Finite temperature effects on anisotropic pressure and equation of state of dense neutron matter in an ultrastrong magnetic field

A. A. Isayev
Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Academicicheskaya Street 1, Kharkov, 61108, Ukraine
Kharkov National University, Svobody Sq., 4, Kharkov, 61077, Ukraine

J. Yang
Department of Physics and the Institute for the Early Universe,
Ewha Womans University, Seoul 120-750, Korea

Spin polarized states in dense neutron matter with recently developed Skyrme effective interaction (BSk20 parametrization) are considered in the magnetic fields $H$ up to $10^{18}$ G at finite temperature. In a strong magnetic field, the total pressure in neutron matter is anisotropic, and the difference between the pressures parallel and perpendicular to the field direction becomes significant at $H > H_{c1} \sim 10^{18}$ G. The longitudinal pressure decreases with the magnetic field and vanishes in the critical field $10^{18} < H_c \lesssim 10^{19}$ G, resulting in the longitudinal instability of neutron matter. With increasing the temperature, the threshold $H_{c2}$ and critical $H_c$ magnetic fields also increase. The appearance of the longitudinal instability prevents the formation of a fully spin polarized state in neutron matter and only the states with moderate spin polarization are accessible. The anisotropic equation of state is determined at densities and temperatures relevant for the interiors of magnetars.

The entropy of strongly magnetized neutron matter turns out to be larger than the entropy of the nonpolarized matter. This is caused by some specific details in the dependence of the entropy on the effective masses of neutrons with spin up and spin down in a polarized state.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Magnetars are strongly magnetized neutron stars\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua} with emissions powered by the dissipation of magnetic energy. According to one of the conjectures, magnetars can be the source of the extremely powerful short-duration $\gamma$-ray bursts\footnote{jyang@ewha.ac.kr}. Such huge magnetic fields can be inferred from observations of magnetar periods and spin-down rates, or from hydrogen spectral lines. In the interior of a magnetar the magnetic field strength of about $10^{14}-10^{15}$ G\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}. Such huge magnetic fields can be inferred from observations of magnetar periods and spin-down rates, or from hydrogen spectral lines. In the interior of a magnetar the magnetic field strength may be even larger, reaching values of about $10^{18}$ G\footnote{jyang@ewha.ac.kr}. Under such circumstances, the issue of interest is the behavior of neutron star matter in a strong magnetic field\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}\footnote{jyang@ewha.ac.kr}.

A realistic description of neutron star matter should include, at least, neutrons, protons, electrons and muons subject to the charge neutrality and beta-equilibrium conditions. The magnetic field then influences the system properties through Pauli paramagnetism as well as via Landau quantization of the energy levels of charged particles. Nevertheless, because the neutron fraction is usually considered to be dominant, neutron star matter can be approximated by pure neutron matter as a first step towards a more realistic description of neutron stars. Such an approximation was used in the recent study\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}\footnote{jyang@ewha.ac.kr} in the model consideration with the effective nuclear forces. It was shown that the behavior of spin polarization of neutron matter in the high density region in a strong magnetic field crucially depends on whether neutron matter develops a spontaneous spin polarization (in the absence of a magnetic field) at several times nuclear matter saturation density, or the appearance of a spontaneous polarization is not allowed at the relevant densities (or delayed to much higher densities). The first case is usual for the Skyrme forces\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}\footnote{jyang@ewha.ac.kr}, while the second one is characteristic for the realistic nucleon-nucleon (NN) interaction\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}\footnote{jyang@ewha.ac.kr}. In the former case, a ferromagnetic transition to a totally spin polarized state occurs while in the latter case a ferromagnetic transition is excluded at all relevant densities and the spin polarization remains quite low even in the high density region.

