Excited Kinks as Quantum States

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Abstract
At one loop, quantum kinks are described by a sum of quantum harmonic oscillator Hamiltonians, and so their spectra are known exactly. We find the first correction beyond one loop to the quantum states corresponding to kinks with an excited bound or unbound normal mode, and also the corresponding two-loop correction to the energy cost of exciting the normal mode. In the case of unbound normal modes, this correction is equal to sum of the corresponding nonrelativistic kinetic energy plus the usual one-loop correction to the mass of the corresponding plane wave in the absence of a kink. We also sketch a diagrammatic method for such calculations.

1 Introduction

The scattering of kinks is a major industry. It has a long history, with quantum kink scattering already in Refs. [1,2]. However quantum kink scattering has proved to be cumbersome and so the most interesting phenomenology [3–7] has only been revealed classically. Classically a key role in the resonance phenomenon [8], spectral walls [5] and even wobbling kink multiple scattering [9] appears to be played by bound normal modes. However the exact role played by these modes is unclear, as the resonances have been observed in kinks with no bound normal modes [10–12]. These modes themselves enjoy a rich phenomenology. They can be excited by external perturbations [13] and they can store energy from a collision [8].

Clearly it would be of interest to understand these phenomena in the full quantum theory. At one loop the exact spectrum of quantum kinks is known [14], as kinks are simply described by quantum harmonic oscillators for each normal mode together with a free quantum particle describing the center of mass.

Recently [15] a method was proposed which allows the practical calculation of higher-loop states. This method, to be reviewed in Sect. 2, constructs a kink sector Hamiltonian $H'$ and momentum $P'$ via a unitarity transformation of the defining Hamiltonian $H$ and momentum $P$. Then states can be pushed beyond one loop by first imposing perturbatively that they be eigenstates of the momentum $P'$, which fixes the state up to a few coefficients, and then applying old-fashioned perturbation theory in $H'$ to fix these remaining coefficients. The corresponding eigenstates of $H$ and $P$ are recovered from this result via the inverse unitary transformation.

So far this method has only been applied to the kink ground state. However, in light of the above motivation, in the present paper we will apply it to kinks excited by a single continuum or bound normal mode, in their center of mass frame. We will find the first correction to the states beyond one loop and also will find the corresponding two-loop mass correction. With these states in hand, it will be possible in future work to compute their form factors and matrix elements, which in turn may be applied to compute fully quantum scattering amplitudes. While the one-loop form factors have long been known to be simply related to the classical kink solutions [2], it will be clear that at next order many matrix elements that vanish at one loop no longer vanish, presumably leading to novel physical effects in quantum scattering.

In Sect. 3 we will construct the leading order correction to the one-loop states corresponding to quantum kinks with excited continuum or discrete normal modes. In Sect. 4 we will find the corresponding two-loop mass shifts. Finally in Sect. 5 we will sketch a diagrammatic method to perform such calculations in general. The main notation is summarized in Table 1. In 1 we check that our state satisfies the most constraining component of the Schrodinger equation, which summarizes the condition that it be a Hamiltonian eigenstate. An example, the shape mode in the $\phi^4$ theory, is worked out explicitly in the companion paper [16].

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Table 1 Summary of notation

| Operator | Description |
|----------|-------------|
| $\phi(x)$, $\pi(x)$ | The real scalar field and its conjugate momentum |
| $A_p^\dagger$, $A_p$ | Creation and annihilation operators in plane wave basis |
| $B_k^\dagger$, $B_k$ | Creation and annihilation operators in normal mode basis |
| $\phi_0$, $\pi_0$ | Zero mode of $\phi(x)$ and $\pi(x)$ in normal mode basis |
| $:a_i: :b_i:$ | Normal ordering with respect to $A$ or $B$ operators respectively |
| $H$, $P$ | The defining Hamiltonian and corresponding momentum |
| $H^\prime$, $P^\prime$ | $\mathcal{D}_f$-transformed $H$ and $P$ |
| $H_0$ | The $\phi^n$ term in $H'$ |

Symbol | Description |
|--------|-------------|
| $f(x)$ | The classical kink solution |
| $\mathcal{D}_f$ | Unitary operator that translates $\phi(x)$ by the classical kink solution |
| $g_B(x)$ | The kink linearized translation mode |
| $g_k(x)$ | Continuum or discrete normal mode |
| $\gamma_i^{mn}$ | Coefficient of $\phi_0^m B_0^n |0\rangle_0$ in order $i$ excited state $|\mathcal{R}\rangle$ |
| $\Gamma_i^{mn}$ | Coefficient of $\phi_0^m B_0^n |0\rangle_0$ in order $i$ Schrödinger Equation $(H^\prime - E)|\mathcal{R}\rangle$ |
| $V_{ijk}$ | Derivative of the potential contracted with various functions |
| $T(x)$ | Contraction factor from Wick’s theorem |
| $p$ | Momentum |
| $k$ | The analog of momentum for normal modes |
| $\mathcal{R}$ | Value of $k$ for the normal mode considered |
| $\omega_k$, $\omega_p$ | The frequency corresponding to $k$ or $p$ |
| $Q_n$ | $n$-loop correction to kink ground state energy |
| $E_n$ | $n$-loop correction to excited kink energy |

State | Description |
|-------|-------------|
| $|\mathcal{R}\rangle$ ($|\mathcal{R}_i\rangle$) | Excited kink state as eigenvector of $H^\prime$ (at order $i$) |
| $|0\rangle$ ($|0_i\rangle$) | Kink ground state as eigenvector of $H^\prime$ (at order $i$) |

2 Review

We now review the formalism introduced in Refs. [17,18] that describes quantum kinks in a 1+1d real scalar field theory with Hamiltonian

$$ H = \int dx \mathcal{H}(x) $$

The analog of momentum for normal modes

$$ \mathcal{H}(x) = \frac{1}{2} :\pi(x)\pi(x) : + \frac{1}{2} :\partial_t \phi(x)\partial_t \phi(x) : + \frac{1}{g^2} : V[g\phi(x)]: + \cdots. $$

The normal-ordering $:a_i:$ is defined below.

Consider a kink solution

$$ \phi(x, t) = f(x) $$

of the classical equations of motion. We will assume that $V''[gf(-\infty)] = V''[gf(\infty)]$ and name this quantity $M^2/2$. Each prime here is a functional derivative with respect to $g f(x)$.

This paper will be entirely in the Schrödinger picture, and so the quantum field $\phi$ only depends on $x$. One may expand the Schrödinger picture quantum field $\phi(x)$ about its classical solution $\phi(x) = f(x) + \eta(x)$. In this case $\phi \rightarrow \eta = \phi - f$ could be interpreted as a passive transformation of the fields. Instead, following [14,19], we employ an active transformation of the Hamiltonian and momentum functionals acting on the fields

$$ H[\phi, \pi] \rightarrow H'[\phi, \pi] = H[f + \phi, \pi] $$

$$ P[\phi, \pi] \rightarrow P'[\phi, \pi] = P[f + \phi, \pi]. $$

The new observation [20] is that this transformation is a unitary equivalence because

$$ H' = \mathcal{D}_f^\dagger H \mathcal{D}_f, \quad P' = \mathcal{D}_f^\dagger P \mathcal{D}_f $$

where the displacement operator $\mathcal{D}_f$ is

$$ \mathcal{D}_f = \exp\left(-i \int dx f(x)\pi(x)\right). $$

It will be necessary to regularize and renormalize the Hamiltonian. In Eq. (2.1) all UV divergences are removed via normal ordering, but this would not be sufficient in theories with fermions or in more dimensions, and so we would like a formalism which may be applied to a general regularized Hamiltonian. We therefore adopt\(^1\) (2.4) as our definition of $H'$ and $P'$ instead of (2.3), as it is well-defined for any regularized Hamiltonian $H$ and agrees with (2.3) when the Hamiltonian is a functional of the unregularized fields. This approach has the advantage that one regularizes only once. This is in contrast with the traditional approach in which one separately regularizes $H$ and $H'$ and so, to remove the regulator at the end of the calculation, one requires a regulator matching condition that affects the answer [22] but is in general is unknown.\(^2\)

\(^{1}\) This definition is sufficient to all orders in perturbation theory, however in general to eliminate tadpoles in $H'$ one must include a correction to $f(x)$ which is exponentially suppressed in the regulator [21].

