

# Dynamics of Thin Solitons

Lev Pitaevskii

INO-CNR BEC Center, University of Trento;

Kapitza Institute for Physical Problems

Moscow.

TECHNION, November, 2010

# The goal of the work

Let us know equation of state  
 $\mu = \mu(n)$  of the medium and  
the energy of a flat soliton  $E_s(V, \mu)$   
in a uniform medium. Can we solve  
more complicated problems?

# A standard example. GP-equation for the condensate wave function

$$i\hbar\partial_t\Psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\partial_x^2\Psi + g\Psi|\Psi|^2 + U(x)\Psi$$

$$g = \frac{4\pi\hbar^2}{m}a > 0, \quad a \text{ is the scattering length}$$

$$\Psi = |\Psi|e^{i\Phi}, n(x,t) = |\Psi(x,t)|^2, v = \frac{\hbar}{m}\partial_x\Phi$$

# “Grey” soliton in an uniform condensate

$$\Psi(x - X(t)) = \sqrt{\bar{n}} \left[ i \frac{V}{c} + \frac{u}{c} \tanh \left( \frac{mu}{\hbar} (x - X(t)) \right) \right]$$

$$X(t) = Vt, \quad u = \sqrt{c^2 - V^2}, \quad c = \sqrt{\frac{g\bar{n}}{m}}, \quad \frac{n_{\min}}{\bar{n}} = \frac{V^2}{c^2}$$

