonrelativistic BEC.

Again, decomposing the condensate wave function as \( \varphi = \sqrt{\rho} e^{i\theta} \), where \( \rho \) is the mass density and rewriting to obtain a single equation to \( \psi \), we get

\[
\left\{ i\hbar \partial_t + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{m} (\partial_j \mathcal{N} \varphi) \partial_i + i\hbar \frac{q}{mc} \mathcal{N} \partial_i - mc_{sNR}^2 \right\} \psi = mc_{sNR}^2 \psi^*,
\]

(46)

which is exactly the same as equation (37). Using the same conditions previously discussed and following the usual steps, we arrive at the nonrelativistic acoustic metric (42), thus lending support to our previous derivation.

6. Conclusions

One standard limitation with the procedures of analog gravity is that the derivation of the wave function for the acoustic disturbances is possible only when we have a barotropic and inviscid fluid and the flow is irrotational. Under these assumptions, we can derive a d’Alembertian equation of motion to describe the linearized perturbations, which is identical to a relativistic scalar massless field propagating in curved space-time.

In this work we have shown that it is possible to overcome the irrotational constraint in moving fluids and incorporate vorticity in the description of sound propagation in condensates. Performing the electromagnetic minimal coupling to the BEC we found that the conserved current related to gauge \( U(1) \) symmetry depends on the complex scalar and gauge fields. Therefore, the requirement that the gauge-invariant charged flow velocity be locally irrotational is no longer imposed as the vorticity tensor is generically nonzero. Thus, taking into account the low momentum limit of the charged BEC and in the regime where we can neglect the quantum potential, the propagation of the charged quasiparticles in the presence of vorticity can be described by the formalism of the quantum field theory in curved space-time. Without these assumptions, the charged phonon propagation is described by a complicated differential wave equation. We emphasize that both cases (relativistic and nonrelativistic) have gauge-invariant equations for perturbations.

We also note that the condition on the momenta (36), which defines the phononic regime in the nonrelativistic limit, is exactly the same as required for the uncharged BEC [20]. As in the uncoupled case, the momenta scale in which the analog framework can be applied depends on the inverse of the healing length \( mc_0/\hbar \). This coincidence can be easily comprehended by noting that according to (25), which determines the phononic regime in the relativistic range, when we take into account the nonrelativistic limit, \( u^0 \approx c, A^0 \) becomes a negligible term, implying that \( (c_0/f^0)^2 \rightarrow c_0^2/c^2 \ll 1 \). In this case we see that the relativistic phononic regime (25) reduces to (36). As previously discussed in section 5, in the nonrelativistic limit, static electric fields contribute to the dynamics of the background equations of motion, but do not influence the quasiparticles’ propagation.

The chief value of this work, with respect to the previous attempts to incorporate vorticity, is the simplicity, both in the technical details of the construction and in the physical picture of vorticity arising from the action of a magnetic field on a charged flow. As such, it is clear that it is possible to easily incorporate at least some systems with vorticity into the analog framework.
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