

Homework 3

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November 6, 2022

Problem 1

Solution

(a) The conjugate momentum of θ is

$$p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}} = V \left(\frac{\dot{\theta}}{U_0} - \frac{\mu}{U_0} \right), \quad (1)$$

and therefore

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{U_0}{V} p + \mu. \quad (2)$$

The Hamiltonian is

$$\begin{aligned} H &= p\dot{\theta} - L \\ &= p \left(\frac{U_0}{V} p + \mu \right) - V \left(\frac{1}{2U_0} \left(\frac{U_0}{V} p + \mu \right)^2 - \frac{\mu}{U_0} \left(\frac{U_0}{V} p + \mu \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{U_0}{V} \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

In Heisenberg's picture, the variance of θ can be evaluated in the follows. We know

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\theta^2}{dt} &= \frac{1}{i} [\theta^2, H] \\ &= \frac{U_0}{2iV} \left[\theta^2, \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{U_0}{V} \left(\theta \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right) + \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right) \theta \right), \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\theta^2}{dt^2} &= \frac{U_0}{V} \left(\dot{\theta} \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right) + \theta \dot{p} + \dot{p} \theta + \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right) \dot{\theta} \right) \\ &= \frac{2U_0^2}{V^2} \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here we use the EOMs

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{1}{i} [\theta, H] = \frac{U_0}{V} \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right), \quad \dot{p} = 0. \quad (5)$$

To calculate σ_θ^2 , we also need $\langle \theta \rangle^2$. Its time evolution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\langle \theta \rangle}{dt^2} &= 2\langle \theta \rangle \frac{d^2\langle \theta \rangle}{dt^2} + 2 \left(\frac{d\langle \theta \rangle}{dt} \right)^2 \\ &= 2\langle \theta \rangle \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{U_0}{V} \langle p \rangle + \mu \right) + 2 \left(\frac{U_0}{V} \langle p \rangle + \mu \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{2U_0^2}{V^2} \left(\langle p \rangle + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

From (4) and (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\sigma_\theta^2}{dt^2} &= \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \left(\langle \theta^2 \rangle - \langle \theta \rangle^2 \right) = \frac{2U_0^2}{V^2} \left(\left\langle \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2 \right\rangle - \left(\langle p \rangle + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{2U_0^2}{V^2} \sigma_p^2. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

From uncertainty relation we have

$$\sigma_p^2 \sigma_x^2 \simeq \frac{1}{4}, \quad (8)$$

and therefore

$$\frac{d^2 \sigma_\theta^2}{dt^2} \simeq \frac{2U_0^2}{V^2} \frac{1}{4\sigma^2}, \quad (9)$$

and therefore

$$\sigma_\theta \simeq \sqrt{\frac{U_0^2}{4V^2 \sigma^2} t^2 + \sigma^2}. \quad (10)$$

(b) The speed sound is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_0 U_0}{m}}, \quad (11)$$

so

$$\sigma_\theta = \sqrt{\frac{m^2 v^4}{4V^2 \rho_0^2 \sigma^2} t^2 + \sigma^2}, \quad (12)$$

and the time it takes to have $\sigma_\theta = 2\pi$ is

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{4V^2 \rho_0^2 \sigma^2}{m^2 v^4} (4\pi^2 - \sigma^2)}. \quad (13)$$

For ^4He , we have $m = 6.65 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$, and the sound speed is around $\sim 20 \text{ m/s}$ [1], and the mass density – the product of ρ_0 and m – is $\sim 125 \text{ g/L}$, so $t \sim 5.6 \times 10^{45} \text{ s}$.

(c) Ignoring density fluctuation, the perturbation is

$$-g \int d^d \mathbf{x} (a^2 + (a^\dagger)^2) = -g \int d^d \mathbf{x} n_0 (e^{i2\theta} + e^{-i2\theta}) = -2gn_0 \int d^d \mathbf{x} \cos(2\theta). \quad (14)$$

In the uniform θ case, we further have

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \frac{U_0}{V} \left(p + \frac{\mu V}{U_0} \right)^2 - 2gn_0 V \cos(2\theta). \quad (15)$$