\(^{2}\) Some matching conditions yield the correct masses in examples at one loop and some do not. While there are several conjectured principles that determine which are correct [23,24], none of these have been derived.
Unitary equivalence (2.4) means that $H$ and $H'$ have the same eigenvalues, with eigenvectors that are related by $D_f$. This means that we may use whichever is more convenient to calculate any state or energy. We will see that perturbation theory may be used to calculate vacuum sector states using $H$ and kink sector states using $H'$.

As $g\sqrt{\hbar}$ is dimensionless, we expand $H'$ in powers of $g$

$$H' = D_f^\dagger HD_f = Q_0 + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} H_n$$

where $Q_0$ is the classical kink mass and $V^{(n)}$ is the $n$th derivative of $g^{n-2}V(g\phi(x))$ with respect to its argument.

Consider the classical, linear wave equation corresponding to $H_2$. The constant frequency solutions $g_B(x)$ are continuum unbound normal modes, discrete bound normal modes with $0 < \omega_k < M$ which we will call shape modes and a zero-mode

$$\omega_k = \sqrt{M^2 + k^2}$$

solutions $g_k(x)$ are continuum unbound normal modes, discrete bound normal modes with $0 < \omega_k < M$ which we will call shape modes and a zero-mode

$$g_B(x) = \frac{f(x)}{\sqrt{Q_0}}, \quad \omega_B = 0.$$ (2.7)

$k$ is real for continuum modes and imaginary for discrete modes. The definition (2.7) of $\omega_k$ fixes the parametrization of $k$ up to a sign. We will often need to sum over both continuum solutions and shape modes, and so it will be implicit that integrals written $\int \frac{dk}{2\pi}$ also include a sum over the shape modes $\sum_k$. Similarly, when $k$ represents a shape mode, $2\pi \delta(k - k')$ should be understood as $\delta_{kk'}$.

Using the normalization conditions

$$\int dx g_k(x)g^*_k(x) = 2\pi \delta(k_1 - k_2), \quad \int dx |g_B(x)|^2 = 1$$ (2.9)

and conventions

$$g_k(-x) = g_k^*(x) = g_{-k}(x), \quad \tilde{g}(p) = \int dx g(x)e^{ipx}$$ (2.10)

the completeness relations can be written

$$g_B(x)g_B(y) + \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} g_k(x)g^*_k(y) = \delta(x - y).$$ (2.11)

Recall that the Schrödinger picture fields $\phi(x)$ and $\pi(x)$ are independent of time. Therefore, even in the full interacting theory, they may be expanded in any basis of functions. We will need expansions in terms of plane waves, which diagonalize the free part of $H$

$$\phi(x) = \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} (A^+_p + \frac{A^*_p - \omega_p}{2\omega_p}) e^{-ipx}$$

$$\pi(x) = i \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} (\omega_p A^+_p - \frac{A^*_p - \omega_p}{2}) e^{-ipx}$$ (2.12)

and, following Ref. [27], also normal modes, which diagonalize $H_2$

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0 g_B(x) + \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} \left( B^+_k + \frac{B^*_k - \omega_k}{2\omega_k} \right) g_k(x)$$

$$\pi(x) = \pi_0 g_B(x) + i \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} \left( \omega_k B^+_k - \frac{B^*_k - \omega_k}{2} \right) g_k(x).$$ (2.13)

To simplify later expressions, we have inserted factors of $\sqrt{2\omega}$ into the operators so that $A$ and $A^\dagger$ are normal modes with $0 < \omega_k < M$ which we will call shape modes and a zero-mode

$$[A_p, A^\dagger_q] = 2\pi \delta(p - q)$$

$$[\phi_0, \pi_0] = i, \quad [B^+_k, B^\dagger_k] = 2\pi \delta(k_1 - k_2).$$ (2.14)

Our Hamiltonian $H$ is defined in terms of plane wave normal ordering $\langle A^\dagger : B^+_k \rangle$. The unitary transformation (2.4) preserves normal ordering [20] and so $H'$ is also plane wave normal-ordered. Thus $H'$ is defined in terms of the plane wave operators $A$ and $A^\dagger$. Inserting (2.13) into the inverse of (2.12) one sees that the two sets of operators are related by a linear, Bogoliubov transform. Using this to express $H'$ in terms of normal mode operators $B$, $B^\dagger$, $\phi_0$ and $\pi_0$ one finds that $H_2$ is a sum of harmonic oscillators with a free particle for the center of mass

$$H_2 = Q_1 + \frac{\pi_0^2}{2} + \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} \omega_k B^+_k B_k$$

$$Q_1 = -\frac{1}{4} \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \left( \omega_p - \omega_k \right)^2 \tilde{g}_k^2(p)$$

$$-\frac{1}{4} \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \omega_p \tilde{g}_B(p) \tilde{g}_B(p).$$ (2.15)
Here $Q_1$ is the one-loop kink mass. The ground state $|0 \rangle_0$ of $H_2$ satisfies
\[ \pi_0 |0 \rangle_0 = B_1 |0 \rangle_0 = 0 \]
and corresponds to the one-loop kink ground state. The exact spectrum of $H_2$ is obtained by exciting normal modes with $B^\dagger_1$ and boosting with $e^{i \phi_b / \sqrt{\hbar}}$. These correspond to the states of the one-kink sector at one loop.

More generally, the kink ground state corresponds to the eigenstate $|0 \rangle$ of $H^\prime$. It may be expanded in powers of $\sqrt{\hbar}$
\[ |0 \rangle = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |0 \rangle_i. \]

The $n$-loop ground state is this sum truncated at $i = 2n - 2$.

3 Excited kink states

3.1 The normal mode state

Let $R$ be the eigenstate of $H^\prime$ corresponding to a kink with a single excited continuous or discrete normal mode with $k = R$. Note that $D_j |R \rangle$ is the corresponding eigenstate of the defining Hamiltonian $H$. We will use the semiclassical expansion, in powers of $\sqrt{\hbar}$
\[ |R \rangle = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |R \rangle_i i \]
which we will further decompose in terms of normal mode creation operators acting on the state $|0 \rangle_0$
\[ |R \rangle_i = \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} |R \rangle_i^{mn}, \quad |R \rangle_i^{mn} = \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \langle 0 | \phi_{i}^{m} B_{k_1} \cdots B_{k_n} |0 \rangle_0. \]

To avoid clutter, we will leave the $R$-dependence of $\gamma$ implicit from here on.

The normal mode $|R \rangle$ is the eigenstate of $H^\prime$ which, at leading order in the semiclassical expansion, has coefficients
\[ \gamma_{01}^{01} (k_1) = 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R) \]
so that at one loop it is simply the harmonic oscillator eigenstate
\[ |R \rangle_0 = B_{R}^\dagger |0 \rangle_0. \]

Recall that this is an exact eigenstate of $H_2$, and so it is the correct starting point for our semiclassical expansion of the corresponding eigenstate of $H^\prime$. Note that, using our compact notation in which $k$ runs over both real values for continuum modes and discrete indices for shape modes, if $R$ is a discrete shape mode then the right side of (3.3) should be the Kronecker delta $\delta_{k_1 R}$. We will continue to write the Dirac delta, reminding the reader that $2 \pi \delta$ is always to be read as a Kronecker delta in the discrete case.

