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An interacting particles system revisited in the framework of the q -deformed algebra

A M Scarfone¹ and P Narayana Swamy²

¹ Dipartimento di Fisica and Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia (CNR-INFM),
Sezione del Politecnico di Torino, I-10129, Italy

² Department of Physics, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL 62026, USA

E-mail: antonio.scarfone@polito.it and pswamy@siue.edu

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Abstract

We discuss the possibility of interpreting a q -deformed non-interacting system as incorporating the effects of interactions among its particles. This can be accomplished, for instance, in an ensemble of q -Boson by means of the virial expansion of a real gas in powers of the deformed parameter. The lowest-order virial coefficient reduces to the case of the standard, non-interacting Bose gas, while the higher-order virial coefficients contain effects arising from the interaction. The same picture can be drawn in a quantum-mechanical system where it is shown that the q -deformed momentum can be expanded in a series containing high-order powers of the standard quantum phase-space variables. Motivated by this result, we introduce, in the classical framework, a transformation relating the momentum of a free system to the momentum of an interacting system. It is shown that the canonical quantization applied to the interacting system implies a q -deformed quantization for the free system.

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1. Introduction

The earliest studies to develop a new realization of the quantum group $SU_q(2)$ are perhaps those of Biedenharn and Mcfarlane [1, 2]. This construction, which is now a standard procedure in the literature, is based on the following algebra describing a q -Boson oscillators system

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{a}\tilde{a}^\dagger - q\tilde{a}^\dagger\tilde{a} &= 1, & [\tilde{a}, \tilde{a}] &= 0, & [\tilde{a}^\dagger, \tilde{a}^\dagger] &= 0, \\ [N, \tilde{a}] &= -\tilde{a}, & [N, \tilde{a}^\dagger] &= \tilde{a}^\dagger, \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

where q is a real deformation parameter. The q -Boson Hamiltonian operator is $H = \frac{1}{2}\omega(\tilde{a}^\dagger\tilde{a} + \tilde{a}\tilde{a}^\dagger)$ (hereinafter we use units with $\hbar = 1$), where eigenvalues $E_n = \frac{1}{2}\omega([n+1] + [n])$ are expressed in terms of the basic numbers $[n] = (q^n - 1)/(q - 1)$ and the Fock space of

the q -Boson states is constructed according to $|n\rangle = (1/\sqrt{[n]!})(a^\dagger)^n|0\rangle$, where the q -factorial is given by $[n]! = [n][n-1]\cdots[1]$, when non-zero.

Starting from the above formalism, the statistical mechanics of a q -Bosons gas has been investigated rather extensively in the literature [3–7]. Recent studies on the nature of the thermodynamics as well as properties relating to the algebra and Heisenberg's equation of motion have been worthwhile [8]. More recently, specific topics relating to the thermostatics of q -deformed Boltzmann, Bose and Fermi systems have been investigated in detail [9, 10]. These studies have not only established detailed results for the thermostatical properties of ideal q -Bosons and q -Fermions systems, but they have also illustrated how the deformation of classical systems can be described by means of the q -exponential functions and the concomitant Fokker–Planck equation [11]. In addition, the study of q -Bosons and q -Fermions is particularly instructive since it has been shown that the q -calculus based on the Jackson derivative can be successfully used to modify standard thermodynamic relations in such a way that the theory of these ideal q -deformed systems can be formulated in a self-consistent manner.

Moreover, classical systems described by the q -deformed Poisson bracket has been investigated [12] in order to understand the origin of the deformed structure from the underlying dynamics governing some complex systems.

Having accomplished a great deal of understanding of the q -deformed systems revealed by recent investigations, we may ask the question whether there are simple physical descriptions of what constitutes a deformation. In other words, it is worthwhile to ask if there are simple manifestations of q -deformation and what are the physical basis of such manifestations. It has been observed in [13] that interacting Bosons gas can be described by a Hamiltonian containing various powers of the operators a and a^\dagger , where the lowest-order non-interacting Hamiltonian contains only one pair of these operators. Furthermore, we can learn from a study of non-ideal gases (see, for instance, [14]) that the state equations of interacting particle systems are well described by means of the virial expansion in terms of higher orders by powers of the number of particles, where the Van der Waals approximation is given by the first two terms in the series.

