

VALIDITY OF THE SPIN-WAVE APPROXIMATION FOR THE HEISENBERG FERROMAGNET

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CRG2015: in memory of *Pierluigi Falco*

joint work with **A. Giuliani** (Roma 3) and **R. Seiringer** (IST Vienna)

- ① Motivations and mathematical setting:
 - 3D quantum Heisenberg ferromagnet at low temperature.
 - The spin-wave theory and the Holstein-Primakoff representation.
- ② Main results:
 - Validity of the spin-wave theory for the free energy at low temperature.
 - Quasi long-range order.
- ③ Sketch of the proofs.

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- *Very few rigorous results (mostly or almost exclusively based on reflection positivity).*

LITERATURE ABOUT HM

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FERROMAGNETIC HEISENBERG MODEL



FERROMAGNETIC QUANTUM HEISENBERG HAMILTONIAN

$$H = \sum_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \subset \Lambda} (S^2 - \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathbf{y}})$$

- $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^3$ is a 3D box of side length L with periodic boundary conditions.
- $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ denotes nearest neighbors in Λ , i.e., $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| = 1$.
- $\hat{\mathbf{S}}$ quantum spin operator on \mathbb{C}^{2S+1} ($2S$ integer), i.e., generator of a $2S + 1$ -dimensional representation of $SU(2)$:

$$[\hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^j, \hat{S}_{\mathbf{y}}^k] = i\varepsilon_{jkl} \hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^l \delta_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathbf{x}}^2 = (\hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^1)^2 + (\hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^2)^2 + (\hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^3)^2 = S(S + 1).$$
- H acts on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} \simeq \mathbb{C}^{(2S+1)L^3}$.
- H is normalized so that the ground state energy is 0.

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GROUND STATES

- Introduce the **total spin** $\hat{\mathbf{S}}_T = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathbf{x}}$ and the eigenstates $|S_T, S_T^3\rangle$ of $\hat{\mathbf{S}}_T^2$, i.e., such that $\hat{\mathbf{S}}_T^2 |S_T, S_T^3\rangle = S_T(S_T + 1) |S_T, S_T^3\rangle$.

GROUND STATES

The **ground states** of H are the states with maximal total spin

$$|SL^3, S_T^3\rangle, \quad \text{with } S_T^3 = -SL^3, \dots, SL^3.$$

- Ground states are such that, for any *nearest neighbor* pair $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$, $\hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\mathbf{y}}$ reaches its maximal value S^2 .
- Also the *partial sums* $(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\sigma(1)} + \dots + \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{\sigma(N-k)})^2$, with $k = 1, \dots, N - 1$ and σ any perturbation, must be maximal on a ground state.
- The degeneracy $2SL^3 + 1$ is due to **spherical symmetry** of the model and could be **removed** by adding an **external magnetic field**.

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EXCITED STATES: SPIN-WAVES

- Assume that the system is in the ground state $|SL^3, SL^3\rangle$ (e.g., because of a small $h < 0$) \implies one can think of producing an **excited state** by lowering *just one* spin: setting $\hat{S}_x^\pm = \hat{S}_x^1 \pm i\hat{S}_x^2$,

$$|\mathbf{x}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2S}} \hat{S}_x^- |SL^3, SL^3\rangle$$

- $|\mathbf{x}\rangle$ is not an eigenstate of H but a linear combination can be...

SPIN WAVES

The **spin waves** are the orthonormal states (with $\mathbf{k} \in \Lambda^* = \frac{2\pi}{L}\mathbb{Z}^3$)

$$|\mathbf{k}\rangle = \frac{1}{L^{3/2}} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} |\mathbf{x}\rangle$$

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SPIN-WAVE APPROXIMATION

- Neglecting the interaction, spin waves behave like **free bosons**, i.e., the mean number of excitations at $\beta \gg 1$ is given by the Bose statistics

$$\langle n_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle_{\beta} = \frac{1}{e^{S\beta\varepsilon(\mathbf{k})} - 1}$$

- If $\beta \gg 1$ the spin-wave approximation predicts:

- free energy: $f_0(S, \beta) = - \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\beta L^{3/2}} \log \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta H_0})$,

$$f_0(S, \beta) = \frac{1}{\beta} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^3} \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \log \left(1 - e^{-\beta S \varepsilon(\mathbf{k})} \right) = - \frac{\zeta(5/2)}{8(\pi S)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{\beta^{5/2}}$$