3.2 Translation invariance

We will further impose that $D_j |R \rangle$ is translation invariant, or equivalently we will work in its center of mass frame. This condition is
\[ P^j |R \rangle = 0 \]
which implies the recursion relations [15, 18]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{mn} (k_1 \ldots k_n) \]
\[ = \Delta_{k_{i+1}} B_i \right] \left[ \gamma_{i}^{mn-1} (k_1 \ldots k_{n-1}) + \frac{\omega_{k_{i+1}}}{\omega_{k_i}} \gamma_{i}^{m-2,n-1} (k_1 \ldots k_{n-1}) \right] \]
\[ + (n + 1) \int \frac{d k_{i+1}^\prime}{2 \pi} \Delta_{k_{i+1}} \left( \frac{\gamma_{i}^{m,n+1} (k_1 \ldots k_{n} k_{i+1}^\prime)}{2 \omega_{k_i}} \right) \]
\[ - \frac{\gamma_{i}^{m-2,n+1} (k_1 \ldots k_{n} k_{i+1}^\prime)}{2m} \]
\[ + \frac{\omega_{k_{i+1}}}{\omega_{k_i}} \Delta_{k_{i+1}} \gamma_{i}^{m-1,n-2} (k_1 \ldots k_{n-2}) \]
\[ + \frac{n}{2m} \int \frac{d k_{i+1}^\prime}{2 \pi} \Delta_{k_{i+1}} \left( 1 + \frac{\omega_{k_{i+1}}}{\omega_{k_i}} \right) \gamma_{i}^{m-1,n} (k_1 \ldots k_{n-1} k_{i+1}^\prime) \]
\[ - \frac{n}{2m} \int \frac{d k_{i+1}^\prime}{2 \pi} \Delta_{k_{i+1}} \left( 1 + \frac{\omega_{k_{i+1}}}{\omega_{k_i}} \right) \gamma_{i}^{m-1,n} (k_1 \ldots k_{n-1} k_{i+1}^\prime) \]

at all $m > 0$. Here we have defined the matrix
\[ \Delta_{ij} = \int d x g_i (x) g_j^\prime (x). \]

Before each application of the recursion relations, $\gamma_{i}^{mn}$ must be symmetrized with respect to its arguments $k_j$ [18].

The first recursion gives
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{11} (k_1) = - \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{k_1, R} \left( 1 + \frac{\omega_{k_1}}{\omega_{R}} \right) \]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{12} (k_1, k_2) = \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{\omega_{R}} \Delta_{k_2, R} \Delta_{k_1, k_2} 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R) \]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{20} (k_1, k_2) = - \frac{1}{4} \Delta_{k_1, R} \]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{22} (k_1, k_2) = - \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{2} \Delta_{k_2, R} 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R). \]

Before proceeding to the second recursion, it is necessary to symmetrize the results of the first recursion
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{11} (k_1, k_2, k_3) = \frac{1}{6} \left[ (\omega_{k_2} - \omega_{k_3}) \Delta_{k_2, k_3} 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R) + (\omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_3}) \Delta_{k_1, k_3} 2 \pi \delta (k_2 - R) + (\omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_2}) \Delta_{k_1, k_2} 2 \pi \delta (k_3 - R) \right] \]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{22} (k_1, k_2) = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \omega_{k_2} \Delta_{k_2, R} 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R) \right] \]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{20} (k_1, k_2) = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \omega_{k_2} \Delta_{k_2, R} 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R) \right] \]
\[ \gamma_{i+1}^{12} (k_1, k_2) = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \omega_{k_2} \Delta_{k_2, R} 2 \pi \delta (k_1 - R) \right] \]
\[+\omega_k \Delta_{k_1} B_{k_2} 2\pi \delta(k_2 - \mathcal{R})]. \quad (3.9)\]

Let us pause to interpret the divergences in these terms. In the Sine-Gordon model, and we suspect more generally, \(\Delta_{k_1} k_2\) contains a summand equal to \(-i k_1 2\pi \delta(k_1 + k_2)\). Therefore \(\gamma_1^{11}(k_1)\) will have a \(\delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R})\) term. One can see that with repeated recursions this is part of an \(\exp(-i\mathcal{R}f_0/\sqrt{Q_0})\) factor of \(\mathcal{R}\). This term has a simple interpretation. The condition that \(\rho'\) annihilates \(\mathcal{R}\), implies that we are working in the center of mass frame of the excited kink. The operator \(B_{k_1}^\dagger\) increases the center of mass momentum by roughly \(\mathcal{R}\) units, and this exponential term compensates with an opposing bulk motion of the kink. As \(\mathcal{R} \sqrt{Q_0}\) is of order \(g\), this bulk motion is slow, reflecting the fact that the kink is nonperturbatively heavy.

On the other hand the \(\delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R})\) appearing in \(\gamma_1^{13}\) and \(\gamma_1^{22}\) reflects the fact that these terms are part of \(B_{\mathcal{R}}^\dagger|0\rangle_1\). In other words, they should be interpreted as corrections \(|0\rangle_1\) to the kink ground state \(|0\rangle\). The bare normal mode \(B_{\mathcal{R}}^\dagger\) is then excited in this dressed ground state. In this sense, these terms are not caused by the excitation of the normal mode. To develop a theory of kink scattering, it would be desirable to introduce a suitable LSZ reduction formula. We suspect that this would eliminate the contributions of such terms to the S-matrix elements in which an asymptotic state is an excited kink \(|\mathcal{R}\rangle\).

3.3 Finding Hamiltonian eigenstates

The \(\gamma_i^{0n}\) are not fixed by translation invariance [18]. We will now find them using old-fashioned perturbation theory.

In analogy with \(\gamma_i^{mn}(k_1 \cdot k_n)\), which consists of the \(i\)th order corrections of \(|\mathcal{R}\rangle\) in a basis of the Fock space, we introduce \(\Gamma_i^{mn}(k_1 \cdot k_n)\) consisting of \(i\)th order coefficients of \((H' - E)|\mathcal{R}\rangle\). More precisely, \(\Gamma\) is a solution of

\[
\sum_{j=0}^{i} \left( H_{i+2-j} - E_{i+1} \right) |\mathcal{R}\rangle_j = Q_0^{-1/2} \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \Gamma_i^{mn}(k_1 \cdot k_n) \phi_0^m B_{k_1}^\dagger \cdots B_{k_n}^\dagger |0\rangle_0. \quad (3.10)
\]

The \(\Gamma\) matrices are clearly functions of the \(\gamma\) matrices, as these determine the state \(|\mathcal{R}\rangle\) via (3.2).

The state \(|\mathcal{R}\rangle\) is defined to be an eigenvector of \(H'\). We will refer to the corresponding eigenvalue equation

\[
(H' - E)|\mathcal{R}\rangle = 0 \quad E = \sum_i E_i \quad (3.11)
\]

as the Schrödinger Equation. Here \(E_i\) is the \(i\)th correction to the energy of \(|\mathcal{R}\rangle\). A sufficient condition for a solution is

\[
\Gamma_i^{mn}(k_1 \cdot k_n) = 0. \quad (3.12)
\]

If one symmetrizes this condition over permutations of the arguments \(k_j\), then it is also a necessary condition.

As the \(\Gamma\) are functions of the \(\gamma\), this condition can be solved for \(\gamma\). We already used translation-invariance to find \(\gamma_i^{mn}\) at \(m > 0\) and so now we need only solve for \(\gamma_i^{0n}\).

The leading order is \(i = 0\). Recall that

\[
H_2 - Q_1 = \frac{\pi^2}{2} + \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} \omega_k B_{k}^\dagger B_{k} \quad (3.13)
\]

and so

\[
(H_2 - Q_1) |\mathcal{R}\rangle_0 = \omega_{\mathcal{R}} |\mathcal{R}\rangle_0. \quad (3.14)
\]

Therefore at leading order (3.10) is

\[
(\omega_{\mathcal{R}} + Q_1 - E_1) |\mathcal{R}\rangle_0 = \sum_{mn} \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \Gamma_i^{mn}(k_1 \cdot k_n) \phi_0^m B_{k_1}^\dagger \cdots B_{k_n}^\dagger |0\rangle_0. \quad (3.15)
\]

The condition \(\Gamma_0 = 0\) implies

\[
E_1 = Q_1 + \omega_{\mathcal{R}}. \quad (3.16)
\]

This is not a big surprise, it is just the statement that at leading order the mass \(E_1\) of a kink with an excited normal mode is greater than the ground state kink mass \(Q_1\) by \(\omega_{\mathcal{R}}\).

