

# Energy per particle of a N-boson system using soft potentials

A. Kievsky

INFN, Sezione di Pisa (Italy)

Lepton-Nucleus Scattering XIV  
Marciana Marina, 27 June - 1 July 2016  
The Legacy of Adelchi Fabrocini

## Collaborators

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- A. Polls - *University of Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain)*
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# Historical context

## Studies on liquid $^4\text{He}$ at zero temperature in the 80's

- High quality potential curves for the Helium-Helium interaction:  
For example the Aziz and Nain potential: HFDHE2
- High quality methods to solve the many-body problem:  
Variational methods, GFMC or DMC
- main interest: to compare as best as possible theory (methods and potentials) and experimental results
- Exp.:  
 $E/N = -7.14 \text{ K at } \rho_0 = 0.022 \text{ \AA}^{-3}$
- theory (GFMC using the HFDHE2 potential):  
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A great success of the many body theories

# Historical context

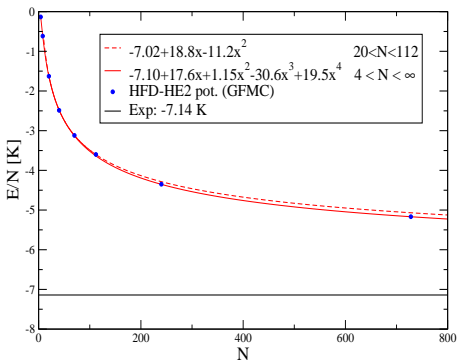
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## A great success of the many body theories

## Studies on liquid $^4\text{He}$ droplets in the 80's

- main interest: to obtain the density and energy of liquid  $^4\text{He}$  from energies and radii of droplets having a few hundred atoms
- A liquid-drop model for the energy:  
 $E(N)/N = E_v + E_s x + E_c x^2$  with  $x = N^{-1/3}$
- To support liquid-drop formulas to obtain nuclear matter properties



## Changing perspective: The Helium dimer

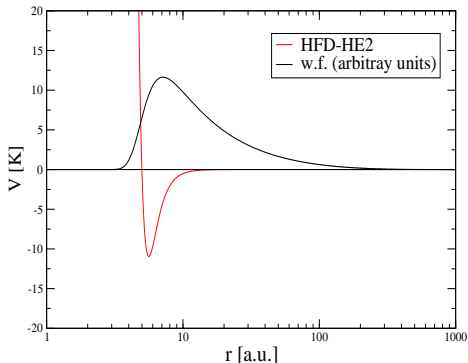
The energy:  $E_d \approx -1$  mK

The two-body scattering length  $a \approx 220$  a.u.

$a \gg r_0 \rightarrow a$  emerges as a control parameter

$E_d \approx -\hbar^2/ma^2 \approx -1$  mK  $\rightarrow$  unnatural state  $\rightarrow$  universal behavior

$\rightarrow$  zero-range theory  $\rightarrow$  Efimov Physics



# Universality in systems having large scattering length

Shallow states  $\rightarrow$  zero-range theory  $\rightarrow$  Efimov Physics

low energy physics:

$$k \cot \delta = -\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2} r_{\text{eff}} k^2 + \dots$$

The binding wave number  $k_d$  ( $\hbar^2 k_d^2 / m = E_d$ ) is the solution of the pole equation  $ik_d \cot \delta(ik_d) + k_d = 0$  and therefore

$$k_d = \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2} r_{\text{eff}} k_d^2 + \dots$$

for shallow states ( $a \gg r_{\text{eff}}$ )

$$k_d = \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2} r_{\text{eff}} k_d^2$$

or

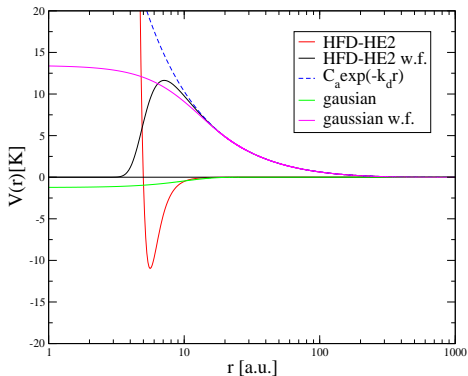
$$E_d = \frac{\hbar^2}{ma^2} \left( 1 + \frac{r_{\text{eff}}}{a} + \frac{5r_{\text{eff}}^2}{4a^2} + \dots \right) \longrightarrow \lim_{r_{\text{eff}} \rightarrow 0} E_d = \frac{\hbar^2}{ma^2}$$

