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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1088/1367-2630/aa8a2f>

Posted at the Zurich Open Repository and Archive, University of Zurich

ZORA URL: <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-147901>

Journal Article

Published Version



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Originally published at:

Khudoyberdiev, Asliddin; Rakhimov, Abdulla; Schilling, Andreas (2017). Bose–Einstein condensation of triplons with a weakly broken U(1) symmetry. *New Journal of Physics*, 19(11):113002.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1088/1367-2630/aa8a2f>



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To cite this article: Asliddin Khudoyberdiev *et al* 2017 *New J. Phys.* **19** 113002

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OPEN ACCESS

RECEIVED

31 January 2017

REVISED

14 August 2017

ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

4 September 2017

PUBLISHED

6 November 2017

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PAPER

Bose–Einstein condensation of triplons with a weakly broken U(1) symmetry

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Abstract

The low-temperature properties of certain quantum magnets can be described in terms of a Bose–Einstein condensation (BEC) of magnetic quasiparticles (triplons). Some mean-field approaches (MFA) to describe these systems, based on the standard grand canonical ensemble, do not take the anomalous density into account and leads to an internal inconsistency, as it has been shown by Hohenberg and Martin, and may therefore produce unphysical results. Moreover, an explicit breaking of the U(1) symmetry as observed, for example, in TiCuCl_3 makes the application of MFA more complicated. In the present work, we develop a self-consistent MFA approach, similar to the Hartree–Fock–Bogolyubov approximation in the notion of representative statistical ensembles, including the effect of a weakly broken U(1) symmetry. We apply our results on experimental data of the quantum magnet TiCuCl_3 and show that magnetization curves and the energy dispersion can be well described within this approximation assuming that the BEC scenario is still valid. We predict that the shift of the critical temperature T_c due to a finite exchange anisotropy is rather substantial even when the anisotropy parameter γ is small, e.g., $\Delta T_c \approx 10\%$ of T_c in $H = 6$ T and for $\gamma \approx 4 \mu\text{eV}$.

1. Introduction

Spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB) plays an important role in particle and condensed matter physics. In the standard model of particle physics SSB of gauge symmetries is responsible for generating masses for several particles and separating the electromagnetic and weak forces [1]. In condensed matter physics SSB lies in the origin of effects such as Bose–Einstein condensation (BEC), superconductivity, ferromagnetism etc. In terms of microscopical field-theoretical models SSB corresponds to the case when the Hamiltonian of the system is invariant under a given transformation, while its ground state is not. Particularly, BEC is related to the U(1) symmetry of the Hamiltonian as $\psi(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \psi(\mathbf{r})e^{i\alpha}$ for the field operator $\psi(\mathbf{r})$, with α being a real number. Moreover, strictly speaking, SSB is a sufficient condition for the occurrence of BEC [2]. In solids, certain symmetry breaking phase transitions can indeed be interpreted as a BEC of bosonic quasiparticles. This is possible if the underlying Hamiltonian describing the physics of these quasiparticles can be mapped onto that of a system of real interacting bosons, and vice versa. This strategy has been employed for the first time to describe the properties of superfluid helium within a lattice model, mapping it to the problem of a (virtual) spin 1/2 ferromagnet with anisotropic exchange coupling in an external magnetic field. The appearance of a transverse spin ordering is then considered to be a manifestation of off-diagonal long-range order associated with the BEC of the real interacting particles [3]. In the systems to be discussed here, the peculiar properties of certain antiferromagnets have also been successfully described in terms of a BEC, namely that of interacting bosonic triplon quasiparticles. In 1999 Oosawa *et al* [4] performed magnetization measurements to investigate the critical behavior of the field-induced magnetic ordering in the quantum antiferromagnetic TiCuCl_3 . Changing

the external magnetic field in the range of $H_{\text{ext}} \sim 5 \div 7$ T they observed an unexpected inflection of the magnetization curve, i.e. $M(T, H)$, when H_{ext} exceeds a critical value, $H_{\text{ext}} > H_c$.

In fact, as it is seen from figure 3 of [4], for $H_{\text{ext}} > 5.3$ T there is a critical temperature $T_c(H_{\text{ext}})$ below which the magnetization of the antiferromagnet starts to increase. Later on due to the works by Rüegg [5], Yamada [6] and Nikuni [7], who obtained similar results as in [4], the following interpretation of this phenomenon has been established:

- (i) In some compounds such as KCuCl_3 or TlCuCl_3 two Cu^{2++} ions are antiferromagnetically coupled to form a dimer in a crystalline network: the dimer ground state is a spin singlet ($S = 0$), separated by an energy gap from the first excited triplet state with $S = 1$.
- (ii) At a critical external magnetic field, the energy of one of the Zeeman split triplet components intersects the ground state singlet and the gap between these two state may be closed.
- (iii) The appropriate quasiparticles, in the following called triplons, undergo BEC below a critical temperature, $T \leq T_c$.
- (iv) The whole density of triplons, ρ and the density of condensed triplons, ρ_0 , defines the M_{\parallel} and M_{\perp} magnetizations per Cu atom. Namely, $M_{\parallel} \sim \rho$ and $M_{\perp} \sim \sqrt{\rho_0}$.
- (v) The density of triplons is directly controlled by the applied magnetic field which acts as a chemical potential.
- (iv) The thermodynamic characteristics as well as the magnetization may be calculated with a simple effective Hamiltonian of dilute gas of hard core bosons

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu) a_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \mathbf{q}} U_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}'}, \quad (1)$$

where $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$ is the kinetic energy determined by the dispersion around the lowest excitation, μ is the chemical potential given by

$$\mu = g\mu_B(H_{\text{ext}} - H_c), \quad (2)$$

and $a_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} (a_{\mathbf{k}})$ are creation (annihilation) operators for a triplon with momentum \mathbf{k} . In the low-temperature limit where the excited triplons lie near the band minimum, $U_{\mathbf{q}}$ may be approximated as a constant U corresponding to a hard-core small-radius triplon–triplon interaction potential [8]. The value of U can be determined from a fit to the experimental data.

These and other effects with triplon condensation⁵ have been recently observed in other quantum magnets and have been reviewed in [10].

Now we note that, besides of SSB, there is one more necessary condition for the existence of a condensate. It concerns the spectrum of collective excitations $E_{\mathbf{k}}$ and is related to the Goldstone theorem. This condition reads

$$\lim_{\mathbf{k} \rightarrow \mathbf{k}_0} E_{\mathbf{k}} \sim c|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0|, \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{k}_0 is a microscopically occupied single state and c is the sound velocity. The condition (3) along with stability conditions, $\text{Re}(E_{\mathbf{k}}) \geq 0$, $\text{Im}(E_{\mathbf{k}}) \leq 0$ means that the collective excitation of the BEC state should be gapless as was observed by Rüegg *et al* [5] by neutron scattering measurements within their experimental resolution. Thus one arrives at the preliminary conclusion that experiments on magnetization and excitation energy made on TlCuCl_3 may be well described in terms of BEC of triplons [5–10]. It is conceivable, however, that this concept fails as soon as the bosonic quasiparticles in the underlying solid do not obey the requirements for an exact mapping onto a system of interacting bosons, for instance, if the system is not strictly rotationally invariant. In fact, electron spin resonance (ESR) [11] and inelastic neutron scattering (INS) [12] experiments on quantum antiferromagnets show an anisotropy of the spectrum of magnetic excitations which means that the corresponding $O(3)$ (or equivalently $U(1)$ symmetry in terms of bosons) in the plane perpendicular to the magnetic field is broken. The degree of explicit $U(1)$ symmetry breaking is negligibly small for some materials (e.g. $\Delta U \sim 0.7$ mK for $\text{BaCuSi}_2\text{O}_6$) and rather large for others (e.g. $\Delta U \sim 0.28$ K for TlCuCl_3)⁶. Clearly, uniaxially symmetry breaking may be caused in real quantum magnets by the effective spin–spin interactions induced by spin–orbit coupling or dipole–dipole interactions.

The presence of anisotropies violating rotational symmetry in real magnetic materials may modify the physics, especially in the vicinity of the quantum critical points [13]. Particularly, because of explicit breaking of $U(1)$ symmetry the BEC—scenario does not work, and hence there is no Goldstone mode because the energy

⁵ The difference between magnons and triplons and their possible condensation is discussed in [9].

⁶ See table 1 in [10].

spectrum acquires a gap. Moreover, in the ESR measurements [11] a direct singlet–triplet transition has been observed which means that the gap cannot be completely closed with the Zeeman effect. This mixing of the singlet and triplet states suggests that one must include an additional term into the Hamiltonian such as

$$H'_{DM} = i\gamma' \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} - a_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}) \quad (4)$$

or

$$H'_{EA} = \frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}). \quad (5)$$

The anisotropic Hamiltonians (4) and (5) are called in the literature Dzyaloshinsky–Moriya (DM) and exchange anisotropy (EA) interactions, respectively. Note that although γ and γ' can be very small, these terms cannot be considered perturbatively in the BEC—scenario especially in the region $H_{\text{ext}} \sim H_c$, $T \sim T_c$, so one has to diagonalize the Hamiltonian as a whole.