$$\Delta\Phi = 2 \arccos \left( \frac{V}{c} \right)$$

T. Tsuzuki (1971)

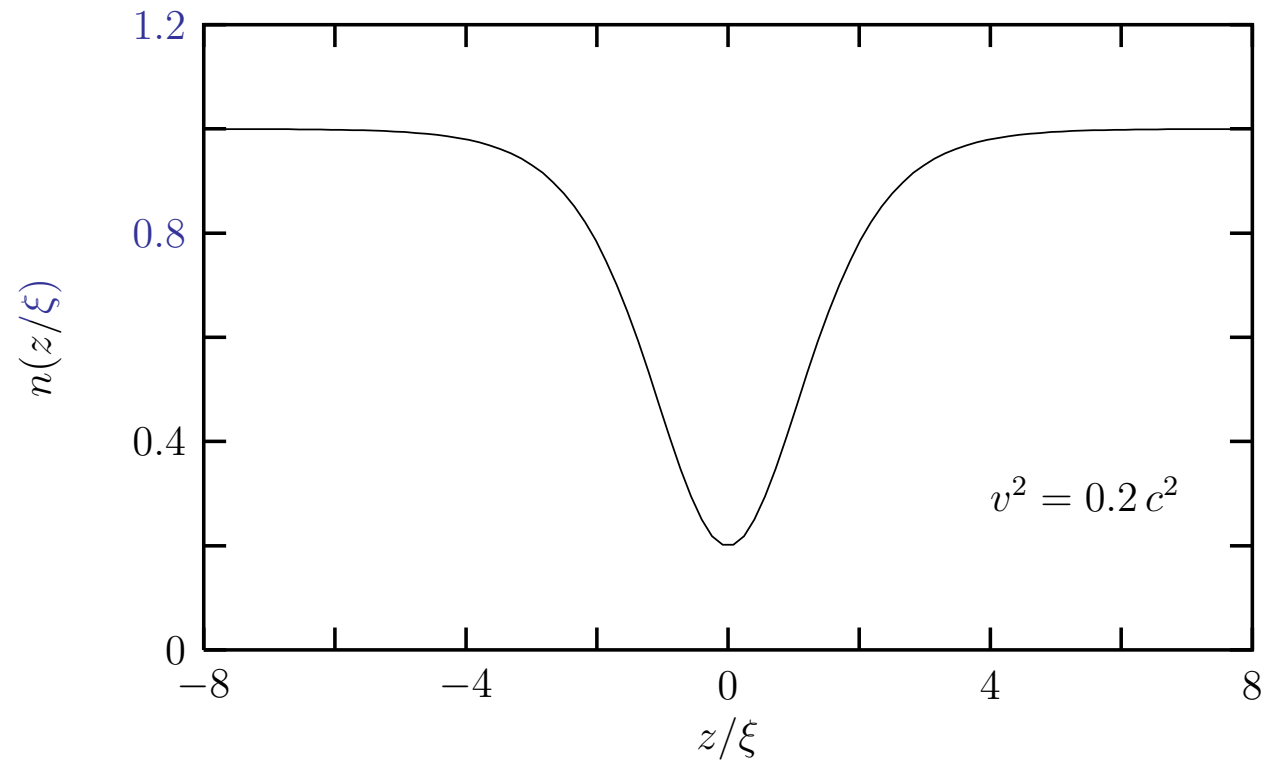
# Density perturbation

$$\delta n(x) = -\bar{n} \frac{u^2}{c^2} \frac{1}{\text{ch}^2 \left[ \frac{mu}{\hbar} (x - X) \right]}$$

$$X = Vt, u = \sqrt{c^2 - V^2}$$

Soliton length :  $\xi = \hbar / mu$

# Density profile



## Parameters of a BEC soliton

$$E_s = \frac{4\hbar m}{3g} (c^2 - V^2)^{3/2} \equiv \frac{4\hbar m}{3g} u^3$$

$$c^2 = \frac{\mu}{m}, N_s = -\frac{\partial E_s}{\partial \mu} = -\frac{2\hbar}{g} u$$

$$u \equiv (c^2 - V^2)^{1/2}$$

# General system

Order parameter

$$\Psi = |\Psi|e^{i\Phi} \text{ still exists.}$$

However current  $j \neq |\Psi|^2 \hbar \partial_x \Phi$

Non - local relation between

$j$  and  $\partial_x \Phi$ .

Fermionic superfluid!



Condensate in external potential.  
Local density approximation (LDA)

$$L_X \gg \xi$$

$$\mu \rightarrow \mu - U(X)$$

Energy conservation

$$E_s(V, \mu - U(X)) = \text{const}$$

# Dynamics of soliton in LDA. Energy conservation.

$$\frac{dE_s}{dt} = \frac{dE_s}{dV^2} 2V \frac{dV}{dt} - \frac{dE_s}{d\mu} \frac{dU}{dX} V = 0$$

"Newton equation":  $m_I \frac{dV}{dt} = -N_s \frac{dU}{dX}$

"Inertial mass":  $m_I \equiv 2 \frac{dE_s}{dV^2} < 0$

Number atoms in soliton

$$N_s \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [n(x) - \bar{n}] dx = - \frac{dE_s}{d\mu} < 0$$