## Effective description of the Helium dimer

At LO the dimer is described by a (regularized) contact interaction

Gaussian form:  $V(1, 2) \rightarrow V_0 e^{-r^2/r_0^2}$

	$a(\text{a.u.})$	$r_{\text{eff}}(\text{a.u.})$	$E_d(\text{mK})$	$C_a(\text{a.u.}^{-1/2})$
HFD-HE2	235.5	13.978	-0.83012	0.096
gaussian	235.5	13.978	-0.83012	0.096





## Effective description of the Helium trimer: Efimov physics

At LO the trimer is described by a (regularized) two-body plus a three-body contact interaction

Gaussian form:  $V(1,2) + V(1,2,3) \rightarrow V_0 e^{-r^2/r_0^2} + W_0 e^{-\rho^2/\rho_0^2}$   
with the hyperradius  $\rho^2 = 2/3(r_{12}^2 + r_{23}^2 + r_{31}^2)$

	$a(\text{a.u.})$	$r_{\text{eff}}(\text{a.u.})$	$E_d(\text{mK})$	$E_3^0(\text{mK})$	$E_3^1(\text{mK})$
HFD-HE2	235.5	13.978	-0.83012	-117.3	-1.67
TBG	235.5	13.978	-0.83012	-139.8	-1.77
TBG+ 3BH				-117.3	-1.67(1)

- $V_0$  and  $r_0$  has been fixed to describe  $a$ ,  $r_{\text{eff}}$  and  $E_d$
- $W_0$  and  $\rho_0$  has been fixed to describe  $E_3^0$ ,  $E_3^1$
- we have explored  $5 \text{ a.u.} < \rho_0 < 14 \text{ a.u.}$
- correspondingly  $60 \text{ K} < W_0 < 0.4 \text{ K}$
- there is a low sensibility to the range  $\rho_0$

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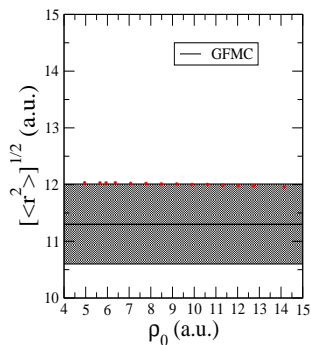
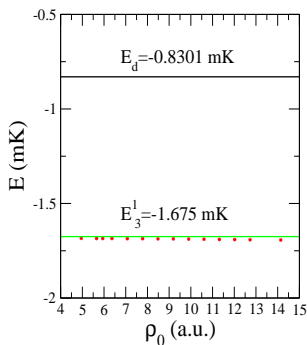
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# Analysis of the three-body force parameters $W_0$ and $\rho_0$

( $W_0, \rho_0$ ) fixed to describe  $E_3^0 = -117.3$  mK



## Two different points of view of Helium systems

- In the 80's strong efforts have been done to construct high quality potentials
- A fit to low and high energy data has been used
- These potentials describe very well properties of the infinite liquid
- The extremely large value of  $a$  suggests universal behavior
- The Helium dimer can be described using the value of  $a$  plus first order corrections in  $r_{\text{eff}}/a$
- The Helium trimer can be described by an effective hamiltonian introducing an independent constant:  $W_0$ .

Could this description based on low energy data be extended to systems with  $N > 3$  ?

To which extend the saturation properties are determined by the values of  $a$ ,  $E_d$  and  $E_3^0$ ?