Therefore, the power series expansion is a convenient tool to describe interacting systems, with the lowest-order representing the system of non-interacting particles in the ensemble. Unfortunately, very few authors have examined this issue. An exception is given by Parthasarathy and Viswanathan [15] who have developed an interesting interpretation of the origin of the q -deformation in an interacting particles system. In fact, it is shown that many thermodynamic quantities of a q -Bosons system can be expressed as a power series in powers of N or in series of the deformed parameter $\epsilon = q - 1$, implying that the q -deformation arises from the interaction among the particles of the ensemble. More precisely, while the zeroth order describes the undeformed (non-interacting) system, the higher-order terms contain various powers of ϵ which are equivalent to different order contributions arising from interactions.

Similar considerations have been presented also in [16], where the perturbative aspects of the q -deformed Schrödinger equation are analyzed by means of a high-order momentum-dependent interaction originating from the underlying q -deformation of the Heisenberg algebra.

In this paper, we shall highlight some aspects concerning the possible interpretation of a q -deformed non-interacting system describing a non-deformed interacting system.

The plan of the paper is as follows. In section 2, we present some results to illustrate the idea that q -deformation can originate from the presence of an interaction in the system. This is better clarified in section 3, where we study an interacting Bosons system by means of the virial expansion of a free q -Bosons system. In section 4, we illustrate the same idea for a

quantum-mechanical system, by revisiting the q -deformed Heisenberg algebra. We write down the q -deformed momentum in a series of the standard quantum space-phase variables where the high-order contributions originate from the presence of the interaction into the system. The equivalence of q -deformation and interaction for a mechanical system is discussed in section 5 by introducing a contact transformation which relates the classical counterpart of the canonical quantum momentum (describing an interacting system) to the classical counterpart of the deformed quantum momentum (describing a free system). As a consequence, it is shown that the canonical quantization (*à la Dirac*) applied to the interacting system implies a q -deformed quantization of the free system. Section 6 contains a conclusive discussion.

2. Preliminary results

We consider a system of interacting particles described by the q -oscillator algebra, expressed for a one-level system through equation (1.1), where q implements the deformation of the system. The theory of such q -Bosons introduces the basic number according to

$$[N] = \frac{q^N - 1}{q - 1}, \tag{2.1}$$

where N is the number operator, in order to describe the Fock space of the particles.

Hereinafter, we take $q > 1$ without loss of generality and we set $\epsilon = q - 1$, with $\epsilon \ll 1$. Thus, the expression of the basic number is written as

$$[N] = \epsilon^{-1}[(1 + \epsilon)^N - 1], \tag{2.2}$$

which can be expanded in a series of powers of N according to

$$[N] = \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon^2}{3} - \frac{\epsilon^3}{4} + \dots\right) N + \frac{\epsilon}{2!} \left(1 - \epsilon + \frac{11}{12}\epsilon^2 - \dots\right) N^2 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{3!} \left(1 - \frac{3}{2}\epsilon + \dots\right) N^3 + O(N^4). \tag{2.3}$$

This result, in agreement with the interpretation advanced in [15], shows that the quantity $[N]$ incorporates thermal averages of N, N^2, N^3 , etc. Further inspection reveals that the contributions from interaction can be viewed either in terms of N, N^2, N^3 , etc. or in terms of $\epsilon, \epsilon^2, \epsilon^3$, etc. In fact, by interpreting the contributions arising from interactions by means of terms containing higher powers of the deformation parameter ϵ , we can rewrite the series (2.3) in the following form:

$$[N] = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{\epsilon^i}{(i+1)!} \prod_{j=0}^i (N - j) = N + \frac{\epsilon}{2!} N(N - 1) + \frac{\epsilon^2}{3!} N(N - 1)(N - 2) + O(\epsilon^3), \tag{2.4}$$

so that, we may regard the above series as describing the interaction among the particles of the system: the $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ limit describes the non-interacting particles corresponding to an undeformed gas, while the higher-order terms describe the various orders of interaction. In this way, we can interpret the system of interacting particles as a q -deformed free gas.