The scenario for the evolution of spin polarization at high densities in which the spontaneous ferromagnetic transition in neutron matter is absent was considered for the magnetic fields up to $10^{18}$ G\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}. Such an estimate for the limiting value of the magnetic field strength in the core of a magnetar is usually obtained from the scalar virial theorem\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua} based on Newtonian gravity. However, the density in the core of a magnetar is so large that the effects of general relativity might become of importance. Then further increase of the core magnetic field is expected above $10^{18}$ G\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}. By comparing with the observational X-ray data, it was argued that the interior magnetic field strength can be as large as $10^{19}$ G\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua}. Also, it was shown in the recent study\footnote{isayev@kip.t.kharkov.ua} that in the core of a magnetar the magnetic field strength could reach values up to $10^{20}$ G, if to assume the inhomogeneous distribution of the matter density and magnetic field inside a
neutron star, or to allow the formation of a quark core in the high-density interior of a neutron star (concerning the last point, see also Ref. [37]). Under such circumstances, if to admit the interior magnetic fields with the strength \( H > 10^{18} \) G, a different scenario is possible in which a field-induced ferromagnetic phase transition of neutron spins occurs in the magnetar core. This idea was investigated in the recent article [38], where it was shown within the framework of a lowest constrained variational approach with the Argonne \( V_{18} \) NN potential that a fully spin polarized state in neutron matter could be formed in the magnetic field \( H \gtrsim 10^{19} \) G. Note, however, that, as was pointed out in Refs. [36, 39], in such ultrastrong magnetic fields the breaking of the \( O(3) \) rotational symmetry by the magnetic field results in the anisotropy of the total pressure, having a smaller value parallel than perpendicular to the field direction. The possible outcome could be the gravitational collapse of a magnetar along the magnetic field, if the magnetic field strength is large enough. Thus, exploring the possibility of a field-induced ferromagnetic phase transition in neutron matter in a strong magnetic field, the effect of the pressure anisotropy has to be taken into account because this kind of instability could prevent the formation of a fully polarized state in neutron matter. This effect was not considered in Ref. [38], thus, leaving open the possibility of the formation of a fully polarized state of neutron spins in a strong magnetic field. The degree of spin polarization is an important issue for determining the possibility of the formation of a fully polarized state of neutron spins in a strong magnetic field. The degree of spin polarization is an important issue for determining the neutrino cross sections in the matter, and, hence, it is relevant for the adequate description of the neutrino transport and thermal evolution of a neutron star [17]. In the given study, we provide a fully self-consistent calculation of the thermodynamic quantities of spin polarized neutron matter at finite temperature taking into account the appearance of the pressure anisotropy in a strong magnetic field. We consider spin polarization phenomena in a degenerate magnetized system of strongly interacting neutrons within the framework of a Fermi liquid formalism [10, 18], unlike to the previous works [36, 38], where interparticle interactions were disregarded.

Note that recently new parametrizations of Skyrme forces were suggested, BSk19-BSk21 [41], aimed to avoid the spontaneous spin instability of nuclear matter at densities beyond the nuclear saturation density for the case of zero temperature. This is achieved by adding different density-dependent terms to the standard Skyrme interaction. The BSk19 parametrization was constrained to reproduce the equation of state (EoS) of unpolarized neutron matter [42] obtained in variational calculation with the use of the realistic Urbana \( V_{14} \) NN potential and the three-body force called there [31]. The BSk20 force corresponds to the stiffer EoS [16], obtained in variational calculation with the use of the realistic Argonne \( V_{14} \) two-body potential and the semiphenomenological UIX\(^*\) three-body force which includes also a relativistic boost correction. Even a stiffer neutron matter EoS was suggested in the Brueckner-Hartree-Fock calculation of Ref. [47] based on the same \( V_{18} \) two-body potential and a more realistic three-body force containing different meson-exchange contributions. This EoS is the underlying one for the BSk21 Skyrme interaction. The advantage of all of these newly developed Skyrme forces is that they preserve the high-quality fits to the mass data obtained with the conventional Skyrme forces. An important quantity allowing one to distinguish between the different representatives of a generalized Skyrme interaction is the symmetry energy defined as the difference between the energies per nucleon in neutron matter and symmetric nuclear matter (an alternative definition of the symmetry energy is also discussed in Ref. [44]). In the high density region, the symmetry energy decreases with density for the BSk19 force, while it increases with density for BSk20 (moderately) and BSk21 (steeply) forces. As was clarified in Ref. [48] by testing almost 90 parametrizations of the conventional Skyrme forces, the Skyrme interactions, predicting the increasing behavior of the symmetry energy with density, give neutron star models in a broad agreement with observations (e.g., providing satisfactory description of the minimum rotation period, gravitational mass-radius relation, and the binding energy, released in supernova collapse). Considering, based on these arguments, as a more realistic scenario that in which the symmetry energy increases with density in the high density region, in this study we will choose the BSk20 Skyrme parametrization for carrying out numerical calculations. Nevertheless, as emphasized in Ref. [44], only direct experimental evidence related to the high densities will allow one to ultimately decide which of the BSk19-BSk21 parametrizations of a generalized Skyrme interaction is more appropriate for the description of neutron-rich nuclear systems of astrophysical interest.

