

Exercises for “Quantum Phase Transitions”

Summer 24

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Exercise 7 (22.07.24)

1. Shift exponent in the quantum ϕ^4 theory

(5 points)

The ϕ^4 field theory with the action

$$S = \int d^d x d\tau \left\{ \frac{1}{2} [c^2(\nabla\phi_\alpha)^2 + (\partial_\tau\phi_\alpha)^2 + r_0\phi_\alpha^2] + \frac{u_0}{4!}(\phi_\alpha^2)^2 \right\}, \quad (1)$$

($\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, N$), has a quantum phase transition at $T = 0$, $r_0 = r_c$. The shift exponent ψ is defined via the temperature-dependent phase boundary

$$T_c \sim (r_c - r_0)^\psi, \quad (2)$$

where T_c is the critical temperature. To calculate T_c , note that the phase transition occurs when the renormalized temperature-dependent mass $r(T)$ of the order parameter vanishes. The upper critical dimension for the quantum phase transition is $d_c^+ = 4 - z = 3$.

- (a) Below the upper critical dimension d_c^+ , use a simple scaling argument to relate ψ to other critical exponents.
- (b) For $d > d_c^+$, the naive scaling analysis above becomes invalid. However, a perturbative calculation of $r(T)$ becomes feasible. To this end, calculate the self-energy of the ϕ propagator in bare perturbation theory to first order in u_0 . The temperature dependence of $r(T)$ at $r_0 = r_c$ allows to obtain ψ in this case.
- (c) Apply the procedure of (b) to a situation with $z = 2$ where the bare propagator is $G_\phi^{-1} = i\omega_n - c^2\vec{k}^2 - r_0$ (instead of $G_\phi^{-1} = -\omega_n^2 - c^2\vec{k}^2 - r_0$).

2. Quantum critical point in the dilute Bose gas

(5 points)

Consider the quantum critical point in the dilute Bose gas with the action

$$S = \int d^d x d\tau (\Phi^* \partial_\tau \Phi + v |\partial_\tau \Phi|^2 + |\nabla \Phi|^2 - \mu |\Phi|^2 + \lambda |\Phi|^4), \quad (3)$$

in $d = 2 - \epsilon$ dimensions.

- (a) What is the scaling dimension of v ?
- (b) Show that RG flow of the quartic selfinteraction λ is given by

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d \ln b} = \epsilon\lambda - \lambda^2 \quad (4)$$

with suitably rescaled dimensionless λ .

- (c) Determine the critical exponents ν , η , and z to the leading order in ϵ for $d < 2$.