The next order is \(i = 1\), where we find

\[
H_2 - E_1 = -\omega_{\mathcal{R}} + \frac{\pi^2}{2} + \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} \omega_k B_{k}^\dagger B_{k}. \quad (3.18)
\]

Recall that

\[
H_3 = \frac{1}{6} \int dx V^{(3)}([g f(x)] : \phi^3(x) ::_a = \frac{1}{6} \int dx V^{(3)}([g f(x)] : \phi^3(x) ::_b + \frac{1}{2} \int dx V^{(3)}([g f(x)] \phi(x) I(x). \quad (3.19)
\]

In the second line we have used Wick’s theorem [28] where the contraction factor \(I(x)\) is defined by

\[
\partial_x I(x) = \int dx \frac{1}{2\pi k} \partial_x |g k(x)|^2. \quad (3.20)
\]

with the boundary condition fixed so that \(I(x)\) vanishes asymptotically.
Let us calculate the entries $\Gamma_{10}^{mn}$ one at a time. Introducing the notation

$$V_{T^m \mathcal{I}, \alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_n} = \int dx V^{(2m+n)}(x) \mathcal{I}^{m}(x) g_{\alpha_1}(x) \cdots g_{\alpha_n}(x)$$

(3.21)

there are three contributions to $\Gamma_{10}^{00}$

$$H_3|\bar{R}\rangle_0 \ni \frac{V_{T^0 \mathcal{I}}}{4\omega_R} |0\rangle_0$$

(3.22)

and

$$\frac{\pi_0^2}{2} |\bar{R}\rangle_1 \ni \frac{\pi_0^2}{2} Q_0^{-1/2} \phi_0^2 |0\rangle_0 = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{Q_0}} \Delta_{-RB} |0\rangle_0 - \omega_R |\bar{R}\rangle_1$$

(3.23)

These lead to

$$\Gamma_{10}^{00} \equiv \frac{\sqrt{Q_0 V_{T^0 R}}}{4\omega_R} + \frac{\Delta_{-RB}}{4} - \omega_R \gamma_{10}^{00}.$$ (3.24)

Schrödinger’s equation $\Gamma = 0$ then yields

$$\gamma_{10}^{00} \equiv \frac{\sqrt{Q_0 V_{T^0 R}}}{4\omega_R} + \frac{\Delta_{-RB}}{4\omega_R}. \tag{3.25}$$

The contributions to $\Gamma_{10}^{02}$ are similar, but there is also a contribution from $\phi^{1}_B \phi^{1}_B |\bar{R}\rangle_0$, or more precisely from terms of the form $B^{1} B^{1} B^{1} |\bar{R}\rangle_0$. Altogether we find

$$H_3|\bar{R}\rangle_0 \ni \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} V_{T^k B^{1}_k B^{1}_R} |0\rangle_0$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{V_{-RB_k k_2}}{2\omega_R} B^{1}_k B^{1}_2 |0\rangle_0$$

(3.26)

and

$$\frac{\pi_0^2}{2} |\bar{R}\rangle_1 \ni \frac{\pi_0^2}{2} Q_0^{-1/2} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_{22}^{11}(k_1, k_2) \phi_0^2 B^{1}_k B^{1}_2 |0\rangle_0$$

$$= - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} \omega_k \Delta_k B^{1}_k B^{1}_R |0\rangle_0$$

(3.27)

Adding these contributions we find

$$\Gamma_{10}^{02} \equiv \frac{2\pi}{2} \delta(k_2 - \bar{R}) \left( \sqrt{Q_0 V_{T^k}} - \omega_k \Delta_k \right)$$

$$+ \frac{\sqrt{Q_0 V_{-RB_k k_2}}}{2\omega_R} + \left( \omega_k + \omega_k - \omega_R \right) \gamma_{10}^{02}(k_1, k_2). \tag{3.28}$$

Finally, we will compute $\Gamma_{10}^{04}$. As $\gamma_{10}^{24} = 0$ there are only two contributions

$$H_3|\bar{R}\rangle_0 \ni \frac{1}{6} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} V_{k k_2 k_3} B^{1}_k B^{1}_2 B^{1}_3 B^{1}_R |0\rangle_0$$

(3.31)

and

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \left( -\omega_R + \sum_{j=1}^{4} \omega_k \right) \gamma_{10}^{04}(k_1 \ldots k_4) B^{1}_{k_1} \ldots B^{1}_{k_4} |0\rangle_0$$

(3.32)

leading to

$$\Gamma_{10}^{04} = \frac{2\pi}{6} \delta(k_4 - \bar{R}) V_{k_2 k_3} + \left( -\omega_R + \sum_{j=1}^{4} \omega_k \right) \gamma_{10}^{04}(k_1 \ldots k_4). \tag{3.33}$$

Thus the last matrix element at order $i = 1$ is

$$\gamma_{10}^{04}(k_1 \ldots k_4) = - \frac{\sqrt{Q_0 V_{k k_2 k_3 k_4}}}{6} 2\pi \delta(k_4 - \bar{R}). \tag{3.34}$$

This completes our determination of $\gamma_{10}^{mn}$ and so of the leading correction $|\bar{R}\rangle_1$ to the excited kink state $|\bar{R}\rangle$.

4 Mass shifts

In this section we will calculate the leading order correction to the masses of the normal modes. More precisely, $E_2$ will be the two-loop correction to the energy of the excited kink. Subtracting $Q_2$, the two-loop correction to the ground state energy found in Ref. [15], one obtains $E_2 - Q_2$, the two-loop correction to the energy required to excite the kink normal mode.
4.1 The next order Schrödinger equation

The leading order energy correction is $E_2$, which can be computed from the $i = 2$ Schrödinger equation

$$(H_k - E_2)|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_0 + H_2|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_1 + (H_k - E_1)|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_2 = 0. \quad (4.1)$$

As $|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_0 = B^\dagger_{\mathcal{R}}|0\rangle$, the energy $E_2$ is fixed by terms that are proportional to $B^\dagger_{\mathcal{R}}|0\rangle$.

More precisely, we need only calculate $\Gamma_{21}^{01}$. In Sect. 3 we fixed $|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_0$ and found $|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_1$. The only terms in $|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_2$ that contribute to $\Gamma_{21}^{01}$ are $\gamma_{21}^{01}$ and $\gamma_{21}^{21}$, the first via the $-\omega_{\mathcal{R}} + \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \omega_k B^\dagger_k B_k$ term in $H_2$ and the second via the $\pi_0^2/2$ term.