At this point, it is worthy to note that we consider thermodynamic properties of spin polarized states in neutron matter in a strong magnetic field up to the high density region relevant for astrophysics. Nevertheless, we take into account the nucleon degrees of freedom only, although other degrees of freedom, such as pions, hyperons, kaons, or even quarks could be important at such high densities.

II. BASIC EQUATIONS

The normal (nonsuperfluid) states of neutron matter are described by the normal distribution function of neutrons \( f_{\kappa_1\kappa_2} = \text{Tr} \, g_{\kappa_2} a_{\kappa_1} \), where \( \kappa \equiv (p, \sigma) \), \( p \) is momentum, \( \sigma \) is the projection of spin on the third axis, and \( g \) is the the density matrix of the system [21, 22]. The energy of the system is specified as a functional of the distribution function \( f \), \( E = E(f) \), and determines the single particle energy

\[
\varepsilon_{\kappa_1\kappa_2}(f) = \frac{\partial E(f)}{\partial f_{\kappa_2\kappa_1}}.
\]
The self-consistent matrix equation for determining the distribution function $f$ follows from the minimum condition of the thermodynamic potential [40, 41] and is

$$f = \{ \exp(Y_0 \varepsilon + Y_i \cdot \mu_i \sigma_i + Y_4) + 1 \}^{-1} \quad (2)$$

$= \{ \exp(Y_0 \xi) + 1 \}^{-1}$.  

Here the quantities $\varepsilon$, $Y_i$ and $Y_4$ are matrices in the space of $\kappa$ variables, with $(Y_i, Y_4)_{\kappa_1 \kappa_2} = Y_i, Y_4 = 1/T$, $Y_i = -H_i/T$ and $Y_4 = -\mu_0/T$ being the Lagrange multipliers, $\mu_0$ being the chemical potential of neutrons, and $T$ the temperature. In Eq. (2), $\mu_n = -1.9130427(5)\mu_N$ is the neutron magnetic moment [41] ($\mu_N$ being the nuclear magneton). $\sigma_i$ are the Pauli matrices. Note that, unlike to Refs. [12, 50], the term with the external magnetic field is not included in the single particle energy $\varepsilon$ but is separately introduced in the exponent of the Fermi distribution.

Further it will be assumed that the third axis is directed along the external magnetic field $H$. Given the possibility for alignment of neutron spins along or opposite to the magnetic field $H$, the normal distribution function of neutrons and single particle energy $\varepsilon$ can be expanded in the Pauli matrices $\sigma_i$ in spin space

$$f(p) = f_0(p)\sigma_0 + f_3(p)\sigma_3,$$

$$\varepsilon(p) = \varepsilon_0(p)\sigma_0 + \varepsilon_3(p)\sigma_3. \quad (3)$$

Using Eqs. (2) and (3), one can express evidently the distribution functions $f_0, f_3$ in terms of the quantities $\varepsilon$:

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2}\{ n(\omega_+) + n(\omega_-) \}, \quad (4)$$

$$f_3 = \frac{1}{2}\{ n(\omega_+) - n(\omega_-) \}. \quad (5)$$

Here $n(\omega) = \{ \exp(\omega + 1) \}^{-1}$ and

$$\omega_{\pm} = \omega_0 \pm \xi_3,$$

$$\xi_0 = \varepsilon_0 - \mu_0, \quad \xi_3 = -\mu_n H + \varepsilon_3. \quad (6)$$

The quantity $\omega_{\pm}$, being the exponent in the Fermi distribution function $n$, plays the role of the quasiparticle spectrum. The branches $\omega_{\pm}$ correspond to neutrons with spin up and spin down, respectively.