Next, we consider the standard form of the Hamiltonian for the q -Bosons

$$H_\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}\omega([N + 1] + [N]), \tag{2.5}$$

reducing to the usual Hamiltonian $H_0 = \omega(N + 1/2)$ when ϵ goes to zero. This Hamiltonian follows directly from the q -deformed oscillator algebra, with the standard representation $[N] = a^\dagger a$ and $[N + 1] = a a^\dagger$.

The alternative form $H_\epsilon = \omega([N] + 1/2)$ is also commonly used [17], but that is certainly an approximation [18].

Hamiltonian (2.5) can be expressed as

$$H_\epsilon = \omega \left[\frac{1}{2} + \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{12} - \frac{\epsilon^3}{12} + \dots \right) N + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{5}{12}\epsilon^2 - \dots \right) N^2 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{6} (1 - \epsilon + \dots) N^3 \right] + O(N^4), \tag{2.6}$$

which can be rearranged in a series containing higher powers of the deformation parameter according to

$$H_\epsilon = H_0 + \omega \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \epsilon^i \frac{(2N + 1 - i)}{2(i + 1)!} \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} (N - j). \tag{2.7}$$

The first term H_0 , surviving in the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, is the undeformed Hamiltonian corresponding to the non-interacting case, whilst the higher-order terms are interpreted as arising from interaction.

Finally, for completeness, let us consider the following transformation:

$$\tilde{a} = \hat{a} \sqrt{\frac{[N]}{N}}, \tag{2.8}$$

and similarly for \tilde{a}^\dagger , where \hat{a} and \hat{a}^\dagger are the undeformed generators obeying the ordinary SU(2) algebra. As is well known [19, 20], this transformation maps the q -algebra (1.1) onto the standard algebra of a non-interacting Bosons system. By expanding equation (2.8) in power series, thus one obtains

$$\tilde{a} = \hat{a} \left[1 + \frac{\epsilon}{4}(N - 1) - \frac{\epsilon^2}{96}(N - 1)(5N + 3) + \frac{\epsilon^3}{384}(N - 1)(N - 5)(3N - 7) + O(\epsilon^4) \right], \tag{2.9}$$

which shows the equivalence of the two operators \tilde{a} and \hat{a} at the zeroth order. Again, the high-order terms can be interpreted as a correction to \hat{a} arising from the presence of the interactions in the system of non-interacting Bosons.

3. The virial expansion in the q -Bosons system

A good illustration of the idea that a q -deformed non-interacting many-body system can be interpreted as describing a non-deformed interacting system can be provided by studying the virial expansion of a q -Bosons ensemble although this idea can also be investigated starting from other physically relevant quantities. For instance, one could consider the probability distribution function for a q -Bosons system, derived in [10], as

$$n = \frac{1}{\ln(1 - \epsilon)} \ln \left(\frac{y}{y - \epsilon} \right), \tag{3.1}$$

where $y = z^{-1} e^{\beta E} - 1$ and $z = e^{\beta \mu}$ is the fugacity of the gas. By expanding this quantity in a power series, one obtains

$$n = \frac{1}{y} + \frac{\epsilon}{2y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{y} \right) - \frac{\epsilon^2}{12y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{y} \right) \left(1 - \frac{4}{y} \right) + \frac{\epsilon^3}{24y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{y} \right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{y} + \frac{6}{y^2} \right) + O(\epsilon^4), \tag{3.2}$$

where the first term corresponds to the mean occupation number of the standard Bose statistics, whilst the higher-order terms represent interaction contributions. We may thus interpret the above as the average occupation number of an interacting ensemble of Bosons.