The effect of small U(1)-symmetry breaking within mean-field approximation has been studied by Dell'Amore *et al* [14] and Sirker *et al* [15]. The authors of [14] operated on a semi-classical level and estimated the gap due to the anisotropy.

Sirker *et al* [15] investigated the field-induced magnetic ordering transitions in TlCuCl_3 taking into account H'_{DM} as well as H'_{EA} within the framework of Hartree–Fock–Popov (HFP) approximation, which has been used to describe thermodynamic properties of quantum magnets in terms of BEC—like physics with U(1) symmetry. Making an attempt to describe experimental magnetization curves $M(T, H)$ within HFP approximation they came to the following conclusions:

- (i) The EA (5) yields a small shift in condensed fraction but fails to accurately describe experimental data.
- (ii) The DM anisotropy (4) has a dramatic effect even for $\gamma' \sim 10^{-3}$ meV and smears out the phase transition into a crossover, i.e. there is no critical temperature above which the condensed fraction vanishes. However, it can explain only the experimental data on $M(T, H)$ for $H \parallel b$, but fails to accurately reproduce the data on $H \perp (1, 0, \bar{2})$.
- (iii) The problem of an unphysical jump in theoretical magnetization curves may be solved by taking into account DM anisotropy term and renormalization of the coupling constant.

Thus a complete theoretical description of experimental magnetization data of TlCuCl_3 , together with the phase diagram, i.e. $T_c(H)$, is still missing [10], and a more sophisticated analysis beyond the HFP approximation is required for a better agreement with the experimental data. In the present work, we propose an alternative mean-field variational approach which gives a better description of the magnetization data on TlCuCl_3 including the EA by using only three fitting parameters.

Bearing in mind that U(1) symmetry is weakly broken, i.e. γ in equation (5) is rather small, we exploit the phrases condensed phase or condensed density just for the simplicity. Clearly, strictly speaking, BEC may occur only when γ is exactly zero.

To begin with, we have recently shown [16, 17], in agreement with [7, 15] that the jump in the calculated magnetization data at T_c is an artifact of the HFP approximation, whereas the application of a more accurate approximation, e.g. Hartree–Fock–Bogolyubov (HFB), can solve this problem.

Another artifact of the HFP approximation is that it predicts a discontinuity in the heat capacity, which was also noted by Dodds *et al* [18] who applied this approximation to $\text{Ba}_3\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_8$, where U(1) symmetry breaking is negligible.

In the present work we shall develop the HFB approximation taking into account the EA term H'_{EA} . It is well known that the main difference between HFP and HFB approximation lies in consideration of the anomalous density- σ , which is completely neglected in the HFP but taken into account in the HFB approximation. In our construction we assume that our formalism must coincide with that of Sirker *et al* [15] in the particular case when σ is set to zero. We will show that in the system with a weakly explicitly broken U(1) symmetry the anomalous density σ may survive even at $T > T_c$ in contrast to the case with the SSB.

The usage of the HFB approximation even for the system with U(1) symmetry has its own problem, which is called in the literature the Hohenberg–Martin dilemma [19]. Its content is the following: the theory, based on the standard grand canonical ensemble with SSB is internally inconsistent. Depending on the way of calculations, one obtains either a physical gap in the spectrum of collective excitations, or local conservation laws, together with general thermodynamic relations, become invalid. Recall that the excitation spectrum, according to the

Hughenoltz–Pines theorem must be gapless [20] whereas the average of quantum fluctuation should be zero: $\langle a_k \rangle = \langle a_k^\dagger \rangle = 0$. The solution of this dilemma was proposed by Yukalov and Kleinert [21], who suggested to introduce additional Lagrange multipliers⁷. Assuming that our theory must coincide in general with the HFB approximation of [21], when $\gamma \rightarrow 0$, we shall extend this method to the case of a weak anisotropy.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we revise the Hohenberg–Martin dilemma which reveals the ambiguity of the determination of the chemical potential in the SSB phase. In section 3 we will show that this ambiguity remains to exist in the explicitly U(1) symmetry broken phase and show how it may be overcome. In section 4 we apply our method to TlCuCl_3 and show that it gives a good theoretical description of magnetization curves. The section 5 summarizes our results.

Below we adopt the units $k_B \equiv 1$ for the Boltzmann constant, $\hbar \equiv 1$ for the Planck constant, and $V \equiv 1$ for the unit cell volume. In these units the energies are measured in Kelvin, the mass m is expressed in K^{-1} , the magnetic susceptibility χ for the magnetic fields measured in Tesla has the units of K T^{-2} , while the momentum and specific heat C_v are dimensionless. Particularly, the Bohr magneton is $\mu_B = \hbar e / 2m_0 c = 0.671\,668\,\text{K T}^{-1}$, where m_0 is the free electron mass, and e is the fundamental charge.

2. Hohenberg–Martin dilemma

We start with the Hamiltonian

$$H = \int d^3r [\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r})(\hat{K} - \mu)\psi(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{U}{2}(\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}))^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2}(\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r})\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) + \psi(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}))], \quad (6)$$

where $\psi(\mathbf{r})$ is the Bosonic field operator, U is the interaction strength and \hat{K} is the kinetic energy operator which defines the bare triplon dispersion ε_k in momentum space. The integration is performed over the unit cell of the crystal with the corresponding momenta defined in the first Brillouin zone. The parameter μ characterizes an additional direct contribution to the triplon energy due to the external field H_{ext} ,

$$\mu = g\mu_B H_{\text{ext}} - \Delta_{\text{st}} \quad (7)$$

and can be interpreted as a chemical potential of the $S_z = -1$ triplons. In equations (2) and (7) g is the electron Landé factor and Δ_{st} is the spin gap separating the singlet ground state from the lowest-energy triplet excitations, $\Delta_{\text{st}} = g\mu_B H_c$, where H_c is the critical field when the triplons start to form.

We assume that the EA is described by the last term in (6) where the parameter γ characterizes its strength. It is clear that this term violates U(1) symmetry, $\psi(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow e^{i\varphi}\psi(\mathbf{r})$ explicitly, so strictly speaking there would be neither a Goldstone mode nor a Bose condensation [23]. Nevertheless assuming $\tilde{\gamma} \equiv \gamma/U \ll 1$ is very small, one may make a Bogolyubov shift in the field operator as

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \phi_0(\mathbf{r}) + \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}), \quad (8)$$

where for the uniform case $\phi_0(\mathbf{r})$ is a real number. Note that when $\gamma = 0$ and the U(1) symmetry is spontaneously broken, $\phi_0(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})$ are related to the density of condensed and uncondensed particles respectively. Following such an interpretation we assume the orthogonality of the functions $\phi_0(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})$, i.e.

$$\int d^3r \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_0(\mathbf{r}) = 0 \quad (9)$$

and for the simplicity call the constant $\rho_0 = \phi_0^2$ the density of condensed particles [23]. Similarly the quantity $\rho_1 = (1/V) \int d^3r \langle \tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r})\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$, will be addressed as the density of uncondensed particles, so that the total number of particles

$$N = \int d\mathbf{r} \langle \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \quad (10)$$

defines the density of triplons per unit cell $\rho = N/V = \rho_0 + \rho_1$.

The total magnetization per site is associated with the number of triplons as $M = g\mu_B N$ and the transverse one is $M_\perp = g\mu_B \sqrt{\rho_0/2}$ [10]. Below we assume that there is a critical temperature defined as $\rho_0(T_c) = 0$, so that, $\rho_0(T \geq T_c) = 0$ and $\rho(T \geq T_c) = \rho_1$. Clearly due to the anisotropy the energy spectrum has a gap in both phases.

Now we apply the standard technique used in the HFB formalism [17] and start with the Fourier transformation for quantum fluctuations

⁷ A similar version of mean-field approaches (MFA) has been developed for disordered Bose systems and successfully applied to study the properties of $\text{Ti}_{1-x}\text{K}_x\text{CuCl}_3$ quantum magnets [22].

$$\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}}. \quad (11)$$

The summation by momentum, which should not include $\mathbf{k} = 0$ states, may be replaced by momentum integration as it is outlined in the appendix A.

