

# Phase of a Bose-Einstein Condensate in a Double-Well Potential Modulated Periodically in Time

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By using of the invariant theory, we have studied phase of a Bose-Einstein condensate in a double-well potential modulated periodically in time when the on-site interaction energy of a single pair of bosons occupying the same well equals the collision energy between two condensates, the dynamical and geometric phases are presented respectively. The Aharonov-Anandan phase is also obtained in the case of the cyclical evolution.

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**KEY WORDS:** phase; Bose-Einstein condensation.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, much attention has been paid to the investigation of Bose-Einstein condensation (BEC) in dilute and ultracold gases of neutral alkali-metal atoms using a combination of laser and evaporative cooling (Anderson *et al.*, 1995; Bradley *et al.*, 1995; Davis *et al.*, 1995; Mewes *et al.*, 1996a,b, 1997) due to the optical properties (Javanainen, 1994, 1995a,b, 1996; Lewenstein and You, 1993; Lewenstein *et al.*, 1994; Politzer, 1991, 1997; You *et al.*, 1994, 1995), statistical properties (Chou *et al.*, 1996, 1997; Grossman and Holthans, 1995a; Kuang, 1998; Stoof, 1994; Timmermans *et al.*, 1997; Yu and Jiao, 2001), phase properties (Castin and Dalibard, 1997; Cirac *et al.*, 1996; Imamoglu and Kennedy, 1997;

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Jack *et al.*, 1996; Javanainen, 1994, 1995a,b, 1996; Javanainen and Ruostekoski, 1995; Javanainen and Yoo, 1996; Javanainen and Wilkens, 1997; Ruostekoski and Walls, 1997a,b; Wong *et al.*, 1996; Yu and Jiao, 2003; ?; Zou *et al.*, 2002), and tunneling effect (Eckardt *et al.*, 2005; Grossman and Holthans, 1995b; Jack *et al.*, 1997; Javanainen, 1986, 1991; Kuang and Ouyang, 2000; Liang *et al.*, 2003; Li *et al.*, 2001; Liu *et al.*, 2000, 2002; Milburn *et al.*, 1977; Niu *et al.*, 1999; Yu and Jiao, 2001; Wu, 1996; Wu *et al.*, 2000, 2001, 2006). In a recent experiment, it has become possible to monitor the Josephson-like oscillation of a sample of about 1000 Bose-Einstein condensed atoms in an optical double-well potential and to observe *in situ* both the evolution of the atomic densities and of the relative phase between the condensates in both wells (Albiez *et al.*, 2005). Eckardt *et al.* (2005) have extended such experiments by modulating the trapping potential periodically in time.

As we known that the quantum invariant theory proposed by Lewis and Riesenfeld (1969) is a powerful tool for treating systems with time-dependent Hamiltonians. It was generalized in Gao *et al.* (1991) by introducing the concept of basic invariants and used to study the geometric phases (Aharonov and Anandan, 1987; Berry, 1984; Simon, 1983) in connection with the exact solutions of the corresponding time-dependent Schrödinger equations. The discovery of Berry's phase is not only a breakthrough in the older theory of quantum adiabatic approximations (Berry, 1984; Simon, 1983), but also provides us with new insights in many physical phenomena. The concept of Berry's phase has developed in some different directions (Mead, 1987; Moody *et al.*, 1986; Richardson *et al.*, 1988; Sun, 1990, 1993, 1988a,b; Sun *et al.*, 2001; Wilczek and Zee, 1984).

In this paper, by using of the invariant theory ,we shall study the dynamical and the geometric phases of a Bose-Einstein condensate in a double-well potential modulated periodically in time.

