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COMMENTS

Exponent Inequalities at the Roughening Transition

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The exponents describing the divergence of various measures of the width of an interface between two phases in an Ising ferromagnet at the roughening transition are shown to satisfy a set of rigorous inequalities.

In this Letter, I derive a set of inequalities for the roughening transition in an interface between two phases in an Ising ferromagnet.¹ The roughening transition is characterized by the divergence of various measures of the interface width at a temperature, T_R , below the bulk critical temperature, T_c , and is of great interest in the theory of crystal growth.^{1,2} The inequalities that I present are useful in checking calculations of interface properties and, in particular, show that the published values of the roughening exponents obtained from low-temperature expansions are not self-consistent.^{3,4}

I consider a three-dimensional (3D) Ising ferromagnet with (not necessarily isotropic) nearest-neighbor exchange. A 2D interface perpendicular

to the z axis is imposed by some appropriate boundary conditions (antiperiodic in the z direction, for example) and the concentration of up spins in the n th layer (x - y plane) is denoted by $c_n \in [0, 1]$. For sufficiently low temperatures, the interface is localized^{5,6} and the layer magnetization, $2c_n - 1$, takes on positive values on one side of the interface and negative values on the other. One can number the layers so that $c_n > \frac{1}{2}$ for $n \leq 0$ and $c_n < \frac{1}{2}$ for $n \geq 1$. Far from the interface, the magnetization takes on its bulk value, $\sigma = c_{-\infty} - c_{\infty}$.

We are primarily interested in the measures of the interface width given by the absolute moments

$$\langle |n|^k \rangle = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |n|^k (c_n - c_{n+1}). \quad (1)$$

Since van Beijeren⁶ has proven that

$$(c_{n-1} - c_n) \geq (c_n - c_{n+1}) \quad (2)$$

for $n \geq 1$, we have $(c_n - c_{n+1}) \geq 0$ for all n from boundedness and the symmetry $c_{1-n} = 1 - c_n$. For $k \geq 1$, this gives $\langle |n|^k \rangle \leq \langle |n|^{k+1} \rangle$. If one defines T_k as the temperature at which $\langle |n|^k \rangle$ diverges, one has

$$T_k \geq T_{k+1} \quad (3)$$

If, on the other hand, all moments diverge at a single roughening temperature, T_R , with power laws of the form

$$\langle |n|^k \rangle \sim (T_R - T)^{-\theta_k}, \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle |n| \rangle &= 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(c_n - c_{n+1}) \geq 2(m+1) \sum_{n=m+1}^{\infty} (c_n - c_{n+1}) + 2 \sum_{n=1}^m n(c_n - c_{n+1}) \\ &\geq (m+1)[\sigma - (c_0 - c_1)] - 2 \sum_{n=1}^m (m+1-n)(c_1 - c_2), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

which is valid for all m . If one chooses $m = [\sigma - (c_0 - c_1)] / 2(c_1 - c_2) - \delta$, where $\delta \in [0, 1)$, thus ensuring that m is an integer, one finds

$$\langle |n| \rangle \geq M(\sigma - 1/M)^2 / 4. \quad (8)$$

If M diverges at a temperature $T_M < T_c$, one has

$$T_M \geq T_1, \quad (9)$$

since σ remains nonzero as $M \rightarrow \infty$.

If there is only a single roughening temperature, $T_R < T_c$, and M diverges with an exponent θ_M , one finds that

$$\theta_1 \geq \theta_M. \quad (10)$$

Weeks, Gilmer, and Leamy³ have calculated the exact values of the first eight coefficients in the low-temperature expansions of $\langle n^2 \rangle$, $\langle n^4 \rangle$, and M for an isotropic Ising ferromagnet. The apparent convergence of these series is good and becomes quite impressive if the original analysis is extended with an Euler transform⁹ to reduce the influence of singularities near the negative real axis. The temperatures at which the Padé and Neville tables predict a divergence are $k_B T_M = 2.46$ J, $k_B T_2 = 2.60$ J, and $k_B T_4 = 2.64$ J. These values fail to satisfy inequalities (3) and (9).

Furthermore, if one follows Weeks, Gilmer, and Leamy³ in interpreting the calculated exponents ($\theta_M = 0.78$, $\theta_2 = 1.00$, $\theta_4 = 1.43$) as estimates of the roughening exponents at a single temperature, one finds that they violate inequalities (6) and (10). Attempts to calculate biased estimates⁹

one can derive a set of inequalities for the roughening exponents. For this purpose, I define the normalized absolute moments $\beta_k = \langle |n|^k \rangle / \sigma$. Noting that $(c_n - c_{n+1}) / \sigma$ is non-negative and $\beta_0 = 1$, one can immediately write down the Lapunov inequalities^{7,8}

$$\beta_k^{1/k} \leq \beta_{k+1}^{1/k+1} \quad (5)$$

for positive integers k . Using Eq. (4), one finds the roughening-exponent inequalities

$$\theta_k / k \leq \theta_{k+1} / (k+1) \quad (6)$$

since the bulk magnetization, σ , is bounded.

One can also extend the analysis to a local measure of the width, $M = 1 / (c_0 - c_1)$. Using inequality (2), I first write down the series of inequalities

of the exponents using a single value of the roughening temperature give poor convergence and even more severe violations of the exponent inequalities.

Leamy, Gilmer, and Jackson⁴ have presented the corresponding series for the solid-on-solid model (which is the limit of infinitely strong anisotropy).¹⁻⁴ They find $k_B T_M = 2.4904$ J and $k_B T_2 = 2.5568$ J, which fail to satisfy the inequalities by 2.6%. The apparently good convergence also led them to give the roughening exponents to three significant digits ($\theta_M = 0.972$ and $\theta_2 = 0.968$), but they violate the exponent inequalities by more than a factor of 2.¹⁰

The exact inequalities make it clear that the apparent regularity of the available terms in the low-temperature series is not characteristic of their asymptotic behavior and cannot be regarded as a demonstration of the existence of roughening.

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ERRATA

PERHAPS A STABLE DIHYPERON. R. L. Jaffe [*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **38**, 195 (1977)].

The flavor-octet dihyperon with $Y=1=0$ and $J^P = 1^+, H^*$, does not couple to $\Lambda\Lambda$ or $\Sigma\Sigma$ because of statistics. It may be seen as a bump in $N\Xi$ invariant-mass plots or in the missing mass in $p\bar{p} \rightarrow K^+K^+X$. (We thank Dr. L. Littenburg for calling this to our attention.)

The masses of the $J=2$ 8 and 27 were inadvertently omitted from Table I; they are 2066 and 2357 MeV, respectively, in the limit $m_s=0$.

SEARCH WITH SYNCHROTRON RADIATION FOR SUPERHEAVY ELEMENTS IN GIANT-HALO INCLUSIONS. C. J. Sparks, Jr., S. Raman, H. L. Yakel, R. V. Gentry, and M. O. Krause [*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **38**, 205 (1977)].

On page 206, column 2, the sixteenth line from the top, the sentence should read, "The numerical values used for σ_i in units of 10^{-21} cm²/atom are 2.22 for Cd $K\alpha$, 3.66 for Cs $K\alpha$, 0.24 for Th $L\gamma_{1,2,3}$, and 4.0 for $L\alpha_1$ of element 126 at 37 keV."