# BEC example

$$\text{In BEC: } E_S = E_S(\mu/m - V^2)$$

$$N_S = \frac{m_I}{2m}, m^* \equiv \frac{m_I}{N_S} = 2m$$

Soliton moves as a particle of mass  $2m$

V. Konotop, L. Pitaevskii, 2004

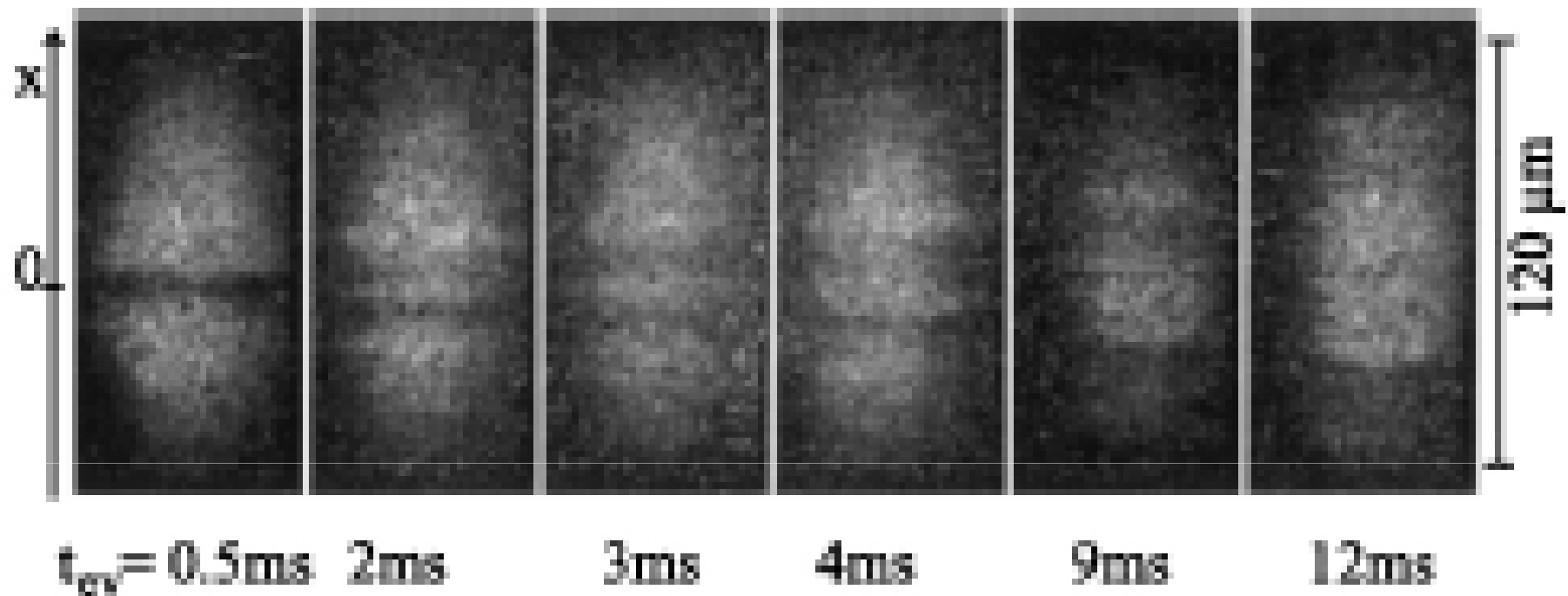
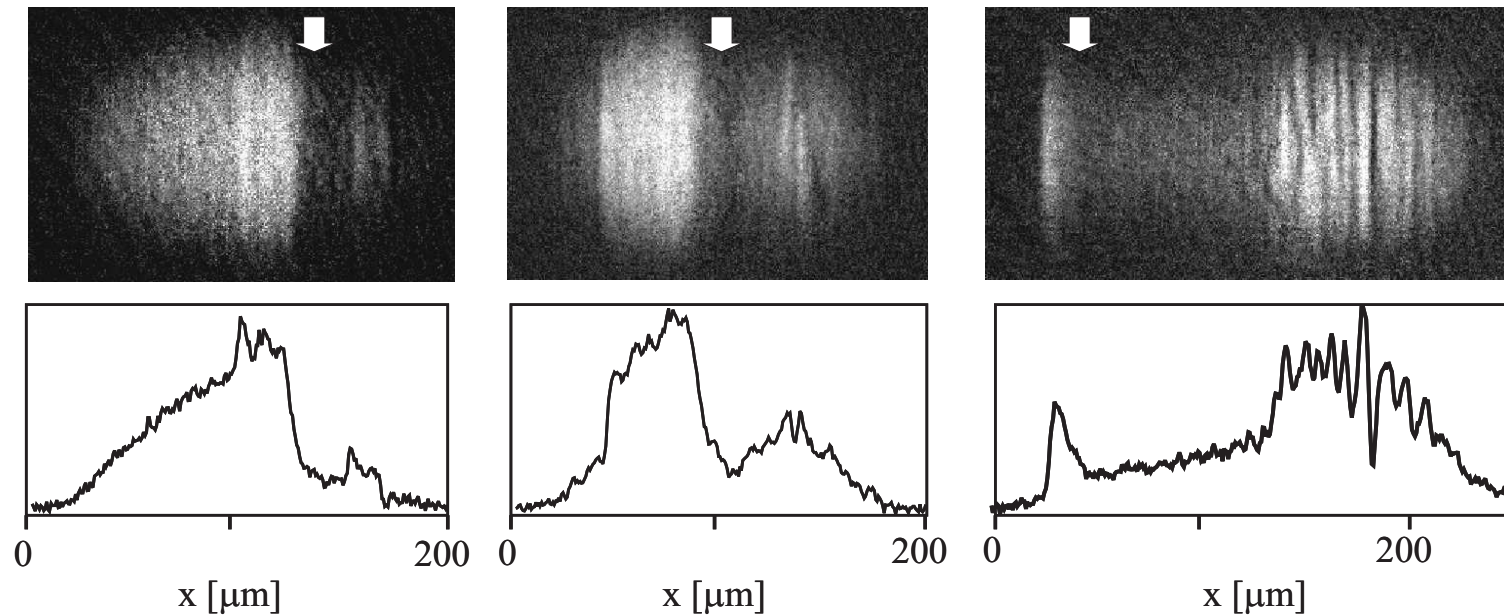