At second order, the only $m > 0$ contribution to the energy arises from $\gamma_{21}^{21}$ as the $\pi_0^2$ maps it to the initial state $m = 0$, $n = 1$. Using the recursion relation (3.6) this is given by

$$\gamma_{21}^{21}(k_1) = \Delta_{k_1}B \left[ \gamma_{y_0}^{20} + \frac{\omega_{k_1}}{2} \gamma_{y_1}^{00} \right] + 2 \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k'B} \left( \frac{\gamma_{y_2}^{22}(k_1,k') - \gamma_{y_1}^{02}(k_1,k')}{2\omega_{k'}} \right) + \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{k_1-k'} \left( 1 + \frac{\omega_{k_1}}{\omega_{k'}} \right) \gamma_{y_1}^{11}(k') - \frac{3}{2} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\omega_{k_1}}{2\omega_{k'}} \gamma_{y_1}^{13}(k_1,k',k_2). \quad (4.2)$$

Inserting the coefficients $\gamma_0$ and $\gamma_1$ found in Sect. 3 this becomes

$$\gamma_{21}^{21}(k_1) = 2\pi \delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R}) \left[ \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k'B} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{k'_B}}{\omega_{k}}} \left( \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} \right) \Delta_{k'B} \right] + \frac{1}{8} \Delta_{-k'B} \frac{\sqrt{\omega_{k'_B} V_{k'_B}}}{\omega_{k'}} \left[ \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\omega_{k'_1}}{\omega_{k'_2}} \right) \Delta_{k'_2} \right] + \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} \omega_{k'_2} \Delta_{k'_2} \right) + \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{8\omega_{\mathcal{R}}}} \omega_{k_1} \left( V_{\mathcal{R}} + \omega_{\mathcal{R}} \Delta_{-k'_B} V_{k_1} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k'_B} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{\mathcal{R}}}{\omega_{k}}} \omega_{k'_1} \omega_{k'_2} \right] \left( \omega_{\mathcal{R}} - \omega_{k'_1} - \omega_{k'_2} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{8} \Delta_{-k'_B} \left( \omega_{\mathcal{R}} + \frac{\omega_{k'_1}}{\omega_{k'_2}} \right) \left( 1 - 1 \right) \Delta_{-k'_B} \Delta_{k'_B}. \quad (4.3)$$

Simplifying slightly this is

$$\gamma_{21}^{21}(k_1) = 2\pi \delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R}) \left[ \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k'B} \frac{\omega_{k'_B}}{\omega_{k}} \left( \Delta_{k'B} + \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{k'_B} V_{k'_B}}{\omega_{k}}} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{16} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \frac{\omega_{k'_1} - \omega_{k'_2}}{\omega_{k'_1} \omega_{k'_2}} \Delta_{k'_2} \Delta_{-k'_1} \Delta_{-k'_B} \Delta_{k'_B} + \frac{3}{8} \left( -1 + \frac{\omega_{k'_1}}{\omega_{\mathcal{R}}} \right) \Delta_{k_1} B \Delta_{-\mathcal{R}B} \Delta_{-k'_B} + \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \frac{\omega_{k'_1} + \omega_{k'_2}}{\omega_{k'}} \Delta_{-k'_B} \Delta_{k_1} \Delta_{k'_B} \Delta_{-\mathcal{R}B} + \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{k'_1}}{8\omega_{\mathcal{R}}} \omega_{k_1} \left( V_{\mathcal{R}} - \Delta_{-\mathcal{R}B} V_{k_1} \right)} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k'_B} \frac{\sqrt{\omega_{\mathcal{R}} V_{\mathcal{R}k'_B}}}{4\omega_{\mathcal{R}}} \left( \omega_{\mathcal{R}} - \omega_{k'_1} - \omega_{k'_2} \right). \quad (4.4)$$

Now we will compute the various contributions to $\Gamma_{21}^{01}$. Let us begin with the contributions to $(H_2 - E_1)|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_2$ in (4.1). The operator is given in (3.18). The contribution from $\gamma_{21}^{21}$ arises from

$$\pi_0^2 \frac{1}{2} Q_0 \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \gamma_{21}^{21}(k_1) \phi_0^2 B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0 \phi_0^2 B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0 = - \frac{1}{Q_0} \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \gamma_{21}^{21}(k_1) B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0. \quad (4.5)$$

The contribution of $\gamma_{21}^{01}$ is

$$\left( -\omega_{\mathcal{R}} + \frac{d^1k}{2\pi} \omega_k B^\dagger_k B_k \right) \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \gamma_{21}^{01}(k_1) B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0 \phi_0^2 B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0 = \frac{1}{Q_0} \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \left( \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{\mathcal{R}} \right) \gamma_{21}^{01}(k_1) B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0. \quad (4.6)$$

The contribution to the energy arises from $k_1 = \mathcal{R}$ but in that case the $\omega_{k_1} - \omega_{\mathcal{R}}$ vanishes and so this term does not contribute. This is an important consistency check, as $\gamma_{21}^{01}(\mathcal{R})$ can be absorbed into the arbitrary normalization of $\gamma_{21}^{21}(\mathcal{R})$ and this choice should not affect an observable quantity like the energy.

There are three contributions from $H_3|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_1$. The first is

$$H_3|\tilde{\mathcal{R}}\rangle_1^{00} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \gamma_{10}^{00} H_3 |0\rangle_0 \left( \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{V_{k_1}}{2} B^\dagger_{k_1} B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0 \right) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{Q_0}^2} \gamma_{10}^{00} \left( \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{V_{k_1}}{2} B^\dagger_{k_1} B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0 \right) \int \frac{d^1k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{V_{k_1}}{2} B^\dagger_{k_1} B^\dagger_{k_1} |0\rangle_0. \quad (4.7)$$
The second is

\[ H_3|\bar{R}\rangle_0^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) H_3 B_{k_1}^\dagger B_{k_2}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) \]

\[ \times \frac{6}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \frac{d^k}{V_{k_1-k_2}} \frac{2\pi \delta(k_1 - k_2)}{20\omega_{k_1}} \frac{2\pi \delta(k_2 - k_2)}{20\omega_{k_2}} B_{k_1}^\dagger B_{k_2}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ + \frac{2}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) \frac{2\pi \delta(k_1 - k_2)}{20\omega_{k_1}} B_{k_1}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) V_{k_1-k_2} \frac{16\omega_{k_1}\omega_{k_2}}{\omega_{k_1} + \omega_{k_2}} \right] \]

\[ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{\omega_{k_1}\Delta_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{8\omega_{k_2}} \right] \]

\[ + \frac{\sqrt{Q_0} V_{k_1-k_2} V_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \]

\[ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{\omega_{k_1}\Delta_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{8\omega_{k_2}} \right] \]

\[ + 2\pi \delta(k_1 - \bar{R}) \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{\omega_{k_1}\Delta_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{8\omega_{k_2}} \right] B_{k_1}^\dagger |0\rangle_0. \]

The third contribution is

\[ H_3|\bar{R}\rangle_0^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) H_3 B_{k_1}^\dagger B_{k_2}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) \]

\[ \times \frac{6}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \frac{d^k}{V_{k_1-k_2}} \frac{2\pi \delta(k_1 - k_2)}{20\omega_{k_1}} \frac{2\pi \delta(k_2 - k_2)}{20\omega_{k_2}} B_{k_1}^\dagger B_{k_2}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ + \frac{2}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) \frac{2\pi \delta(k_1 - k_2)}{20\omega_{k_1}} B_{k_1}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \gamma_0^{(0)}(k_1, k_2) V_{k_1-k_2} \frac{16\omega_{k_1}\omega_{k_2}}{\omega_{k_1} + \omega_{k_2}} \right] \]

\[ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{\omega_{k_1}\Delta_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{8\omega_{k_2}} \right] \]

\[ + \frac{\sqrt{Q_0} V_{k_1-k_2} V_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \]

\[ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{\omega_{k_1}\Delta_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{8\omega_{k_2}} \right] \]

\[ + 2\pi \delta(k_1 - \bar{R}) \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{\omega_{k_1}\Delta_{k_1-k_2}}{8\omega_{k_1}} \frac{\omega_{k_2}}{8\omega_{k_2}} \right] B_{k_1}^\dagger |0\rangle_0. \]

The last contribution to \( \Gamma_2^{(1)} \) is from \( (H_4 - E_2)|\bar{R}\rangle_0^{(2)} \). This is easily evaluated using Wick’s theorem [28]

\[ H_4|\bar{R}\rangle_0^{(2)} \ni \frac{V_{TT}}{8} + \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{V_{Tk_1} k_2 B_{k_1}^\dagger B_{k_2}^\dagger}{2\omega_{k_2}} B_{\bar{R}}^\dagger |0\rangle_0 \]

\[ = \frac{V_{TT}}{8} |\bar{R}\rangle_0^{(2)} + \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{V_{Tk_1} - \bar{R}}{2\omega_{k_2}} B_{k_1}^\dagger |0\rangle_0. \]
4.2 Continuum modes

If \( \mathcal{R} \) is a continuum mode then the term with the Dirac \( \delta \) in (4.11) is infinite and so, if \( \mu(\mathcal{R}) \) is finite, must vanish separately. This implies \( E_2 = Q_2 \) for all continuum modes \( \mathcal{R} \) with \( \mu(\mathcal{R}) \) finite. This is intuitive, the continuum modes are nonnormalizable and they only have finite overlap with the kink. Therefore the kink cannot shift their energy. The two-loop correction to the energy needed to excite the kink ground state to a normal mode state is \( E_2 - Q_2 = 0 \). Of course the one-loop correction \( E_1 - Q_1 = \omega_k \) we have already seen is nonzero.