After using (8) and (11) the Hamiltonian (6) is presented as the sum of five terms

$$H = \sum_{n=0}^4 H_n, \quad (12)$$

labeled according to their order with respect to $a_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$. The zero-order term does not contain field operators of uncondensed triplons

$$H_0 = -\mu\phi_0^2 + \gamma\phi_0^2 + \frac{U}{2}\phi_0^4. \quad (13)$$

The linear term is

$$H_1 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \{a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \sqrt{\rho_0} (\gamma - \mu + U\rho_0) + \text{h.c.}\} \delta_{\mathbf{k},0}, \quad (14)$$

the quadratic term is

$$H_2 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu + 2U\rho_0) a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{U}{2} (\tilde{\gamma} + \rho_0) \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger), \quad (15)$$

where $\tilde{\gamma} = \gamma/U$, and the third and forth order terms are given by

$$\begin{aligned} H_3 &= U\sqrt{\rho_0} \sum_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{p}} [a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}], \\ H_4 &= \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{q}}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

To diagonalize H we use following prescription, based on the Wick theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{q}} &\rightarrow 2\langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle a_{\mathbf{q}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \langle a_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{q}} \rangle, \\ a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{m}} &\rightarrow 4a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{m}} \langle a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}} \rangle + a_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{m}} \langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger \rangle + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger \langle a_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{m}} \rangle - 2\rho_1^2 - \sigma^2, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where $\langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle = \delta_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{p}} n_{\mathbf{k}}$, $\langle a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle = \delta_{\mathbf{k},-\mathbf{p}} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}}$ with $n_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}$ being related to the normal (ρ_1), and anomalous (σ) densities as

$$\rho_1 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} n_{\mathbf{k}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle, \quad (18)$$

$$\sigma = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\langle a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} \rangle + \langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \rangle). \quad (19)$$

Here we underline that the main difference between the HFP and HFB approximations concerns the anomalous density: neglecting σ as well as $\langle a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle$ in (17) one arrives at the HFP approximation, which can also be obtained in variational perturbation theory [24]. However, the normal, ρ_1 , and anomalous averages, σ , are equally important and neither of them can be neglected without making the theory not self-consistent [25–27]. Although ρ_1 and σ are functions of temperature and external magnetic field, we omit their explicit dependence in the formulas to avoid confusion.

This approximation simplifies the Hamiltonian (12) as follows

$$H = H_0 + H_{\text{lin}} + H_{\text{bilin}}, \quad (20)$$

$$H_0 = -\mu\rho + \gamma\rho_0 + \frac{U}{2}\rho_0^2 - \frac{U}{2}(2\rho_1^2 + \sigma^2), \quad (21)$$

$$H_{\text{lin}} = \sqrt{\rho_0} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \{a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger [\gamma - \mu + \rho_0 U + 2\rho_1 U + \sigma U] + \text{h.c.}\}, \quad (22)$$

$$H_{\text{bilin}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu + 2U\rho) a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{U(\tilde{\gamma} + \rho_0 + \sigma)}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger). \quad (23)$$

From (22), requiring $H_{\text{lin}} = 0$ [28] we obtain the following equation for μ

$$\mu = U[\rho_0 + 2\rho_1 + \sigma + \tilde{\gamma}]. \quad (24)$$

It can be shown [29] that the minimization of the thermodynamic potential Ω with respect to ρ_0 , i.e. using the equation $\partial\Omega/\partial\rho_0 = 0$ leads to the same equation as (24).

The Hamiltonian (20) can be easily diagonalized by implementing a Bogolyubov transformation. We refer the reader to the appendix B for details and present here only the main results of this procedure, valid both for $T \leq T_c$ and $T > T_c$ cases.

(a) The quasiparticle dispersion

$$E_k = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k + X_1)(\varepsilon_k + X_2)}. \quad (25)$$

(b) Main equations

$$X_1 = -\mu + U[2\rho + \tilde{\gamma} + \rho_0 + \sigma], \quad (26)$$

$$X_2 = -\mu + U[2\rho - \tilde{\gamma} - \rho_0 - \sigma]. \quad (27)$$

(c) Normal and anomalous self energies

$$\Sigma_n = 2U\rho = (X_1 + X_2)/2 + \mu, \quad \Sigma_{an} = U[\sigma + \rho_0 + \tilde{\gamma}] = (X_1 - X_2)/2. \quad (28)$$

(d) Normal and anomalous densities

$$\rho_1 = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left\{ \frac{W_k[\varepsilon_k + (X_1 + X_2)/2]}{E_k} - \frac{1}{2} \right\}, \quad (29)$$

$$\sigma = \frac{X_2 - X_1}{2V} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{W_k}{E_k}, \quad (30)$$

where $W_k = \coth(E_k/2)/2 = f_B(E_k) + 1/2$, $f_B(x) = 1/(e^{\beta x} - 1)$.

Now we are ready to illustrate the Hohenberg–Martin dilemma which applies to the SSB phase, when $\gamma = 0$ and $T \leq T_c$.

SSB case. In this phase we have the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem [20]:

$$\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an} = \mu. \quad (31)$$

From equations (28) one obtains

$$\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an} = X_2 + \mu. \quad (32)$$

Clearly, this theorem is satisfied when $X_2 = 0$. Note that this condition leads automatically to the gapless energy dispersion:

$$E_k|_{X_2=0} = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k + X_1)\varepsilon_k} = ck + O(k^3). \quad (33)$$

On the other hand we may set in (26) $X_2 = 0$ and $\gamma = 0$ to obtain

$$\mu = U[2\rho - \rho_0 - \sigma] = U[2\rho_1 + \rho_0 - \sigma]. \quad (34)$$

Comparing both chemical potentials given in (24), for $\tilde{\gamma} = 0$, and (34) with each other one may make the following conclusions:

- The chemical potentials are the same in HFP approximation when $\sigma = 0$. So, there is no Hohenberg–Martin dilemma in this approximation and hence, the usage of the requirement $H_{lin} = 0$ by Sirker *et al* [15] is justified.
- However, when σ is taken into account i.e. when one is dealing with the HFB approximation, they are different.

In other words, in the SSB phase, the conditions $H_{lin} = 0$ and $\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an} = \mu$ are consistent in the HFP but not in the HFB approximations.

Thus the chemical potential defined by the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem to yield a gapless spectrum, does not coincide with the chemical potential found from the minimization of the thermodynamic potential with respect to the condensate density i.e. from $d\Omega/d\rho_0 = 0$. This discrepancy is a general feature of all nonself-consistent approximations, due to which they cannot properly be called gapless. If one neglects the condition $d\Omega/d\rho_0 = 0$ then the system becomes unstable. Thus, one has the unpleasant alternative: either the system with SSB phase is gapless but unstable or seemingly stable but has a gap in the spectrum. This is the essence of the Hohenberg–Martin dilemma. A possible solution to this problem has been proposed by Yukalov and Kleinert [21] recently. Briefly, they proposed to introduce two chemical potentials, μ_0 and μ_1 such that, μ_0 may be chosen to satisfy the stability condition $d\Omega(\mu_0, \mu_1, \rho_0)/d\rho_0 = 0$ while μ_1 to satisfy the requirement of gapless of the spectrum.

3. HFB approximation for explicitly broken U(1) phase

Following [21] we introduce two Lagrange multipliers, say μ_0 and μ_1 . It should be stressed that, the method of Lagrange multipliers, used here, is a technical method allowing us to simplify calculations. In fact, the number of the introduced multipliers is connected with the concrete properties of the employed approach. Thus, in the Bogoliubov theory one deals with two independent field variables, namely the condensate wave function ϕ_0 and the operator of uncondensed particles $\tilde{\psi}$ (see equation (8)). This is why, it is convenient to introduce two Lagrange multipliers that guarantee the validity of the two conditions mentioned above. One could ask whether we could limit ourselves by introducing a sole Lagrange multiplier. The answer is straightforward: yes, we could, but the calculational procedure should then be changed. For example, one of such successful, but rather complicated methods was proposed by Gavoret and Nozières long years ago [30].

So, using (24) and (34) we define

$$\mu_0 = U[2\rho_1 + \rho_0 + \sigma], \quad (35)$$

$$\mu_1 = U[2\rho_1 + \rho_0 - \sigma], \quad (36)$$

for the SSB case. The whole physical chemical potential, μ , which is related to the free energy as $N = -(\partial\Omega/\partial\mu)_V$ is given by

$$\mu = (\mu_0\rho_0 + \mu_1\rho_1)/\rho, \quad (37)$$

so that $N_0 = -(\partial\Omega/\partial\mu_0)_V$ and $N_1 = -(\partial\Omega/\partial\mu_1)_V$. Clearly, in the normal phase $\rho_0 = 0$ and, hence, $\mu = \mu_1$.

Now we may come back to develop a theory for a more general case with finite EA, assuming that it must coincide with the Yukalov–Kleinert HFB approximation in the particular case when $\gamma = 0$. In other words the SSB case will be our benchmark.

Following the Yukalov–Kleinert prescription one may rewrite equations (24) and (26) as follows⁸:

$$\mu_0 = U[2\rho_1 + \rho_0 + \sigma + \tilde{\gamma}], \quad (38)$$

$$X_1 = -\mu_1 + U[2\rho + \tilde{\gamma} + \rho_0 + \sigma], \quad (39)$$

$$X_2 = -\mu_1 + U[2\rho - \tilde{\gamma} - \rho_0 - \sigma]. \quad (40)$$

The equations (25), (29) and (30) remain formally unchanged.

3.1. Condensed phase $T \leq T_c$

Bearing in mind that $\rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1$, $\rho_1 = \rho_1(X_1, X_2)$, $\sigma = \sigma(X_1, X_2)$ given by (29) and (30), one notes that the system of equations (38)–(40) is underdetermined. In fact, with a given μ in (37) we have three equations with respect to four unknown quantities: X_1, X_2, μ_0 and ρ_0 . In the ordinary HFB approximation with $\gamma = 0$ this problem is solved by means of the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem namely by setting $X_2 = 0$ by hand and introducing an additional equation as

$$\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an} = \mu_1. \quad (41)$$

However, when the anisotropy is included, the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem no longer holds, and hence we have no right to use (41) directly. On the other hand γ is assumed to be a small parameter of the system. So we naturally assume that, when the U(1) symmetry is slightly broken explicitly, the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem may be violated up to terms linear in γ . Thus, by taking into account only a linear correction in γ we assume

$$\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an} = \mu_1 + 2\gamma c_\gamma, \quad (42)$$

that is in the SSB phase, when $\gamma = 0$, the theorem will still be exact.

