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1

Methods

We describe some technical details of the CTMRG algorithm.

We then report convergence behaviour in the number of steps of the algorithm n and a convergence threshold ϵ . ϵ is based on the change of eigenvalues of the corner transfer matrix after an algorithm step. We find a precise way to extrapolate values of observables in the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.

After that, we turn to finite-size approximations. Convergence in the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ is harder to extrapolate, but we can still draw some conclusions.

Finally, we give a table with relative errors of observables at the critical point of the Ising model for both finite- m and finite-size approximations, obtained with values of parameters that are typically used throughout the rest of this thesis.

1.1 Symmetricity and normalization of tensors

For the models treated in this thesis, the corner transfer matrix A and the row-to-row transfer matrix T are symmetric. But due to the accumulation of machine-precision sized errors in the matrix multiplication and singular value decomposition, this will, after many algorithm steps, no longer be the case. In order for results to remain valid, we manually enforce symmetricity after each step.

The tensor network contractions at each algorithm step will cause the elements of A and T to tend to infinity, which means that they will at some point exceed the maximum value of a floating point number as it can be stored in memory. But because the elements of A and T represent Boltzmann weights, they can be scaled by a constant factor, which allows us to prevent this overflow if we use a suitable scaling. For example by requiring that

$$\text{Tr} A^4 = 1, \tag{1.1}$$

so that the interpretation of A^4 as a reduced density matrix of an effective one-dimensional quantum is valid.

1.2 Boundary conditions

Unless otherwise stated, all simulations are run with the boundary spins of the lattice fixed to +1. For specific purposes, free boundary conditions are used.

1.3 Convergence criteria

1.3.1 Simulations with finite bond dimension

The convergence of the CTMRG algorithm with fixed bond dimension m (the infinite system algorithm) in this thesis is defined as

$$c_n = \sum_{\alpha=1}^m |s_{\alpha}^{(n)} - s_{\alpha}^{(n-1)}|, \quad (1.2)$$

where s_{α} are the singular values of the corner transfer matrix A . If the convergence falls below some threshold ϵ , the algorithm terminates.

The assumption is that once the singular values stop changing to some precision, the optimal projection is sufficiently close to its fixed point and the transfer matrices A and T represent an environment only limited by the length scale given by m , i.e.

$$\xi(m) \ll N \quad (1.3)$$

is satisfied.

1.3.1.1 Convergence at the critical point of the Ising model

The convergence is shown in [Fig. 1.1](#). It is clear that the phenomenological law

$$\log c_n \propto n \quad (1.4)$$

holds to high precision, with the slope depending on m . Deviations only occur at values of the convergence of around 10^{-12} .

The convergence of the various quantities as function of the number of algorithm steps is shown in [Fig. 1.2](#). For all quantities Q , the absolute value

of the relative difference with the final algorithm step

$$\Delta Q_{\text{rel}}(n) = \left| \frac{Q(n) - Q(n = 10^5)}{Q(n = 10^5)} \right| \quad (1.5)$$

is shown. Again, a law of the form

$$\log(\Delta Q_{\text{rel}}) \propto n \quad (1.6)$$

seems to hold.

To make an estimate of a quantity in the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$, or equivalently $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, we can study the change in a quantity as function of the convergence threshold ϵ . We define

$$\Delta Q_{\text{step}}(\epsilon) = Q(\epsilon) - Q(10\epsilon), \quad (1.7)$$

i.e. the change of quantity Q when we decrease the threshold ϵ by an order of magnitude. The results in Fig. 1.3 show that, the order parameter, entropy and correlation length to high precision follow the linear relationship

$$\Delta Q_{\text{step}}(\epsilon) = \alpha_Q(m)\epsilon, \quad (1.8)$$

whereas the free energy follows a quadratic relationship

$$\Delta f(\epsilon) = \alpha_f(m)\epsilon^2. \quad (1.9)$$

This means that we can confidently extrapolate the value of a quantity in the fully converged limit as

$$Q(\epsilon \rightarrow 0) = Q(\epsilon_{\text{min}}) + \sum_{\epsilon = \frac{\epsilon_{\text{min}}}{10}, \frac{\epsilon_{\text{min}}}{100}, \dots} \Delta Q_{\text{step}}(\epsilon), \quad (1.10)$$

where ϵ_{min} is the lowest threshold used in simulation, and $\Delta Q_{\text{step}}(\epsilon)$ is determined by fitting to suitable higher values of the threshold.

