

NOTES FROM NSF-MSGI INTERNSHIP

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1. Introduction

We will explore the connection between statistical mechanics models and quantum Hamiltonians, primarily via examples.

More stuff here later. Basic objects/definitions.

2. Ising Models

The Ising models are a family of statistical mechanics models with nearest-neighbor interaction. Given any lattice $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ with N total points, define a *spin* at each site of the lattice via a variable $s \in \Omega_0 = \{\pm 1\}$. A *configuration* is a collection $\{s\} = \{s_\ell\}_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}} \in \Omega_0^N$. For convenience, we will usually work with cubic lattices of the form $\mathcal{L} = \{-n, -n+1, \dots, n-1, n\}^d$ or $\mathcal{L} = \{1 \dots, n\}^d$ and impose periodic boundary conditions. The *action* associated to this model is the function

$$\mathcal{S}(\{s\}, \tau, h) = -\beta_\tau(\tau) \sum_{i \sim j} s_i s_j - \beta(\tau) h \sum_i s_i,$$

where τ is the lattice spacing in the “time” direction, h is the strength of an external magnetic field, and the first sum is over nearest neighbor sites of the lattice. The coefficients β_τ and β may depend on the time direction lattice spacing and are otherwise chosen to reflect some physical situation (e.g. they may be taken to be proportional to the “inverse temperature” $\frac{1}{kT}$ where k is Boltzmann’s constant).

We will be interested in the *partition function* Z defined as

$$Z(\tau, h) = \sum_{\{s\} \in \Omega_0^N} e^{-\mathcal{S}(\{s\}, \tau, h)}.$$

It turns out that we can use statistical mechanics to show that many other interesting physical quantities can be derived from the partition function [2, Ch. 3]. The *pressure* in \mathcal{L} of the model is defined to be

$$\psi_{\mathcal{L}}(\tau, h) := \frac{1}{N} \log Z(\tau, h).$$

The *magnetization density* in \mathcal{L} is by definition

$$m_{\mathcal{L}} := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}} s_\ell.$$

The expected magnetization density, $\langle m_{\mathcal{L}} \rangle$, is related to the pressure and partition function:

$$\langle m_{\mathcal{L}} \rangle(\tau, h) = \frac{\partial \psi_{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial h}(\tau, h) = \frac{\partial}{\partial h} \left(\frac{1}{N} \log Z(\tau, h) \right).$$

2.1. Infinite Lattice Ising Models. The Ising model can be generalized to an *infinite volume model* by letting the lattice \mathcal{L} grow to \mathbb{Z}^d appropriately. We'll briefly sketch the ideas here - a detailed exposition can be found in [2] in chapters 3 and 6. In general, we say a sequence of lattices $\{\mathcal{L}_n\}$ converges to \mathbb{Z}^d , denoted $\mathcal{L}_n \uparrow \mathbb{Z}^d$, if

- (1) \mathcal{L}_n is increasing, i.e. $\mathcal{L}_n \subset \mathcal{L}_{n+1}$ for all n ,
- (2) $\bigcup_n \mathcal{L}_n = \mathbb{Z}^d$,
- (3) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\partial \mathcal{L}_n|}{|\mathcal{L}_n|} = 0$, where $\partial \mathcal{L}_n$ is the boundary of the lattice, i.e.

$$\partial \mathcal{L}_n := \{\ell \in \mathcal{L}_n \mid \ell \sim m \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{Z}^d \setminus \mathcal{L}_n\}.$$

It turns out that the pressure $\psi_{\mathcal{L}}$ defined above is convex as a function of h and that there is a well-defined limit

$$\psi(\tau, h) := \lim_{\mathcal{L} \uparrow \mathbb{Z}^d} \psi_{\mathcal{L}}(\tau, h).$$

Because ψ is a convex function of h , the *average magnetization density* given by

$$m(\tau, h) = \lim_{\mathcal{L} \uparrow \mathbb{Z}^d} \langle m_{\mathcal{L}} \rangle(\tau, h),$$

exists for all but a countable set of $h \in \mathbb{R}$. The points at which the average magnetization density fails to exist (always because the left and right derivatives do not equal each other) are called *first-order phase transitions*.

