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# Scaling Limits in Quantum Models of Field-Particle Interaction

## *II. The correspondence principle*

Effective Approximation and Dynamics of Many-Body Quantum Systems  
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# Bohr's correspondence principle in physics

# The principle

Bohr's principle – M. Born's version [Bohr 1920, Born 1933].

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Mathematical physics interpretation – in view of lecture I.

Given a physical theory modeled by a concrete realization of  $\mathbb{W}_{\hbar}(\mathcal{F}, \varsigma)$  (e.g.,  $\mathcal{P}(\varphi)_2$ ,  $\varphi_3^4$ , Sine-Gordon, Nelson, Pauli-Fierz models; nonrelativistic quantum mechanics), one must recover the corresponding model of classical physics in the limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ . (Recall that our  $\hbar$  is a mathematical parameter measuring how much we are deforming the commutative theory to a noncommutative one)

- Quantization is natural, but how robust is it?
  - The Wigner measures result of Lecture I is very general, but it implies that states could lose mass in the limit; furthermore, the correspondence holds only for the expectation of “a few” observables (surely, not many important physical ones like the canonical observables, the energy, ...)
  - Does the correspondence principle holds for the dynamics of a model? For its (ground state) energy, bound states?
  
- Establishing the correspondence principle is an important “sanity check”:
  - For (candidates of) quantum gravity, it is a crucial problem to establish the correspondence principle, and one of the main obstacles in making models such as *loop quantum gravity* acceptable [Giesel-Thiemann 06-08].
  - Even in more “orthodox” field theories, it is unclear whether after renormalization the classical limit still behaves as expected ( $\text{QED} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \text{CED?}$ ).

# The van Hove model – A perfect Playground

# Original setting [van Hove/Myiatake 52, Dereziński 2003]

- Consider a scalar field generated by an immovable source, whose charge distribution is given by  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}f$ .
- The van Hove Hamiltonian in Fock space takes the form

$$H_{\hbar}(\omega, f) = d\Gamma_{\hbar}(\omega) + a_{\hbar}(f) + a_{\hbar}^*(f) .$$

- For later convenience, for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , let us define

$$L_{\alpha}^2(\mathbb{R}^d) := L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \omega^{\alpha}(k) dk) .$$

- Observe that the Fock space is the GNS Hilbert space for the Fock vacuum state  $\omega_{\Omega_{\hbar}} \in \text{Reg}_{\hbar}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{R}^d), \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$ ,  $\hat{\omega}_{\Omega_{\hbar}}(\eta) = e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{2} \|\eta\|_2^2}$ . In this representation,

$$W_{\hbar}(f) = e^{i\pi(a_{\hbar}^*(f) + a_{\hbar}(f))} .$$

## Theorem (Derezinski 2003)

Let  $H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$  be the van Hove Hamiltonian in Fock space. Then:

- [ Infrared regular case ]  $f \in L_{-1}^2 \cap L_{-2}^2 \iff H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$  is self-adjoint, bounded from below,  $\inf \sigma(H_{\hbar}) = -\|f\|_{L_{-1}^2}^2$ , and there exists a unique Fock ground state  $|\psi_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}}\rangle\langle\psi_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}}|$ , with

$$\psi_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}} = W_{\hbar}\left(\frac{i}{\pi\hbar\omega}f\right)\Omega_{\hbar}$$

- [ Infrared singularity of type I ]  $f \in L_{-1}^2 \setminus L_{-2}^2 \iff H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$  is self-adjoint, bounded from below,  $\inf \sigma(H_{\hbar}) = -\|f\|_{L_{-1}^2}^2$ , and there exists no Fock ground state.
- [ Infrared singularity of type II ]  $f \in L^2 \setminus L_{-1}^2 \implies H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$  is self-adjoint and unbounded from below.



- In the infrared regular case,  $W_{\hbar}(\frac{i}{\pi\hbar\omega}f)$  is a unitary operator in the Fock space (dressing transformation), and

$$W_{\hbar}(\frac{i}{\pi\hbar\omega}f)^* H_{\hbar}(\omega, f) W_{\hbar}(\frac{i}{\pi\hbar\omega}f) = d\Gamma_{\hbar}(\omega) - \|f\|_{L^2_{-1}}^2 .$$

- With an infrared singularity of type I,  $H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$  is bounded from below by KLMN theorem, and no unitary diagonalization is implementable.
- With an infrared singularity of type II,  $H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$  is self-adjoint by the Nelson commutator theorem.