1.3.2 Simulations with finite system size

In the finite-system algorithm, we want to reliably extrapolate quantities in the bond dimension m . The convergence behaviour is shown in Fig. 1.4. For

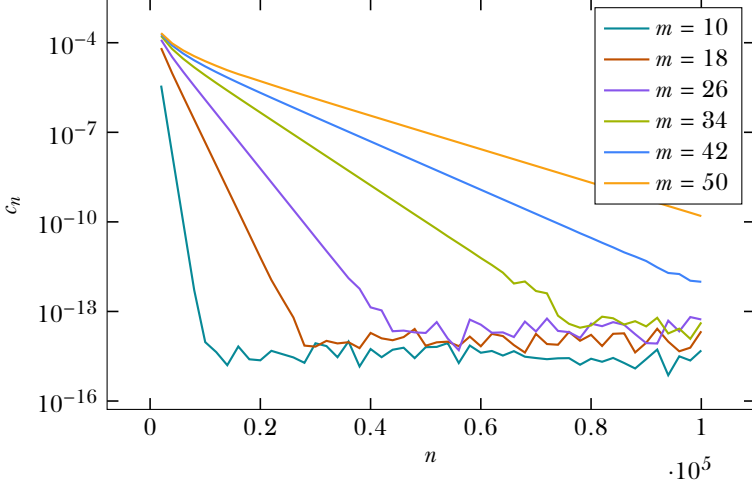


Figure 1.1: Convergence as defined in Eq. 1.2 versus n , the number of CTMRG steps. Up until very small values of c_n , the convergence is monotonically decreasing and obeys a logarithmic law with slope depending on m .

each quantity Q , we plot the absolute value of the relative difference with the value at the highest m

$$\Delta Q_{\text{rel}}(m) = \left| \frac{Q(m) - Q(m=200)}{Q(m=200)} \right| \quad (1.11)$$

versus the bond dimension m .

The plateaus of m -values that barely increase the precision are due to the structure in the spectrum of the reduced density matrix. Apart from this noise, the law

$$\Delta Q_{\text{rel}}(m) \propto m^{-\alpha(N)} \quad (1.12)$$

is seen to hold for high enough m for the order parameter, free energy and entropy.

To extrapolate to $m \rightarrow \infty$, analogously to the finite- m case we define

$$\Delta Q_{\text{step}}(m) = Q(m) - Q(m-1), \quad (1.13)$$

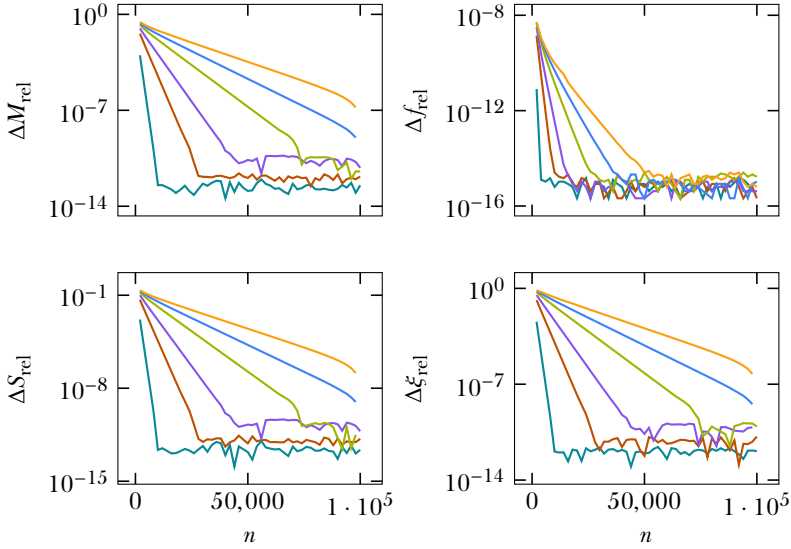


Figure 1.2: Absolute value of relative difference of quantities (see Eq. 1.5). Same legend as Fig. 1.1.

which is plotted in the left panel of Fig. 1.5. As expected from Eq. 1.12, the overall trend looks like a power law, but the noise makes it hard to determine it accurately. It is anyway neither practical nor needed to calculate a system of finite size for many consecutive values of m , in order to get a good approximation to Eq. 1.13. Instead, one might compute the quantity for equally spaced values of m with a difference of say, 10 or 20.

