

Percolation meets Quantum ... and some non-perturbative results follow

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70 Years of Percolation
Cambridge Univ.
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quantum degrees of freedom (**spinors**, **Majorana fermions**) pop up, unexpectedly, in the analysis of “very classical” stat mech models, and vice-versa.

Some celebrated examples:

- * 2D Ising (Onsager, Kaufmann, ... Schultz-Mattis-Lieb, Kadanoff,)
 - * 6 vertex models ... (Yang, Lieb, Baxter,)
 - * *QFT* ... (both RG and **rigorous non-perturbative studies** ...)
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- Ground states of **quantum d -dimensional** systems $\longleftrightarrow$ thermal states of **classical $d + 1$ -dimensional** systems.

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A general relation, that will be recalled here,

- Ground states of **quantum d -dimensional** systems $\longleftrightarrow$ thermal states of **classical $d + 1$ -dimensional** systems. Consequently:
- Rather different looking models, **some classical and some quantum**, with **different forms of symmetry breaking**, share a *common mathematical scaffolding*.
- And it seems that the simplest way to explain each is by combining the different perspectives.

A key role in the above is played by a long-recognized common dichotomy associated with $2D$ loop-soup models.

A random cluster system that is an extension of a [continuous-time percolation model](#) is naturally expressed in terms of a [1+1 dimensional loop-soup measure](#), whose loops form the inner or outer boundaries of the model's connected clusters.

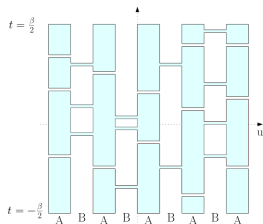
The same random loop system shows up in a stochastic geometric representation of three distinct quantum spin models.

Combining insights based on by the different “projections” of the common loop models one arrives at a structural explanation of threshold parameter values for three very different phenomena:

- i) [discontinuity of the phase transition](#) in a planar classical random cluster model or equivalently: degeneracy and symmetry breaking in the [ground state\(s\)](#) of an infinite self-dual quantum Q -state Potts spin chain, at $Q > 4$.
- iii) [dimerization](#) of the ground states of a flattened version of the quantum [Heisenberg](#) model at $S > 1/2$,
- iv) [Nèel order](#) in the ground state of the a-symmetric H_{XXZ} quantum spin chain at $\Delta > 0$.

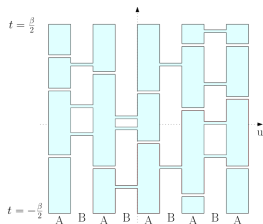
(Talk based on a joint 2020 paper with H. Duminil-Copin and S. Warzel, with input from previous works by G. Ray and Y. Spinka (2020) on Q state Potts models, and Aizenman and Nachtergaele (1994) on quantum spin chains.)

Starting from the partition of $\mathbb{R}^2$ into A/B stripes, consider the continuum percolation model in which randomly placed “edges” over A strips serve as B -connecting paths disrupting A connection, and vice versa, at edge Poisson densities (λ_A, λ_B)



Next - consider a Q -state “spin” model in which the connected domains of A are each assigned one out of Q states, with the partition function (attention: $\beta \equiv L_{vert}$)

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$$Z(L_{hor}, L_{vert}) = \int Q^{N_A(\omega)} \rho_{\lambda_A, \lambda_B}(d\omega) \approx \int \sqrt{Q}^{N_\ell(\omega)} \rho_{\lambda_A \sqrt{Q}, \lambda_B / \sqrt{Q}}(d\omega)$$

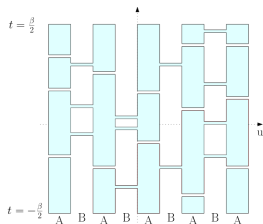
where $N_A(\omega) = \#\{\text{connected } A\text{-clusters}\}$ and $N_\ell = N_A + N_B$

When $\lambda_A \sqrt{Q} = \lambda_B / \sqrt{Q}$ the model is self dual(!)

An interesting question: under what conditions will this symmetry be broken?

Note: the duality symmetry coincides here with shift invariance !

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For those familiar with the similar question for Q state Potts model*, it will be natural to expect the transition to occur at $Q_c = 4$. And indeed that is so [ADW].

(* [Yang, Baxter, Lieb,...,Duminil-Gagnebin-Harel-Manolescu-Tassion '16, Ray-Spinka'19,...])

Ising spin chain (on $\mathbb{Z}$) with a transverse magnetic field ($Q = 2$)

Single 'q-bit':

Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}^{(2)} = \text{span}\{|+\rangle, |-\rangle\}$.