Most results derived in a thermostatics theory based on the q -calculus involve generalized functions such as $\tilde{g}_{3/2}(z, \epsilon)$ or $\tilde{g}_{5/2}(z, \epsilon)$. These functions are generalizations of the well-known functions $g_{3/2}(z)$ or $g_{5/2}(z)$ arising in the standard thermostatics of a Bosons gas and can be taken as typical of what comes out in the deformed theory which we are now interpreting as a consequence of the interaction among the many-body system.

We start from the following result derived in [10]

$$\tilde{g}_{3/2}(z, \epsilon) = \frac{\lambda^3}{v}, \tag{3.3}$$

where $v = V/N$ is the specific volume, $\lambda = h/(2\pi mkT)^{1/2}$ is the thermal wavelength and

$$\tilde{g}_{3/2}(z, \epsilon) = \frac{1}{\ln(1 + \epsilon)} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k^{5/2}} [(1 + \epsilon)^k - 1]. \tag{3.4}$$

Expanding this function in a power series, we obtain the result

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{g}_{3/2}(z, \epsilon) = & z \left(1 + \frac{z}{2\sqrt{2}} + \frac{z^2}{3\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) + \frac{z}{2} \left(1 + \frac{z}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{z^2}{\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) \epsilon \\ & - \frac{z}{12} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\sqrt{2}} - \sqrt{3}z^2 + \dots \right) \epsilon^2 + \frac{z}{24} \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) \epsilon^3 + O(\epsilon^4). \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

Note that the zeroth-order term is the familiar $g_{3/2}(z)$ function encountered in standard Bose statistics [21] whilst the higher-order terms can be interpreted as describing contributions from interactions.

In a similar way, we can consider the equation of state for a q -Bosons system [10]

$$\tilde{g}_{5/2}(z, \epsilon) = \frac{\lambda^3 P}{kT}, \tag{3.6}$$

where the function

$$\tilde{g}_{5/2}(z, \epsilon) = \frac{1}{\ln(1 + \epsilon)} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k^{7/2}} [(1 + \epsilon)^k - 1], \tag{3.7}$$

has the following power series expansion:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{g}_{5/2}(z, \epsilon) = & z \left(1 + \frac{z}{4\sqrt{2}} + \frac{z^2}{9\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) + \frac{z}{2} \left(1 + \frac{z}{2\sqrt{2}} + \frac{z^2}{3\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) \epsilon \\ & - \frac{z}{12} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{2\sqrt{2}} - \frac{z^3}{\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) \epsilon^2 + \frac{z}{24} \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{3\sqrt{3}} + \dots \right) \epsilon^3 + O(\epsilon^4). \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

Again, the zeroth-order term coincides with the known function $g_{5/2}(z)$ of the standard statistical mechanics, whilst the higher-order terms can be interpreted as describing contributions from interactions.

From results (3.5) and (3.8) we can obtain the following virial expansion:

$$\frac{Pv}{kT} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k(\epsilon) \left(\frac{\lambda^3}{v} \right)^{k-1}, \tag{3.9}$$

where the virial coefficients $a_k(\epsilon)$ describe the equation of state of an interacting Bosons system or, equivalently, they describe the equation of state of a q -deformed system of non-interacting Bosons. The first few terms are as follows:

$$a_1(\epsilon) = 1, \tag{3.10}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_2(\epsilon) &= -\frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{48\sqrt{2}}\epsilon^2(1 - \epsilon) + O(\epsilon^4) \\ &= -0.17678 - 0.01473\epsilon^2 + 0.01473\epsilon^3 + O(\epsilon^4), \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_3(\epsilon) &= -\left(\frac{2}{9\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{8}\right) - \left(\frac{1}{18\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{48}\right)\epsilon^2(1 - \epsilon) + O(\epsilon^4) \\ &= -0.00330 - 0.01124\epsilon^2 + 0.01124\epsilon^3 + O(\epsilon^4), \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_4(\epsilon) &= -\left(\frac{3}{32} + \frac{5}{32\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6}}\right) - \left(\frac{3}{64} + \frac{5}{128\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{6\sqrt{6}}\right)\epsilon^2(1 - \epsilon) + O(\epsilon^4) \\ &= -0.00011 - 0.00645\epsilon^2 + 0.00645\epsilon^3 + O(\epsilon^4). \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

(We may note that the first coefficient is exact since it does not contain any corrections).

It is readily observed that when $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ we recover the virial coefficients of the ordinary (undeformed) non-interacting Bosons system, as shown in standard textbooks [21]. The higher-order terms arise from the deformation, i.e. we may regard the deviations from the values of the ordinary Bosons system as indicating the presence of such an interaction among the particles of the system.

4. Heisenberg algebra and q -deformed momentum

We may further develop the idea of the equivalence among deformation and interaction by considering a quantum-mechanical system.

As is known, a (non-Hermitian) realization of algebra (1.1) is provided by means of the q -deformed Bargmann–Wigner holomorphism, given by $\tilde{a} \equiv x$ and $\tilde{a}^\dagger \equiv D_x$, where D_x is the Jackson derivative [22], defined in

$$D_x = \frac{1}{x} \frac{\mathcal{D}_q - 1}{q - 1}, \tag{4.1}$$

with

$$\mathcal{D}_q = q^{x\partial_x}, \tag{4.2}$$

the dilatation operator

$$\mathcal{D}_q f(x) = f(qx)\mathcal{D}_q. \tag{4.3}$$

According to the q -algebra (1.1), by taking into account the relation $[N + 1] = q[N] + 1$, we can derive the following solution [23, 24]:

$$[N] = xD_x, \tag{4.4}$$

so that the q -Boson number operator can be defined as $N = x\partial_x$ (see equation (4.1)).

With the purpose of consistently introducing a quantum mechanics theory based on the q -calculus, it has been suggested by several authors (see, for instance, [25–27]), to replace the quantum momentum operator $\tilde{p} = -i\partial_x$ with a q -deformed version given by $\tilde{P} = -iD_{\tilde{X}}$.

In this way, algebra (1.1) can be written formally in the form

$$q\tilde{X}\tilde{P} - \tilde{P}\tilde{X} = i, \tag{4.5}$$

with $\tilde{X} \equiv x$ the position operators, which reduces to the standard Heisenberg algebra in the $q \rightarrow 1$ limit.

Despite this nice result a certain prudence is indeed required. In fact, while \bar{p} is a Hermitian operator and can be identified with a physical observable, the same is not true for the quantity \tilde{P} which is not Hermitian. Thus, a physical observable corresponding to a q -deformed momentum \tilde{p} [28, 29] must be introduced according to a certain procedure such that $\tilde{p} = \tilde{p}^\dagger = f(\tilde{P}, \tilde{P}^\dagger)$.

To do this, we first observe that the ordinary commutation among the operators \tilde{X} and \tilde{P} reads as

$$\tilde{X}\tilde{P} - \tilde{P}\tilde{X} = i\mathcal{D}_q. \tag{4.6}$$

Of course, equations (4.5) and (4.6) represent the same algebra, as can be verified by employing the relation $\mathcal{D}_q = 1 + i(q - 1)\tilde{X}\tilde{P}$.