As described in ?? and in [1–3], for the off-critical Ising model the degeneracies in the corner transfer matrix A are exactly known. These degeneracies are smoothed out, but not completely lost for finite systems near criticality. This is directly related to the convergence of quantities in m .

As an alternative to Eq. 1.13, it might be conjectured that not a fixed increase of m , but taking all basis states corresponding to the next energy level will increase accuracy in a predictable way.

This suspicion is confirmed in the right panel of Fig. 1.5, which shows the

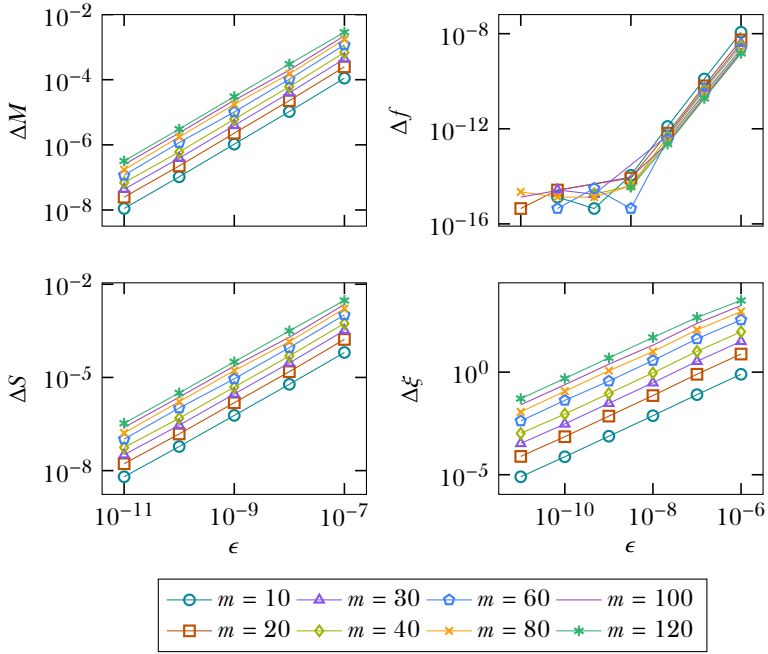


Figure 1.3: Stepwise differences upon decreasing the threshold ϵ by an order of magnitude, as in Eq. 1.7. For the order parameter, entropy and correlation length, a linear relationship holds to high precision, while for the free energy the relationship is quadratic.

convergence using only the values of m for which all basis states with a certain energy level are present, i.e. [1]

$$m(j) = \sum_{k=0}^{k=j} p(k). \quad (1.14)$$

The first few values of $m(j)$ are

$$1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 19, 25, 33, 43, 55, 70, 88, 110, 137, 169, 207, \dots \quad (1.15)$$

Using these values of m , the result is again a power law, and the noise largely disappears, but the convergence behaviour is still not devoid of structure entirely.

The error on a quantity calculated at bond dimension m_{\max} can be approximated as

$$M(m \rightarrow \infty) = M(m_{\max}) + \sum_{\text{higher values of } m} \Delta Q_{\text{step}}(m), \quad (1.16)$$

where ΔQ_{step} is fitted from aptly chosen lower values of m .

1.4 Values of hyperparameters for the Ising model

We have found that for practical purposes, in the infinite-system algorithm the convergence threshold ϵ may be set to 10^{-7} for values of m below, say, 30, and to 10^{-8} for m -values above 40. For the highest value of $m = 120$, this leads to a relative error, as compared with the theoretically fully converged limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, of about 0.1% in the correlation length, and less than 0.02% in the order parameter, entropy and free energy (the relative error on the free energy being basically zero). For lower values of m , the relative errors are substantially lower. See [Table 1.1](#).

For simulations of finite systems, we have found that choosing m such that the truncation error P_r (for *residual probability*, its other common name) is smaller than 10^{-6} is sufficient for most purposes. This leads to a relative error with the fully converged limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ of at most 0.06% in the order parameter, entropy and free energy for $n = 8000$. For lower values of N , the relative error is lower. Here, we have taken the order parameter as the main benchmark, since the correlation length is not used for finite-size calculations. See [Table 1.2](#).