In (42) c_γ is a coefficient in the expansion of $\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an}$ in powers of γ which can be fixed e.g. by fitting the gap in the energy spectrum observed experimentally at small momentum transfer. In other words we propose an additional equation (42) to have the complete system of four equations (28), (29), (39) and (40) with respect to four quantities: X_1, X_2, ρ_1 and ρ_0 . Now inverting (40) and using (28) where μ is replaced by μ_1 we obtain

$$X_2 = \Sigma_n - \Sigma_{an} - \mu_1 = 2\gamma c_\gamma. \quad (43)$$

Inserting this in (40) gives

$$\mu_1 = U[\rho_0 + 2\rho_1 - \sigma - \tilde{\gamma}(1 + 2c_\gamma)], \quad (44)$$

where we omitted higher terms of the order $O(\gamma^2)$. From (44) and (39) one defines X_1 as

$$X_1 = 2U[\rho_0 + \sigma + \tilde{\gamma}(1 + c_\gamma)], \quad (45)$$

(we remind here that $\tilde{\gamma} = \gamma/U$).

⁸ See appendix B.

The excitation energy has a gap due to γ

$$E_k = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k + X_1)(\varepsilon_k + 2\gamma c_\gamma)}, \quad E_k|_{k \rightarrow 0} = \sqrt{2X_1\gamma c_\gamma}. \quad (46)$$

To make a comparison with the HFP approximation with anisotropy, as developed by Sirker *et al* [15], we note that, in their approximation, the requirement $H_{\text{lin}} = 0$ directly leads to $X_2 = 2\gamma$ and $\Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12} = \mu + 2\gamma$, which is consistent with present approach.

In contrast to cold atomic gases, the total number of particles in the present triplon problem is an unknown quantity while the chemical potential serves as an input parameter. So, excluding ρ_0 from equations (44) and (45) we have

$$\Delta_1 \equiv \frac{X_1}{2} = \mu_1 + 2U(\sigma - \rho_1) + \gamma(2 + 3c_\gamma), \quad (47)$$

or introducing the dimensionless variable $Z = \Delta_1/\mu_1$ and using (28), (29) we obtain

$$Z = 1 + \bar{\sigma} - \bar{\rho}_1 + \frac{\gamma}{2U\rho_c^0}(2 + 3c_\gamma), \quad (48)$$

$$\bar{\rho}_1 \equiv \bar{\rho}_1(Z) = \frac{\rho_1(Z)}{\rho_c^0} = \frac{1}{\rho_c^0} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left\{ \frac{W_k(\varepsilon_k + \Delta_1 + \Delta_2)}{E_k} - \frac{1}{2} \right\}, \quad (49)$$

$$\bar{\sigma} \equiv \bar{\sigma}(Z) = \frac{\sigma(Z)}{\rho_c^0} = \frac{\Delta_2 - \Delta_1}{\rho_c^0} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{W_k}{E_k}, \quad (50)$$

where $\rho_c^0 = \mu_1/2U$, $\mu_1 = g\mu_B(H_{\text{ext}} - H_c)$, $E_k = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k + 2\Delta_1)(\varepsilon_k + 2\Delta_2)}$, and $\Delta_2 = \gamma c_\gamma$.

The strategy of the numerical calculations in the $T \leq T_c$ phase is as follows: starting with input parameters T , H_{ext} , U , γ and c_γ , as well as the parameters of the bare dispersion (A.4) one solves the nonlinear algebraic equation (48), where $\rho(Z)$ and $\sigma(Z)$ are given by (49), (50), with respect to Z , and then by using this solution, say, Z_0 in the following equation

$$\rho_0 = 2Z_0\rho_c^0 - \sigma(Z_0) - \tilde{\gamma}(1 + c_\gamma) \quad (51)$$

determines the density of condensed particles. The number of total particles may be found from $\rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1(Z_0)$ where $\rho_1(Z_0)$ is evaluated by equation (49).

3.2. The critical temperature and triplon density

Clearly the total number of triplons $N = \rho V$ and among them the number of condensed ones $N_0 = \rho_0 V$ depend on the external magnetic field, H_{ext} and the temperature T . For a given $H_{\text{ext}} > H_c$ there may be a critical point, $T = T_c$ where the condensed particles vanish. Lets formally define this temperature as a critical temperature T_c where $\rho_0(T \geq T_c) = 0$ and the value of the density at this point, $\rho(T_c) = \rho_c$ as a critical density. To determine these quantities we use the approximation developed in the previous section.

Thus near T_c the equation (44) can be rewritten as

$$\mu_1(T \rightarrow T_c) = U[2\rho_c - \sigma_c - \tilde{\gamma}(1 + 2c_\gamma)] = g\mu_B H_{\text{ext}} - \Delta_{\text{st}} \quad (52)$$

and hence,

$$\rho_c = \frac{g\mu_B H_{\text{ext}} - \Delta_{\text{st}}}{2U} + \frac{\sigma_c + \tilde{\gamma}(1 + 2c_\gamma)}{2} \equiv \rho_c^0 + \frac{\sigma_c + \tilde{\gamma}(1 + 2c_\gamma)}{2}. \quad (53)$$

The energy dispersion of phonons becomes

$$E_k^c = E_k(T \rightarrow T_c) = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k + X_1^c)(\varepsilon_k + 2\gamma c_\gamma)}, \quad (54)$$

where X_1^c , by using (45), is given as

$$X_1^c = X_1|_{T \rightarrow T_c} = 2U[\sigma_c + \tilde{\gamma}(1 + c_\gamma)]. \quad (55)$$

Inserting these expressions into (29), (30) and using (53) one finds the critical temperature by solving the following nonlinear algebraic equations with respect to T_c and σ_c

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{f_B(E_k^c)}{E_k^c} [\varepsilon_k + U(\sigma_c + \tilde{\gamma}(1 + 2c_\gamma))] = \frac{g\mu_B H_{\text{ext}} - \Delta_{\text{st}}}{2U} + \frac{\sigma_c + \tilde{\gamma}(1 + 2c_\gamma)}{2}, \quad (56a)$$

$$\sigma_c = -U(\sigma_c + \tilde{\gamma}) \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{f_B(E_k^c)}{E_k^c}, \quad (56b)$$

where $f_B(E_k^c) = 1/(\exp(E_k^c/T_c) - 1)$. Having solved these equations the critical density may be evaluated by using (53), where ρ_c^0 is the critical density at $\gamma = 0$, i.e. $\rho_c^0 = \rho_c(\gamma = 0) = \mu_1/2U$.

A natural question here arises: does the anomalous density σ survive at $T \geq T_c$? To answer this question we first consider the limiting simpler case with $\gamma = 0$.

SSB phase: $\gamma = 0$.

When $\gamma = 0$, equation (56b) becomes

$$\sigma_c = -U\sigma_c \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{f_B(E_k^c)}{E_k^c} \equiv -\sigma_c A_c, \quad (57)$$

where

$$A_c = U \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{f_B(E_k^c)}{E_k^c}. \quad (58)$$

Since $U > 0$ the only solution of (57) is trivial:

$$\sigma_c|_{\gamma=0} = 0 \quad (59)$$

and hence from (53) and (56a) one may obtain the familiar equation [17]:

$$\rho_c^0 = \frac{\mu}{2U} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon_k/T_c^0} - 1} = \frac{g\mu_B H_{\text{ext}} - \Delta_{\text{st}}}{2U}, \quad (60)$$

to calculate the critical temperature T_c^0 of the system in the isotropic case.

Explicitly broken symmetry phase: $\gamma \neq 0$.

Now equation (56a) has a formal solution for σ_c

$$\sigma_c = -\frac{\tilde{\gamma}A_c}{1 + A_c}, \quad (61)$$

where A_c is given in (58). Since A_c is finite, it is seen that for a system with EA $\gamma \neq 0$, the anomalous density is also finite even at $T = T_c$ in contrast to the SSB case. Note that, in general, σ is negative as stated by Griffin [31]. For numerical evaluations it is convenient to search σ_c and ρ_c as $\sigma_c = -\gamma\sigma_x/U$ and $\rho_c = \rho_x\rho_c^0$ where now ρ_x and σ_x will be real numbers the order of 0.5..2. Therefore one may conclude that $\sigma_c = 0$ if $\gamma = 0$ and $\sigma_c \neq 0$ otherwise. Actually, as we will show in the next section $|\sigma_c|$ is rather small.

The equations (56a) and (60) may be used to estimate the shift of critical temperature due to the EA

$$\frac{\Delta T_c}{T_c^0} \equiv \frac{T_c - T_c^0}{T_c^0}, \quad (62)$$

where $T_c^0 = T_c(\gamma = 0)$ is the critical temperature for the $\gamma = 0$ case defined by equation (60).