2.2. 1+0 Ising. In the 1+0 Ising model, we take a 1-dimensional statistical mechanics system and relate it to a 0-dimensional (point) quantum Hamiltonian. See [1] and [6]. The definitions above simplify to the following. The lattice is now a set of N points x_0, \dots, x_{N-1} on a circle so that $s_0 = s_N$. The action is given by

$$\mathcal{S}(\{s\}, \tau, h) = -\beta_{\tau}(\tau) \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} s_i s_{i+1} - \beta(\tau) h \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} s_i.$$

It will be helpful to rewrite this expression to be symmetric and expressed in terms of sums and differences of the s_i . Up to a constant factor of $-\beta_{\tau} N$, we find

$$\mathcal{S}(\{s\}, \tau) = \frac{1}{2} \beta_{\tau}(\tau) \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (s_i - s_{i+1})^2 - \frac{1}{2} \beta(\tau) h \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (s_i + s_{i+1}).$$

Note that we needed periodicity in order to rewrite the second term in this way. Further, we now have $\mathcal{S} = 0$ when all of the spins are identical and $h = 0$.

Now the partition function becomes

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \sum_{\{s\} \in \Omega_0^N} e^{\frac{1}{2}\beta_\tau(\tau) \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (s_i - s_{i+1})^2 - \frac{1}{2}\beta(\tau)h \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (s_i + s_{i+1})} \\ &= \sum_{s_0 \in \{\pm 1\}} \dots \sum_{s_{N-1} \in \{\pm 1\}} e^{\frac{1}{2}\beta_\tau(s_0 - s_1)^2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\beta h(s_0 + s_1)} \dots e^{\frac{1}{2}\beta_\tau(s_{N-1} - s_0)^2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\beta h(s_{N-1} + s_0)}. \end{aligned}$$

However, each factor in the product depends only on what the values of $s_i - s_{i+1}$ and $s_i + s_{i+1}$ are. We can construct the *transfer matrix*, T , to record this data, indexed by the possible spins at each site. So we have

$$T_{-1,-1} = e^{-\beta h}, \quad T_{-1,1} = T_{1,-1} = e^{-2\beta_\tau}, \quad \text{and } T_{1,1} = e^{\beta h}.$$

Thus

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-\beta h} & e^{-2\beta_\tau} \\ e^{-2\beta_\tau} & e^{\beta h} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now we can write $Z = \text{Tr } T^N$.

Our goal is to choose functions $\beta_\tau(\tau)$ and $\beta(\tau)$ so that the transfer matrix operator T has the form $T = e^{-\tau H} \approx I - \tau H$ for some quantum Hamiltonian H (independent of τ) acting on a 2-dimensional vector space. This is the τ -*continuum Hamiltonian* for the model. Here the idea is that statistical mechanics properties of the lattice action system (e.g. magnetization per site, average magnetization, two-point correlations, correlation length) will map to properties of the operator H related to its eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

For example, we could choose $\beta_\tau(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2} \log \tau$ and $\beta(\tau) = \tau$. Then we have

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-\tau h} & \tau \\ \tau & e^{\tau h} \end{bmatrix} \approx I_2 - \tau \begin{bmatrix} h & -1 \\ -1 & -h \end{bmatrix}.$$

From this it follows that

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} h & -1 \\ -1 & -h \end{bmatrix} = -\sigma_1 + h\sigma_3,$$

where σ_1, σ_2 , and σ_3 are the Pauli matrices.

More generally, we can ask what constraints β and β_τ must satisfy to be able to do this. Analyzing each of the four matrix entries shows that for small τ we need

$$e^{-\beta h} \approx 1 - \tau H_{0,0}, \quad e^{-2\beta_\tau} \approx -\tau H_{1,0} = -\tau H_{0,1}, \quad \text{and } e^{\beta h} \approx 1 - \tau H_{1,1}.$$

Since $H_{1,0}$ and $H_{0,1}$ are constant with respect to τ we need $-2\beta_\tau \approx \log(\lambda\tau)$ for small τ and some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Similarly, if β is small when τ is small we have $e^{-\beta h} \approx 1 - \beta h \approx 1 - \tau H_{0,0}$ and $e^{\beta h} \approx 1 + \beta h \approx 1 - \tau H_{1,1}$. So to first order we have $\beta \approx \tau$ and we see $H_{0,0} = -H_{1,1} = \mu h$ for some $\mu \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.

Putting all of this together, we see that the general τ -continuum Hamiltonian for this model will have the form

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} \mu h & -\lambda \\ -\lambda & -\mu h \end{bmatrix} = -\lambda\sigma_1 + \mu h\sigma_3.$$

Now we could also attempt to find a second order approximation of T so that $T \approx I - \tau H + \frac{1}{2}\tau^2 H^2$ for an operator H not depending on τ . However, following the approach above will show us that there is no easy solution in this case. To get a higher order approximation (or the actual matrix logarithm solving $T = e^{-\tau H}$ for H), we may need to allow H to depend on τ .