The distribution functions $f$ satisfy the normalization conditions

$$\frac{2}{V} \sum_p f_0(p) = \varrho, \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{2}{V} \sum_p f_3(p) = \varrho_T - \varrho_L = \Delta \varrho. \quad (8)$$

Here $\varrho = \varrho_T + \varrho_L$ is the total density of neutron matter, $\varrho_T$ and $\varrho_L$ are the neutron number densities with spin up and spin down, respectively. The quantity $\Delta \varrho$ may be regarded as the neutron spin order parameter which determines the magnetization of the system $M = \mu_n \Delta \varrho$.

The spin ordering of neutrons can also be characterized by the spin polarization parameter

$$\Pi = \frac{\Delta \varrho}{\varrho}. \quad (9)$$

The magnetization may contribute to the internal magnetic field $B = H + 4\pi M$. However, we will assume, analogously to the previous studies [9, 11, 12], that, because of the tiny value of the neutron magnetic moment, the contribution of the magnetization to the inner magnetic field $B$ remains small for all relevant densities and magnetic field strengths, and, hence,

$$B \approx H. \quad (10)$$

In order to get the self-consistent equations for the components of the single particle energy, one has to set the energy functional of the system. It represents the sum of the matter and field energy contributions

$$E(f, H) = E_m(f) + E_f(H), \quad E_f(H) = \frac{H^2}{8\pi} V. \quad (11)$$

The matter energy is the sum of the kinetic and Fermi-liquid interaction energy terms [22, 23]

$$E_m(f) = E_0(f) + E_{int}(f), \quad (11)$$

$$E_0(f) = \sum_p \tilde{\varepsilon}_0(p)f_0(p),$$

$$E_{int}(f) = \sum_p \{ \tilde{\varepsilon}_0(p)f_0(p) + \tilde{\varepsilon}_3(p)f_3(p) \},$$

where

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}_0(p) = \frac{1}{2V} \sum_q U_0^*(q)f_0(q), \quad k = \frac{p - q}{2}, \quad (12)$$

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}_3(p) = \frac{1}{2V} \sum_q U_1^*(q)f_3(q). \quad (13)$$

Here $\tilde{\varepsilon}_0(p) = \frac{p^2}{2m_0}$ is the free single particle spectrum, $m_0$ is the bare mass of a neutron, $U_0^*(k), U_1^*(k)$ are the normal Fermi liquid (FL) amplitudes, and $\tilde{\varepsilon}_0, \tilde{\varepsilon}_3$ are the FL corrections to the free single particle spectrum. Using Eqs. (11) and (12), we get the self-consistent equations for the components of the single particle energy in the form

$$\xi_0(p) = \tilde{\varepsilon}_0(p) + \tilde{\varepsilon}_3(p) - \mu_0, \quad (14)$$

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$$\xi_0(p) = \tilde{\varepsilon}_0(p) + \tilde{\varepsilon}_3(p) - \mu_0, \quad (14)$$

Taking into account expressions (11) and (12) for the distribution functions $f_0$ and $f_3$, solutions of the self-consistent Eqs. (14) should be found jointly with the normalization conditions (7), (8).

The pressures (longitudinal and transverse with respect to the direction of the magnetic field) in the system are related to the diagonal elements of the stress tensor whose explicit expression reads [51]...
\[ \sigma_{ik} = \left[ \tilde{f} - \rho \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial q} \right) \right]_{H,T} \delta_{ik} + \frac{H_i B_k}{4\pi}. \tag{15} \]

Here

\[ \tilde{f} = f_H - \frac{H^2}{4\pi}. \tag{16} \]

For the isotropic medium, the stress tensor is symmetric. The transverse \( p_t \) and longitudinal \( p_l \) pressures are determined from the formulas

\begin{align*}
  p_t &= -\sigma_{11} = -\sigma_{22}, \\
  p_l &= -\sigma_{33}.
\end{align*}