Problem 2

Solution

(a) Repeating the procedure used in ordinary superfluid, we do the decomposition

$$\varphi = \sqrt{\rho} e^{i\theta} = \sqrt{\rho_0 + \delta\rho} e^{i\theta}, \quad (16)$$

and therefore

$$-\frac{\varphi^* \nabla^2 \varphi}{2m} = \frac{\rho}{2m} (\nabla \theta)^2 + \frac{(\nabla \rho)^2}{8\rho m}, \quad (17)$$

$$\varphi^* \partial_\tau \varphi = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \partial_\tau \rho}_{\text{time derivative, ignored}} + i\rho \partial_\tau \theta, \quad (18)$$

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x})| U(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) |\varphi(\mathbf{y})| = \rho(\mathbf{x}) U(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \rho(\mathbf{y}), \quad (19)$$

the theory is now

$$S = \int d\tau \left(\int d^d \mathbf{x} \left(i\rho \partial_\tau \theta + \frac{\rho}{2m} (\nabla \theta)^2 + \frac{(\nabla \rho)^2}{8\rho m} - \mu \rho \right) + \frac{1}{2} \int d^d \mathbf{x} \int d^d \mathbf{y} \rho(\mathbf{x}) U(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \rho(\mathbf{y}) \right). \quad (20)$$

Around the ground state, we have (note that since we are around a saddle point, the sum of all terms containing $\delta\rho$ only is always zero; the resulting theory has the form of $c_1 \delta\rho \partial_\tau \theta + c_2 \delta\rho^2$; the chemical potential term is therefore missing in the theory around the saddle point)

$$i\rho \partial_\tau \theta = \underbrace{i\rho_0 \partial_\tau \theta}_{\text{time derivative}} + i\delta\rho \partial_\tau \theta,$$

and since $\nabla\rho = \nabla\delta\rho$, we have

$$\frac{(\nabla\rho)^2}{8\rho m} \approx \frac{(\nabla\delta\rho)^2}{8\rho_0 m},$$

ignoring the fluctuation of the ρ in the denominator. Similarly, since we are working on a low energy theory, the fluctuation of θ shouldn't be large, and we have

$$\frac{\rho}{2m}(\nabla\theta)^2 \approx \frac{\rho_0}{2m}(\nabla\theta)^2.$$

The theory is then

$$S = \int d^{d+1}x \left(\frac{\rho_0}{2m}(\nabla\theta)^2 + i\delta\rho\partial_\tau\theta + \frac{(\nabla\delta\rho)^2}{8\rho_0 m} + \frac{1}{2}\delta\rho(\mathbf{x}) \int d^d\mathbf{y} U(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})\delta\rho(\mathbf{y}) \right) + S_{\text{saddle}}. \quad (21)$$

Integrating out $\delta\rho$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{eff}} &= \int d^{d+1}x \frac{\rho_0}{2m}(\nabla\theta)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int d\tau \int d^d\mathbf{x} d^d\mathbf{y} i\partial_\tau\theta(\mathbf{x},\tau) \frac{1}{\int d^d\mathbf{y} U(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}) - \frac{1}{4\rho_0 m}\nabla^2} i\partial_\tau\theta(\mathbf{y},\tau) \\ &= \int d^{d+1}x \frac{\rho_0}{2m}(\nabla\theta)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int d\tau \int d^d\mathbf{x} d^d\mathbf{y} \partial_\tau\theta(\mathbf{x},\tau) G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}) \partial_\tau\theta(\mathbf{y}), \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where

$$\int d^d\mathbf{y} U(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})G(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{z}) - \frac{1}{4\rho_0 m}\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}^2 G(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{z}) = \delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{z}). \quad (23)$$

Similar to the procedure in dealing with ordinary superfluid, since we are only interested in the long wave length behaviors of θ , the ∇^2 term can be thrown away, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{d^d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^d} e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{z})} &= \int \frac{d^d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^d} \int d^d\mathbf{y} U(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})G(\mathbf{p})e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{z})} \\ &= \int \frac{d^d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^d} \int d^d\mathbf{r} U(\mathbf{r})e^{-i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{r}}G(\mathbf{p})e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{z})} \quad (\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}), \end{aligned}$$

so

$$G(\mathbf{r}) = \int \frac{d^d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^d} e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{r}}G(\mathbf{p}), \quad G(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{U(\mathbf{p})} = \frac{1}{\int d^d\mathbf{r} U(\mathbf{r})e^{-i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{r}}}. \quad (24)$$