Is \( \mu(\mathcal{R}) \) finite? Divergences may only arise from divergences in \( \Delta \) or \( V \) or from the infinite integrals over continuum modes \( k \). If the potential \( V \) is smooth then divergences in the \( V \) symbols will not arise. However \( \Delta \) has a divergence arising from the fact that continuum modes tend to plane waves far from a localized kink

\[
\Delta_{k_1k_2} \ni i\pi (k_2 - k_1) \delta(k_1 + k_2). \tag{4.13}
\]

Via \( \gamma_2^{11}(k_1) \), this contributes

\[
\mu(k_1) \ni \frac{\mathcal{R}^2}{2Q_0} 2\pi \delta(\mathcal{R} - k_1). \tag{4.14}
\]

If there are no other divergences in \( \mu \) then, setting to zero the coefficient of \( \delta(\mathcal{R} - k_1) \) in (4.11), we find

\[
E_2 = Q_2 + \frac{\mathcal{R}^2}{2Q_0}. \tag{4.15}
\]

In other words, the two-loop correction to the mass of a kink excited by a normal mode with \( k = \mathcal{R} \) is just the corresponding nonrelativistic kinetic energy.

The appearance of the nonrelativistic kinetic energy may be surprising as we are in the kink regime of mass frame. However this is actually the nonrelativistic energy resulting from the fact that, as described beneath Eq. (3.9), in order to keep a total momentum of zero the nonrelativistic kink has a bulk motion which compensates that of the relativistic normal mode. Due to the mass difference, the kinetic energy of the normal mode affects the total energy at one loop while the kinetic energy of the bulk, which has an equal and opposite momentum, enters only at two loops.

Now let us consider potential divergences in the \( k \) integrals. The corresponding eigenfunctions tend to plane waves \( e^{ikx} \) far from the kink, up to a phase shift. In cases such as the Sine-Gordon and \( \phi^4 \) models the \( \Delta \) and \( V_{ij}^{abc} \) tend exponentially to zero in the sum of their indices, as the theories are gapped. Therefore the only divergence may arise from an infinite domain of integration in which the sum of the indices is within a fixed distance of zero. This requires a double integral, with \( k_1' \sim -k_2' \), and so divergences may only arise in the first term of (4.12).

At the large \( k' \) on which these divergences are supported, \( g_{k'}(x) \sim e^{ik'x} \). The divergence is also supported at large \( x \), where \( V^{(3)} \) tends to a constant, which on each side of the kink is just the third derivative of the potential supported on the corresponding vacuum. Let us say for simplicity that these two third derivatives have the same value, \( W \), up to a sign. This is the case in the \( \phi^4 \) model, whereas in the Sine-Gordon model the third derivatives vanish at the vacua so \( W = 0 \).

We have argued that, up to finite terms

\[
V_{-\mathcal{R}k'_1k'_2} \sim V_{-k'_1-k'_2} \sim W \int dx e^{i(k_1'+k_2'-\mathcal{R})x} = W 2\pi \delta(\mathcal{R} - k'_1 - k'_2). \tag{4.16}
\]

Thus there are two \( \delta \) functions in the first integrand of (4.12). The first may be used to do one of the integrals, but then the other is a genuine \( \delta \) function divergence

\[
\mu(k_1) = \frac{W^2 2\pi \delta(\mathcal{R} - k_1)}{8\omega_\mathcal{R}} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \frac{\omega_{k'} + \omega_{\mathcal{R} - k_1}}{\omega_{k'} \omega_{\mathcal{R} - k_1}} \left( \omega_{\mathcal{R}}^2 - \left( \omega_{k'} + \omega_{\mathcal{R} - k_1} \right)^2 \right). \tag{4.17}
\]

It combines with the \( Q_2 \) term to shift the energy \( E_2 \) by

\[
\frac{W^2}{8\omega_\mathcal{R}} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \frac{\omega_{k'} + \omega_{\mathcal{R} - k_1}}{\omega_{k'} \omega_{\mathcal{R} - k_1}} \left( \omega_{\mathcal{R}}^2 - \left( \omega_{k'} + \omega_{\mathcal{R} - k_1} \right)^2 \right), \tag{4.18}
\]

which just yields the usual one-loop correction to the mass of the plane wave in the absence of the kink. It shifts the mass of the normal mode.

4.3 Shape modes

In the case of shape modes, one recalls that the \( 2\pi \delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R}) \) in \( \gamma_0^{01}(k_1) \) is to be replaced by the Kronecker delta \( \delta_{k_1,\mathcal{R}} \). Thus (4.11) evaluated at \( k_1 = \mathcal{R} \) is finite

\[
\frac{\Gamma_{01}^{01}(\mathcal{R})}{Q_0} = (Q_2 - E_2) + \mu(\mathcal{R}). \tag{4.19}
\]

The Schrödinger equation \( \Gamma = 0 \) then yields

\[
E_2 = Q_2 + \mu(\mathcal{R}). \tag{4.20}
\]

Again \( \mu(\mathcal{R}) \) is given by (4.12). However the divergence (4.16) does not arise because \( g_{\mathcal{R}}(x) \) is a bound state of the potential and so falls to zero at large \( x \), exponentially in the case of the Sine-Gordon or \( \phi^4 \) models. This absence of divergences is fortunate as a divergent \( \mu(\mathcal{R}) \) would in this case have led to a divergent \( E_2 \) as a result of (4.20).
5 A diagrammatic approach

5.1 The kink ground state

The two-loop energy of the kink ground state is [18]

\[ Q_2 = \frac{V_{TT}}{8} - \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{d^3k'}{2\pi} |V_{TT}|^2 \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{k'}^2} \right) \]

\[ - \frac{1}{48} \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\omega_{k_1}' \omega_{k_2}' \omega_{k_3}'} \left( \omega_{k_1}' + \omega_{k_2}' + \omega_{k_3}' \right) \]

\[ + \frac{1}{16Q_0} \int \frac{d^2k}{{2\pi}^2} \omega_{k_1} \omega_{k_2} \omega_{k_3} \left( \Delta_{k_1} \Delta_{k_2} \right) \]

\[ - \frac{1}{8Q_0} \int \frac{d^2k'}{2\pi} |\Delta_{k'B}|^2. \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.1)

Recalling from Refs. [29] that

\[ V_{BBk} = -\frac{\omega^2}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \Delta_{kB}, \quad V_{Bk_1k_2} = \frac{\omega_{k_2}^2 - \omega_{k_1}^2}{\sqrt{Q_0}} \Delta_{k_1k_2} \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.2)

the last two terms may be reexpressed in terms of \(|V_{BBk_1'k_2'}|^2\) and \(|V_{BBk'}|^2\) respectively

\[ Q_2 = \frac{V_{TT}}{8} - \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{d^3k'}{2\pi} |V_{TT}|^2 \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{k'}^2} \right) \]

\[ - \frac{1}{48} \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \omega_{k_1}' \omega_{k_2}' \omega_{k_3}' \left( \omega_{k_1}' + \omega_{k_2}' + \omega_{k_3}' \right) \]

\[ + \frac{1}{16Q_0} \int \frac{d^2k}{{2\pi}^2} \omega_{k_1} \omega_{k_2} \omega_{k_3} \left( \omega_{k_1}' + \omega_{k_2}' \right) \]

\[ - \frac{1}{8Q_0} \int \frac{d^2k'}{2\pi} |V_{BBk'}|^2 \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{k'}^2} \right). \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.3)

The first three terms in \(Q_2\) are easily calculated using the diagrams in Fig. 1 to represent various contributions to \(H'|0\). Operator ordering runs to the left. Each loop involving a single vertex brings a factor of \(I(x)\) and each \(n\)-point vertex brings a \(V^{(n)}\) which is integrated over \(x\) together with the normal modes \(\tilde{H}_k(x)\) arising from the attached lines and loop factors \(I(x)\) from attached loops. Each internal line corresponding to a normal mode \(k\) brings a factor of \(1/(2\omega_k)\). In addition, each vertex except for the last brings a factor \((\sum_i \omega_i - \sum_j \omega_j)^{-1}\) where \(i\) runs over all outgoing \(k\) and \(j\) runs over all incoming \(k\). Symmetry factors are calculated as for Feynman diagrams, for example in the first term each loop may be inverted and the two may be interchanged leading to a symmetry factor of \((1/2)^3\). In the second each loop may be inverted leading to \((1/2)^2\) while in the third the three propagators may be exchanged leading to \(1/6\).