Hence, using Eqs. (11), (15), one can get

\begin{align*}
  p_t &= \rho \left( \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial \rho} \right)_{H,T} - f_m + \frac{H^2}{8\pi}, \\
  p_l &= \rho \left( \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial \rho} \right)_{H,T} - f_m - \frac{H^2}{8\pi}.
\end{align*}

where \( f_m = \frac{1}{\rho}(E_m - TS) \) is the matter free energy density, and we disregarded in Eqs. (11), (14) the terms proportional to \( M \). The structure of the pressures \( p_t \) and \( p_l \) is different that reflects the breaking of the rotational symmetry in the magnetic field. In ultrastrong magnetic fields, the quadratic on the magnetic field term (the Maxwell term) will be dominating, leading to increasing the transverse pressure and to decreasing the longitudinal pressure. Hence, at some critical magnetic field, the transverse pressure and to decreasing the longitudinal instability of neutron matter. Obviously, at finite temperature the pressures \( p_t \) and \( p_l \) will be larger compared to the zero temperature case, and, hence, increase of the temperature will lead to the increase of the critical magnetic field. Here we would like to find the magnitude of the critical field at temperatures of about a few tens of MeV, which can be relevant for protoneutron stars, and also to determine the corresponding maximum degree of spin polarization in neutron matter.

### III. Spin Polarization at \( H = 0, T \neq 0 \)

For providing numerical calculations, we use the BSk20 Skyrme interaction developed to reproduce the zero temperature microscopic EoS of nonpolarized neutron matter. Although spontaneous spin polarization at zero temperature is missing for this parametrization for all relevant densities, it is not excluded that at finite temperature a spontaneous ferromagnetic phase transition could occur. Actually, this is the case as will be shown later. In the model calculations of this section we consider the temperatures somewhat larger than the temperatures which could be reachable in the interior of protoneutron stars. This will help us to find the critical temperature above which a spontaneous polarization appears, and will also allow us to determine the relevant temperature range for studying spin polarization at \( H \neq 0 \).

The recently developed parametrizations BSk19-BSk21 of the Skyrme effective forces appear as a generalization of Skyrme effective NN interaction of the conventional form. In the conventional case, the amplitude of Skyrme NN interaction reads

\[ \hat{v}(p, q) = \frac{t_0}{4} (1 + x_0 P_\sigma) + \frac{1}{6} t_3 (1 + x_3 P_\sigma) g^\alpha + \frac{1}{2\hbar^2} t_1 (1 + x_1 P_\sigma) (p^2 + q^2) \tag{20} \]

\[ + \frac{t_2}{\hbar^2} (1 + x_2 P_\sigma) pq, \]

where \( P_\sigma = (1 + \sigma_1 \sigma_2)/2 \) is the spin exchange operator, \( t_1, x_1, \text{ and } \alpha \) are some phenomenological parameters specifying a given parametrization of the Skyrme interaction. The Skyrme interaction used in Ref. [44] has the form

\[ \hat{v}'(p, q) = \frac{\alpha}{\hbar^2} t_1 (1 + x_1 P_\sigma) (p^2 + q^2) \tag{21} \]

\[ + \frac{\beta}{\hbar^2} t_3 (1 + x_3 P_\sigma) pq, \]

In Eq. (21), two additional terms are the density-dependent generalizations of the \( t_1 \) and \( t_3 \) terms of the usual form. Specific values of the parameters \( t_1, x_1, \alpha, \beta \) and \( \gamma \) for Skyrme forces BSk19-BSk21 are given in Table 1.

The normal FL amplitudes \( U_0, U_1 \) can be expressed in terms of the Skyrme force parameters. For conventional Skyrme force parametrizations, their explicit expressions are given in Refs. [11, 15]. As follows from Eqs. (20) and (21), in order to obtain the corresponding expressions for the generalized Skyrme interaction (21), one should use the substitutions

\[ t_1 \rightarrow t_1 + t_4 g^\beta, \quad t_1 x_1 \rightarrow t_1 x_1 + t_4 x_4 g^\beta, \tag{22} \]

\[ t_2 \rightarrow t_2 + t_5 g^\gamma, \quad t_2 x_2 \rightarrow t_2 x_2 + t_5 x_5 g^\gamma. \tag{23} \]