# Infrared singularity of type I – refined analysis

- The spectral properties of Hamiltonians describing fields interacting with particles (van Hove, spin-boson, Nelson, Pauli-Fierz,...) have been widely studied by the mathematical physics community [Ammari, Amour, Arai, Bach, Ballesteros, Betz, T. Chen, Deckert, Dereziński, Faupin, Fröhlich, C. Gérard, Griesemer, Hasler, Hinrichs, Hiroshima, Lieb, Lörinczi, Loss, Matte, Minlos, Møller, Pizzo, Siebert, I.M. Sigal, Spohn, Sasaki, ...].
- The absence of a Fock ground state for bounded from below massless field theories is sometimes called *infrared catastrophe*.
- Intuitively, it is due to the fact that the Fock space is ill-suited to describe systems with *truly many particles/excitations*, and massless models might have many many particles, even at low energies (with a mass gap, an excitation cannot have arbitrarily small energy).

- Fix  $\omega$ , and fix  $f \in L^2_{-1} \setminus L^2_{-2}$ . Define the regularized van Hove model by

$$H_{\hbar}(\Lambda) = d\Gamma_{\hbar}(\omega) + a_{\hbar}^*(f_{\Lambda}) + a(f_{\Lambda})$$

with

$$f_{\Lambda}(k) = 1_{|\cdot| \geq \Lambda^{-1}}(k) f(k) .$$

### Lemma ([Arai 2020])

Let  $|\psi_{\hbar}^{\Lambda}\rangle \langle \psi_{\hbar}^{\Lambda}|$  be the ground state of the infrared regular  $H_{\hbar}(\Lambda)$ . Then:

- $\lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \langle \psi_{\hbar}^{\Lambda}, d\Gamma_{\hbar}(1)\psi_{\hbar}^{\Lambda} \rangle = \infty$

- $w\text{-}\lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \psi_{\hbar}^{\Lambda} = 0$

## Remark

- The physical interpretation of the above lemma is the following. The ground state  $\psi_{\hbar}^{\infty}$  in the infrared singular-I case would be a Fock vector with *infinitely many field's excitations*: the so-called soft photons, infinitely many excitations with a very small energy (making the total energy bounded from below). However, by construction Fock vectors have smaller and smaller probability of having more and more particles, therefore  $\psi_{\hbar}^{\infty}$  has zero amplitude of transition to any Fock vector.

# The classical van Hove model

- $E(z) = \langle z, \omega z \rangle_2 + 2\operatorname{Re}\langle f, z \rangle_2$
- In the form above, the natural domain of definition of  $E$  seems to be  $z \in L^2 \cap L_1^2$  (with  $f \in L^2$ , however  $E$  is bounded from below only if  $f \in L_{-1}^2$ ). Therefore, it is convenient to rewrite  $E$  as an explicitly bounded from below functional

$$E(z) = \langle z, \omega z \rangle_2 + 2\operatorname{Re}\langle f/\sqrt{\omega}, \sqrt{\omega}z \rangle_2 \left( = \|z + f/\omega\|_{L_1^2}^2 - \|f\|_{L_{-1}^2}^2 \right)$$

with  $f \in L_{-1}^2$  and domain of definition  $L_1^2$ .

## Lemma

$E$  is bounded from below by  $-\|f\|_{L_{-1}^2}^2$ , and it has a unique minimizer

$$z^{\text{gs}} = -\frac{f}{\omega}$$

$z^{\text{gs}}$  belongs to  $L_1^2$  for any  $f \in L_{-1}^2$ .

## Remarks

- The infrared singularity of type II is *both classical and quantum*.
- The infrared singularity of type I is *only quantum!* (typical in renormalization)
- The classical limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  shall be “transparent” to the I-infrared singularity.