On the other hand, let us consider the Hermitian conjugate of this last equation, given by

$$\tilde{X}\tilde{P}^\dagger - \tilde{P}^\dagger\tilde{X} = i(q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}, \tag{4.7}$$

since $\mathcal{D}_q^\dagger = (q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}$ and we assumed $\tilde{X} = \tilde{X}^\dagger$. By matching equation (4.5), multiplied on the left-hand side by the operator $(q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}$ that can be written as

$$\tilde{X}(q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}\tilde{P} - (q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}\tilde{P}\tilde{X} = i(q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}, \tag{4.8}$$

with equation (4.7), it is natural to define

$$\tilde{P}^\dagger = (q\mathcal{D}_q)^{-1}\tilde{P}, \quad \text{with} \quad (\tilde{P}^\dagger)^\dagger \equiv \tilde{P}. \tag{4.9}$$

Accordingly, one introduces the Hermitian operator

$$\tilde{P} = \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{P} + \tilde{P}^\dagger), \tag{4.10}$$

which can be identified with the right q -deformed version of the quantum momentum.

After rescaling the position operator, according to $\tilde{x} = 2q\tilde{X}/(1 + q)$, algebra (4.5) can be finally written as

$$q^{1/2}\tilde{x}\tilde{p} - q^{-1/2}\tilde{p}\tilde{x} = i\Lambda_q, \tag{4.11}$$

where the operator $\Lambda_q = q^{-1/2}\mathcal{D}_q^{-1}$ fulfills the further relations

$$\Lambda_q\tilde{x} = q^{-1}\tilde{x}\Lambda_q, \quad \Lambda_q\tilde{p} = q\tilde{p}\Lambda_q. \tag{4.12}$$

Equations (4.11) and (4.12) establish the q -deformed Heisenberg's algebra for the phase-space quantum variables \tilde{x} and \tilde{p} , as known in the literature [28, 29].

We can now consider a power series expansion for \tilde{p} . To do this, we collect together equations (4.1), (4.9) and (4.10) to obtain

$$\tilde{p} = -\frac{i}{2\tilde{X}} \frac{\mathcal{D}_q - \mathcal{D}_q^{-1}}{q - 1} \equiv -\frac{i}{\hat{x}} \frac{q^{i\hat{x}\hat{p}} - q^{-i\hat{x}\hat{p}}}{q - q^{-1}}, \tag{4.13}$$

with $\hat{x} \equiv \tilde{x}$, $\hat{p} = -i\partial_{\tilde{x}}$, which can be written in the following compact form:

$$\tilde{p} = \hat{p} \frac{[\hat{z}]_s}{\hat{z}}, \tag{4.14}$$

where $\hat{z} = i\hat{x}\hat{p}$ and $[\hat{z}]_s = (q^{\hat{z}} - q^{-\hat{z}})/(q - q^{-1})$ is the symmetric version of the basic number. Relation (4.13) is equivalent to that derived in [28] and successively reconsidered in [16]. It plays the same role as transformation (2.8) and relates the q -deformed operators \tilde{x} and \tilde{p} , fulfilling the generalized Heisenberg's algebra (4.11), to the standard operators \hat{x} and \hat{p} which satisfy the undeformed algebra $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i$.

By expanding equation (4.13) in a series of $\epsilon = q - 1$, we obtain

$$\tilde{p} = \hat{p} \left[1 - \frac{1}{6}(1 + \hat{x}\hat{p}\hat{x}\hat{p})\epsilon^2(1 - \epsilon) \right] + O(\epsilon^4), \tag{4.15}$$

in accordance with the results reported in [16]. Again, the higher-order terms can be interpreted as effects due to interactions, i.e. the first term corresponds to the momentum of a non-interacting system whilst the higher-order terms arise from interactions.

5. The equivalent interaction

In order to better clarify the question concerning the possible link between interaction and deformation we are asking if there exists a simple physical indication of what constitutes a deformation.

In this respect, we consider a classical system described by the phase-space variables (X, P) . For a non-interacting system the energy is only kinetic, i.e. $E = P^2/(2m)$. Afterward, we introduce a contact transformation which changes the momentum $P \rightarrow p \equiv p(X, P)$ but leave unchanged the coordinate $X \rightarrow x \equiv X$. In the new phase-space variables (x, p) , the energy of the system can be written, without loss of generality, as $E = p^2/(2m) + U_\alpha(x, p)$ that contains now the extra term $U_\alpha(x, p)$ representing an interaction potential, whose explicit form is determined by the contact transformation we are introducing. In particular, we are looking for a transformation able to capture the physical meaning of the q -deformation.