Pauli spin operators: $\sigma^x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma^z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

The Hilbert space for a **quantum spin chain**: $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{H}_j^{(2)}$

The Hamiltonian (acting on $\mathcal{H}$):
$$H = - \sum_j \left[\sigma_j^z \sigma_{j+1}^z + \sigma_j^x \right] \text{ with } R_j \equiv 1 \otimes \dots 1 \otimes R \otimes 1 \dots \otimes 1$$

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The Q -valued quantum Potts model:

$\sigma_j^z \implies$ the diagonal matrix $D_j = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \dots \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \dots \end{pmatrix}$

$\sigma_j^x \implies$ the corresponding flip operator, and $\sigma_j^z \sigma_{j+1}^z \implies \delta_{D_j, D_{j+1}}$

The quantum model's $\text{tr } e^{-\beta H_{Q,L}}$ coincides with the partition function of the above continuum 1 + 1 dimensional classical Potts model in $[0, \beta] \times [0, L]$.

For $\beta \gg 1$ the classical Gibbs state yields the quantum system's low temperature dependence, and **in the limit $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ its ground state(s)**

Feynman, Dyson, Ginibre '71, Suzuki-Trotter '76, ..., Aiz.-Lieb '90, Conlon-Solovej '91, Toth '93, Aiz.-Nacht. '94, ..., Aiz., Duminil-Copin Warzel '20, ... Björnberg, Mühlbacher, Nachtergaele, Ueltschi '21

Warmup:
$$e^{\beta(K-1)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_n K^n \equiv \mathbb{E}(K^n)$$

with $p_n = \frac{\beta^n}{n!} e^{-\beta}$

(the Poisson distribution)



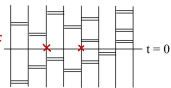
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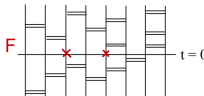


$$e^{\beta \sum_{b \in \mathcal{E}(\Lambda)} (K_b - 1)} = \int_{\Omega(\Lambda, \beta)} \rho(d\omega) \mathcal{T} \left(\prod_{(b,t) \in \omega} K(b, t) \right)$$

$\omega \Leftrightarrow$  

$\Omega(\Lambda, \beta)$ – the set of countable subsets of $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda) \times [0, \beta]$
 $\rho(d\omega)$ – the probability measure under which ω forms a Poisson process over Ω ,
of intensity dt along each “vertical” line $\{b\} \times [0, \beta]$.

One gets:

$$\text{tr } e^{-\beta H/2} F e^{-\beta H/2} = \int_{\Omega(\Lambda, \beta)} \rho(d\omega) \text{tr } \mathcal{T} \quad \text{F} \quad \text{t=0}$$



E.g., for quantum spin models thermal expectation values may be expressed in terms of an **integral over histories of $\{S_x^z\}$** (in “imaginary time”), i.e. configurations of $\sigma^3(x, t)$ defined over $[-L_1, L_2] \times [0, \beta]$.

Each quantum operator F (acting on the Hilbert space associated with Λ) is represented by a specific action on this functional integral (typically at $t = 0$).

Now apply this to a chain of spin S quantum spins with

$$H_{AF} = - \sum (2S+1) P_{u,u+1}^{(0)}$$

(Barber-Batchelor '89)

which in case $S = 1/2$ coincides with the standard Heisenberg anti-ferromagnet.

Affleck '90, Klumper '90.)

In the basis of e.funct's of $\{S_u^z\}$:

$$(2S+1) P_{u,v}^{(0)} = \sum_{m,m'=-S}^S (-1)^{m-m'} |m, -m\rangle \langle m', -m'|.$$

In this case, the signs can be gauged away (!) through $U = e^{i\pi\eta/2}$ at $\eta = \sum_u (-1)^u S_u^z$.

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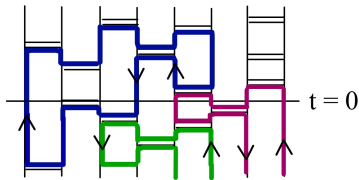
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The above approach yields a stochastic geometric representation of the thermal states in terms of a system of random loops, **along each of which $S^z(u, t)$ is restricted to $\pm m$ at a constant $m \in [-S, S]$** , with $\pm$ flipping upon each “time reversal” (AN94). In this representation:



$$e^{-\beta H_{AF}} = e^{\beta|\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)|} \int_{\Omega} \rho(d\omega) \prod_j^* K(b_j, t_j)$$

$$\text{tr } \mathcal{T} \left(\prod_{(b,t) \in \omega} K(b, t) \right) = (2S+1)^{N_1(\omega)}$$

$$\therefore \text{tr } e^{-\beta H_{AF}} = \int_{\Omega(\Lambda, \beta)} \rho(d\omega) (2S+1)^{N_1(\omega)}$$

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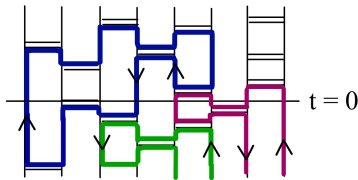
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and the thermal spin correlations can be presented as:

$$\langle \sigma_u^z \sigma_v^z \rangle_{\beta} = (-1)^{|u-v|} C_S \text{Pr}(u \overset{\omega}{\longleftrightarrow} v)$$

Note the similarity with the self-dual **Qrandom cluster model** with

$$(2S+1) \longleftrightarrow \sqrt{Q}$$

Theorem 1 (AN'94) In the infinite-volume limit, any **dense** periodic loop-soup measure, with a local finite-energy condition, exhibits

either **slow decay of correlations** (connectivity) or **long range order**.