# The correspondence principle for the van Hove model (using abstract semiclassical analysis)

- We make the following assumption:  $L^2_{-1} \subset \mathcal{S}'$ . Also, let us define  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}$  to be the usual Schwartz space seen as a real vector space. Let us remark that  $\operatorname{Re}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2$  makes  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}$  a real pre-Hilbert space, and  $\operatorname{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2$  a real symplectic space. Finally, let us define  $\mathcal{S}'_{\mathbb{R}}$  to be the continuous dual of  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}$  by means of the duality bracket  $\operatorname{Re}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2$ .
- Let  $\Phi_t$  be the Hamiltonian flow on  $\mathcal{S}'$  associated to the Hamiltonian  $E$ . The Hamilton equation of  $E$  reads

$$i\partial_t z = \omega z + f,$$

whose solution for an initial datum  $z_0$  is

$$z(t) = e^{-it\omega} \left( z_0 + \frac{f}{\omega} \right) - \frac{f}{\omega}$$

- The map  $\Phi_t$  can be split in three maps on  $\mathcal{S}'$ :  $\Phi_t = \tau_{\frac{f}{\omega}}^{-1} \circ \Phi_t^0 \circ \tau_{\frac{f}{\omega}}$ , where
  - $\tau_{\frac{f}{\omega}}$  is the “phase space translation” by  $\frac{f}{\omega} \in \mathcal{S}'$ ;
  - $\Phi_t^0 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{S}')$  is a linear transformation  $z \mapsto e^{-it\omega} z$  that preserves  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2$ , and therefore it defines by transposition a linear symplectic map  $\vartheta_{\Phi_t^0} : (\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2) \rightarrow (\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$ , acting as  $\eta \mapsto e^{it\omega} \eta$ .
- A symplectic map on test functions, such as  $\vartheta_{\Phi_t^0}$  induces a \*-homomorphism  $\mathbb{W}_{\hbar}(\vartheta_{\Phi_t^0})$  on  $\mathbb{W}_{\hbar}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$ , agreeing with the natural quantization  $\mathbb{Q}_{\hbar}$ :

$$\mathbb{W}_{\hbar}(\vartheta_{\Phi_t^0})[W_{\hbar}(\eta)] = W_{\hbar}(e^{it\omega} \eta) \left( \text{“} = \text{”} e^{i\frac{t}{\hbar} \text{d}\Gamma_{\hbar}(\omega)} W_{\hbar}(\eta) e^{-i\frac{t}{\hbar} \text{d}\Gamma_{\hbar}(\omega)} \right)$$

- On the other hand, it is well known that *quantum phase space translations are (uniquely) implemented by (suitably scaled) Weyl operators*. It is thus natural to define, by slight abuse of notation,

$$\mathbb{Q}_{\hbar}(\tau_{\frac{f}{\omega}})[W_{\hbar}(\eta)] = W_{\hbar}(\eta) e^{2\pi i \text{Re}\langle \frac{f}{\omega}, \eta \rangle_2} \left( \text{“} = \text{”} W_{\hbar}\left(\frac{1}{i\pi\hbar\omega} f\right)^* W_{\hbar}(\eta) W_{\hbar}\left(\frac{1}{i\pi\hbar\omega} f\right) \right)$$



- To sum up, we can define a van Hove dynamical map  $L_{\hbar}(t)$  on  $\mathbb{W}_{\hbar}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$ :

$$L_{\hbar}(t)[A] = \mathbb{Q}_{\hbar}(\tau_{-\frac{f}{\omega}}) \circ \mathbb{W}_{\hbar}(\vartheta_{\Phi_t^0}) \circ \mathbb{Q}_{\hbar}(\tau_{\frac{f}{\omega}})[A]$$

$$\left( \text{“ = ” } e^{i\frac{t}{\hbar}H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)} A e^{-i\frac{t}{\hbar}H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)} \right)$$

- $L_{\hbar}(t)$  induces by transposition a map on  $\omega_{\hbar} \in \text{Reg}_{\hbar}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$ , with a very explicit action on the Fourier transform:

$$\left( L_{\hbar}(t) \hat{\omega}_{\hbar} \right) (\eta) = \hat{\omega}_{\hbar}(e^{it\omega} \eta) e^{2\pi i \text{Re} \langle \frac{f}{\omega}, (e^{it\omega} - 1) \eta \rangle_2}$$

# Egorov Theorem – Propagation of chaos

## Theorem 1 (Egorov-type theorem)

Let  $\omega_{\hbar} \in \text{Reg}_{\mathfrak{h}}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$  such that  $\exists \hbar_n \rightarrow 0$  and  $m \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{cyl}}(\mathcal{S}'_{\mathbb{R}}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}})$  such that  $\hat{\omega}_{\hbar_n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \hat{m}$ . Then  $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( L_{\hbar_n}(t) \omega_{\hbar_n} \right) = \left( \Phi_t \hat{m} \right)$$