On the basis of the results described in the previous section, this can be realized by introducing a transformation such that the quantum analog of the classical mapping $P \rightarrow p \equiv p(X, P)$ corresponds to transformation (4.13) among quantum operators. Hereafter, we identify the quantity \hat{p} with the quantum operator of the momentum p (describing the interacting system) and the quantity \tilde{p} with the quantum operator corresponding to the momentum P (describing the free system).

To realize such a result, we introduce the following point transformation:

$$x \rightarrow X \equiv x, \quad p \rightarrow P = \frac{1}{x} \frac{\sin(\alpha xp)}{\sinh(\alpha)}, \tag{5.1}$$

which imply an interaction term of the kind

$$U_\alpha(x, p) = \frac{\sin^2(\alpha xp) - [\sinh(\alpha)xp]^2}{2m \sinh^2(\alpha)x^2}, \tag{5.2}$$

(derived from the quantity $U_\alpha(x, p) = \frac{1}{2m}(P^2 - p^2)$), where $\alpha = \log q$ is the deformed parameter for the classical system. In the $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ limit equation (5.1) reduces to the identity transformation and the potential $U_\alpha(x, p)$ vanishes.

It is easy to verify that, by employing the canonical quantum prescription for the momentum p , with $p \rightarrow \hat{p} = -i\partial_x$, we obtain a q -deformed quantum prescription for the momentum P , with $P \rightarrow \tilde{p}$.

In fact, from transformation (5.1), we obtain

$$P = \frac{\sin(\alpha xp)}{x \sinh(\alpha)} \rightarrow \frac{1}{x} \frac{\sin(-i\alpha x \partial_x)}{\sinh(\alpha)} = -\frac{i}{\hat{x}} \frac{q^{i\hat{p}} - q^{-i\hat{p}}}{q - q^{-1}} = \tilde{p}, \tag{5.3}$$

in accordance with transformation (4.13).

We remark that since transformation (5.1) depends on both the phase-space variables an ordering prescription must be imposed. Consistently with the formalism adopted in the previous section, we employed the standard prescription with the \hat{x} operator on the left and the \hat{p} operator on the right.

An immediate consequence of this argument is that the Schrödinger equation describing a quantum interacting system obtained from the canonical quantization of the classical system governed by the potential $U_\alpha(x, p)$ ($U_q(\hat{x}, \hat{p}) = \frac{1}{2m}(\tilde{p}^2 - \hat{p}^2)$ in the quantum picture) is transformed in a q -deformed Schrödinger equation describing a non-interacting quantum system (and vice versa).

This fact follows readily from the following correspondence:

$$E = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + U_q(\hat{x}, \hat{p}) \Leftrightarrow E = \frac{\tilde{p}^2}{2m}. \tag{5.4}$$

Let us point out that the idea to introduce a deformed algebra in order to take into account the effect of interactions is not new at all.

In fact, this is reminiscent of what was done in early quantum mechanics by Bohm and Madelung [30], which recognize that a quantum system, described by the non-commutative operators \hat{x} and \hat{p} acting on the ψ -function of a quantum system, behaves like a classical interacting fluid, described by the commutative functions ρ and S , whose interaction is described through a suitable quantum potential $U_{\text{BM}}(\rho)$, capable of capturing the quantum feature arising in the Schrödinger picture.