Therefore, the FL amplitudes are related to the parameters of the Skyrme interaction by formulas

\[ U_0^\alpha(k) = 2 t_0 (1 - x_0) + \frac{t_3}{3} g^\alpha (1 - x_3) + \frac{t_2}{\hbar^2} t_1 (1 - x_1) \tag{24} \]

\[ + t_4 (1 - x_4) g^\beta + 3 t_2 (1 + x_2) + 3 t_5 (1 + x_5) g^\gamma |k|^2, \]

\[ U_1^\alpha(k) = -2 t_0 (1 - x_0) - \frac{t_3}{3} g^\alpha (1 - x_3) + \frac{t_2}{\hbar^2} t_1 (1 + x_1) \tag{25} \]

\[ + t_5 (1 + x_5) g^\gamma - t_1 (1 - x_1) - t_4 (1 - x_4) g^\beta |k|^2 \]
free energies. Fig. 2 shows the difference between the free polarized state, one should compare the corresponding ized state is thermodynamically preferable over the non-perature.

| $t_0$ [MeV fm$^3$] | BSk19 | BSk20 | BSk21 |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| $t_1$ [MeV fm$^3$] | 403.072 | 438.219 | 396.131 |
| $t_2$ [MeV fm$^3$] | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| $t_3$ [MeV fm$^{3+3\alpha}$] | 23670.4 | 23256.6 | 22588.2 |
| $t_4$ [MeV fm$^{3+3\beta}$] | -60.0 | -100.000 | -100.000 |
| $t_5$ [MeV fm$^{3+3\gamma}$] | -90.0 | -120.000 | -150.000 |
| $x_0$ | 0.398848 | 0.569613 | 0.885231 |
| $x_1$ | -0.137960 | -0.392047 | 0.0648452 |
| $t_2x_2$ [MeV fm$^5$] | -1055.55 | -1147.64 | -1390.38 |
| $x_3$ | 0.375201 | 0.614276 | 1.03928 |
| $x_4$ | -6.0 | -3.00000 | 2.00000 |
| $x_5$ | -13.0 | -11.0000 | -11.0000 |
| $\alpha$ | 1/12 | 1/12 | 1/12 |
| $\beta$ | 1/3 | 1/6 | 1/2 |
| $\gamma$ | 1/12 | 1/12 | 1/12 |
| $g_0$ [1/fm$^3$] | 0.1596 | 0.1596 | 0.1582 |

Now we present the results of the numerical solution of the self-consistent equations at $H = 0$ with the BSk20 Skyrme force. Fig. 1 shows the spin polarization parameter of neutron matter as a function of the density for a few fixed values of the temperature of about several tens of MeV. At zero temperature, there is no spontaneous polarization at all relevant densities because two additional terms in a generalized form of the Skyrme interaction were constrained just with the aim to exclude a nonzero polarization at vanishing temperature. Spontaneous polarization does not appear up to some critical temperature $T_c$ which is, at least, larger than 35 MeV. Beyond $T_c$, spontaneous spin polarization exists in a finite density interval $(\varrho_{c_1}, \varrho_{c_2})$. The unexpected moment is that the temperature promotes spontaneous spin polarization increasing both the width of the density domain where a nonzero polarization exists and the magnitude of the spin polarization parameter. In particular, if to approach the density interval $(\varrho_{c_1}, \varrho_{c_2})$ from the lower densities then the left critical point $\varrho_{c_1}$, at which spontaneous polarization appears, decreases with temperature, contrary to intuition which suggests that the temperature should act as a preventing factor to spin polarization and, hence, should delay its appearance. Analogously, with increasing temperature the right critical point $\varrho_{c_2}$ for the disappearance of spontaneous polarization should, according to intuition, decrease, contrary to what really occurs, i.e., the critical density $\varrho_{c_2}$ increases with temperature.

In order to clarify whether a spontaneously spin polarized state is thermodynamically preferable over the nonpolarized state, one should compare the corresponding free energies. Fig. 2 shows the difference between the free energies per neutron of spin polarized and nonpolarized states, $\delta F/A = (F(\varrho, T, \Pi(\varrho, T)) - F(\varrho, T, \Pi = 0))/A$, as a function of the density at the same fixed temperatures considered above. It is seen that a spontaneously polarized state is preferable over the nonpolarized state for all relevant densities and temperatures where spontaneous polarization exists. With increasing the temperature, the minimum of the difference $\delta F/A$ becomes more pronounced, and, hence, a spontaneously polarized state becomes more stable with respect to the nonpolarized one. Thus, the state with spontaneous polarization, described by the spin polarization parameter with such unusual properties (cf. Fig. 1), is supported thermodynamically by the balance of the free energies.