## 2. MODEL

We consider a Bose-Einstein condensate modulated by a double-well potential in time, the Hamiltonian of such a system can be written by (Eckardt *et al.*, 2005) (in the unit of  $\hbar = 1$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} = & -\frac{\Omega}{2}(\hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_2 + \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_1) + \kappa(\hat{a}_1^{\dagger 2} \hat{a}_1^2 + \hat{a}_2^{\dagger 2} \hat{a}_2^2) \\ & + (\mu_0 + \mu_1 \sin \omega t)(\hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2 - \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1) + \chi \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1 \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $\hat{a}_i$  ( $\hat{a}_i^\dagger$ ) is the annihilation (creation) operator for a boson in the  $i$ th well, satisfying the commutation relation  $[\hat{a}_i, \hat{a}_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, 2$ ). The on-site interaction energy of a single pair of bosons occupying the same well is  $2\kappa$ , proportional

to the  $s$ -wave scattering length of the particle species. In Eq. (1), we have assumed that the two wells are tilted such that their bottoms are misaligned in energy by an amount  $2\mu_0$ , which should be sufficiently large compared to the tunnel splitting  $\Omega$ , so that the usual Josephson oscillations are strongly suppressed. In addition, we have proposed to modulate this tilted double-well periodically in time, such that the individual wells are shifted sinusoidally up and down, in phase opposition to each other and with angular frequency  $\omega$ , by an amount  $\mu_1$ . Such a modulation of an optical double-well can be achieved by periodically shifting the focus of a blue-detuned laser, which creates the barrier between the two wells, with the help of a piezo-actuated mirror (Albiez *et al.*, 2005). The last term in Eq. (1) describes the collision between the atoms of the two condensates.

### 3. GEOMETRIC AND DYNAMICAL PHASES OF A BOSE-EINSTEIN CONDENSATE IN A DOUBLE-WELL POTENTIAL MODULATED PERIODICALLY IN TIME

For self-consistent, we first illustrate the Lewis-Riesenfeld (L-R) invariant theory (Lewis and Riesenfeld, 1969). For a one-dimensional system whose Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}(t)$  is time-dependent, then there exists an operator  $\hat{I}(t)$  called invariant if it satisfies the equation

$$i \frac{\partial \hat{I}(t)}{\partial t} + [\hat{I}(t), \hat{H}(t)] = 0. \quad (2)$$

The eigenvalue equation of the time-dependent invariant  $|\lambda_n, t\rangle$  is given

$$\hat{I}(t)|\lambda_n, t\rangle = \lambda_n |\lambda_n, t\rangle, \quad (3)$$

where  $\frac{\partial \lambda_n}{\partial t} = 0$ . The time-dependent Schrödinger equation for this system is

$$i \frac{\partial |\psi(t)\rangle_s}{\partial t} = \hat{H}(t) |\psi(t)\rangle_s. \quad (4)$$

According to the L-R invariant theory, the particular solution  $|\lambda_n, t\rangle_s$  of Eq. (4) is different from the eigenfunction  $|\lambda_n, t\rangle$  of  $\hat{I}(t)$  only by a phase factor  $\exp[i\delta_n(t)]$ , i.e.,

$$|\lambda_n, t\rangle_s = \exp[i\delta_n(t)] |\lambda_n, t\rangle, \quad (5)$$

which shows that  $|\lambda_n, t\rangle_s$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) forms a complete set of the solutions of Eq. (4). Then the general solution of the Schrödinger equation (4) can be written by

$$|\psi(t)\rangle_s = \sum_n C_n \exp[i\delta_n(t)] |\lambda_n, t\rangle, \quad (6)$$

where

$$\delta_n(t) = \int_0^t dt' \langle \lambda_n, t' | i \frac{\partial}{\partial t'} - \hat{H}(t') | \lambda_n, t' \rangle, \quad (7)$$

and  $C_n = \langle \lambda_n, 0 | \psi(0) \rangle_s$ .

