

Short note on spin magnetization in QGP

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Abstract. We outline the theory of spin QGP (quark-gluon plasma) magnetization. We explore the primordial epoch shortly after the Big-Bang within temperatures of 150 MeV to 500 MeV, also of interest to laboratory experiments. The ferro-magnetized fermion gas we consider consists of (light) quarks in laboratory QGP, and also leptons (electrons) for the case of the primordial Universe. We show that a fully spin-polarized up-quark gas could generate cosmic magnetic fields of approximately 10^{16} Tesla. We suggest that even a weakly spin-polarized gas would have a profound impact on properties of primordial Universe which can be explored in laboratory QGP experiments. We present details of how the magnetization is obtained using a grand partition function approach. This requires evaluating slowly convergent magnetized Fermi-Dirac integrals.

1 Introduction

The color deconfined QGP (quark-gluon plasma) has been studied in laboratory experiments now for several decades; this state of matter existed in the Universe for nearly $25 \mu\text{s}$ after the Big-Bang [1, 2, 3]. However, there are differences between the QGP produced in the early Universe versus QGP produced in laboratory heavy-ion collisions. Of greatest importance is the presence of the lepton abundance in the early Universe. Laboratory formed QGP drops are too short-lived and too small to support a comparable high-density of leptons. Furthermore, analysis of particle production in laboratory experiments shows [4] how at highest available collisions energies we explore QGP in relatively low baryon density, near to the condition of primordial Universe. On the other hand, at lower collision energies, we study baryon-rich conditions also expected to be present in astrophysical compact objects [5]. At CERN laboratory in Geneva both these reaction energy limits are explored in ongoing ALICE, CMS, and NA61, experiments, respectively.

Recently we have explored the possibility that cosmic magnetism originates in spin polarization of electron-positron pairs [6, 7] near to Big-Bang Nucleosynthesis [8, 9] epoch. We now approach the possible role of light

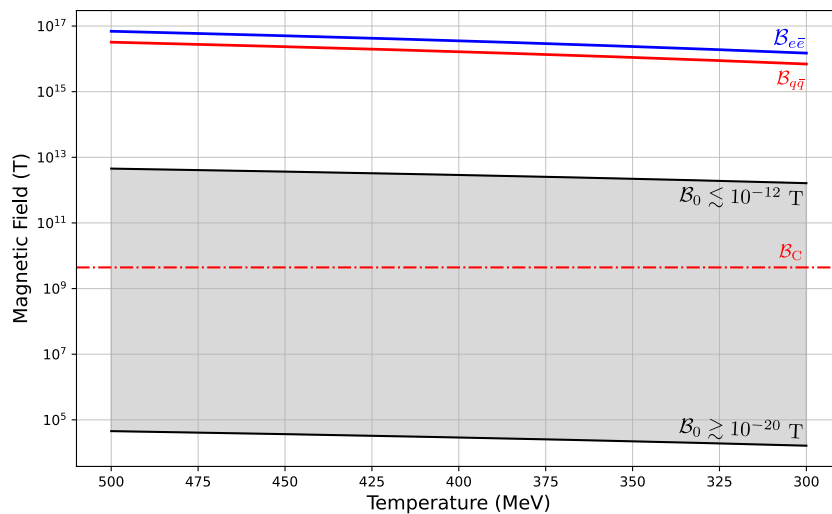


Fig. 1. Temperature dependence of several key magnetic field contributions in the early universe during the QGP era.

quark-antiquark pairs in QGP phase near to hadronization condition, pushing the possible source of magnetization further back in time to before matter hadronization. This is shown in Fig. 1 over the temperature range 300 to 500 MeV. The gray-shaded region represents the allowed primordial magnetic field (PMF) range, obtained by scaling today's intergalactic magnetic field bounds ($\mathcal{B}_0 = 10^{-20} - 10^{-12}$ T). The red dashed-dotted horizontal line marks the Schwinger critical field, \mathcal{B}_C . For details see Ref. [6]. Superimposed are the quark magnetization (red curve) and the electron magnetization (blue curve) which are calculated below.

