

The static potential in momentum space

Performing the Fourier transform of a generic *position space* potential $V(|\vec{r}|)$ in $d = 3$ dimensions to momentum space, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{V}(p) &= \int d^3r e^{-i\vec{r}\cdot\vec{p}} V(r) = 2\pi \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \int_0^\infty dr r^2 e^{-irp\cos\theta} V(r) \\ &= \frac{2\pi i}{p} \int_0^\infty dr r V(r) (e^{-irp} - e^{+irp}) = \frac{2\pi i}{p} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dr e^{-irp} r [V(r) \Theta(r) + V(-r) \Theta(-r)],\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

with $r = |\vec{r}|$ and $p = |\vec{p}|$. Note that this effectively amounts to a one dimensional Fourier transform

$$\hat{v}(p) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty dr e^{-irp} v(r), \quad (2)$$

with

$$v(r) = r [V(r) \Theta(r) + V(-r) \Theta(-r)] \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{V}(p) = \frac{2\pi i}{p} \hat{v}(p). \quad (3)$$

A simple effective potential

Consider the following *effective* potential in position space,

$$V(r) = -\frac{\pi}{12} \frac{1}{r} + \sigma r + V_0, \quad (4)$$

with the force defined as $F(r) = |\frac{dV(r)}{dr}|$. Given the explicit values $F(r_0)r_0^2 = 1.65$ and $r_0 = 0.5$ fm we infer $\sigma = \frac{r_0^2 F(r_0) - \pi/12}{r_0^2} \approx 5.55 \text{ fm}^{-2}$. The potential $v(r)$ associated with Eq. (4) is given by [cf. Eq. (3)]

$$v(r) = \left(\frac{\pi}{12} - \sigma r^2\right) [\Theta(-r) - \Theta(r)] + r V_0, \quad (5)$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{v}(p) &= \left(\frac{\pi}{12} + \sigma \partial_p^2\right) \int_{-\infty}^\infty dr e^{-irp} [\Theta(-r) - \Theta(r)] + V_0 i \partial_p \int_{-\infty}^\infty dr e^{-irp} \\ &= 2i \left(\frac{\pi}{12} + \sigma \partial_p^2\right) \int_0^\infty dr e^{-rp} + 2\pi i V_0 \partial_p \delta(p) = \frac{i\pi}{6} \frac{1}{p} + 4i\sigma \frac{1}{p^3} + 2\pi i V_0 \partial_p \delta(p).\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

The potential in momentum space thus reads [cf. Eq. (3)]

$$\hat{V}(p) = -\frac{\pi^2}{3} \frac{1}{p^2} - 8\pi\sigma \frac{1}{p^4} - 4\pi^2 V_0 \frac{1}{p} \partial_p \delta(p). \quad (7)$$

Obviously, for $p \rightarrow \infty$, i.e., in the realm of perturbation theory, Eq. (7) is well approximated by

$$\hat{V}(p) \approx -\frac{\pi^2}{3} \frac{1}{p^2} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad V(r) \approx -\frac{\pi}{12} \frac{1}{r}, \quad (8)$$

whereas for $0 < p \ll 1$, i.e., in the nonperturbative regime,

$$\hat{V}(p) \approx -8\pi \frac{\sigma}{p^4} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad V(r) \approx \sigma r \quad (9)$$

constitutes a good approximation.