More explicitly: either

$$\sum_{u \in \mathbb{L}_1} |x| \tau(0, x) = \infty$$

or else there exists a bounded measurable function $m(\omega)$ with

$$\mathbb{E}(T_x \omega) = (-1)^x.$$

Key idea: If the loop configuration includes (a.s.) ∞ set of nested loops then option 1. Otherwise option 2.

Theorem 2 In the following models (the first classical the other two quantum)

$$\begin{cases} \text{the classical } Q \text{ state Potts model at } \beta_c \\ \text{for the ground states of } H_{AF} \\ \text{for the ground states of } H_{XXZ} \text{ at } S = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases} \quad \text{LRO (option 2) holds exactly for } \begin{cases} Q > 4 \\ S > 1/2 \\ \Delta > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$H_{\text{Potts}} = \sum_u \delta_{\sigma_u, \sigma_{u+1}}$$

option (2) $\Leftrightarrow$ discontinuity in the spontaneous magnetization

$$H_{AF} = - \sum_{u=-L+1}^{L-1} P_{u,u+1}^{(0)}$$

option (2) $\Leftrightarrow$ dimerization

$$H_{XXZ}^{S=1/2} = \sum_{u=-L+1}^{L-1} [\underline{\sigma}_u \cdot \underline{\sigma}_{u+1} + (\Delta - 1) \sigma_u^z \sigma_{u+1}^z]; \text{ option (2) } \Leftrightarrow \text{Ne'el order (staggered magnetization)}$$

What makes $\sqrt{Q} = (2S + 1) = 2$ into a threshold value?

Two tracks to the answer (developed initially in the context of Q state Potts models):

I) Bethe ansatz analysis of the 6-vertex models (extended to handle also the model's 1-directional continuum limit) (carried rigorously in *Duminil-Copin, Gagnebin, Harel, Manolescu, and Tassion '16*).

II) An old hint (Baxter–Kelland–Wu '78):

Writing $\sqrt{Q} = e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda}$ [or correspondingly $(2S + 1) = e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda}$] (*)

allows to express the factor $\sqrt{Q}^{N_1(\omega)} = (e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda})^{N_1(\omega)}$ as a product of “local action” terms.

BKW noted that the solution of (*) for λ changes its nature (from imaginary to real) at $\sqrt{Q} = 2$, and proposed that this should be significant.

The challenge to develop an argument based on (II) was finally met in

G. Ray, Y. Spinka *A short proof of the discontinuity of phase transition in the planar random-cluster model with $q > 4$* , (CMP 2020).

A key role in the Ray-Spinka argument was played by a related random height function.

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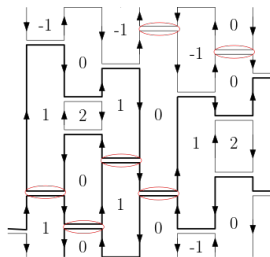
A key role in the Ray-Spinka argument was played by a related random height function.

- In our joint work with Hugo Duminil-Copin and Simone Warzel a somewhat analogous argument was developed for the quantum spin chains with H_{AF} .
- The analysis revealed and utilized an emergent relation with the H_{XXZ} spin models at $S = 1/2$. (Coincidence in their spectra was noted by other means before.)

The **height function** associated with a specified configuration of rungs and loop orientations, and the related binary **pseudo spin** (defined by the arrows).

Note: vertical discontinuity in the pseudo spin τ implies the presence of a rung of ω .

However, ω also includes other rungs (marked in small ovals) whose presence is transparent to τ . Their knowledge is essential for the full reconstruction of the loops of ω , but not for the height function.



Lemma 1: If for a given $Q > 4$, and λ satisfying $\sqrt{Q} = e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda}$ the loop's limiting measure is translation invariant then:

- i) its typical configurations include an infinite family of nested loops
- ii) the distribution of the corresponding height function is not an even function of λ .

(Proof based on percolation analysis, as in Duminil-Gagnebin-Harel-Manolescu-Tassion '16)

Lemma 2: Under the above assumption, for real λ the distribution of the corresponding height function is an **even function of λ** .

(Proof idea: the height function can be determined from just the pseudo spin τ (it does not require the full loop information). But the distribution of τ is that of the spin 1/2 chain under the Hamiltonian H_{XXZ} at $\Delta = \cosh(\lambda)$.)

The combination of these two properties allows to rule out delocalization for the height function at $Q > 4$, and by implications to prove symmetry breaking / LRO at the corresponding values of $Q / S / \Delta$.

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Cf. also the talk by Jacob Björnberg earlier in this meeting.



Simone Warzel
TU-Munich



Ron Peled
Tel Aviv Univ.



Hugo Duminil-Copin
Geneva Univ.



Matan Harel
Northeastern U.



Jacob Shapiro
Princeton Univ.



Thank you for your attention!