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#### Summer School on Novel Quantum Phases and Non-Equilibrium Phenomena in Cold Atomic Gases

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Quantum degenerate mixtures and disorder in optical lattices.

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# Quantum Degenerate Mixtures and Disorder in Optical Lattices

(Disorder Induced Quantum Phases in Ultracold Atoms)

TRIESTE – Novel Quantum Phases ... 3 September 2007

### Ultracold atoms in disordered potentials

### ✓ Why disorder?

- Disorder is a key ingredient of the microscopic (and macroscopic) world
- Fundamental element for the physics of conduction
- Superfluid-insulator transition in condensed-matter systems

#### ✓ Why cold atoms?

- Ultracold atoms are a versatile tool to study disorder-related phenomena
- Precise control on the kind and amount of disorder in the system
- Quantum simulation

#### ✓ Localization effects

- Bose glasses, spin glasses (strongly interacting systems)
- Anderson localization (weakly interacting systems)

#### Different ways to produce disorder

Several proposal for the production of a disordered potential:

#### ✓ Optical potentials

B. Damski et al., PRL **91**, 080403 (2003).R. Roth & K. Burnett, PRA **68**, 023604 2003).

- Speckle fields
- Multi-chromatic lattices

#### ✓ Collisionally-induced disorder

U. Gavish & Y. Castin, PRL **95**, 020401 (2005). P.Massignan & Y. Castin, cond mat 0604232v2

- Interaction with a different randomly-distributed species

#### ✓ Magnetic potentials

H. Gimperlein et al., PRL 95, 170401 (2005).

- Magnetic field inhomogeneity near an atom chip

#### Production of the random potential J.E.Lye, L.Fallani, M.Modugno, D.S.Wiersma, C.Fort, M.I. Phys.Rev.Lett. 95 070401 (2005)



The BEC is illuminated by the speckle beam in the same direction as the imaging beam.

With the same imaging setup we can detect both the BEC and the speckle pattern.



### Speckle potential



average speckle height:

$$V_S = 2\sigma_V = 2\sqrt{rac{1}{2L}\int_{-L}^{+L} \left[V(x) - \bar{V}
ight]^2 \mathrm{d}x}$$



### Bose-Einstein condensates in speckle fields



### Bose-Einstein condensates in speckle fields



### Bose-Einstein condensates in speckle fields



#### BEC expansion in a disordered waveguide Fort et al. P R L 95, 170410 (2005)

We transfer the BEC from the magnetic trap to a crossed dipole trap + speckle potential. After switching off the vertical beam we study the expansion of the BEC in the horizontal waveguide in the presence of disorder.



## **BEC** expansion in a disordered waveguide







*In-situ* images of the BEC expanding in the disordered waveguide:



Axial size of the condensate and center of mass position of the BEC expanding in the optical waveguide in presence of the speckle potential:



With the single gaussian well we observe the same kind of behavior: while a low density component expands freely, a sharp peak appears due to slow atoms got trapped in the well.



### **Optical lattices**

#### ✓ Solid state physics with ultracold atoms

- Study of quantum transport in periodic potentials (band structure)
- Role of atom-atom interactions (nonlinear systems  $\rightarrow$  solitons, instabilities, ...)

#### ✓ Strongly correlated systems

- Superfluid to Mott insulator quantum phase transition
- Systems with low dimensionality (Tonks gases...)

#### ✓ Atom optics

- Tools for the implementation of mirrors, beam splitters, diffraction gratings, lenses

#### ✓ Quantum computing

- Quantum registers

**Disordered** optical lattices

### The bichromatic lattice



$$V(x) = s_1 E_{R1} \cos^2(k_1 x) + s_2 E_{R2} \cos^2(k_2 x)$$
 bichromatic

### The bichromatic lattice



### Adding disorder

For ultracold atoms in optical lattices one can add optical disorder in two ways:

#### speckle pattern



#### bichromatic lattice



 $\checkmark$  random potential

 $\mathbf{x}$  large length scale (several  $\mu$ m)

- $\checkmark$  quasiperiodic potential
- $\checkmark$  smaller length scale (1  $\mu m$  or less)

Ultracold atoms in optical lattices

Adding disorder

Strongly interacting bosons in a disordered lattice

Weakly interacting bosons in a disordered lattice

#### Interacting bosons in a lattice

Bose-Hubbard model for interacting bosons in a lattice:



At zero temperature the state of the system is determined by the competition between two energy scales: the hopping energy J and the on-site interaction energy U



### Interacting bosons in a lattice



### Experimental scheme









amplitude modulation of the lattice potential resonant production of excitations (particle-hole pairs)

see also T. Stöferle et al., PRL 92, 130403 (2004)





### Adding disorder Towards a Bose Glass Quantum Phase

Bose-Hubbard model with bounded disorder in the external potential  $\epsilon_j \in [-\Delta/2, \Delta/2]$ 



In the presence of disorder an additional energy scale  $\Delta$  enters the description of the system. The interplay between these energy terms may induce new quantum phase transitions







Starting from a Mott Insulator and adding disorder, the energy required for the hopping of a boson from a site to a neighboring one becomes a function of position



When  $\Delta_i = U$  the excitation energy goes to zero and the gap disappears

#### The bichromatic lattice



### Inhomogeneous broadening

#### V. Guarrera et al., New J. Phys. 9, 107 (2007)

Simple toy-model (from spectroscopy):

Mott Insulator resonance:

 $f(
u) = Ae^{-rac{(
uu_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$  (fit to experimental data)

Distribution of energy shifts:

$$g(\nu) = \frac{1}{\pi\Delta} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\nu}{\Delta}\right)^2}} \theta(\Delta + \nu) \theta(\Delta - \nu)$$

Convoluted spectrum:

$$h(\nu) = \int f(\nu - \bar{\nu})g(\bar{\nu})d\bar{\nu}$$



For strong disorder  $\Delta$ >U the system can be excited at zero energy, the gap vanishes, and different filling configurations in neighboring sites become degenerate.









amplitude modulation of the lattice potential resonant production of excitations (particle-hole pairs)

see also T. Stöferle et al., PRL 92, 130403 (2004)

### Excitation spectra


#### MI spectral brodening



#### Phase coherence

#### L.Fallani et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 98, 130404 (2007)



#### Some ideas:

#### ✓ Noise interferometry

Higher order correlations

#### ✓ Bragg spectroscopy

Cleaner probe of excitation spectrum

#### ✓ "In-situ" imaging

Clock transition collisional shift, spin-changing collisions, ...

#### Quantum interpretation of HBT effect

correlations between joint probability at detector positions



U. Fano, Am. J. Phys. **29**, 539 (1961)

#### Noise correlations – first results



# HBT interferometry in quantum gases absorption image of a Mott Insulator state

from the analysis of the atom shot noise (averaged on many image

in a single image we have approx. 50000 detectors!

#### First Folling et al. Nature 434421 (2005)



$$C(\mathbf{d}) = \frac{\int \langle n(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}/2) \cdot n(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{d}/2) \rangle d^2 \mathbf{x}}{\int \langle n(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}/2) \rangle \langle n(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{d}/2) \rangle d^2 \mathbf{x}}$$

correlation signal for a bichromatic lattice (disordered Mott Insulator) (J=0 calculation, Fock states in each lattice well)



#### noise correlations in the bichromatic lattice



s<sub>2</sub> = 9

# Adding disorder with another atomic species...

... à la Castin...

Hamburg, Zurich

Fermi-Bose quantum gas mixture in a 3d optical lattice.



<sup>87</sup>Rb



#### Localization physics:

Shift of the "Mott-insulator" transition.



## A two-species BEC



G. Modugno, M. Modugno, F, Riboli, G, Roati, M. Inguscio, Phys.Rev.Lett. 89, 190404 (2002)

#### ADDING THE 3D OPTICAL LATTICE





# Ultracold atoms in optical lattices

Adding disorder

Strongly interacting bosons in a disordered lattice

Weakly interacting bosons in a disordered lattice

#### Disordered systems: Role of interactions



Effects of interaction in the Anderson localization

#### Localization in a quasi-periodic lattice

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + s_1 E_{R1}\cos^2(k_1 x) + s_2 E_{R2}\cos^2(k_2 x)\right]\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$

 $\lambda_1=830~\text{nm}~s_1=10$  /  $\lambda_2=1076~\text{nm}$ 



#### Screening induced by interactions





#### Localization in a quasi-periodic lattice + harmonic trap (no interactions)

Localized states can be revealed by setting the system out of equilibrium and observing the following dynamics under the action of a harmonic driving force.