3.3. Normal phase $T > T_c$

In the normal phase, $\rho_0 = 0$, $\rho_1 = \rho$, $\mu_1 = \mu$ and $T > T_c$, the energy dispersion has a gap even for $\gamma = 0$ and the equations (44), (45) are no longer valid. However the main equations (26) with $\rho_0 = 0$

$$X_1 = -\mu + U[2\rho + \sigma + \tilde{\gamma}], \quad (63a)$$

$$X_2 = -\mu + U[2\rho - \sigma - \tilde{\gamma}], \quad (63b)$$

make sense, where μ is defined in (7). The normal and anomalous self energies are

$$\Sigma_n = (X_1 + X_2)/2 + \mu = 2U\rho \quad (64)$$

and

$$\Sigma_{\text{an}} = (X_1 - X_2)/2 = U(\sigma + \tilde{\gamma}). \quad (65)$$

Clearly, the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem is not valid

$$\Sigma_n - \Sigma_{\text{an}} = 2U\rho - U(\sigma + \tilde{\gamma}) \neq \mu \quad (66)$$

even for the $\gamma = 0$ case. Similarly to the previous subsection it can be shown that $\sigma(T > T_c) \neq 0$ being defined as

$$\sigma = -\frac{A\tilde{\gamma}}{1 + A}, \quad (67)$$

where

$$A = U \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{f_B(E_k)}{E_k}, \quad (68)$$

with

$$E_k = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k + X_1)(\varepsilon_k + X_2)} = \sqrt{(\varepsilon_k - \mu_{\text{eff}}^0)^2 - U^2(\sigma + \tilde{\gamma})^2}. \quad (69)$$

The density of triplons is

$$\rho = \rho_1 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{(\varepsilon_k - \mu_{\text{eff}}^0)}{E_k} f_B(E_k), \quad (70)$$

where we used (29) and introduced the effective chemical potential $\mu_{\text{eff}}^0 = \mu - 2U\rho$.

Thus, we have to solve the system of two algebraic nonlinear equations with respect to ρ_x and σ_x

$$\rho_x - \frac{1}{\rho_c^0} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_k} - 2A(\rho_x - 1) = 0, \quad (71a)$$

$$\sigma_x - \frac{A}{1 + A} = 0, \quad (71b)$$

defined as $\rho = \rho_x \rho_c^0$ and $\sigma = -\sigma_x \tilde{\gamma}$. In equation (71a) $\rho_c^0 = \mu/2U$, $E_k = \sqrt{[\varepsilon_k - \mu(1 - \rho_x)]^2 - \gamma^2(1 - \sigma_x)^2}$ with μ is given in equation (7). One may see that the presence of anisotropy leads to a state with $\rho_0 = 0$ but $\sigma \neq 0$, which is in contrast to the case with $\gamma = 0$ in the HFB approximation, where $\sigma(T \geq T_c) = 0$. We will discuss this point in next section.

4. Results and discussions

Among all quantum magnets, the compound TlCuCl_3 is well known for its rather large $U(1)$ symmetry breaking [10]. Therefore it is a good example to apply the present approach. Experimental data on magnetization curves $M(T, H)$ as well as on the phase boundary $T(H)$ for TlCuCl_3 have been reported in [4, 6, 32] in the range of $5 \text{ T} \leq H_{\text{ext}} \leq 8 \text{ T}$, $2 \text{ K} \leq T < 7 \text{ K}$. As it was pointed out in the introduction, the previous theoretical description of these data, mostly based on the HFB approximation, is good only for the $H \parallel b$ case when a DM anisotropy is included [15]. Moreover, in general, this approximation leads to an unphysical jump in the magnetization near the transition point. It has been shown that this artifact cannot be improved neither by using a more realistic dispersion relation [33] nor by taking into account an EA [15]. We have recently argued that this artifact is a characteristic feature of the HFB approximation caused by neglecting the anomalous density σ [17]. However, in [17] we did not make an attempt to compare our results with the experiments since anisotropy effects were not taken into account. In the previous sections of this paper we have developed a MFA where the anomalous density as well as the EA term (5) are included. In this section we shall use this approach for a theoretical description of the magnetic properties of TlCuCl_3 .

First we argue that for the bare dispersion ε_k given in [33] (see appendix A) is the most preferable one. In fact, by choosing quadratic or relativistic [34] bare dispersions one usually performs integration by momentum in the whole space ($k_x, k_y, k_z = -\infty \dots \infty$), while the choice of the realistic dispersion [33] implies an integration in the first Brillouine zone.

Having fixed the dispersion relation we are left with only three parameters γ , c_γ and U . As for the g -factor, we may use available experimental data where the g -factor is reported as $g = 2.23$ for $H_{\text{ext}} \perp (1, 0, 2)$ and $g = 2.06$ for $H_{\text{ext}} \parallel b$. To optimize these free parameters we used the experimental phase diagram and magnetization curves from [6]. The result of the corresponding fits are $\gamma = 0.045 \text{ K}$, $c_\gamma = 1.67$ and $U = 367.5 \text{ K}$.

In figures 1(a) and (b) we show a comparison between the experimental data and the resulting fits to these data.

The phase boundary $T_c(H_{\text{ext}})$, displayed in figure 1(a), is interesting by itself, since it contains information about the critical exponent ϕ , defined as $T_c \sim (H_{\text{ext}} - H_c)^\phi$ or more precisely as $T_c = \text{const} \times (\mu/U)^\phi$, where the constant and ϕ are fitting parameters. Note that for the case of a homogeneous ideal gas with the quadratic dispersion $\phi = 2/3$. From figure 1(a) we have found that $\text{const} = 47.4 \text{ K}$ and $\phi = 0.53$ (solid line) and $\text{const} = 63.2 \text{ K}$ and $\phi = 0.62$ (dashed line) for the $\gamma = 0.045 \text{ K}$ and $\gamma = 0$ cases respectively. This means that the inclusion of a finite EA reduces the exponent ϕ , and one does not need to expect $\phi = 2/3$ as it has been debated in the literature [33–35]. In fact, the presence of the interparticle interaction as well as using a more realistic dispersion than a simple quadratic one, leads to a shift of the critical temperature, especially at high temperatures $T > 2 \text{ K}$ [36]. Here we note that, if we restrict to fit ϕ in the range of $0 \leq T \leq 1.5 \text{ K}$ (not drawn in figure 1(a)) the solid line in figure 1(a) may also be well fitted by $\phi \approx 2/3$.

In figure 1(b) the magnetization curves for various H_{ext} are presented in comparison with the experimental data from [6] for $H_{\text{ext}} \perp (1, 0, 2)$. It is seen that, by taking into account the EA one can obtain an excellent agreement with the experimental data. This result is in quite contrast to the results from Sirker *et al* [15] that were based on the HFB approximation alone.

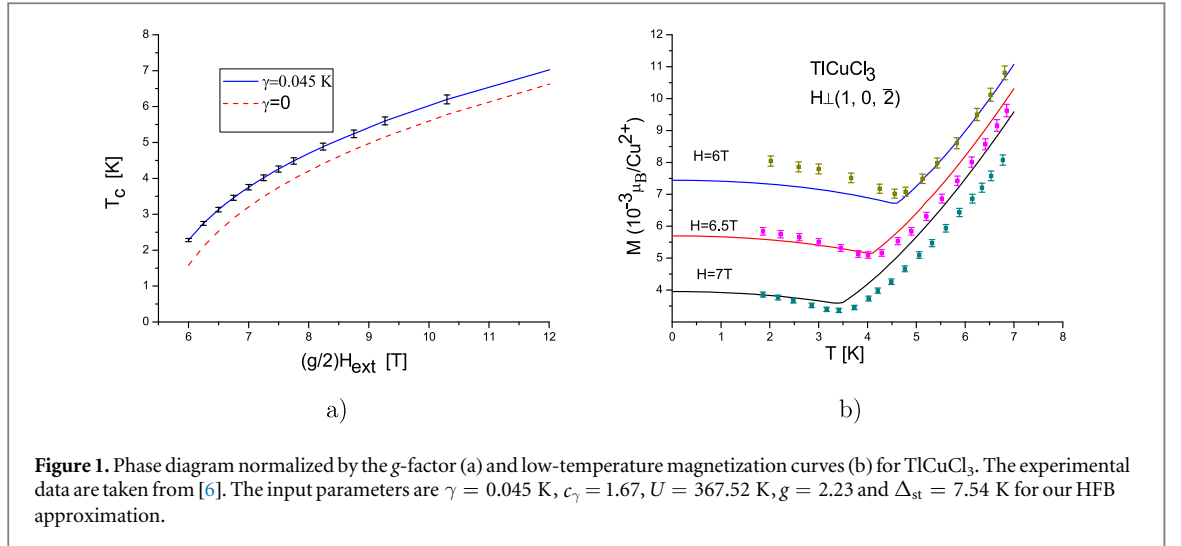


Figure 1. Phase diagram normalized by the g -factor (a) and low-temperature magnetization curves (b) for TiCuCl_3 . The experimental data are taken from [6]. The input parameters are $\gamma = 0.045$ K, $c_\gamma = 1.67$, $U = 367.52$ K, $g = 2.23$ and $\Delta_{\text{st}} = 7.54$ K for our HFB approximation.