By identifying the quantum momentum $-i\partial_x\psi$ in the ψ -representation with the canonical momentum $\partial_x S$ in the ρ - S representation, the Schrödinger equation can be transformed according to

$$E = -\frac{1}{2m} \frac{\partial_x^2 \psi}{\psi} \quad \Rightarrow \quad E = \frac{(\partial_x S)^2}{2m} + U_{\text{BM}}(\rho), \quad (5.5)$$

(endowed by a continuity equation for the field ρ), where, the transformed equation can be interpreted as a classical Hamilton–Jacobi-like equation for the principal Hamilton function S .

In this way, the free system in the Schrödinger picture (in the non-commutative algebraic formalism) is transformed to an interacting classical system (in the commutative algebraic formalism) governed by the Bohm–Madelung potential

$$U_{\text{BM}}(\rho) = -\frac{1}{2m} \frac{\partial_{xx}\sqrt{\rho}}{\sqrt{\rho}}, \quad (5.6)$$

that introduces the quantum effects into the system just as potential (5.2) does with respect to the q -deformation.

6. Conclusion and discussion

In this work we have investigated a possible interpretation of q -deformation in terms of a physical interaction. We analyze several quantities of physical interest such as the Hamiltonian and the occupation number of a q -Bosons system showing that all these quantities can be expanded in a power series of the deformation parameter $\epsilon = q - 1$. This leads us to identify the zeroth-order quantities corresponding to the description of an undeformed system and the higher-order quantities representing the contribution arising from deformation. We can interpret the lowest-order quantities characterizing the non-interacting system whilst the higher-order contributions arise from the presence of a kind of interaction in the system.

We investigate the virial expansion in the context of the q -Bosons system which provides an illustration of the equivalence of the two interpretations. This equivalence arises from the premise that statistical mechanics reveals that a theory of interacting particles, e.g., Bosons, predicts the various virial coefficients so that the equation of state of the gas reflects the presence of interactions in the system. Thus, we have determined explicit forms for the first four virial coefficients which are expressed in a power series of ϵ and we have shown explicitly that in the lowest order, these coefficients reduce to those of the standard Bose gas, while the higher-order terms describe the effects of the deformation. This idea stems from a study of a non-ideal gas, (e.g. [14]), where the equation of state of interacting systems is described well by the virial expansion in powers of N , with the Van der Walls law being just an approximate description provided by the first two terms in the series.

The equivalence between q -deformation and interaction has also been illustrated in a quantum-mechanical system. The study of the q -Heisenberg's algebra enables us to introduce the effective momentum \tilde{p} which can be related by a power series in the ordinary quantum

phase-space variables \hat{x} and \hat{p} . Based on this result we have considered a point transformation $P \rightarrow p$ for the momentum of a classical system derived by requiring that the canonical quantization rule $p \rightarrow \hat{p}$, for the momentum p , implies a q -quantization rule $P \rightarrow \tilde{p}$, for the momentum P . Accordingly, identifying the (X, P) -system with a free system and the (x, p) -system with the interacting one we have obtained the expression of the interacting potential $U_\alpha(x, p)$ responsible for the q -deformation. This means that the classical momentum corresponding to the canonical quantum momentum (describing a suitably interacting system) can be related to the classical momentum corresponding to the deformed quantum momentum (describing a free system) by means of a contact transformation.

At this stage we are not able to give a physical interpretation, if any, of potential (5.2). Notwithstanding, it is worth remarking that the idea underlying this work, to interpret the deformations of a physics theory as representative of the interactions of the system that the theory is describing, has also been advanced by several authors both for a quantum-mechanical system [16] and for a statistical mechanical system [9, 32–35] and actually is applicable not just to the q -formalism employed in this work as a simple illustrative example.

Here, we have used the q -deformed algebra, which is well known and largely applied in physics since the beginning of the last century, in order to give an explicit demonstration of how the method should work. There is no physical reason, *a priori*, to believe that the q -deformation is the suitable deformation capable of capturing the physical information contained in any interaction. More appropriately, one should consider a given interacting system and then attempt to realize the corresponding algebraic deformation able to capture the physical feature contained in it. This project however, appears to be beyond our present scope.

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