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# Saturation properties using soft potentials

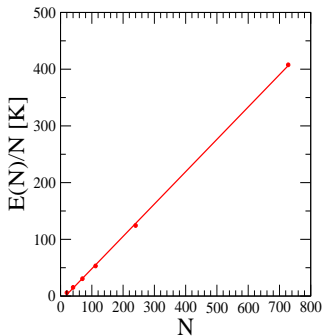
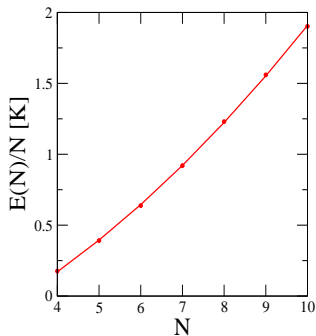
- The Hamiltonian of the system is:

$$\sum_i -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla_i^2}{m} + \sum_{i < j} V(i, j) + \sum_{i < j < k} W(i, j, k)$$

- $V(i, j) = V_0 e^{-r_{ij}^2/r_0^2}$  and  $W(i, j, k) = W_0 e^{-\rho_{ijk}^2/\rho_0^2}$
- $V_0$  and  $r_0$  determined from the two-body data
- $W_0$  and  $\rho_0$  determined from a fit to the trimer energy
- To solve the  $N$ -body problem we use the Hyperspherical Harmonic basis
- For  $N \leq 10$  the convergence is fine
- For  $N \geq 10$  a good convergence depends on  $\rho_0$
- For  $N \geq 10$  we present preliminary results using a DMC computation

# Energy per particle with a soft two-body force

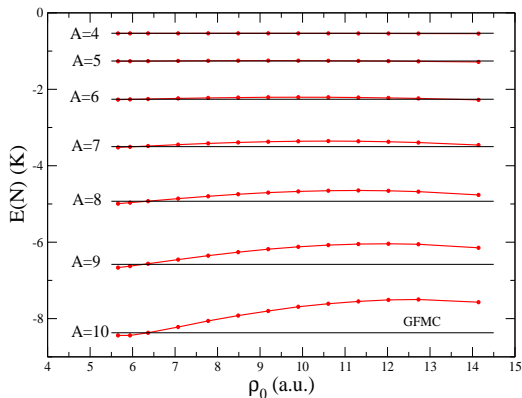
- $E(N)/N \rightarrow$  increases linearly with  $N \rightarrow$  system collapse



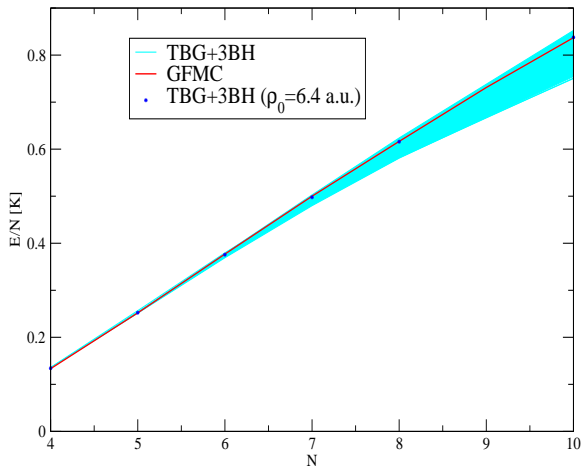


## Studies in the region $4 \leq N \leq 10$

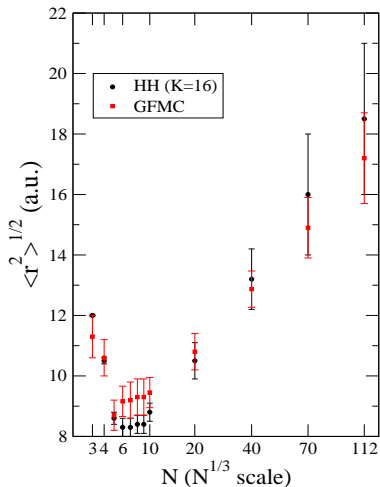
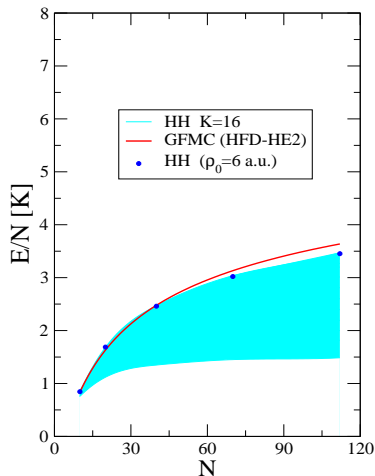
- We compute the energies using the Hyperspherical Harmonic basis
- We study the energy as a function of the 3BH range