- spontaneous magnetization $M_{\text{sp}}(\beta) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[S - \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \Lambda^*} \langle n_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \right]$,

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$$\langle n_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle_{\beta} = \frac{1}{e^{S\beta\varepsilon(\mathbf{k})} - 1}$$

- If $\beta \gg 1$ the spin-wave approximation predicts:

- free energy: $f_0(S, \beta) = - \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\beta L^{3/2}} \log \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta H_0})$,

$$f_0(S, \beta) \simeq \frac{1}{\beta^{5/2} S^{3/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \log (1 - e^{-k^2}) = - \frac{\zeta(5/2)}{8(\pi S)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{\beta^{5/2}}$$

- spontaneous magnetization $M_{\text{sp}}(\beta) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[S - \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \Lambda^*} \langle n_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \right]$,

$$M_{\text{sp}}(\beta) \simeq S - \frac{1}{\beta^{3/2} S^{3/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{e^{k^2} - 1}$$

HOLSTEIN-PRIMAKOFF REPRESENTATION



CREATION & ANNIHILATION OPERATORS

- For any $\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda$ one sets [HOLSTEIN, PRIMAKOFF '40]

$$a_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} = \hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^{+} \frac{1}{\sqrt{S - \hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^{3}}}, \quad a_{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{S - \hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^{3}}} \hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^{-}, \quad \hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} = \hat{S}_{\mathbf{x}}^{3} + S,$$

- One has $[a_{\mathbf{x}}, a_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger}] = 1$, $\hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} = a_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{x}}$ and $0 \leq \hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} \leq 2S$.

- The Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is isomorphic to \mathcal{F}_S with basis $\otimes_{\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda} |n_{\mathbf{x}}\rangle$ via $|n_{\mathbf{x}}\rangle \longleftrightarrow |S_{\mathbf{x}}^3 = n_{\mathbf{x}} - S\rangle$, $\hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} |n_{\mathbf{x}}\rangle = n_{\mathbf{x}} |n_{\mathbf{x}}\rangle$.
- The Hamiltonian H becomes the operator

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 - \mathcal{K}, \quad \mathcal{H}_0 = S \sum_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \subset \Lambda} \left(a_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} - a_{\mathbf{y}}^{\dagger} \right) (a_{\mathbf{x}} - a_{\mathbf{y}}),$$

$$\mathcal{K} = \sum_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \subset \Lambda} \left\{ a_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{y}}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{y}} - 2S a_{\mathbf{x}}^{\dagger} \left[1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{\hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}}}{2S}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{\hat{n}_{\mathbf{y}}}{2S}} \right] a_{\mathbf{y}} \right\}.$$

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VALIDITY OF SPIN-WAVE APPROXIMATION



$$\mathcal{H} = S \sum (a_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger - a_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger) (a_{\mathbf{x}} - a_{\mathbf{y}}) - \mathcal{K}$$

- The spin-wave approximation is given by dropping the spin-wave **interaction**:
 - ① hard-core constraint $n_{\mathbf{x}} \leq 2S$;
 - ② attractive interaction \mathcal{K} .

PHYSICS OF SPIN-WAVES

- \mathcal{K} is formally of relative size S^{-1} with respect to \mathcal{H}_0 .
- At least if $S \gg 1$, the spin-wave approximation should be *asymptotically* correct \implies to observe a non-trivial behavior one has to consider temperature scales of order S^{-1} .
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(MATH) LITERATURE

KNOWN RESULTS

- Exactness of the spin-wave theory for the computation of the free energy, when $S \rightarrow \infty$ with $\beta \propto S^{-1}$ and a magnetic field $h \propto S$ [CONLON, SOLOVEJ '90].
- In the regime $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ with S fixed, there was only an upper bound to the free energy (obtained through probabilistic methods) [CONLON, SOLOVEJ '91; TOTH '93]

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MAIN RESULT

THEOREM (FREE ENERGY [MC, GIULIANI, SEIRINGER '13])

For any $S \geq \frac{1}{2}$,

$$\lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} S^{3/2} \beta^{5/2} f(S, \beta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{dk}{(2\pi)^3} \log(1 - e^{-k^2}) = -\frac{\zeta(5/2)}{8\pi^{3/2}}$$