What about the fourth and fifth terms? Clearly a corresponding diagram may be drawn by taking the third diagram in Fig. 1 and replacing one or two normal mode lines \(k'\) with a zero-mode line \(B\). However one may choose whether the vertices are to be constructed using \(H'\) or \(P'\). At higher orders this distinction is important because, for example, in the Sine-Gordon theory \(H'\) has an infinite number of terms whereas in any theory \(P'\) has only one term for each summand in the recursion relation (3.6). Thus there are multiple possible conventions for representing these terms diagrammatically, and the Feynman diagram convention of allowing each vertex to represent an interaction in \(H'\) is not the most economical. We will leave the development of diagrammatic methods using \(P'\) vertices to future work.

5.2 Normal modes

Next we will turn our attention to \(E_2\). Recall from Eq. (4.11) that there are two contributions. The first is equal to \(Q_2\) and arises from terms in \(H'|0\) which contribute to \(\Gamma_{ij}^{(1)}(\mathcal{R})\) without ever annihilating the \(B_{\mathcal{R}}^{\dagger}\) in \(|\mathcal{R}|0\). In other words, these terms are contained in \(B_{\mathcal{R}}^{\dagger} H'(0)|0\). As a result the \(\mathcal{R}\) line is disconnected from the rest of the diagram, which is therefore equivalent to the corresponding diagrams for \(H'(0)|0\) which were already shown in Fig. 1. These disconnected diagrams are shown in Fig. 2.

The other contributions to the energy arise from \(\mu(\mathcal{R})\) in (4.12). The first three terms are depicted in Fig. 3. Each diagram has a symmetry factor of \(1/2\). Note that in both the third and fourth graphs, the internal line begins at the first (chronologically) vertex and so contributes a factor of \(-1/(2\omega_k)\). As a result, the two graphs are equal. Again graphs for the last two terms are not given. Intuitively they correspond to the first two graphs with \(k\) internal lines replaced by zero-mode internal lines. However again one must choose whether the vertices represent terms in \(P'\) or \(H'\).

6 Remarks

We have now found the subleading correction to the normal mode states and their masses. Are we ready for scattering?

A few more steps are required. First of all, to calculate matrix elements we will need normalizable states. These can be made from wave packets of kinks at different momenta. However, as is, our recursion relation only applies to kinks in the center of mass frame. The generalization will be straightforward. Instead of implying that our states are annihilated by \(P'\), we need only impose that they are annihilated by \(P' - p\) for some constant \(p\). This will add a single term to
Fig. 1 Diagrams corresponding to the first three terms in $Q_2$. Every vertex is an interaction in $H'$. Operator ordering runs to the left. Each loop gives a factor of $I$.

Fig. 2 Diagrams corresponding to the first three terms in the $Q_2^2 \pi \delta(k_1 - \lambda)$ contribution to $E_2$. The $k_1 = \lambda$ line is disconnected from the diagram. Therefore these are just contributions to the ground state energy $Q_2$, and so they do not contribute to the energy $E_2 - Q_2$ needed to excite a normal mode in the kink background.

Fig. 3 The first two diagrams give the first term in $\mu(\lambda)$ as written in Eq. (4.12). The next two are equal and yield the second term. The last diagram corresponds to the third term. The other term may be obtained by respectively replacing one $k'$ in the first two diagrams with a zero mode of the bound normal mode energy pass the threshold $M$ for escape into the continuum.

To efficiently explore such states, it would be useful to complete our construction of a diagrammatic calculus in Sect. 5. In particular, one should construct rules for $P'$ vertices in addition to $H'$ vertices. In the supersymmetric case, vertices may also represent the supercharges $Q'$. In the case of rotationally-invariant solitons, vertices may also be introduced for rotations.

While our perturbative expansion in $P'$ is much more economical than the exact treatment in the traditional collective coordinate methods of Refs. [1,36], there is a price to be paid. As we do not impose that the states are exactly translation-invariant, our solutions are expansions in $\phi_0$ and therefore cease to be reliable if $\phi_0$ is of order $O(1/g)$ corresponding to a kink center of mass position of order $O(1/M)$. In other words, the kink cannot be coherently treated as its center moves by more than its size. In the kink rest frame, this is physically reasonable for a semiclassical expansion, it implies that the form factors are dominated by the classical kink solution and quantum corrections are subdominant [37]. However in kink scattering it is a limitation, as the kink may never move by $O(1/M)$ in some frame. This may be an obstruction to constructing an S-matrix, as even scattering with a meson will impart some momentum to the kink which after a time $O(1/Mg)$ will bring the kink out of this range.
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Appendix A: Checking $\Gamma_{21}^{21}$

Recall from (3.12) that our state $|\vec{R}\rangle$ is an eigenstate of the Hamiltonian if it satisfies the Schrödinger equation $\Gamma_{mn}^{i} = 0$. In the cases $m = 0$, at order $i = 2$, this condition was imposed by hand to obtain the matrix elements $\gamma_{mn}$. However, in Ref. [18] it was argued that the vanishing of $\gamma_{01}$, together with translation invariance which was imposed via the recursion relations, is sufficient to make all components vanish. In this Appendix we will test this claim for the most nontrivial component at order $i = 2$, $\Gamma_{21}^{21} = 0$.

We need to calculate all 12 terms that contribute to $\Gamma_{21}^{21}$. $(H_2 - E_2)|\vec{R}\rangle_2$ contributes 2 terms, $H_3|\vec{R}\rangle_1$ contributes 8 terms and $H_4|\vec{R}\rangle_0$ contribute 2 terms. We will name these terms $\Gamma_{21}^{21}$ and evaluate them one at a time.

The recursion relation yields

$$\gamma_{21}^{21} = \frac{a_{\omega k_1} \Delta_{k_1 B} \Delta_{-R B}}{8} - \frac{\gamma_{01}^{01}(k_1)}{16} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k' B} a_{\omega k'} \Delta_{k' B}.$$  \hfill (A.1)

This leads to the first contribution

$$(H_2 - E_1)|\vec{R}\rangle_2 \supset \frac{\pi_0^{01}}{2} |\vec{R}\rangle_2^{41}$$

which contributes

$$\Gamma_{21}^{21} = \frac{3}{8} a_{\omega k_1} \Delta_{k_1 B} \Delta_{-R B} + 2 \pi \delta(k_1 - \vec{R})$$

$$\times \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{-k' B} a_{\omega k'} \Delta_{k' B}. \hfill (A.3)$$