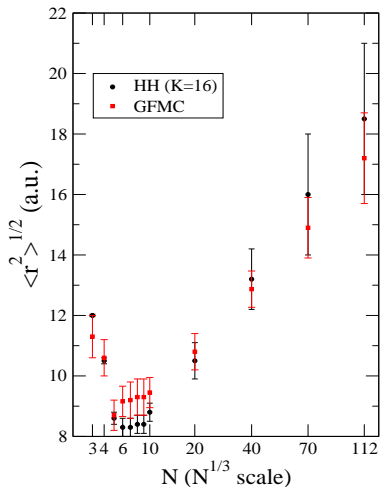
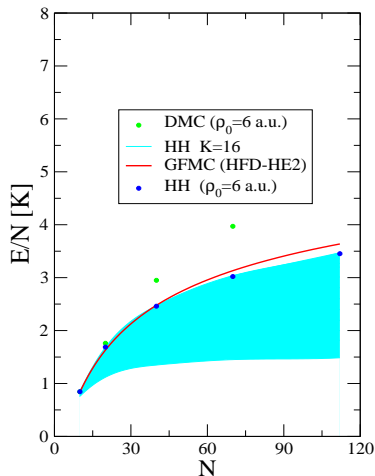
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# Studies in the region $10 \leq N \leq 112$



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## Preliminary conclusions

- Calculations in the sector  $N \leq 10$  tend to prefer small values of  $\rho_0$
- Calculations in the sector  $10 \leq N \leq 112$  tend to prefer higher values of  $\rho_0$
- This seems to be a manifestation of two different scales: a repulsive three-body force with longer range, even with a smaller strength, tends to maintain the particles well apart.
- This behavior mimics better the short range repulsion of the original two-body force
- The universal behavior observed in small clusters makes a transition to a natural state in which the bosons are close to each other and feel the internal part of the interaction
- Perhaps the inclusion of a four-body force could help
- Different scales in the original interaction could be represented by many-body force

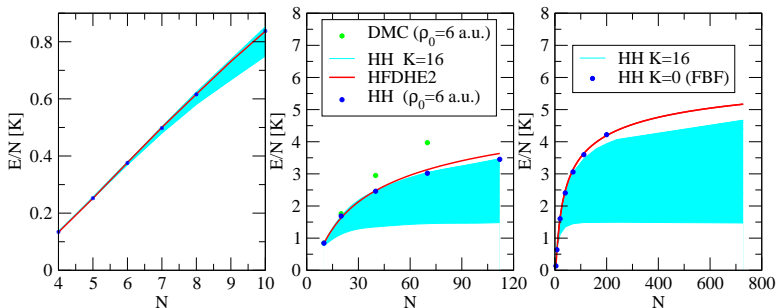
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## Studies in the region $10 \leq N \leq 728$

- In this region the saturation properties can be predicted
- Convergence properties of the HH by using DMC results
- Possibility of including a four-body force



# Conclusions

- Liquid  $^4\text{He}$  has been studied using a soft potential model
- The shallow characteristic of the  $^4\text{He}$ - $^4\text{He}$  system has been considered a key element to construct an effective soft interaction
- the soft potential has been fixed from the low energy  $2N$  data and the trimer energy
- The intention is to see if the effective description can predict the saturation properties
- Using the HH expansion convergence problems appeared as  $N$  increases
- Preliminary results using a DMC technique have been shown
- It seems possible to reproduce the HFD-HE2 saturation curve
- The possibility of including a four-body force will be explored
- Could this mean that the saturation properties are determined by the low energy data and not necessarily from the high energy data?



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## Final remark

- Question:

Why we spend time and efforts to construct a soft potential model that imitates the original potential?

- Answer:

- There is an intense experimental activity to understand the behavior of a boson system close to the unitary limit  $a \rightarrow \infty$
- The interaction between atoms is modified using Feshbach resonances
- Moving the system from its original position (value of  $a$ ), the complete validity of the original interaction is not guaranteed
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