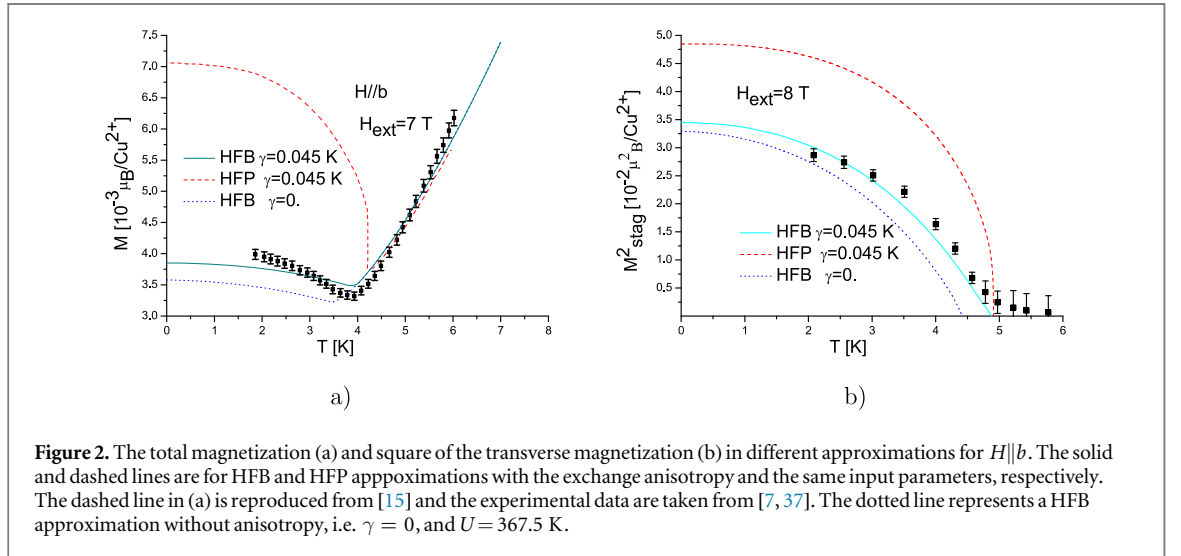


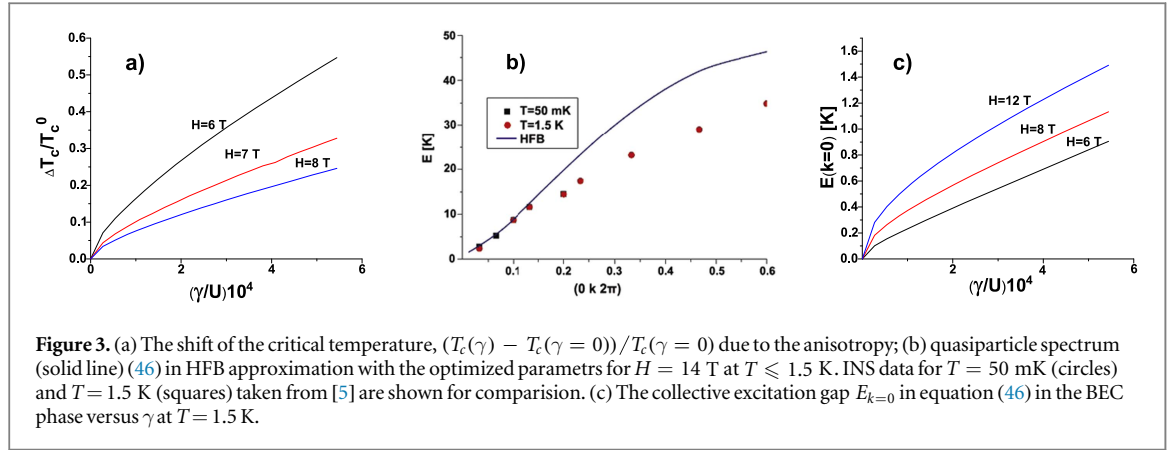
Figure 2. The total magnetization (a) and square of the transverse magnetization (b) in different approximations for $H \parallel b$. The solid and dashed lines are for HFB and HFP approximations with the exchange anisotropy and the same input parameters, respectively. The dashed line in (a) is reproduced from [15] and the experimental data are taken from [7, 37]. The dotted line represents a HFB approximation without anisotropy, i.e. $\gamma = 0$, and $U = 367.5$ K.

The optimized parameters γ and U are universal for both $H \perp (1, 0, \bar{2})$ and $H \parallel b$ cases. The main difference is only in the g -factors. Using in the above equations $g = 2.06$ we also obtain the total magnetization for $H \parallel b$, which is plotted in figure 2(a) in comparison with the experimental data taken from [7] and with a corresponding calculations based on the HFP approximations [15]. It is seen that by neglecting the anomalous density σ (dashed line) or the EA, γ , (dotted line) one may reproduce the experimental magnetization only at high temperatures, $T > T_c$, while the inclusion of both, σ and γ makes it possible to obtain a significantly better theoretical description (solid line) for $T \leq T_c$ also. From the figure 2(a) one may conclude that the effect of the EA is rather large in the BEC—like phase and is almost negligible in the normal phase.

Another important characteristics of quantum magnets is that the magnetically ordered state supports a staggered magnetization M_\perp transverse to the field direction, leading to a canted antiferromagnetic state until the system becomes eventually fully polarized as the external field increases. In the BEC—scenario the number of triplons corresponds to the total magnetization M_z along the field direction, while the number of condensed particles is proportional to the square of the ordered transverse component:

$$M_\perp = N_f g \mu_B \sqrt{\rho_0/2}, \quad (72)$$

where N_f is a normalization factor [7]. In our present approximation M_\perp may be calculated directly from equations (48)–(51) and (72). The results are presented in figure 2(b), where we have used the same input parameters as in figure 1 and chosen the scaling factor $N_f = 6.5$ to reproduce the experimental data [37]. As it is seen from the figure the present approach with EA describes well the experimental data for $T \leq T_c$. A comparison of the dotted curve with the solid line in figure 2(b) shows that the EA enhances the staggered magnetization.



In the vicinity of the critical point the staggered magnetization scales as $M_{\perp} \sim (T_c - T)^{\beta}$, ($T \leq T_c$) defining the critical exponent β . Approximating the curves in figure 2(b) as

$$M_{\perp} = \text{const} \times (1 - T/T_c)^{\beta}, \quad (73)$$

we have found $\beta = 0.47$ in the present approximation, which is close to the predictions made in Quantum Monte Carlo simulations [38]: $\beta_{\text{QMC}} = 1/2$. The other curves in figure 2(b) lead to $\beta = 0.15$ and $\beta = 0.39$ for HFP and HFB with $\gamma = 0$ cases, respectively.

In the present work we have been dealing only with the EA, which gives a sharp phase transition with $\rho_0(T \geq T_c) = 0$. Comparing our magnetization curves for the total magnetization with the experimental data (see figures 1(b) and 2(a)) we may conclude that including a finite EA is sufficient. However, as it has been shown by Sirker *et al* the inclusion of a DM anisotropy instead may lead to a crossover [15], so that $M_{\perp}^{\text{DM}}(T \geq T_c) \neq 0$. Indeed, from the fact that experimental data on the transverse magnetization show $M_{\perp}^{\text{exp}}(T \geq T_c) \neq 0$, (see figure 2(b) with data from figure 3 in [37]) one may conclude that a certain DM anisotropy is clearly present. Moreover, density matrix renormalization group calculations [39] show that even a tiny DM interaction can modify some aspects of the physics, especially the staggered magnetization, rather dramatically. We shall develop a HFB approximation including both exchange and DM anisotropies in a subsequent publication and do not discuss it here any further.

From figure 1(a) we can state that the EA term H'_{EA} given in (5) leads to an increase of the critical temperature at a given magnetic field. To study this issue in more detail we present in figure 3(a) the shift of the critical temperature due to the anisotropy $\Delta T/T_c^0$ versus γ for various values of H_{ext} . We see that

- ΔT_c increases with the increase of γ .
- For a moderate value of gamma $\gamma \sim 0.04$ K the shift is nearly 10% at $H_{\text{ext}} = 7$ T.
- With increasing the magnetic field, the upward shift in the critical temperature decreases.

A similar dependence of the shift on γ and H_{ext} has been predicted by Dell'Amore *et al* [14].