We now expand this effort consider the role of light quark magnetization in the primordial QGP Universe, focusing on the interplay between quarks, leptons, and magnetic fields. The presence of strong magnetic fields in the primordial QGP Universe could have significantly affected the equilibrium properties of Standard Model particles in the earliest moments after the Big-Bang [10, 11]. EM response of QGP is of considerable theoretical interest [12, 13, 14] and such magnetic fields have long been thought to be connected to baryon asymmetry [15, 16]. Chiral magnetism in QGP has also been studied [17, 18, 19].

We first argue that quark magnetism in QGP cannot be ignored. In Table 1, we list the here relevant properties of select particle present in the QGP era in the Universe. The magnetic moment μ is given in units of the Bohr magneton $\mu_B \equiv e\hbar/2m_e \approx 5.788 \times 10^{-11}$ MeV T $^{-1}$. The degrees of freedom (dof.) $\mathfrak{g} = n_S \times n_C$ is the number of spin n_S and color n_C states available to the particle. We evaluated the magneton with gyromagnetic factor $g = 2$, while the strong interaction corrections suggest a larger value for quarks. For each particle seen in Table 1 there is an antiparticle with opposite sign of magnetic moment.

Table 1. Properties of select particles

Particle	Mass [\approx MeV]	Charge	Magneton [μ/μ_B]	\mathfrak{g} dof.
Electron (e)	0.511	-1	-1	2
Muon (μ)	105.7	-1	-0.00484	2
Tau (μ)	1776.9	-1	-0.000288	2
Up (u)	2.2	+2/3	+0.155	6
Down (d)	4.7	-1/3	-0.0362	6
Strange (s)	96	-1/3	-0.00177	6
Charm (c)	1270	+2/3	+0.000268	6

The electron-positron and light-quark gases, especially up-quarks, have been in the primordial Universe magnetically the most relevant particles in the QGP era due to their charge and low mass. The up-quark content is comparable to that of electrons since both are very relativistic particles considering $k_B T = 300$ MeV $\gg m_i c^2$. Their number densities n_i would follow a massless fermion gas

$$n_i(T) = \mathfrak{g}_i \frac{3}{4} \frac{\zeta(3)}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{k_B T}{\hbar c} \right)^3, \quad (1)$$

where $\zeta(3) \approx 1.202$ is the Riemann-Zeta function. The ratio of contribution to magnetism is thus solely rooted in the magnetic moments of quarks and their greater degeneracy. The estimated total cosmic magnetic flux strength is therefore derived from the sum of external flux density, and the medium polarization of the most magnetically active particles (i) and antiparticles (\bar{i}), given by

$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext.}} + \mu_0 \sum_i M_{i\bar{i}}, \quad (2)$$

where $M = \mathcal{M}/V$ is the magnetic moment density, \mathcal{M} is the magnetization and μ_0 is the vacuum permeability (not to be confused with magnetic moment). Therefore at $k_B T = 300$ MeV for up-quark and electrons, we obtain as an upper bound

$$\mu_0 M_{u\bar{u}}|_{T=300 \text{ MeV}} = \mu_0 \mathcal{M}_{u\bar{u}}/V = \mu_0 \mu_u (n_u + n_{\bar{u}}) \simeq 6.958 \times 10^{15} \text{ T}, \quad M_{e\bar{e}} = M_{u\bar{u}} \frac{\mathfrak{g}_e}{\mathfrak{g}_u} \frac{\mu_e}{\mu_u} \simeq 2.15 M_{u\bar{u}} \quad (3)$$

In the last estimate we assumed that all strongly interacting quark magnetic moments align in a suitable manner with the electron generated magnetic field to amplify it further. This type of ferromagnetic alignment amplifies the lepton generated magnetization $\sim 10^6$ times the critical magnetic field strength $\mathcal{B}_C \equiv m_e^2 c^2 / e\hbar \approx 4.41 \times 10^9$ T. This is $\sim 10^5$ times stronger than the upper estimated surface field strength of magnetars [20].

This discussion suggests that even a weakly polarized primordial lepton-quark Fermi gas would have a significant impact on the early Universe, as shown in Fig. 1, with light quarks contributing on par with leptons which while dominant (within about a factor of 2) are not the sole source of Fermi spin magnetization. We provide in the following an theoretical outline and point to where future efforts may be directed. For recent work on spin polarization modeled in relativistic hydrodynamics, see [21, 22, 23, 24].