In the second order case, we need

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\beta h} &\approx 1 - \tau H_{0,0} + \frac{\tau^2}{2}(H_{0,0}^2 + H_{0,1}^2), \\ e^{-2\beta\tau} &\approx -\tau H_{0,1} + \frac{\tau^2}{2}(H_{0,0}H_{0,1} + H_{0,1}H_{1,1}), \\ e^{\beta h} &\approx 1 - \tau H_{1,1} + \frac{\tau^2}{2}(H_{0,1}^2 + H_{0,0}^2) \end{aligned}$$

for small τ , where we have used the fact that H should be real and symmetric and so $H_{0,1} = H_{1,0}$. From the first and third equations, we see that $H_{0,0}$ and $H_{1,1}$ must depend on h . But the second equation has no dependence on h , so the dependence of $H_{0,1}$ on h must be inversely related to the $H_{0,0}$ and $H_{1,1}$ dependence. On the other hand adding the first and third equations yields

$$\cosh(\beta h) \approx 1 - \frac{\tau}{2}(H_{0,0} + H_{1,1}) + \frac{\tau^2}{4}(H_{0,0}^2 + 2H_{0,1}^2 + H_{1,1}^2),$$

which naturally suggests taking $\beta = \mu\tau$, $H_{0,0} = -H_{1,1} = \mu h$, and $H_{0,1} = H_{1,0} = 0$. But this is a contradiction.

2.3. 1+1 Ising Model. We may analyze the 1+1 Ising model similarly to the 1+0 model. We are going to relate a statistical mechanics system on a 2-dimensional lattice (with one temporal and one spatial dimension) to a quantum mechanical Hamiltonian on a 1-dimensional system of interacting spins. See [1] and [6].

As in the 1+0 Ising model, we will work with a lattice with periodic boundary conditions. Suppose \mathcal{L} is a $N_x \times N_\tau$ lattice of points in \mathbb{Z}^2 with $\vec{\tau}$ a unit vector in the time direction and \vec{x} a unit vector in the spatial direction. Then the action for the model is

$$\mathcal{S} = - \sum_{\ell} \beta_{\tau} s_{\ell} s_{\ell+\vec{\tau}} + \beta s_{\ell} s_{\ell+\vec{x}},$$

where the sum is over all lattice points $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$.

We want to write $\mathcal{S} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_\tau} L(j, j+1)$ for some $L(j, j+1)$ that describes the interaction between the spatial rows j and $j+1$. To do this, we first rewrite

$$\mathcal{S} = \sum_{\ell} \frac{\beta_{\tau}}{2} (s_{\ell} - s_{\ell+\vec{\tau}})^2 - \frac{1}{2} \beta (s_{\ell} s_{\ell+\vec{x}} + s_{\ell+\vec{\tau}} s_{\ell+\vec{\tau}+\vec{x}}),$$

using the periodic boundary conditions. Note that the new \mathcal{S} differs from the previous one by a normalization constant so that the first term is 0 when all of the

spins are aligned, rather than being $-N\beta_\tau$. We can now define

$$L(j, j+1) := \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} \frac{\beta_\tau}{2} (s_\ell - \tilde{s}_\ell)^2 - \frac{\beta}{2} (s_\ell s_{\ell+1} + \tilde{s}_\ell \tilde{s}_{\ell+1}),$$

where the sum is over the N_x indices in the spatial row, $\{s\}$ is the configuration of row j and $\{\tilde{s}\}$ is the configuration of row $j+1$.

Then the partition function is

$$Z = \sum_{\{s\}} e^{-L(1,2)} e^{-L(2,3)} \dots e^{-L(N_\tau,1)}.$$

As in the previous section, we express Z as the trace of the N_τ^{th} power of a transfer matrix \hat{T} describing the transition between rows. Since there are 2^{N_x} configurations for each row, \hat{T} will be a $2^{N_x} \times 2^{N_x}$ matrix. The elements of \hat{T} can be organized by the number of spin flips between configurations, since these determine the value of the first term of $L(j, j+1)$. We want to find β, β_τ so that for τ near 0, $\hat{T} \approx 1 - \tau \hat{H}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{T}|_{0 \text{ flips}} &= e^{\beta \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} s_\ell s_{\ell+1}}, \\ \hat{T}|_{1 \text{ flip}} &= e^{-2\beta_\tau} e^{\frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} (s_\ell s_{\ell+1} + \tilde{s}_\ell \tilde{s}_{\ell+1})}, \\ &\vdots \\ \hat{T}|_{k \text{ flips}} &= e^{-2k\beta_\tau} e^{\frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} (s_\ell s_{\ell+1} + \tilde{s}_\ell \tilde{s}_{\ell+1})} \end{aligned}$$