In other words, the following “diagram” is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \omega_{\hbar_n} & \xrightarrow{L_{\hbar_n}(t)} & \omega_{\hbar_n}(t) \\ \hbar_n \rightarrow 0 \downarrow & & \downarrow \hbar_n \rightarrow 0 \\ m & \xrightarrow{\Phi_t} & \Phi_t * m \end{array}$$

# Proof

- By  $\hat{\omega}_{\hbar_n} \rightarrow \hat{m}$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( L_{\hbar_n}(\hat{t}) \omega_{\hbar_n} \right) (\eta) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\omega}_{\hbar_n} (e^{it\omega} \eta) e^{2\pi i \operatorname{Re} \langle \frac{f}{\omega}, (e^{it\omega} - 1) \eta \rangle_2} \\ &= \hat{m} (e^{it\omega} \eta) e^{2\pi i \operatorname{Re} \langle \frac{f}{\omega}, (e^{it\omega} - 1) \eta \rangle_2} = \int_{\mathcal{F}'}^{\bullet} e^{2\pi i \operatorname{Re} \langle z(t), \eta \rangle_2} d\mathbf{m}(z) = \left( \Phi_t \hat{*} m \right) (\eta) \end{aligned}$$

□



# Ground state energy and ground states

- The van Hove (W\*-)dynamical system  $t \mapsto L_{\hbar}(t)$  has a *generator* (“ad  $H_{\hbar}(\omega, f)$ ”) that can be abstractly defined, as well as its properties like the spectrum, ground states, KMS (equilibrium) states, ...
- These of course agree with the concrete van Hove model we defined above in Fock space. In particular, the ground state energy  $E_{\hbar}$  of the van Hove dynamical system is given by

$$E_{\hbar} = -\|f\|_{L^2_{-1}}^2 .$$

- The ground state of this dynamical system is unique, and is given by the regular state  $\omega_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}} \in \text{Reg}_{\hbar}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Im}\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_2)$  with Fourier transform

$$\hat{\omega}_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}}(\eta) = e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{2} \|\eta\|_2^2} e^{2\pi i \text{Re}\langle -\frac{f}{\omega}, \eta \rangle_2}$$

-  The algebraic ground state is defined for all sources  $f$  and dispersion relations  $\omega$  such that  $\frac{f}{\omega} \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . In particular, for the I-infrared singular van Hove model! 
- In the I-infrared singular case, the GNS representation of  $\omega_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}}$  is *non-Fock* (it is inequivalent to the Fock representation), however it can be explicitly embedded in a Fock space [see Arai 2020].

The idea is that in the non-Fock representation, the vacuum vector  $\Omega_{\hbar}$  corresponds to  $\omega_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}}$  and the creation/annihilation/number operators create/annihilate/count only the non-soft excitations we build on top of the ground state.

## Theorem 2 (Semiclassical GSE and GS)

Let  $L_{\hbar}(t)$  be the van Hove dynamical system. Then:

- $\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} E_{\hbar} = E_0 = E(z_{\text{gs}}) = -\|f\|_{L^2_{-1}}^2$

- $\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \omega_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}} = \delta_{z_{\text{gs}}}$

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### Proof.

- Step one is very difficult so let me skip the proof;
- Almost as difficult is to prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \hat{\omega}_{\hbar}^{\text{gs}}(\eta) &= \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{2} \|\eta\|_2^2} e^{2\pi i \text{Re} \langle -\frac{f}{\omega}, \eta \rangle_2} = e^{2\pi i \text{Re} \langle -\frac{f}{\omega}, \eta \rangle_2} \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{F}'} \bullet e^{2\pi i \langle z, \eta \rangle_2} d\delta_{z_{\text{gs}}}(z) = \int_{\mathcal{F}'} e^{2\pi i \langle z, \eta \rangle_2} d\delta_{z_{\text{gs}}}(z) = \hat{\delta}_{z_{\text{gs}}}(\eta) \end{aligned}$$

□

# The quantization is natural, but is it robust?

- For the van Hove model, quantization is *very robust*, in fact despite the possible appearance of quantum infrared singularities, the correspondence principle holds – irrespective of them – for both the dynamics and the ground state properties.



