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Lattice study of continuity and finite-temperature transition in $2d SU(N) \times SU(N)$ Principal Chiral Model

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We present first-principle lattice study of continuity conjecture in $2d SU(N) \times SU(N)$ Principal Chiral Model (PCM) on $\mathbb{R} \times S^1$ with respect to circumference L of S^1 in the presence of $Z(N)$ -preserving twist. The twist can be considered as analogous to Twisted Eguchi-Kawai reduction in lattice gauge theory. We study static correlation length and find that it exhibits a peak at finite value of $\rho \equiv NL$, the shape of which shows no dependence on N if considered as a function of ρ . The peak separates two regions: $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ where static correlation length matches zero temperature value with periodic boundary conditions and $\rho \rightarrow 0$ where it significantly decreases. Without twist we find a signature for large N finite-temperature transition where correlation length demonstrates a peak enhancing with N . Using Gradient flow we study non-perturbative content of the theory and find that this transition sets up at the point where typical size of uniton, unstable saddle point of PCM, becomes comparable to L . After imposing the twist saddle points become stable and effectively $1d$ in the region $\rho \rightarrow 0$, whereas in the opposite limit they resemble to $2d$ profile of unitons with periodic boundary conditions. The position of the peak in correlation length with twisted boundary conditions seems to coincide with the moment when $2d$ saddle points transform into effectively $1d$. Our findings suggest possible crossover at finite value of ρ which might have impact on continuity conjecture in twisted PCM.

Primary author: VALGUSHEV, Semen (Regensburg University)

Presenter: VALGUSHEV, Semen (Regensburg University)

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