REMARKS

- The result is uniform in S for any finite S .
- In fact S needs not to be fixed but it is necessary that $\beta S \rightarrow \infty$, under the additional constraint $\beta S \gg S^\alpha$.
- The upper bound proven in [TOH '93] was

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{3/2} \beta^{5/2} f(1/2, \beta) \leq -\frac{\zeta(5/2)}{8\pi^{3/2}} \log 2 + o(1)$$

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QUASI LONG-RANGE ORDER



- A first consequence of the main result is that the **energy per site** $e(S, \beta) = \partial_\beta(\beta f(S, \beta))$ is as $\beta \rightarrow \infty$

$$e(S, \beta) \simeq -CS^{-3/2}\beta^{-5/2}, \quad C = \frac{3\zeta(5/2)}{16\pi^{3/2}}$$

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$$\langle S^2 - \mathbf{S}_x \cdot \mathbf{S}_y \rangle_\beta \leq \frac{27}{8} |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^2 e(S, \beta) \simeq C\beta^{-5/2} |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^2.$$

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as long as $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| \ll \beta^{5/4}$.

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SKETCH OF THE PROOF



UPPER BOUND

$$f(\beta) \leq C_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-3/2} \beta^{-5/2} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-3/8}))$$

- ① Localization into boxes of side length $\ell \gg \sqrt{\beta}$ with *Dirichlet* b.c.;
- ② Gibbs variational principle $f(\beta) \leq \frac{1}{\ell^3} \text{Tr}(\mathcal{H}\Gamma + \frac{1}{\beta}\Gamma \log \Gamma) + \text{trial state}$

$$\Gamma = \frac{P e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}_0} P}{\text{Tr} P e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}_0}}$$

with $P = \prod P_{\mathbf{x}}$ projecting onto *hard-core* states with $n_{\mathbf{x}} \leq 1$.

- ③ Key estimate $1 - P \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum \hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} (\hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} - 1) + \text{Wick's theorem and } \langle \hat{n}_{\mathbf{x}} \rangle_{\beta} = \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-3/2})$:

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- ④ **Optimization** with respect to ℓ ($\sim \beta^{7/8}$).

SKETCH OF THE PROOF



UPPER BOUND

$$f(\beta) \leq C_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-3/2} \beta^{-5/2} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-3/8}))$$

- ① Localization into boxes of side length $\ell \gg \sqrt{\beta}$ with *Dirichlet* b.c.;
- ② Gibbs variational principle $f(\beta) \leq \frac{1}{\ell^3} \text{Tr}(\mathcal{H}\Gamma + \frac{1}{\beta}\Gamma \log \Gamma) + \text{trial state}$

$$\Gamma = \frac{P e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}_0} P}{\text{Tr} P e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}_0}}$$

with $P = \prod P_{\mathbf{x}}$ projecting onto *hard-core* states with $n_{\mathbf{x}} \leq 1$.

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SKETCH OF THE PROOF ($S = \frac{1}{2}$)

LOWER BOUND

$$f(\beta) \geq C_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-3/2} \beta^{-5/2} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-\kappa})), \quad \kappa < \frac{1}{40}$$

- ① Localization into *Neumann* boxes;
- ② *Sharp* lower bound on $H \implies$ preliminary lower bound on $f(\beta)$ off the mark by $\log \beta \implies$ restriction of the trace to states with small energy;
- ③ Use of the HP representation and estimate of the interaction.

① ENERGY LOCALIZATION

By dropping the *positive* interaction among different subcells, one has

$$f(\beta) \geq f(\beta, \Lambda_\ell) = -\frac{1}{\ell^3 \beta} \log \text{Tre}^{-\beta H},$$

where the trace is over states with free (Neumann) boundary conditions.