2 Magnetization of a polarized gas

We consider a free but magnetized fermion gas in the temperature range $500 \text{ MeV} > T > 150 \text{ MeV}$ composed of light-quark species $q \in u, d$ and electrons (and their antiparticles). As the magneton scales with $\mu \propto 1/m$, these species are magnetically the most relevant due to their lighter masses (see Table 1) and consequently larger magnetic moments. For relativistic species [25], under conditions of thermal and chemical equilibrium (as was the case in the primordial Universe) the chemical potential η of each particle is opposite in sign to that of its antiparticle

$$\eta_q = T \ln \lambda_q, \quad \lambda_q = 1/\lambda_{\bar{q}}, \quad \eta_q = -\eta_{\bar{q}}, \quad (4)$$

where λ is the fugacity. The magnetic dipole of a particle is also opposite in sign to its antiparticle $\mu_i = -\mu_{\bar{i}}$ as charge is flipped. Any deviation from this condition would represent a violation of CPT [26, 27, 28]. During this period, particle-antiparticle pairs of (anti)quarks were freely produced and annihilated through photon- and gluon-mediated processes, represented by $q + \bar{q} \rightleftharpoons 2\gamma$ and $q + \bar{q} \rightleftharpoons 2g$. We note that the entropy conserving expansion of the Universe is extremely slow compared to the relevant collision reaction times during the QGP epoch [29].

Accounting for the internal energy U of magnetized QGP, including the energies of neutrinos [30], involves the following properties:

- (a) The energy of adding or removing a baryon $\eta_B B$ where B is baryon number,
- (b) the energy of adding or removing a lepton $\eta_\ell(N_\ell - N_{\bar{\ell}})$ with $\ell \in e, \nu$,
- (c) the magnetic energy $\mathcal{M}\mathcal{B}$ where \mathcal{M} is the net magnetization and \mathcal{B} is the magnetic field strength and
- (d) the electromagnetic energy density generated by the external magnetic field.

The dependency of U on \mathcal{M} reflects that \mathcal{B} is the incremental energy cost to change the magnetization by flipping the spin of a particle [31]. Therefore, this makes magnetization \mathcal{M} an extensive property of the system which changes with particle number. We see this explicitly by writing the magnetization as the sum over all particles $i \in 1, \dots, k$

$$\mathcal{M} = \sum_{i=1}^k (\mu_i N_i^\uparrow + \mu_{\bar{i}} N_i^\uparrow - \mu_i N_i^\downarrow - \mu_{\bar{i}} N_i^\downarrow), \quad N_i = N_i^\uparrow + N_i^\downarrow, \quad (5)$$

where μ_i is the magnetic dipole moment per particle. The $\uparrow\downarrow$ notation refers to spin-up (\uparrow) and spin-down (\downarrow) states along the direction of the external field. Therefore, $N_i^{\uparrow\downarrow}$ refers to the i -th constituent population number in either spin-up or spin-down orientation. The signs of each term in Eq. (5) arises from the sign of the spin eigenvalue. While Eq. (5) presumably includes contributions from each particle with a magnetic dipole, we expect the magnetization to be dominated by electrons(positrons) and the lightest quarks due to their charge and low mass therefore we sum over $i \in u, d, e$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} \approx & +|\mu_u|(N_u^\uparrow - N_{\bar{u}}^\uparrow) - |\mu_u|(N_u^\downarrow - N_{\bar{u}}^\downarrow) \\ & - |\mu_d|(N_d^\uparrow - N_{\bar{d}}^\uparrow) + |\mu_d|(N_d^\downarrow - N_{\bar{d}}^\downarrow) \\ & - |\mu_e|(N_e^\uparrow - N_{\bar{e}}^\uparrow) + |\mu_e|(N_e^\downarrow - N_{\bar{e}}^\downarrow). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We recognize that Eq. (6) contains terms representing asymmetry in the spin alignment though we can organize them in two different ways: (a) We group terms of the same spin alignment or (b) we group terms of matter and antimatter. The second approach may allow definition of spin-asymmetry in terms of conserved quantities characterizing spin angular momentum. We define net spin-asymmetry numbers $\delta_i^{\uparrow\downarrow}$ and write

$$\delta_i^{\uparrow\downarrow} \equiv N_i^{\uparrow\downarrow} - N_{\bar{i}}^{\uparrow\downarrow}, \quad (7)$$

$$\mathcal{M} = +|\mu_u|(\delta_u^\uparrow - \delta_u^\downarrow) - |\mu_d|(\delta_d^\uparrow - \delta_d^\downarrow) - |\mu_e|(\delta_e^\uparrow - \delta_e^\downarrow). \quad (8)$$

The net spin-asymmetry warrants is the asymmetry of particles and antiparticles of the same spin. Therefore $\delta_u^\uparrow \neq 0$ represents a situation where there are more up quarks than up antiquarks in the spin-up \uparrow state.