The nicest solution to this is to choose $\beta = \lambda\tau$ and $\tau = e^{-2\beta_\tau}$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Then to first order approximation in τ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{T}|_{0 \text{ flips}} &\approx 1 - \mu\lambda\tau, \\ \hat{T}|_{1 \text{ flip}} &\approx \tau(1 + \kappa\lambda\tau) \approx \tau, \\ &\vdots \\ \hat{T}|_{k \text{ flips}} &\approx \tau^k(1 + \kappa\lambda\tau) \approx 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mu = \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} s_\ell s_{\ell+1}$ and $\kappa = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} (s_\ell s_{\ell+1} + \tilde{s}_\ell \tilde{s}_{\ell+1})$ are independent of τ .

We can now express \hat{T} as $I - \tau \hat{H}$ where the Hamiltonian \hat{H} is given in terms of the Pauli operators at each site ℓ , $\hat{\sigma}_1(\ell)$ and $\hat{\sigma}_3(\ell)$:

$$\hat{H} = -\lambda \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} \hat{\sigma}_3(\ell) \hat{\sigma}_3(\ell+1) - \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_x} \hat{\sigma}_1(\ell). \quad (1)$$

2.3.1. Jordan-Wigner Transform and Solution in terms of Fermionic operators. A Hamiltonian of the form of Eq. (1) can be rewritten in terms of Fermion operators $\{a_j, a_j^\dagger\}_{j=1}^n$ that satisfy the *canonical commutation relations* (CCRs)

$$\{a_j, a_k^\dagger\} = \delta_{k,j} I; \quad \{a_j, a_k\} = 0,$$

where $\{A, B\} = AB + BA$ is the anticommutator of two operators [6],[7],[8].

We can summarize this transformation as follows:

- (1) Use duality to swap the roles of $\hat{\sigma}_1$ and $\hat{\sigma}_3$ in Eq. (1).
- (2) Use raising and lowering operators to rewrite H in terms of fermion operators. (Jordan-Wigner transform)
- (3) Convert the resulting operators and quadratic Hamiltonian to momentum space.
- (4) Diagonalize the momentum Fermionic Hamiltonian.
- (5) Determine the eigenvalues of the resulting Hamiltonian.

3. O(N) Model

These models are extensively treated in [1],[4],[6]. As in the Ising model, we have a lattice $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ of M points, usually cubic. The spins at each site i of the lattice are now $\vec{x}_i \in \Omega_0 = S^{N-1} = \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid \|\vec{x}\| = 1\}$. The action is

$$\mathcal{S} = \sum_{i,j} -J_{i,j} \vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j,$$

where the sum is over nearest-neighbor pairs in \mathcal{L} . Frequently we will take the interaction constants $J_{i,j}$ to depend only on which coordinate of the lattice the points differ in. As in the earlier examples, it may be helpful to renormalize the action so that when all the \vec{x}_i are equal we get $\mathcal{S} = 0$. This results in a renormalized action

$$\mathcal{S} = \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{2} J_{i,j} (\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j)^2.$$

As before, we are interested in thinking of our d -dimensional lattice as having 1 time dimension and $d - 1$ spatial dimensions and finding a τ -continuum quantum mechanical Hamiltonian H that corresponds to the action as the lattice spacing τ goes to 0. Since the spin configuration space is now continuous, the partition function will now be an integral rather than a summation:

$$Z = \int_{(S^N)^M} d\vec{x}_1 \dots d\vec{x}_M e^{-\beta \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{2} J_{i,j} (\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j)^2}.$$

3.1. O(2) model on a 1-dimensional lattice. First we consider the $O(2)$ model on a 1-dimensional lattice of N points with periodic boundary conditions. When our configuration space is S^1 , we can parameterize the spins $\vec{x}_i = (\cos(\theta_i), \sin(\theta_i))$ for $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$. Under this parameterization, the action becomes

$$\mathcal{S} = -J \sum_{j=1}^N \cos(\theta_j) \cos(\theta_{j+1}) + \sin(\theta_j) \sin(\theta_{j+1}) = -J \sum_{j=1}^N \cos(\theta_j - \theta_{j+1}).$$

The corresponding partition function is then

$$Z = \int_{[0, 2\pi]^N} \left(\prod_{j=1}^N d\theta_j \right) e^{\sum_{j=1}^N \beta J \cos(\theta_j - \theta_{j+1})},$$

where again $\beta = \frac{1}{kT}$ is the inverse temperature.

We now wish find an analogue of the transfer matrix from the analysis of the Ising model.

4. Spherical Model

5. Lattice Gauge Theories

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