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PROPOSITION (OPERATOR INEQUALITY)

In the subspace \mathcal{H}_{S_T} with total spin $S_T(S_T + 1)$

$$H|_{\mathcal{H}_{S_T}} \geq \frac{C}{\ell^2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\ell^3 - S_T \right)$$

LEMMA (PRELIMINARY LOWER BOUND)

For $\ell \geq \beta^{1/2}$ and $\beta \gg 1$, one has $f(\beta, \Lambda_\ell) \geq -C(\log \beta / \beta)^{5/2}$.

$$\mathrm{Tr} e^{C\beta\ell^{-2}(S_T - \frac{\ell^3}{2})} \leq (\ell^3 + 1) \sum_s \binom{\ell^3}{s} e^{-C\beta\ell^{-2}s} \leq (\ell^3 + 1) \left(1 + e^{-C\beta\ell^{-2}} \right)^{\ell^3}$$

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- Cut the trace at energy $E_0 = -\ell^3 f(\beta/2, \Lambda_\ell) \leq \ell^3 (\log \beta / \beta)^{5/2}$:

$$Z \leq \text{Tr}_{H \leq E_0} e^{-\beta H} + 1$$

③ SPHERICAL SYMMETRY AND HP REPRESENTATION

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3 ESTIMATE OF THE INTERACTION

- Peierls-Bogoliubov inequality $\text{Tr} e^{A+B} / \text{Tr} e^A \leq \exp\{\text{Tr}(B e^A) / \text{Tr} e^A\}$.
- To conclude the proof we thus have to estimate the expectation value

$$\langle E | \mathcal{K} | E \rangle = \sum_{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \subset \Lambda} \rho(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq C \ell^3 \|\rho\|_\infty$$

of the bosonic **interaction** \mathcal{K} over eigenstates $|E\rangle$ of \mathcal{H} with two-particle density $\rho(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \langle E | a_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{y}} | E \rangle$.

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THEOREM (★)

If $|E\rangle$ is an eigenfunction of \mathcal{H} and $\rho(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \langle E | a_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{y}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{y}} | E \rangle$ ($E > 0$),

$$\|\rho\|_\infty \leq CE^3 \|\rho\|_1$$

③ ESTIMATE OF THE INTERACTION

- Since $\|\rho\|_1 \leq CN^2$, for $\ell \gtrsim \beta^{1/2+\varepsilon}$ and $E \leq E_0$,

$$\langle E | \mathcal{K} | E \rangle \leq C\ell^3 \|\rho\|_\infty \leq C\beta^{-3/2} \beta^{\varepsilon'}$$

- The expectation value of the interaction $\langle E | \mathcal{K} | E \rangle = \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-3/2+\varepsilon'})$ is much smaller than the kinetic term $\langle E | \mathcal{H}_0 | E \rangle = C\ell^{-2} = \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-1})$:

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$$\frac{1}{\ell^3} \sum \log \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{2} \beta \varepsilon(\mathbf{k})} \right) \simeq \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{[\pi, \pi]^3} d\mathbf{k} \log \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{2} \beta \varepsilon(\mathbf{k})} \right)$$

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PROOF OF THEOREM (★)

- Reduce the N -body eigenvalue equation $H|\Psi\rangle = E|\Psi\rangle$ to the differential inequality

$$-\tilde{\Delta}\rho(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 4E\rho(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$$

where $\tilde{\Delta}$ is the discrete Laplacian on $\Lambda_\ell \times \Lambda_\ell \setminus \{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x} \in \Lambda_\ell\}$, i.e.,

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$$-\Delta\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \Lambda_\ell, |\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}|=1} (\rho(\mathbf{x}) - \rho(\mathbf{y}))$$

- Extend the inequality to the whole of \mathbb{Z}^d via reflections:

$$-\Delta\rho(\mathbf{z}) \leq 4E\rho(\mathbf{z}) + 2\rho(\mathbf{z})\chi(\mathbf{z})$$

where P_n is the probability of a random walk on \mathbb{Z}^d .

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- (✓) Upper bound for $f(S, \beta)$ in the regime $S \rightarrow \infty$ and $\beta = \tilde{\beta} S^{-1}$ to the first order in S^{-1} [with N. BENEDIKTER]:

$$\frac{f(S, \beta)}{S} \leq \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 \tilde{\beta}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{k} \log \left(1 - e^{-\tilde{\beta} \varepsilon(\mathbf{k})} \right) + \frac{C_1}{S} + \mathcal{O}(1/S^2),$$

where C_1 is computed via the spin-wave approximation.

- (✗) Upper bound for $f(\beta)$ as $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ up to the first non-trivial contribution:

$$f(\beta) \leq \beta^{-5/2} (C_0 + C'_1 \beta^{-1} + C'_2 \beta^{-2} + C'_3 \beta^{-5/2} + o(\beta^{-5/2})),$$

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