In order to get a deeper insight into the problem, let us consider separate contributions to the difference between the free energies per neutron $\delta F/A = \delta E/A - T\delta S/A$. Fig. 3 shows the difference between the energies per neutron of spin polarized and nonpolarized states, $\delta E/A = (E(\varrho, T, \Pi(\varrho, T)) - E(\varrho, T, \Pi = 0))/A$, as a function of the density at the same fixed temperatures considered above. It is seen that the energy per neutron of a spin polarized state is always larger than that of the nonpolarized state over the density domain where spontaneous spin polarization exists. This is because increasing the temperature and spin polarization leads to increasing the kinetic energy term in the energy functional of the system. The sign of the difference $\delta E/A$ could be, in principle, inverted by the negative contribution of the term in the energy functional describing spin correlations in neutron matter with nonzero polarization, but that is not, however, the case. Therefore, the inequality $\delta F/A < 0$ can hold only because of the inequality $\delta S/A > 0$ for the density range where spontaneous polarization exists. Fig. 4 shows that this is actually true, and the entropy
per neutron of a spin polarized state is larger than that of the nonpolarized state for the corresponding temperatures and densities. This unexpected behavior is contradicting to intuition which suggests that the entropy of a more ordered spin polarized state should be less than that of the nonpolarized state. Note that such an unusual behavior of the entropy of a spin polarized state was found earlier for neutron matter with the Skyrme effective interaction [55] and for symmetric nuclear matter with the Gogny effective interaction [56, 57] (in the latter case, for antiferromagnetically ordered nucleon spins). The difference, however, is that in these earlier studies instabilities with respect to spontaneous spin ordering occurred already at zero temperature whereas in the given case it appears only at temperatures larger than the critical one. Also, it was clarified earlier [55, 57] that the unusual behavior of the entropy of a spin polarized state should be traced back to its dependence on the effective masses of spin-up and spin-down nucleons and to a violation of a certain constraint on them at the corresponding temperatures and densities. In Ref. [55], this constraint was formulated for a totally polarized neutron matter, and in Ref. [57] for symmetric nuclear matter with arbitrary antiferromagnetic spin polarization.

Let us verify now whether this holds true in our case. In the low-temperature limit the entropy per neutron is given by expression

$$S/A = \sum_{\sigma=\uparrow,\downarrow} \frac{\pi^2}{2\varepsilon_{F,\sigma}} T,$$

where $\varepsilon_{\sigma} = \frac{\hbar^2 k_{F,\sigma}^2}{2m_{\sigma}}$ is the Fermi energy of neutrons with spin up and spin down, and $k_{\sigma} = (6\pi^2 n_{\sigma})^{1/3}$ is the respective Fermi momentum. The low-temperature expansion (26) is valid till $T/\varepsilon_{F,\sigma} \ll 1$. By requiring for the difference between the entropies of spin polarized and nonpolarized states to be negative, one can derive the following constraint on the effective masses $m_{n,\uparrow}$ and $m_{n,\downarrow}$ of neutrons with spin up and spin down in a spin polarized state [54]:

$$D \equiv \frac{m_{n,\uparrow}}{m_{n}} (1 + \Pi)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{m_{n,\downarrow}}{m_{n}} (1 - \Pi)^{\frac{1}{2}} - 2 < 0,$$  

where

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{n,\uparrow}} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_0} + \frac{\theta(t_1(t_1 + x_1) + t_5(1 + x_5)\theta^3)}{4} + \frac{t_2(1 + x_2) + t_5(1 + x_5)\theta^3}{4}.$$ 

In the constraint (27), the effective mass $m_{n}$ of a neutron in nonpolarized neutron matter is given by [54]