There is another effect due to the explicit U(1)-symmetry breaking. In real systems the presence of an anisotropy modifies the energy dispersion of the magnetic excitations. Experimentally, the excitation spectrum of TiCuCl_3 was investigated by Ruegg *et al* [5] using INS measurements. In the frame of Bogolyubov mean field theory this spectrum coincides with spectrum of quasiparticles (called as bogolons) which can be calculated from equation (46) in the present approximation. The energy dispersion of the low-lying magnetic excitations measured for $H_{\text{ext}} = 14$ T at temperatures $T = 50$ mK and $T = 1.5$ K are presented in figure 3(b), where the solid line is obtained in the HFB approximation (46) using our optimized parameters. It can be seen that the agreement with the experiment is satisfactory, especially at small momentum transfer. Clearly in the BEC phase without anisotropy the energy dispersion is linear at small momentum, i.e. $E_{k \rightarrow 0}(H_{\text{ext}}, T, \gamma = 0) \sim ck$, (with c is the sound velocity), while the presence of an anisotropy causes a gap $\Delta E = E_{k \rightarrow 0}(H_{\text{ext}}, T, \gamma) \neq 0$ which can be calculated directly from equation (46). The average sound velocity at small momentum defined as $c = (\partial E / \partial k)|_{k \rightarrow 0}$ is given by $c(\gamma = 0) = \sqrt{X_1/2m}$ at $T \leq T_c$ and $c(\gamma \neq 0) = k(X_1 + X_2)/2m\sqrt{X_1 X_2}$ at any temperature, where m is the effective mass [33] and X_1, X_2 are given by equation (26). Figure 3(c) illustrates the fact that, being zero at $\gamma = 0$, the gap in the quasiparticle spectrum increases with γ . In the present approach, $\Delta E = E_{k \rightarrow 0}(H_{\text{ext}} = 14 \text{ T}, T = 1.5 \text{ K}, \gamma = 0.045 \text{ K}) = 0.7 \text{ K}$ which is the detection limit of [5].

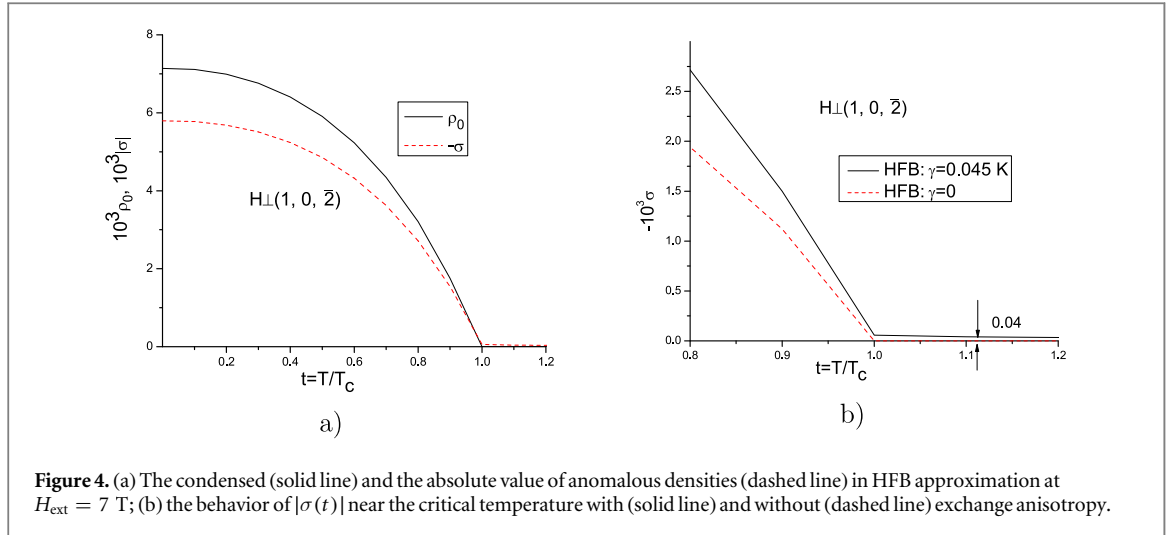


Figure 4. (a) The condensed (solid line) and the absolute value of anomalous densities (dashed line) in HFB approximation at $H_{\text{ext}} = 7$ T; (b) the behavior of $|\sigma(t)|$ near the critical temperature with (solid line) and without (dashed line) exchange anisotropy.

A possible modification of the spin gap separating the singlet ground state from the lowest-energy triplet excitation Δ_{st} due to the anisotropy, is not considered here, and we used the experimental value $\Delta_{\text{st}} = 7.55$ K [33] (see appendix A).

Finally we discuss the role of the anomalous density whose absolute value is the density of pair correlated particles. This pair correlations are, actually, responsible for the existence of superfluidity [23]. We present in figure 4(a) the density of condensed particles ρ_0 (solid line) and the absolute value of the anomalous density $|\sigma|$ (dashed line) versus the reduced temperature⁹. It is seen that $|\sigma|$ is comparable with ρ_0 at all temperatures. Another interesting fact, which is demonstrated in figure 4(b) is that the anomalous density survives, although on a small level, even above the critical temperature where it vanishes asymptotically. For example, $\sigma(t=0)/\sigma(t=1) \approx 100$. Note that without EA $\sigma(\gamma=0)|_{T \geq T_c} = 0$. A similar phase with $\rho_0 = 0$ and $\sigma \neq 0$ has been reported by Cooper *et al* [40] within a lowest-order auxiliary field formalism. In fact, this approach predicts the existence of two critical temperatures, one T_c where $\rho_0 = 0$, $\sigma \neq 0$ and another one T^* , where $\rho_0 = 0$, $\sigma = 0$, with $T^* > T_c$. This exotic state in the region $T_c < T < T^*$ has not been experimentally observed yet, but it is predicted to exhibit a modified dispersion relation. The question about the observing such phase still remains open.

5. Conclusion

Assuming that the low temperature properties of quantum magnets with a weak U(1) symmetry breaking can be described in a BEC—like scenario, we proposed a new MFA based approach within the Hartree–Fock–Bogolyubov approximation, which takes into account an anomalous density σ and EA. This approach not only reproduces experimental data such as the critical temperature and the magnetization in a satisfactory way, but also removes certain inconsistencies and drawbacks met in the previous HFB approaches [15]. Remarkably, this may be reached by optimizing only three parameters: the parameter of the EA γ , the parameter of breaking of the Hugenholtz–Pines relation c_γ and the interparticle interaction U . We have found $\gamma = 0.045$ K = 0.0038 meV, $c_\gamma = 1.67$ and $U = 367.5$ K valid for both the $H\parallel b$ and $H_\perp(1, 0, \bar{2})$ directions.

The present approach also gives a fair theoretical description of the staggered magnetization data for $T \leq T_c$ and predicts a plausible value for the critical exponent β . However, to improve the theoretical description of the experimental data on staggered magnetization the inclusion of DM anisotropy also seems to be necessary. We have estimated the anisotropy-induced shift of the critical temperature, and show that it is substantial. Finally, we predict that the anomalous density is comparable to the condensed one, and survives at temperatures exceeding T_c where the condensate fraction is zero.

The present approach has its intrinsic limits, however. It cannot describe the system below the critical magnetic field because there are no triplons at $H < H_{c1}$. Moreover, it seems to fail to work at high field regime, where it may predict instability [16] instead of the saturation of the magnetization due to the fully polarization of the spins. In more general, it is relevant to explore how far the analogy of a system of triplons to a BEC of real particles reaches in principle. Open questions include the possibility to observe macroscopic quantum phenomena such as superfluidity or Josephson effects [41]. Therefore, a possible future extension of the present

⁹ Actually, $\sigma < 0$ in the whole region of temperatures.

approach in the spirit of a bond operator formalism [42] or a microscopic model as proposed by Fischer *et al* [43] would be desirable.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to E Ya Sherman and V I Yukalov for useful discussions and comments. This work is partially supported by the Swiss National Foundation SCOPES project IZ74Z0_160527.

Appendix A

The summation by momentums may be explicitly written as

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} f(\varepsilon(\mathbf{k})) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \begin{cases} 4\pi \int_0^\infty k^2 dk f(\varepsilon(k)), & \varepsilon(k) = \frac{k^2}{2m}, \\ \int_{-\pi}^\pi dk_x dk_y dk_z f(\varepsilon(k)), & \varepsilon(k) - \text{isotropic}, \\ \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^\pi dk_x \int_{-\pi}^\pi dk_y \int_{-2\pi}^{2\pi} dk_z \varepsilon(k), & \varepsilon(k) - \text{realistic, anisotropic}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

The isotropic bare dispersion may be presented as $\varepsilon(k) = J[3 - \cos k_x a - \cos k_y a - \cos k_z a]$ where a is the size of the unit cell (below we set $a = 1$), while the anisotropic one may be written as [33]

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}_0} &= -\Delta_{\text{st}} + \sqrt{(J + \tilde{a})^2 - \tilde{a}^2}, \\ \tilde{a} &= J_a \cos(k_x) + J_{a2c} \cos(2k_x + k_z) + 2J_{abc} \cos(k_x + k_z/2) \cos(k_y/2). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

In practical calculations with this realistic dispersion one may make a shift as $\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{k}$, so that $\varepsilon(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0)|_{\mathbf{k}=\mathbf{k}_0} \rightarrow \varepsilon(\mathbf{k})|_{\mathbf{k}=0} = 0$, $k_0 = \{0, 0, 2\pi\}$ and introducing $q_x = k_x/\pi$, $q_y = k_y/\pi$, $q_z = k_z/4\pi$ we can rewrite the summation as

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} f(\varepsilon(\mathbf{k}))|_{\text{aniz}} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 dq_x \int_0^1 dq_y \int_0^1 dq_z f(\varepsilon(q)), \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where $\varepsilon_q = -\Delta_{\text{st}} + \sqrt{J^2 + 2Ja_q}$, and

$$a_q = J_a \cos(\pi q_x) + J_{a2c} \cos(2\pi q_x - 4\pi q_z) - 2J_{abc} \cos(\pi q_x - 2\pi q_z) \cos(\pi q_y/2). \quad (\text{A.4})$$

The condition $\varepsilon_q(q = 0) = 0$ fixes Δ_{st} as $\Delta_{\text{st}} = \sqrt{J^2 + 2J(J_a + J_{a2c} - 2J_{abc})}$. In the present work we used the following values of parameters [33]: $J = 63.7$ K, $J_a = -2.5$ K, $J_{a2c} = -18.35$ K and $J_{abc} = 5.28$ K, so that $\Delta_{\text{st}} = 7.55$ K.