# Not so perfect playgrounds – some m(M)L of sweat required

# More realistic models of particle-field interaction, different scalings

- “Pure” semiclassical field theories ( $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ):
  - Schrödinger (Coherent states – Theorem 1) [Hepp 1974, Ginibre-Velo 1979]
  - $P(\varphi)_2$  model (Schwinger functions in the limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ) [Eckmann 1977]
  - Schrödinger (Wigner measures – Theorem 1) [Ammari-Breteaux-M.F.-Liard-Nier-Pawilowski-Rouffort 2008-19]
  - $P(\varphi)_2$  model (Coherent states – Theorem 1) [Ammari-Zerzeri 2012]
  - Schrödinger (de Finetti measures – Theorem 1&2) [Lewin-Nam-Rougerie 2014-21]
  - Bose-Hubbard model on a graph (KMS states – Theorem 2.5) [Ammari-Farhat-Petrat-Ratsimanetrimanana 2021-24]
  - van Hove model (Wigner measures – Theorem 1&2) [M.F.-Fratini upcoming]

- Systems of many bosons ( $N \sim \hbar^{-1}$ ) coupled with a semiclassical field ( $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ):
  - Nelson model with cutoff (Coherent states – Theorem 1) [M.F. 2013]
  - Nelson model with and without cutoff (Wigner measures – Theorem 1&2) [Ammari-M.F. 2014-17]
  - Nelson model with and without cutoff ( $\alpha$ -method/Bogoliubov+Coherent states – Theorem 1) [M.F.-Lampart-Leopold-Mitrouskas-Petrat 2019-23]
  - Pauli-Fierz model ( $\alpha$ -method+Coherent states – Theorem 1) [M.F.-Leopold-Pickl 2020-23]
  - Scattering for the Nelson model (Wigner measures – Theorem 1.5) [Ammari-M.F.-Olivieri 2023]
  
- Systems of semiclassical particles  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  coupled with a semiclassical field ( $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ):
  - Pauli-Fierz model (Wigner measures – Theorem 1) [Ammari-M.F.-Hiroshima 2022]
  - Nelson model (Wigner measures – Theorem 1) [Farhat 2024]

- Bipartite systems only a part semiclassical (“Quasi-classical limits”,  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ):
  - Nelson and Pauli-Fierz models, with and without cutoff (Wigner measures – Theorem  $\sum_{n=0}^{100} 2^{-n}$ ) [Breteaux-Correggi-M.F.-Olivieri-Faupin 2018-24]
  - Spin-Boson, Pauli-Fierz models (different take on semiclassical analysis – Theorem 1+) [Amour-Jager-Khodja-Lascar-Nourrigat 2013-2020]
  - Nelson, Polaron, Pauli-Fierz models (Wigner measures – Theorem 1&2) [Correggi-M.F.-Olivieri 2023]
  - Nelson, Polaron (Wigner measures & Concentration compactness – Theorem 2) [M.F.-Olgiati-Rougerie 2023]
  - Polaron with point interaction (Coherent states – Theorem 1) [Carlone-Correggi-M.F.-Olivieri 2021]
  - Spin-Boson model (Wigner measures – Theorem 1 and decoherence) [Correggi-M.F.-Fantechi-Merkli 2023-24]
  - Caldeira-Leggett model (Wigner measures – Theorem 1&2) [Correggi-M.F.-Fantechi upcoming]

## Why all the sweat?

- The quantum and classical evolutions for the models above (van Hove, spin-boson) are not trivial nor explicit, and their generators are not diagonalizable, the quantum ground state energy depends on  $\hbar$ .
- The (Ammari-Nier) strategy for proving Theorem 1 is the following:
  - Write the evolution of the expectation of the Weyl operator as an integral (Duhamel) equation;
  - Take the limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  of such equation, to obtain a classical transport (Liouville) equation for the Wigner measures;
  - In order to do that, one shall prove that it is possible to extract a common subsequence  $\hbar_n \rightarrow 0$  for convergence of  $\omega_{\hbar}(t)$  to  $\mu_t$  at all times (using uniform number operator/Hamiltonian bounds at all times);
  - One studies the uniqueness properties of the classical Liouville equation, under the *a priori* regularity properties of the Wigner measure evolution  $t \mapsto \mu_t$ .

- The (Ammari) strategy for proving Theorem 2 is the following:
  - Energy upper bound (easy): coherent trial states (states of minimal uncertainty – Wigner measures are deltas!);
  - Energy lower bound: take a minimizing sequence  $\psi_{\hbar}$ , and take the liminf of

$$\langle \psi_{\hbar}, H_{\hbar} \psi_{\hbar} \rangle < E_{\hbar} + o_{\hbar}(1) ;$$

- The convergence of the ground state uses the same strategy as the energy lower bound.

**Thank you for the attention (II)**