3 Magnetized grand partition function

The partition function allows us to calculate various thermodynamic quantities by taking appropriate derivatives of \mathcal{F} . In the temperature range considered ($500 \text{ MeV} > T > 150 \text{ MeV}$), the lightest quarks act as essentially massless particles with only the strange quark requiring significant mass corrections. It is worth remarking on the uniqueness of the situation: As magnetic moment scales inverse with mass, it is the particles which are most massless in character which contribute most to magnetization. The following section is written in natural units of $\hbar = c = k_B = 1$.

The relevant contributions to the magnetized primordial plasma arise from the quarks, gluons, leptons, and the vacuum. The grand potential in terms of the grand partition function $\ln \mathcal{Z}$ is

$$\mathcal{F} = -T \ln \mathcal{Z}, \quad (9)$$

$$\ln \mathcal{Z}_{\text{total}} = \ln \mathcal{Z}_{\text{quarks}} + \ln \mathcal{Z}_{\text{gluons}} + \ln \mathcal{Z}_{\text{leptons}} + \ln \mathcal{Z}_{\text{vac.}} + \dots \quad (10)$$

We consider a homogeneous magnetic field domain defined along the z -axis with magnetic field magnitude \mathcal{B} . The volume $V = L^3$ is not necessarily infinite and is to be considered the size of the homogeneous domain such that $\partial \mathcal{B}_i / \partial x_j \approx 0$ for $i, j \in 1, 2, 3$. For a fermion species of charge Q , mass m , and g-factor g , the energy eigenvalues of the magnetized particles is given by [32]

$$E(p_z, n, s) = \sqrt{m^2 + p_z^2 + 2|Q|\mathcal{B} \left(n + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{g}{2}s \right)}, \quad (11)$$

where E are the relativistic Landau energy eigenvalues. The micro-state energies depend on longitudinal momentum p_z , spin $s \in \pm 1/2$, and orbital $n \in 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ Landau quantum number. It is helpful to introduce a spin-dependent auxiliary mass $m(s)$ via

$$m^2(s) \equiv m^2 - |Q|\mathcal{B}gs. \quad (12)$$

The power and utility of the partition function in statistical systems is found by examining the Fermi integral in various limits and expansions. We define the Fermi-Dirac distribution noting that fugacity λ is related to chemical potential in the usual way via $\eta = T \ln \lambda$. Thus,

$$F(E - \sigma\eta) = \frac{1}{e^{(E - \sigma\eta)/T} + 1}. \quad (13)$$

We can express Eq. (9) by utilizing Euler-Maclaurin integration (see details in Ref. [6]) writing the partition function in spherical coordinates $d\mathbf{p}^3 = 4\pi p^2 dp$. We substitute coordinates and integrate by parts yielding

$$\ln \mathcal{Z} = \frac{2n_C V}{(2\pi)^2} \sum_s^{\pm 1/2} \sum_\sigma^{\pm 1} \int_0^\infty \frac{dp}{3T} \frac{p^4}{E} F(E - \sigma\eta). \quad (14)$$

The form of the partition function expressed by Eq. (14) more directly lets us evaluate thermodynamic quantities in terms of Fermi integrals [25, 33]. Eq. (14) also sums over (anti)matter states $\sigma \in \pm 1$. However, integrating over momentum is not an ideal description as relativistic expansions in momentum yield series that are only semi-convergent.