Appendix B

In the notion of representative ensemble [23] the grand Hamiltonian including the EA term can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \hat{H} - \mu_0 \hat{N}_0 - \mu_1 \hat{N}_1 - \hat{\Lambda}, \\ \hat{H} &= \int \left\{ \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \hat{K} \psi(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{U}{2} (\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \psi(\mathbf{r}))^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} (\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) + \psi(\mathbf{r}) \psi(\mathbf{r})) \right\} d^3r, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where $\hat{N}_0 = \int |\phi_0|^2 d^3r$, $\hat{N}_1 = \int \tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) d^3r$, so that $\mu N = \mu_0 N_0 - \mu_1 N_1$, $\hat{N} = \int \psi^\dagger \psi d^3r$ is the total number of particles. The Lagrange multiplier

$$\hat{\Lambda} = \int [\lambda \tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) + \lambda^* \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})] d^3r \quad (\text{B.2})$$

is a so called linear killer, such that λ is chosen from the constraint for the conservation of quantum numbers, $\langle \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = 0$. The quantum fluctuation $\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})$ is related to the field operator as $\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \phi_0 + \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})$, which makes possible to rewrite the grand Hamiltonian as follows:

$$H = H_0 + H_1 + H_2 + H_3 + H_4, \quad (\text{B.3})$$

where

$$H_0 = \int d^3r \rho_0 \left(-\mu_0 + \gamma + \frac{U}{2} \rho_0 \right) \quad (\text{B.4})$$

with $\rho_0 = \phi_0^2$

$$H_1 = \int d^3r \phi_0 (\gamma + U\rho_0) (\tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) + \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})), \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$H_2 = \int d^3r \left\{ \tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) [\hat{K} - \mu_1 + 2U\rho_0] \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{2} (\tilde{\psi}^2(\mathbf{r}) + \tilde{\psi}^{\dagger 2}(\mathbf{r})) (\gamma + U\rho_0) \right\}, \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$H_3 = U\phi_0 \int d^3r \tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) (\tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) + \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r})), \quad (\text{B.7})$$

$$H_4 = \frac{U}{2} \int d^3r (\tilde{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}))^2. \quad (\text{B.8})$$

Performing a Fourier transformation $\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \neq 0} a_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\psi}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$ and assuming that $\phi_0(\mathbf{r})$ does not depend on \mathbf{r} we may rewrite the above equations as follows:

$$H_0 = \rho_0 \left(-\mu_0 + \gamma + \frac{U}{2} \rho_0 \right), \quad (\text{B.9})$$

$$H_1 = \sqrt{\rho_0} (U\rho_0 + \gamma) \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger), \quad (\text{B.10})$$

$$H_2 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \{ \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu_1 + 2U\rho_0 \} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{1}{2} (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger) (U\rho_0 + \gamma), \quad (\text{B.11})$$

$$H_3 = U\sqrt{\rho_0} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{p}} (a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{p}} a_{-\mathbf{p}} + \text{h.c.}), \quad (\text{B.12})$$

$$H_4 = \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}. \quad (\text{B.13})$$

The third and fourth order terms may be further simplified by using the approximation given in equation (17) as:

$$\begin{aligned} H_3 &= U\sqrt{\rho_0} (2\rho_1 + \sigma) \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + a_{\mathbf{k}}), \\ H_4 &= \frac{U}{2} \{ 4\rho_1 a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} + \sigma (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger) - (2\rho_1^2 + \sigma^2) \}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.14})$$

Now the grand Hamiltonian is the sum of classical, H_{class} , linear H_{lin} and H_{bilin} terms as:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= H_{\text{class}} + H_{\text{lin}} + H_{\text{bilin}}, \\ H_{\text{class}} &= -\rho_0 \mu_0 + \rho_0 \gamma + \frac{U}{2} \rho_0^2 - \frac{U}{2} (2\rho_1^2 + \sigma^2), \\ H_{\text{lin}} &= U\sqrt{\rho_0} (\rho_0 + \tilde{\gamma} + 2\rho_1 + \sigma) \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + a_{\mathbf{k}}), \\ H_{\text{bilin}} &= \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu_1 + 2U\rho) a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{U(\rho_0 + \tilde{\gamma} + \sigma)}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.15})$$

where $\tilde{\gamma} = \gamma/U$ and $\rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1$. In the formalism of representative ensemble [23] the linear term is neglected by an appropriate choice of λ , for example, by choosing $\lambda = U\sqrt{\rho_0}(\rho_0 + \tilde{\gamma} + 2\rho_1 + \sigma)$ in equation (B.2). The μ_0 can be found by minimization of the free energy with respect to ρ_0 . To diagonalize the bilinear term we introduce the normal Σ_n and anomalous Σ_{an} self energies as

$$\Sigma_n = 2U\rho, \quad \Sigma_{\text{an}} = U(\rho_0 + \tilde{\gamma} + \sigma), \quad (\text{B.16})$$

such that H_{bilin} is rewritten as

$$H_{\text{bilin}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{\Sigma_{\text{an}}}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger), \quad (\text{B.17})$$

where

$$\omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu_1 + \Sigma_n. \quad (\text{B.18})$$

The next step is the Bogolyubov transformation

$$a_{\mathbf{k}} = u_{\mathbf{k}} b_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}} b_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger, \quad a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger = u_{\mathbf{k}} b_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + v_{\mathbf{k}} b_{-\mathbf{k}}, \quad (\text{B.19})$$

to diagonalize H_{bilin} . The operators $b_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $b_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$ can be interpreted as annihilation and creation operators of phonons with following properties:

$$[b_{\mathbf{k}}, b_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger] = \delta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{p}}, \quad \langle b_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger b_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \rangle = \langle b_{\mathbf{k}} b_{-\mathbf{k}} \rangle = 0, \quad (\text{B.20})$$

$$\langle b_k^\dagger b_k \rangle = f_B(E_k) = \frac{1}{e^{\beta E_k} - 1}, \quad (\text{B.21})$$

where $\beta \equiv 1/T$. To determine the phonon dispersion E_k we insert (B.19) into (B.17) and require that the coefficient of the term $b_k b_{-k} + b_{-k}^\dagger b_k^\dagger$ vanishes, i.e.:

$$\omega_k u_k v_k + \frac{\Sigma_{\text{an}}}{2}(u_k^2 + v_k^2) = 0. \quad (\text{B.22})$$

Now using the condition $u_k^2 - v_k^2 = 1$ and presenting u_k, v_k as

$$u_k^2 = \frac{\omega_k + E_k}{2E_k}, \quad v_k^2 = \frac{\omega_k - E_k}{2E_k} \quad (\text{B.23})$$

yields

$$\sqrt{\omega_k^2 - E_k^2} = -\Sigma_{\text{an}}, \quad u_k v_k = -\frac{\Sigma_{\text{an}}}{2E_k}, \quad u_k^2 + v_k^2 = \frac{\omega_k}{E_k} \quad (\text{B.24})$$

that is

$$E_k^2 = (\omega_k + \Sigma_{\text{an}})(\omega_k - \Sigma_{\text{an}}) \equiv (\varepsilon_k + X_1)(\varepsilon_k + X_2) \quad (\text{B.25})$$

with

$$X_1 = \Sigma_n + \Sigma_{\text{an}} - \mu_1, \quad X_2 = \Sigma_n - \Sigma_{\text{an}} - \mu_1. \quad (\text{B.26})$$

Now H_{bilin} is simplified as

$$H_{\text{bilin}} = \sum_k E_k b_k^\dagger b_k + \frac{1}{2} \sum_k (E_k - \omega_k) \quad (\text{B.27})$$

and the total Hamiltonian is given by

$$H = H_{\text{class}} + H_{\text{bilin}} = -\rho_0 \mu_0 + \rho_0 \gamma + \frac{U}{2} \rho_0^2 - \frac{U}{2} (2\rho_1^2 + \sigma^2) + \sum_k E_k b_k^\dagger b_k + \frac{1}{2} \sum_k (E_k - \omega_k), \quad (\text{B.28})$$

which may be used to define the energy of the system.

Note that by requiring in (B.25) $X_2 = 0$, one may directly obtain from equation (B.26) the Hugenholtz–Pines theorem as well as the gapless dispersion in SSB phase. The main equations (39) and (40) are derived by inserting (B.26) into (B.16). The normal and anomalous densities may be obtained by using equation (B.19) in equations (18) and (19) leading to the expressions (29) and (30) respectively, where X_1 and X_2 are given in (B.26) and (B.16).

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