To evaluate $G(\mathbf{p})$, we need to find

$$U(\mathbf{p}) = \int_0^\infty dr \frac{2\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2)} r^{d-1} \frac{U_0}{r^{d-\epsilon}} \quad (25)$$

Problem 3

Solution

1. The energy now can be exactly evaluated (N is the number of sites):

$$E = \frac{UN}{2}(M^2 - M) - \mu NM = \frac{N}{2}(UM^2 - (U + 2\mu)M). \quad (26)$$

At the ground state, E is minimized. If M were continuous, we would have

$$M = \frac{U + 2\mu}{2U} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\mu}{U}, \quad (27)$$

but it's not. So we need to find the closest integer to (27). Note that since

$$\frac{1}{2} \leq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\mu}{U} - \left\lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \right\rfloor < \frac{3}{2},$$

the following M is always a minimum point:

$$M = \left\lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \right\rfloor + 1. \quad (28)$$

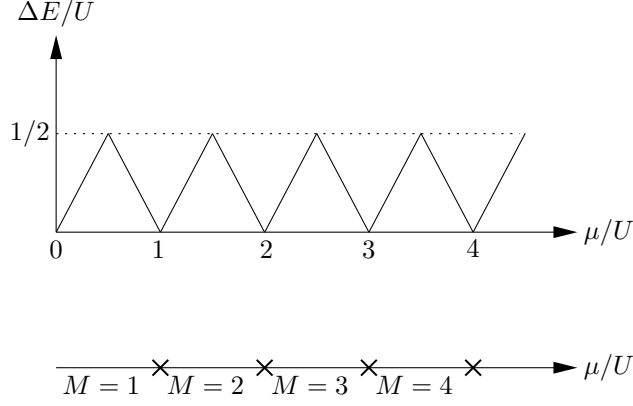


Figure 1: The energy gap plot and the phase diagram when $t = 0$

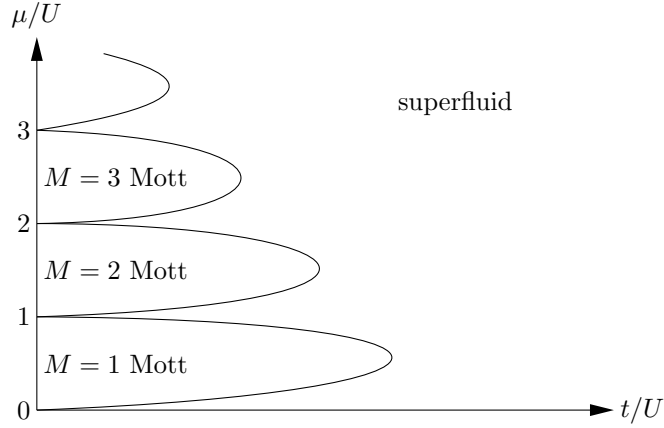


Figure 2: Schematic phase diagram of the boson Hubbard model

When μ/U is an integer, both

$$M = \frac{\mu}{U} \quad (29)$$

and

$$M = \left\lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \right\rfloor + 1 = \frac{\mu}{U} + 1 \quad (30)$$

can be found in ground states.

The energy gap is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E &= \min(E|_{n_i=M+1 \text{ on one site}} - E|_M, E|_{n_i=M-1 \text{ on one site}} - E|_M) \\ &= \min(UM - \mu, U(-M + 1) + \mu) \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 \text{ or } U, & \mu/U \text{ integer,} \\ \min(U \lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \rfloor + U - \mu, \mu - U \lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \rfloor), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

So

$$\frac{\Delta E}{U} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu}{U} - \lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \rfloor, & \frac{\mu}{U} - \lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \rfloor \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 1 + \lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \rfloor - \frac{\mu}{U}, & \frac{\mu}{U} - \lfloor \frac{\mu}{U} \rfloor \geq \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

The energy gap and the phase diagram are shown in Figure 1.