The other contribution from $(H_2 - E_1)|\vec{R}\rangle_2$ is

$$(H_2 - E_1)|\vec{R}\rangle_2 \supset \left((H_2 - E_1)|\vec{R}\rangle_2 \supset \right)$$

yielding

$$\Gamma_{21}^{21} = \frac{3}{8} a_{\omega k_1} \Delta_{k_1 B} \Delta_{-R B}$$

$$+ \frac{\sqrt{Q_0}}{8} \left( \frac{a_{\omega k_1} - a_{\omega R}}{a_{\omega R}} \right) \Delta_{k_1 B} \Delta_{-R B} + \frac{\sqrt{Q_0}}{8} \left( 1 - \frac{a_{\omega k_1}}{a_{\omega R}} \right) \Delta_{k_1 B} \Delta_{-R B}$$

$$\times \frac{dk}{2\pi} \Delta_{k B} a_{\omega k} \Delta_{-R B}.$$  \hfill (A.4)

Next we calculate the 8 contributions from $H_3|\vec{R}\rangle_1$. The first four arise from

$$H_3|\vec{R}\rangle_1 \supset \frac{3}{6} \int dx V^{3}[g f(x) \phi_0 g \phi_0 g (x)] Z(x)|\vec{R}\rangle_1^{11}$$

$$H_3|\vec{R}\rangle_1 \supset \frac{1}{6} \int dx V^{3}[g f(x)] \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} 3 \phi_0^2 g \phi_0^2 g (x) B_{k_1}^i |\vec{R}\rangle_1^{10}$$

$$H_3|\vec{R}\rangle_1 \supset \frac{1}{6} \int dx V^{3}[g f(x)] \times \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dk}{2\pi} 1 \phi_0^2 g B_{k_1}^i |\vec{R}\rangle_1^{12}$$

$$\times \phi_0^2 g \phi_0^2 g (x) |\vec{R}\rangle_1^{12}.$$
which respectively contribute

\[
\Gamma_{i, 2, 3}^{21} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left[ \frac{\omega^2}{\omega^2_R} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'} \right]
\]

The other four arise from

\[
H_{3} |\bar{R}\rangle \supset \frac{1}{6} \int dx V^3 [gf(x)] \int dk \left[ \frac{3}{2\omega_R} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} B_{k'}^\dagger |\bar{R}\rangle \right]^{22}
\]

and are respectively

\[
\Gamma_{i, 2, 7}^{21} = \frac{Q_0^{\gamma}}{4 \omega \omega_R} \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left[ \frac{\omega^2}{\omega^2_R} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} + 2\pi \delta(k_1 - k) - \frac{Q_0^{\gamma}}{4} \right] \frac{d^2 k'}{2\pi} \Delta_{k', k} V_{k', k'}
\]

Finally we arrive at the two contributions from \( H_4 |\bar{R}\rangle \). The first

\[
H_{4} |\bar{R}\rangle \supset \frac{1}{24} \int dx V^4 [gf(x)] \int \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left( \frac{2}{2\omega_R} B_{k, k'}^\dagger B_{k'}^\dagger \right) + 6 \Phi_0 \Phi_B (x)^2 gk(x) gk(x) B_{k, k'}^\dagger |\bar{R}\rangle \right) \]

this can be written

\[
\Gamma_{2, 11}^{21} = - \left( \frac{Q_0^{\gamma}}{4 \omega \omega_R} \right) \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left[ - \frac{1}{\omega} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'} \right] \frac{d^2 k'}{2\pi} \Delta_{k', k} \Delta_{k', k'}
\]

The last contribution arises from

\[
H_{4} |\bar{R}\rangle \supset \frac{1}{24} \int dx V^4 [gf(x)] \int \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left( \frac{2}{2\omega_R} B_{k, k'}^\dagger B_{k'}^\dagger \right) + 6 \Phi_0 \Phi_B (x)^2 gk(x) gk(x) B_{k, k'}^\dagger |\bar{R}\rangle \right) \]

and is equal to

\[
\Gamma_{2, 12}^{21} = 2\pi \delta(k_1 - k) - \frac{Q_0^{\gamma}}{4} V_{k, k'} B_{k, k'}^\dagger \Delta_{k', k'}
\]

The identity [18]

\[
V_{k, k'} = \frac{1}{2\omega \omega_R} \left( \frac{2}{2\omega_R} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'} \right)
\]

\[
\frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'} = \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'}
\]

Finally we arrive at the two contributions from \( H_4 |\bar{R}\rangle \). The first

\[
H_{4} |\bar{R}\rangle \supset \frac{1}{24} \int dx V^4 [gf(x)] \int \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left( \frac{2}{2\omega_R} B_{k, k'}^\dagger B_{k'}^\dagger \right) + 6 \Phi_0 \Phi_B (x)^2 gk(x) gk(x) B_{k, k'}^\dagger |\bar{R}\rangle \right) \]

This can be written

\[
\Gamma_{2, 11}^{21} = - \left( \frac{Q_0^{\gamma}}{4 \omega \omega_R} \right) \frac{d^2 k}{2\pi} \left[ - \frac{1}{\omega} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'} \right] \frac{d^2 k'}{2\pi} \Delta_{k', k} \Delta_{k', k'}
\]

The identity [18]

\[
V_{k, k'} = \frac{1}{2\omega \omega_R} \left( \frac{2}{2\omega_R} \Delta_{k, k'} V_{k, k'} - \omega \Delta_{k, k'} \Delta_{k, k'} \right)
\]
again allows terms involving the integrals of four \( g(x) \) to be eliminated, leaving

\[
\Gamma_{2,1}^{21} = \frac{2\pi \delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R})}{4} \left( \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\omega_{k_1}^2 - \omega_{k_2}^2}{\omega_{k_1}^{'}} \Delta_{k_1k_2} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \right) + \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \omega_{k'} \Delta_{k'} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} - \sqrt{Q_0} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} V_{TB} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \left( \omega_{k'} \Delta_{k'} \right) \right) \right). 
\]

(A.17)

Without these identities we would not be able to show that \( \Gamma = 0 \).

Finally, summing all of the above contributions, we obtain

\[
\Gamma_{2}^{21} = \sum_{i=1}^{12} \Gamma_{2,i}^{21} = A(k_1) + 2\pi \delta(k_1 - \mathcal{R}) B(k_1) + \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} C(k_1). 
\]

(A.18)

The first term is

\[
A(k_1) = \frac{3}{4} \omega_{k_1} \Delta_{k_1B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} + \frac{3}{8} \omega_{k_1} \omega_{\mathcal{R}} \Delta_{k_1B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \right) + \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\omega_{k_1}^2}{\omega_{\mathcal{R}}^2} - \frac{\omega_{\mathcal{R}}}{\omega_{k_1}} \right) \Delta_{k_1B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} + \frac{1}{4} \omega_{\mathcal{R}} \omega_{k_1} \omega_{k_1} \Delta_{k_1B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} V_{TB} \Delta_{k_1B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B}
\]

(A.19)

where use the fact \[18\] that \( V_{TB} = 0 \). The other terms are

\[
B(k_1) = \frac{3}{8} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \omega_{k'} \Delta_{k'B} + \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \sqrt{Q_0} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} V_{TB} \Delta_{k'B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^2k'}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\omega_{k_1}^2 - \omega_{k_2}^2}{\omega_{k_1}^{'}} \Delta_{k_1k_2} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \right) + \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} \omega_{k'} \Delta_{k'} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} - \sqrt{Q_0} \int \frac{dk'}{2\pi} V_{TB} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \left( \omega_{k'} \Delta_{k'} \right) \right) \right).
\]

(A.20)

and

\[
C(k_1) = \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\omega_{k_1}^2}{\omega_{\mathcal{R}}^2} - \frac{\omega_{\mathcal{R}}}{\omega_{k_1}} \right) \Delta_{k'B} + \frac{1}{4} \omega_{k_1} \omega_{\mathcal{R}} + \frac{1}{4} \Delta_{k'k} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} + \frac{1}{8} \omega_{\mathcal{R}} \omega_{\mathcal{R}} \Delta_{k_1k} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \Delta_{\mathcal{R}B} \right)
\]

(A.21)

As all three contributions vanish, we have shown that

\[
\Gamma_{2}^{21} = 0
\]

(A.22)

as it must be if \( |\mathcal{R}| \) is indeed a Hamiltonian eigenstate to second order.

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