For simplicity, we consider the case of  $\chi = 2\kappa$ , namely, the on-site interaction energy of a single pair of bosons occupying the same well equals the collision energy between two condensates. Then Eq. (1) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} = & -\frac{\Omega}{2}(\hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_2 + \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_1) + \kappa(\hat{N}_1^2 + \hat{N}_2^2 + 2\hat{N}_1 \hat{N}_2) \\ & - \kappa(\hat{N}_1 + \hat{N}_2) + (\mu_0 + \mu_1 \sin \omega t)(\hat{N}_2 - \hat{N}_1), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where  $\hat{N}_i = \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). It is easy to find that  $\hat{I}_1(t) = \hat{N}_1^2 + \hat{N}_2^2 + 2\hat{N}_1 \hat{N}_2$  is a special invariant of this system and satisfies  $\hat{I}_1(t)|m\rangle_{a_1}|n\rangle_{a_2} = \lambda_{mn}|m\rangle_{a_1}|n\rangle_{a_2}$ , where  $\hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1|m\rangle_{a_1} = m|m\rangle_{a_1}$ ,  $\hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2|n\rangle_{a_2} = n|n\rangle_{a_2}$ , and  $\lambda_{mn} = m^2 + n^2 + 2mn$ .

In the following, we can restrict the space to be in the sub-space of the eigenstate of the invariant  $\hat{I}_1(t)$ . Correspondingly,  $\hat{I}_1(t)$  which appears in Eq. (8) can be replaced by its eigenvalue  $\lambda_{mn}$ .

In order to obtain the exact solutions of Eq. (4), we can define operators  $\hat{K}_+$ ,  $\hat{K}_-$  and  $\hat{K}_0$  as follows:

$$\hat{K}_+ = \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_2, \quad \hat{K}_- = \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_1, \quad \hat{K}_0 = \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1 - \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2, \quad (9)$$

which hold the commutation relations

$$[\hat{K}_0, \hat{K}_\pm] = \pm 2\hat{K}_\pm, \quad [\hat{K}_+, \hat{K}_-] = \hat{K}_0, \quad (10)$$

it is easy to prove that operators  $\hat{K}_+$ ,  $\hat{K}_-$  and  $\hat{K}_0$  together with the Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}$  construct a quasi-algebra.

Then we can get the L-R invariant as follows

$$\hat{I}_2(t) = \cos \theta \hat{K}_0 - e^{-i\varphi} \sin \theta \hat{K}_+ - e^{i\varphi} \sin \theta \hat{K}_-, \quad (11)$$

it is apparent that  $[\hat{I}_1(t), \hat{I}_2(t)] = 0$ . Here  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$  are determined by Eq. (2) and satisfy the relations

$$\dot{\theta} = -\Omega \sin \varphi, \quad (12)$$

$$\dot{\theta} \cos \theta \sin \varphi + \dot{\varphi} \sin \theta \cos \varphi + \Omega \cos \theta + 2(\mu_0 + \mu_1 \sin \omega t) \sin \theta \cos \varphi = 0, \quad (13)$$

$$\dot{\theta} \cos \theta \cos \varphi - \dot{\varphi} \sin \theta \sin \varphi - 2(\mu_0 + \mu_1 \sin \omega t) \sin \theta \sin \varphi = 0, \quad (14)$$

where dot denotes the time derivative.

We can construct the unitary transformation

$$\hat{V}(t) = \exp[\sigma \hat{K}_+ - \sigma^* \hat{K}_-], \quad (15)$$

where  $\sigma = \frac{\theta}{2}e^{-i\varphi}$  and  $\sigma^* = \frac{\theta}{2}e^{i\varphi}$ . The invariant  $\hat{I}_2(t)$  can be transformed into a new time-independent operator  $\hat{I}_V$ :

$$\hat{I}_V = \hat{V}^\dagger(t)\hat{I}_2(t)\hat{V}(t) = \hat{K}_0. \quad (16)$$

Correspondingly, we can get the eigenvalue equation of operator  $\hat{I}_V(t)$

$$\hat{I}_V|m\rangle_{a_1}|n\rangle_{a_2} = (m-n)|m\rangle_{a_1}|n\rangle_{a_2}, \quad (17)$$