2. The gapless points in Figure 1 can only be connected to the superfluid phase, and therefore we get Figure 2.

3. We have

$$\langle n_0 + k' | a | n_0 + k \rangle = \sqrt{n_0 + k} \langle n_0 + k' | n_0 + k - 1 \rangle = \sqrt{n_0 + k} \delta_{k', k-1}, \quad (33)$$

and

$$\langle k' | e^{-i\theta} | k \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} e^{-ik'\theta} e^{-i\theta} e^{ik\theta} = \delta_{k',k-1}. \quad (34)$$

When $k \ll n_0$, we have

$$\langle n_0 + k' | a | n_0 + k \rangle \approx \sqrt{n_0} \langle k' | e^{-i\theta} | k \rangle \Rightarrow a \approx \sqrt{n_0} e^{-i\theta}. \quad (35)$$

And similarly we have

$$\langle n_0 + k' | a^\dagger | n_0 + k \rangle = \sqrt{n_0 + k + 1} \delta_{k',k+1}, \quad (36)$$

and

$$\langle k' | e^{i\theta} | k \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} e^{-ik\theta} e^{i\theta} e^{ik'\theta} = \delta_{k',k+1}, \quad (37)$$

and in the $k \ll n_0$ limit we have

$$a^\dagger \approx \sqrt{n_0} e^{i\theta}. \quad (38)$$

Also,

$$\langle n_0 + k' | n | n_0 + k \rangle = (n_0 + k) \langle n_0 + k | n_0 + k' \rangle = (n_0 + k) \delta_{kk'}, \quad (39)$$

and

$$\langle k' | \pi | k \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta e^{-ik'\theta} (-i\partial_\theta) e^{ik\theta} = k \delta_{kk'}, \quad (40)$$

so

$$n = n_0 + \pi. \quad (41)$$

4. When the above approximation works,

$$\begin{aligned} H &= -tn_0 \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} e^{i\theta_i} e^{-i\theta_j} + \text{h.c.} + \frac{U}{2} \sum_i (n_0 + \pi_i)(n_0 + \pi_i - 1) - \mu \sum_i (n_0 + \pi_i) \\ &= -2tn_0 \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) + \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \pi_i^2 + \text{linear terms in } \pi + f(n_0). \end{aligned}$$

The linear terms of π can be safely ignored because we are working around $n = n_0$ that minimize the energy, and $\frac{\partial E}{\partial n} = 0$ at $n = n_0$. Since π is the fluctuation of n , linear terms in π correspond to first order Taylor terms and are also bound to be zero. Indeed, this condition connects n_0 and μ :

$$\frac{U}{2} (2n_0 \pi_i - \pi_i) - \mu \pi_0 = 0 \Rightarrow n_0 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\mu}{U}. \quad (42)$$

So

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) + u \sum_i \pi_i^2, \quad J = 2n_0 t, \quad u = \frac{U}{2}. \quad (43)$$

5. In the limit of slow spatial varying, we have

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} (\theta_i - \theta_j)^2 \right) + u \sum_i \pi_i^2. \quad (44)$$

This Hamiltonian has exactly the same form of the lattice phonon Hamiltonian. The operator EOMs are

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\pi_i}{dt} &= \frac{1}{i} [\pi_i, H] = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} (\theta_i - \theta_j), \\ \frac{d\theta_i}{dt} &= \frac{1}{i} [\theta_i, H] = 2u \pi_i, \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

and therefore

$$\frac{d^2 \theta_i}{dt^2} = 2Ju \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} (\theta_j - \theta_i). \quad (46)$$

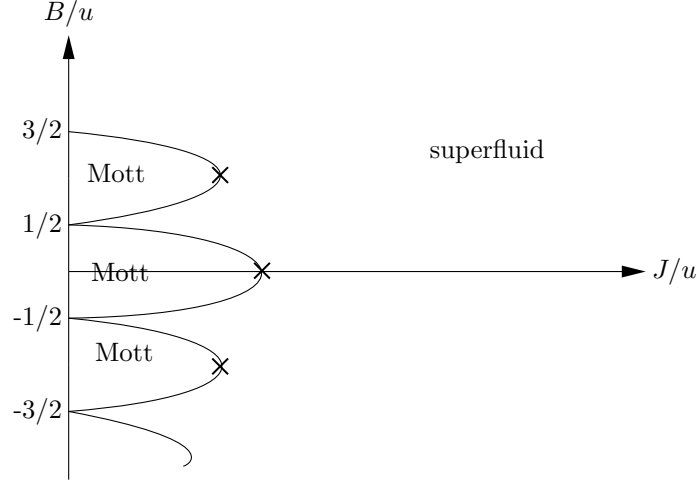


Figure 3: Phase diagram of (52)