3.1 Dimensionless change of variables

To simplify the integration process, we introduce dimensionless variables by normalizing relevant physical quantities with the temperature T . This approach renders the equations dimensionless and highlights the thermal contributions explicitly. The dimensionless variables are defined as

$$p_T = \frac{p}{T}, \quad E_T(p_T, s) = \frac{E(p, s)}{T}, \quad \eta_T = \frac{\eta}{T}, \quad m_T(s) = \frac{m(s)}{T}. \quad (15)$$

This defines momentum-like p_T , energy-like E_T , chemical potential-like η_T and mass-like m_T parameters. Using the relativistic dispersion relation, the dimensionless energy E_T can be expressed in terms of p_T and m_T

$$E_T = \frac{E}{T} = \sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2}. \quad (16)$$

The differential dp_T and dE_T transform as

$$dp = T dp_T, \quad p_T dp_T = E_T dE_T, \quad (17)$$

and the limits of integration change accordingly

$$p_T = 0 \Rightarrow E_T = m_T, \quad p_T \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow E_T \rightarrow \infty. \quad (18)$$

Substituting these dimensionless variables and differentials into the partition function $\ln \mathcal{Z}$, we obtain expressions for both momentum-like p_T integration and energy-like E_T integration

$$\ln \mathcal{Z} = \frac{2n_C V}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{T^3}{3} \sum_s^{\pm 1/2} \sum_\sigma^{\pm 1} \int_0^\infty dp_T \frac{p_T^4}{\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2}} F\left(\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2} - \sigma\eta_T\right), \quad (19)$$

$$= \frac{2n_C V}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{T^3}{3} \sum_s^{\pm 1/2} \sum_\sigma^{\pm 1} \int_{m_T}^\infty dE_T (E_T^2 - m_T^2)^{3/2} F(E_T - \sigma\eta_T). \quad (20)$$

In this formulation, it is evident that the logarithm of the partition function scales as $\ln \mathcal{Z} \propto T^3$, consistent with the expected thermodynamic behavior for a relativistic gas in three spatial dimensions.

3.2 Evaluation of magnetization from the dimensionless partition function

Given the dimensionless form of the partition function Eq. (19), we proceed to evaluate the magnetization. We emphasize that the dimensionless mass $m_T(\mathcal{B}, s)$ depends on the magnetic field and spin via Eq. (12). Taking the derivative of the free energy $\mathcal{F} = -T \ln \mathcal{Z}$ with respect to the magnetic field \mathcal{B} , we obtain the magnetization

$$\mathcal{M} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{B}} \right) = -T \left(\frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial \mathcal{B}} \right). \quad (21)$$

Since $\ln \mathcal{Z}$ depends on \mathcal{B} solely through m_T , we apply the chain rule

$$\frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial \mathcal{B}} = \frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial m_T} \frac{\partial m_T}{\partial \mathcal{B}}, \quad \frac{\partial m_T}{\partial \mathcal{B}} = -\frac{g|Q|s}{2m_T T^2}. \quad (22)$$

Taking the derivative of the partition function with respect to m_T , we write

$$\frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial m_T} = \frac{2n_C V T^3}{3(2\pi)^2} \sum_s^{\pm 1/2} \sum_\sigma^{\pm 1} \int_0^\infty dp_T \frac{\partial}{\partial m_T} \left(\frac{p_T^4}{\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2}} F \left(\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2} - \sigma \eta_T \right) \right). \quad (23)$$

Given that $E_T = \sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2}$, then, $\partial E_T / \partial m_T = m_T / E_T$. The derivative of the integrand is computed using the product and chain rules

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m_T} \left(\frac{p_T^4}{E_T} F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) \right) = \frac{p_T^4}{E_T} \frac{\partial F}{\partial E_T} \frac{\partial E_T}{\partial m_T} + F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) \frac{\partial}{\partial m_T} \left(\frac{p_T^4}{E_T} \right). \quad (24)$$

Hereafter we write $F' = \partial F / \partial E_T$. The second term evaluates to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m_T} \left(\frac{p_T^4}{E_T} \right) = -\frac{p_T^4 m_T}{E_T^3}. \quad (25)$$

Substituting these results back, the integrand becomes

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m_T} \left(\frac{p_T^4}{E_T} F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) \right) = \frac{p_T^4 m_T}{E_T^2} F'(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) - \frac{p_T^4 m_T}{E_T^3} F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T). \quad (26)$$