FIG. 2. Absorption images of BEC's with kink-wise structures propagating in the direction of the long condensate axis, for different evolution times in the magnetic trap,  $t_{ev}$ . ( $\Delta\phi \sim \pi$ ,  $N \approx 1.5 \times 10^6$ , and  $t_{TOP} = 4\text{ms}$ ).

Burger et al., 1999

# Solitons in BEC



Engels and Atherton, 2007

# Harmonic trap

$$U(x) = m\omega_x^2 x^2 / 2 ,$$

Frequency of small oscillations  
of a soliton :

$$\omega = \omega_x \left( \sqrt{\frac{mN_s}{m_I}} \right)_{V \rightarrow 0}$$

# BEC in a harmonic trap

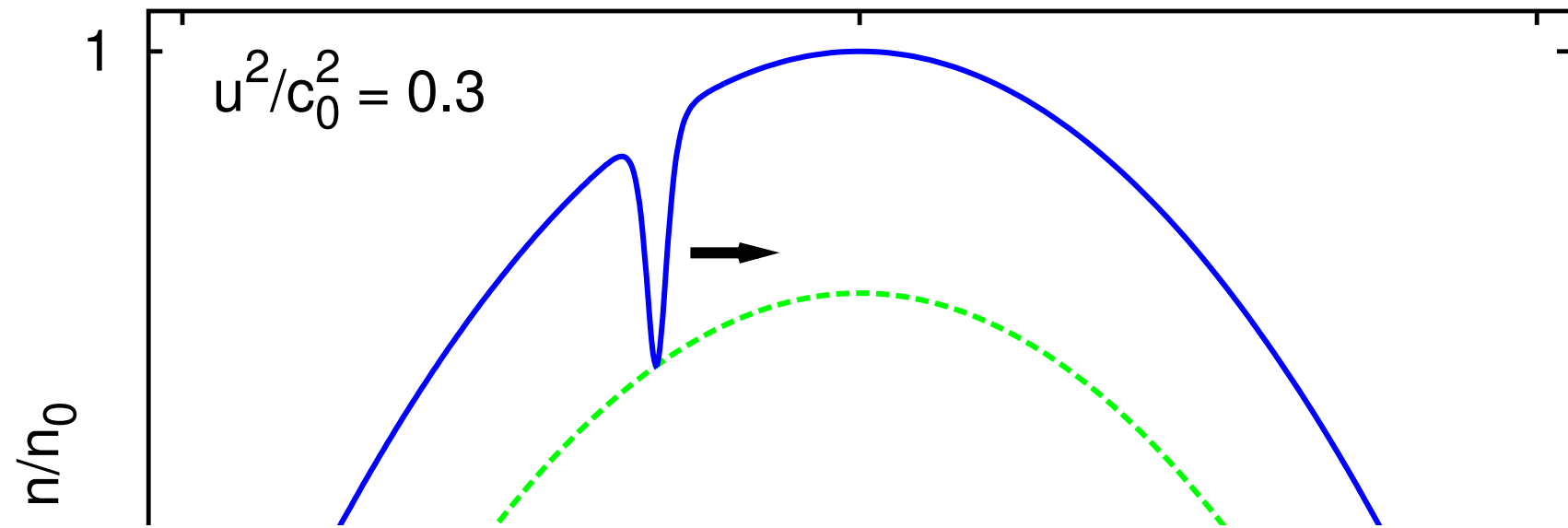
For BEC in a trap :

$$\omega = \omega_x / \sqrt{2}.$$

For small oscillations :

T. Bush, J. Anglin, 2000.

Actually is valid for arbitrary amplitudes.





ERROR: invalidrestore  
OFFENDING COMMAND: restore

STACK:

-savelevel-  
-savelevel-  
-dictionary-