Suppose the bond length of the lattice is a . In a normal mode

$$\theta_i \propto e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega_{\mathbf{k}} t)}, \quad (47)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\omega_{\mathbf{k}}^2 &= 2Ju \sum_{i=1}^d (e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot a\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i} + e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot a\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i} - 2) \\ &= 2Ju \sum_{i=1}^d (2 \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot a\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i) - 2) \\ &\approx -2Ju \sum_{i=1}^d (\mathbf{k} \cdot a\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i)^2 \\ &= -2Jua^2 \mathbf{k}^2, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{2Jua} |\mathbf{k}|. \quad (48)$$

6. When $J/u = 0$, we have

$$H = \sum_i (u\pi_i^2 - B\pi_i). \quad (49)$$

Again we apply the same procedure used to derive Figure 2. In the ground state, we have

$$\pi_i = \begin{cases} \lfloor \frac{B}{2u} \rfloor, & 0 \leq \frac{B}{2u} - \lfloor \frac{B}{2u} \rfloor \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ \lfloor \frac{B}{2u} \rfloor + 1, & \frac{1}{2} \leq \frac{B}{2u} - \lfloor \frac{B}{2u} \rfloor < 1, \end{cases} \quad (50)$$

and when

$$\frac{B}{2u} - \left\lfloor \frac{B}{2u} \right\rfloor = \frac{1}{2}, \quad (51)$$

changing π_i on one site doesn't change the energy, and we get a gapless system. So on the phase diagram, points defined by (51) are connected to the superfluid phase, and the phase diagram of

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) + u \sum_i \pi_i^2 - B \sum_i \pi_i, \quad (52)$$

is given in Figure 3.

7. We have

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \pi_i} = 2u\pi_i - B, \quad \pi_i = \frac{\dot{\theta}_i + B}{2u}. \quad (53)$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
L &= \sum_i \dot{\theta}_i \pi_i - H \\
&= \sum_i \dot{\theta}_i \frac{\dot{\theta}_i + B}{2u} + J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) - u \sum_i \left(\frac{\dot{\theta}_i + B}{2u} \right)^2 + B \sum_i \frac{\dot{\theta}_i + B}{2u} \\
&= \frac{1}{4u} \sum_i (\dot{\theta}_i + B)^2 + J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j).
\end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

In the continuous limit, we have

$$\sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) \rightarrow \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}(\theta_i - \theta_j)^2 \right) \simeq - \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \frac{1}{2}(\theta_i - \theta_j)^2 = -\frac{1}{2}a^2(\nabla\theta)^2, \tag{55}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
L &= \int \frac{d^d \mathbf{x}}{a^d} \frac{1}{4u} (\dot{\theta} + B)^2 - \int \frac{d^d \mathbf{x}}{a^d} \frac{J}{2} a^2 (\nabla\theta)^2 \\
&= \int d^d \mathbf{x} \left(\frac{1}{4ua^d} (\dot{\theta} + B)^2 - \frac{J}{2} a^{d-2} (\nabla\theta)^2 \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{56}$$

8. In the imaginary time path integral,

$$i \int dt \frac{B}{2u} \dot{\theta}_i \longrightarrow i \int_0^\beta d\tau \frac{B}{2u} \partial_\tau \theta = \frac{B}{2u} i(\theta_i(\beta) - \theta_i(0)). \tag{57}$$

Since in the imaginary time integral, the final state and the initial state have to be the same, $\theta_i(\beta)$ and $\theta_i(0)$ have to be equivalent to each other, and therefore

$$\theta_i(\beta) - \theta_i(0) = 2\pi n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{58}$$

So when $B/2u$ is an integer, (57) contributes nothing to the partition function. The points are plotted on Figure 3. Comparing the positions of these points on Figure 3 and on the original model Figure 2, we find the condition that the $\partial_\tau \theta$ term in (56) can be ignored is equivalent to

$$\frac{\mu}{U} = \frac{1}{2} + n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

and from (42) we know this is equivalent to the condition that n_0 is an integer.

References

- [1] C. T. Lane, Henry A. Fairbank, and William M. Fairbank. Second sound in liquid helium ii. *Phys. Rev.*, 71:600–605, May 1947.