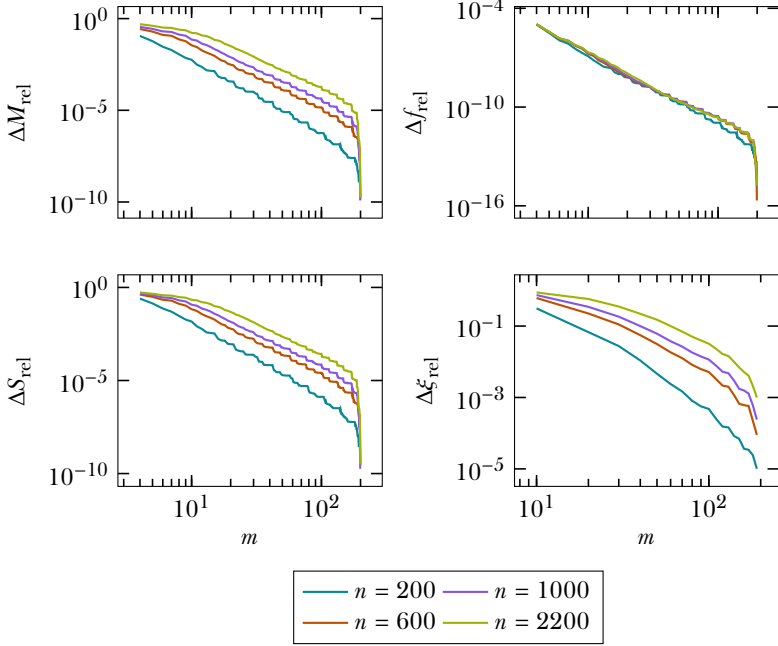


Figure 1.4: The absolute value of the relative difference of quantities, as defined in Eq. 1.11. For high enough m , it obeys a power law with varying exponent $\alpha(N)$. The sharp drop for the highest values of m is an artefact of the definition of ΔQ_{rel} and the plateau-like fashion in which the value of a quantity converges, owing to the spectrum of the reduced density matrix approximated by the CTMRG algorithm. Like in the finite- m case, the free energy converges much faster than the other quantities, and does so with little n -dependence. Note that $\Delta \xi_{\text{rel}}$ does not obey a power law.

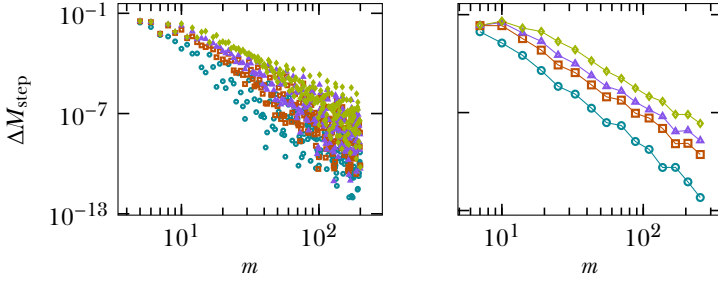


Figure 1.5: Same legend as Fig. 1.4

m	rel. error % ($\epsilon = 10^{-7}$)	rel. error % ($\epsilon = 10^{-8}$)
40	0.02	0.02
80	0.6	0.05
120	1.1	0.1

Table 1.1: Relative errors of $\xi(T_c, m, \epsilon)$, as compared with the fully converged limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, approximated by Eq. 1.10.

n	rel. error % ($P_r < 10^{-5}$)	rel. error % ($P_r < 10^{-6}$)	rel. error % ($P_r < 10^{-7}$)
1000	0.08 (40)	0.005 (80)	0.001 (120)
2000	0.08 (60)	0.008 (100)	0.002 (160)
8000	0.6 (80)	0.07 (140)	0.005 (280)

Table 1.2: Relative errors of $M(T_c, n)$, calculated such that the truncation error P_r does not exceed listed threshold, as compared with the fully converged limit of $m \rightarrow \infty$ (zero truncation error), approximated by Eq. 1.16. The number in brackets is the value of m used. To approximate the error, steps in m -value of 5, 10 or 20 were used, depending on m_{\max} .

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