Replacing E_T with $\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2}$, the derivative of $\ln \mathcal{Z}$ is

$$\frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial m_T} = \frac{2n_C V T^3}{3(2\pi)^2} \sum_s^{\pm 1/2} \sum_\sigma^{\pm 1} \int_0^\infty dp_T p_T^4 m_T \left(\frac{F' \left(\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2} - \sigma \eta_T \right)}{p_T^2 + m_T^2} - \frac{F \left(\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_T^2} - \sigma \eta_T \right)}{(p_T^2 + m_T^2)^{3/2}} \right). \quad (27)$$

This result provides the explicit form of $\partial \ln \mathcal{Z} / \partial m_T$ in terms of F and its derivative F' , with all dependencies on m_T and p_T made explicit.

Given that $F(x) = 1/(e^x + 1)$ is the Fermi-Dirac distribution, its derivative is

$$F'(x) = \frac{dF}{dx} = -\frac{e^x}{(e^x + 1)^2} = -F(x) [1 - F(x)]. \quad (28)$$

We replace $F'(x)$ in the expression for the derivative of the integrand yielding

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty dp_T p_T^4 m_T \left(-\frac{F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) [1 - F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T)]}{E_T^2} - \frac{F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T)}{E_T^3} \right) = \\ \int_{m_T}^\infty dE_T (E_T^2 - m_T^2)^{3/2} m_T \left(-\frac{F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) [1 - F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T)]}{E_T} - \frac{F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T)}{E_T^2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Substituting the expression for $\partial \ln \mathcal{Z} / \partial m_T$ into Eq. (21) and Eq. (22), we obtain the magnetization

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} = -\frac{g|Q|}{2T} \cdot \frac{2n_C V T^3}{3(2\pi)^2} \sum_s^{\pm 1/2} s \sum_\sigma^{\pm 1} \int_{m_T(s)}^\infty dE_T (E_T^2 - m_T^2(s))^{3/2} \\ \times \left[\frac{F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T) (1 - F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T))}{E_T} + \frac{F(E_T - \sigma \eta_T)}{E_T^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Much how we expect the free energy to be $\ln \mathcal{Z} \sim T^3$, we see the magnetization is $\mathcal{M} \sim T^2$ via dimensional analysis. This is in agreement to our prior work [6, 7] where we evaluated the magnetization in the Boltzmann limit [6] with $T \ll m_e$. The benefit of expressing the magnetization in the form of Eq. (30) is that the integrand within the brackets [...] entirely contains the Fermi-Dirac distribution scaled by energy without mass (or magnetic fields) except as a boundary condition on the integration. This makes it suitable for numerical evaluation and comparison to the Boltzmann limit which will be the subject of future work.

4 Conclusions

In this work we have proposed a theoretical framework for evaluating the spin magnetization of a quark-gluon plasma (QGP) under conditions akin to those of the primordial Universe. By employing a grand partition function formalism (see Eq. (9)) and rigorously evaluating magnetized Fermi-Dirac integrals, both in their standard and dimensionless forms (Eqs. (19)–(20)), we derived explicit expressions that capture the dependence of the magnetization on temperature, particle masses, and magnetic field strength. Notably, our analysis shows that the magnetization scales as T^2 (cf. Eq. (30)), in agreement with the expected thermodynamic behavior of a relativistic gas in three spatial dimensions.

Our estimates indicate that even a modest degree of spin polarization in the light-quark and electron-positron sectors could lead to cosmic magnetic fields of enormous magnitude. Ferromagnetic-like response, if facilitated by the strong coupling among quarks, would potentially generate fields on the order of 10^{16} Tesla. These values exceed both the critical Schwinger field and the characteristic surface fields of magnetars by several orders of magnitude, underscoring the potential significance of spin magnetization in the primordial plasma. However, such fields remain in the bounds found at this high temperature extrapolating back in time the large scale magnetic fields of present day (cf. Fig. 1).

While the present treatment considers an idealized, free fermion gas, with the magnetization defined in Eq. (5), it provides a starting point for future investigations incorporate additional physical effects such as QCD interactions, finite volume corrections, and non-equilibrium dynamics. Moreover, exploring the interplay between spin magnetization and other cosmological processes (such as baryogenesis, leptogenesis, and the evolution of large-scale magnetic fields) remains an important avenue for further research.

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