In terms of the unitary transformation  $\hat{V}(t)$  and the Baker–Campbell–Hausdorff formula (Wei and Norman, 1963)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{V}^\dagger(t)\frac{\partial \hat{V}(t)}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2!}\left[\frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial t}, \hat{L}\right] + \frac{1}{3!}\left[\left[\frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial t}, \hat{L}\right], \hat{L}\right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4!}\left[\left[\left[\frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial t}, \hat{L}\right], \hat{L}\right], \hat{L}\right] + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where  $\hat{V}(t) = \exp[\hat{L}(t)]$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_V(t) &= \hat{V}^\dagger(t)\hat{H}(t)\hat{V}(t) - i\hat{V}^\dagger(t)\frac{\partial \hat{V}(t)}{\partial t} \\ &= \kappa\lambda_{mn} + \left[\frac{\Omega}{2}\sin\theta\cos\varphi - \kappa - (\mu_0 + \mu_1\sin\omega t)\left(\cos^2\frac{\theta}{2} - \sin^2\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\dot{\varphi}}{2}(1 - \cos\theta)\right]\hat{a}_1^\dagger\hat{a}_1 + \left[-\frac{\Omega}{2}\sin\theta\cos\varphi - \kappa + (\mu_0 + \mu_1\sin\omega t)\right. \\ &\quad \times \left(\cos^2\frac{\theta}{2} - \sin^2\frac{\theta}{2}\right) - \frac{\dot{\varphi}}{2}(1 - \cos\theta)\right]\hat{a}_2^\dagger\hat{a}_2, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where  $\lambda_{mn}$  is the eigenvalue of operator  $\hat{I}_1(t)$ . It is easy to find that  $\hat{H}(t)$  differs from  $\hat{I}_V$  only by a time-dependent c-number factor. Thus we can get the general solution of the time-dependent Schrödinger equation Eq. (4)

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle_s = \sum_m \sum_n C_{mn} \exp[i\delta_{mn}(t)]\hat{V}(t)|m\rangle_{a_1}|n\rangle_{a_2}, \quad (20)$$

with the coefficients  $C_{mn} = \langle m, n, t = 0 | \Psi(0) \rangle_s$ . The phase  $\delta_{mn}(t) = \delta_{mn}^d(t) + \delta_{mn}^g(t)$  includes the dynamical phase

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{mn}^d(t) &= m \int_{t_0}^t \left[ -\frac{\Omega}{2}\sin\theta\cos\varphi + \kappa + (\mu_0 + \mu_1\sin\omega t)\left(\cos^2\frac{\theta}{2} - \sin^2\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right] dt' \\ &\quad - \int_{t_0}^t \kappa\lambda_{mn} dt' + n \int_{t_0}^t \left[ \frac{\Omega}{2}\sin\theta\cos\varphi + \kappa - (\mu_0 + \mu_1\sin\omega t) \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left(\cos^2\frac{\theta}{2} + \sin^2\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right] dt', \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

and the geometric phase

$$\delta_{mn}^g(t) = (n - m) \int_{t_0}^t \frac{\dot{\phi}}{2} (1 - \cos \theta) dt'. \quad (22)$$

In particular, the geometric phase becomes in the case of the cyclical evolution

$$\delta_{mn}^g(t) = \frac{1}{2}(n - m) \oint (1 - \cos \theta) d\varphi, \quad (23)$$

which is the geometric Aharonov-Anandan phase.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, by using of the L-R invariant theory, we have studied phase of a Bose-Einstein condensate in a double-well potential modulated periodically in time when the on-site interaction energy of a single pair of bosons occupying the same well equals the collision energy between two condensates, the dynamical and geometric phases are presented respectively. The Aharonov-Anandan phase is obtained in the case of the cyclical evolution .

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