## Bose-Einstein condensates in optical lattices: Mathematical analysis and approximate formulas

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We show that GPE presents a set of ground states which is orbitally stable for any value of the self-interaction (attractive and repulsive) parameter and laser intensity. We also derive a new formalism which gives explicit expressions for the minimum energy E and the associated chemical potential mu. Based on these formulas, we generalize the variational method to obtain approximate solutions, at any order of approximation, for E, mu and the ground state psi.

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