#### Oscillations in the bichromatic potential

Center-of-mass as a function of time for  $s_1=10$  and different heights of the disordering lattice.

Localization effect increasing with increasing disorder







Decreasing the number of atoms the "localization" effect increases



But disorder alone is not the only effect that can lead to localization...

#### Instabilities of a BEC in a moving optical lattice



Nonlinear system; complex frequencies in the eigenspectrum of the excitations

#### **Dynamical instability** – critical velocity

$$i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 + sE_R\cos^2(kx) + g\left|\psi\right|^2\right)\psi$$

## Instabilities of a BEC in a moving optical lattice land et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 93, 140406 (2004)



Nonlinearities induced by atom-atom interactions cause the Bloch waves to be **dynamically unstable**. An exponential growth of perturbations may start, eventually leading to the destruction of the Bloch state.



#### Localization in a quasi-periodic lattice



#### interacting BEC in a box



the wavefunction "adapts" to variations in the external potential on a length scale set by the healing length  $\xi$ 

healing length 
$$\xi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi an}}$$

 $\Delta x > \xi \rightarrow$  classical effects (Thomas-Fermi approx., ...)

 $\Delta x < \xi \rightarrow$  quantum effects (tunnelling, barrier penetration, ...)

#### Screening induced by interactions



Interactions effectively screen the potential on the larger length scale of the beating

# Decreasing *N* the wavefunction is more strongly modulated

#### Screening when disorder length scale >> healing length

$$\xi \simeq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + s_1 E_{R1}\cos^2(k_1 x) + s_2 E_{R2}\cos^2(k_2 x) + gN|\psi(x)|^2\right]\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$



How to avoid interactions?

Fermions?

Tuning the interactions with Feshbach resonances?



G. Modugno, G. Ferrari, G. Roati, R. Brecha, A. Simoni, M. I., *Science* 294, 1320 (2001)

G. Roati, F. Riboli, G.Modugno, M. I. Phys. Rev. Lett. 89, 150403 (2002).

#### Bloch oscillations with fermions



G.Roati, E. De Mirandes, F.Ferlaino, H.Ott, G.Modugno, M.I. Phys.Rev.Lett. 92, 230402 (2004)

#### Effect of interactions: Fermi vs. Bose







# <sup>41</sup>K boson <sup>40</sup>K fermion <sup>39</sup>K boson

#### A new K-Rb Bose-Bose mixture apparatus

#### Bose – Bose (39K)





In spite of a low interspecies  $a_{39-87} = +28 a_0$ **but**  $a_{39-39} = -33 a_0$ 

- 2 dimensional MOT of Rubidium
   2 dimensional MOT of Potassium
   Dual 3D-MOT
- Magnetic trapping and evaporation

L.De Sarlo, P.Maioli, G.Barontini, J.Catani, F.Minardi, M.I. Phys.Rev. A75, 022715 (2007)


BEC of <sup>39</sup>K



We have explored the 52 G-wide magnetic-field region below the homonuclear resonance in which the condensate is stable



## **39K BEC with tunable interactions**





Roati et al. PRL 99, 010403 (2007)

#### Bosons

# Some conclusions concerning equilibrium profiles



# **Interferometry with optical lattices**



### Localized Wannier-Stark states



Interference of WS states: Bloch oscillations

$$\omega_{\rm B} = F\lambda/2\hbar$$

The interaction energy reduces the contrast of the interferogram, and causes decoherence



#### M.Fattori, C.D'Errico, M.Jona-Lasinio, M.Modugno, G.Roati, M.Zaccanti, G.Modugno, M.Inguscio

non int. **BEC** 



Possibility to investigate the effect of interactions down to zero

Complementary to **Interferometry** by squeezing of atom numbers: Jo et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 98, 03047 (2007) Li et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 98, 040402 (2007)





non int. **Fermi** gas

# **Spatial resolution**





is promising for future experiments with weakly interacting Bose gases, Anderson localization, Bloch oscillations and precision atomic interferometry...

attractive condensates in optical lattices ...



## The coldest side of Florence



http://quantumgases.lens.unifi.it