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_n} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_0} + \frac{\theta}{8}(t_1(1 - x_1) + t_4(1 - x_4)\theta^3) + 3t_2(1 + x_2) + 3t_5(1 + x_5)\theta^3.$$ 

After the self-consistent determination of the spin polarization parameter, one can check whether the inequality (27) is satisfied at the corresponding densities and temperatures. Fig. 5 shows the left-hand side $D$ of the constraint (27) for the branch $\Pi(\rho, T)$ of spontaneous polarization as a function of the density at the temperatures $T = 37$ MeV and $T = 40$ MeV, at which the accuracy of the approximation $T/\varepsilon_{F,\sigma} \ll 1$ is satisfactory. It is seen that the inequality (27) is violated implying that the entropy of a spontaneously polarized state is larger than the
entropy of the nonpolarized state at the respective densities and temperatures. Hence, the unusual behavior of the entropy of a spontaneously polarized state mentioned above can be related to the peculiarities of its dependence on the effective masses of neutrons with spin up and spin down. A nontrivial character of the density dependence of the effective masses $m_{n\uparrow}$ and $m_{n\downarrow}$ in neutron matter with spontaneous polarization at different temperatures is clearly seen from Fig. 6.

In the subsequent analysis, following the scenario according to which spontaneous polarization should be avoided at the relevant densities and temperatures, we will confine our analysis to the temperatures up to 30 MeV which are, definitely, less than the critical temperature $T_c \gtrsim 35$ MeV. Such a choice of the relevant temperature interval is consistent with the results of a completely independent research [52] of hybrid stars in the context of relativistic mean-field theory, according to which the maximum temperature attainable in their interior does not exceed 35 MeV.

IV. LONGITUDINAL AND TRANSVERSE PRESSURES AT FINITE TEMPERATURE. ANISOTROPIC EOS

In this section, we will study the influence of finite temperatures on thermodynamic quantities of spin polarized neutron matter in an ultrastrong magnetic field. We will take into account the effects of the pressure anisotropy, and, in particular, will clarify to which extent the critical magnetic field, at which the longitudinal instability in magnetized neutron matter occurs, will increase due to the impact of finite temperatures.

First, we present the results of the numerical solution of the self-consistent equations. Fig. 7 shows the spin polarization parameter of neutron matter as a function of the magnetic field $H$ at two different temperatures, $T = 0$ and $T = 30$ MeV, and at two different values of the neutron matter density, $\rho = 3\rho_0$ and $\rho = 4\rho_0$, which can be relevant for the central regions of a magnetar. Under increasing the density, the effect produced by the magnetic field on spin polarization of neutron matter becomes smaller. It is seen that the impact of the magnetic field remains insignificant up to the field strength $H \sim 10^{17}$ G. At the magnetic field $H = 10^{18}$ G, usually considered as the maximum magnetic field strength in the core of a magnetar (according to a scalar virial theorem [33]), the

FIG. 4. Same as in Fig. 2 but for the difference between the entropies per neutron of spin polarized and nonpolarized states.

FIG. 5. The difference $D$ in constraint (27) for the branch II of spontaneous polarization as a function of density at $T = 37$ MeV and $T = 40$ MeV for the BSk20 Skyrme force.

FIG. 6. The ratio of the effective mass of a neutron with spin up (upper dashed curves) and spin down (lower dotted curves) in a spontaneously polarized state to the bare neutron mass as a function of density at $T = 37$ MeV and $T = 40$ MeV for the BSk20 Skyrme force.
magnitude of the spin polarization parameter doesn’t exceed 45% at $\varrho = 3\varrho_0$ and 19% at $\varrho = 4\varrho_0$ (for the temperatures under consideration). However, the situation changes if the larger magnetic fields are allowable: With further increasing the magnetic field strength, the magnitude of the spin polarization parameter increases and spin polarization approaches its limiting value $\Pi = -1$, corresponding to a fully spin polarized state. For example, a fully polarized state is formed at $H \approx 1.3 \cdot 10^{19}$ G for the temperature $T = 0$ MeV and at $H \approx 2.3 \cdot 10^{19}$ G for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 3\varrho_0$, i.e., certainly, for magnetic fields $H \gtrsim 10^{19}$ G. Note that we speak about a fully polarized state at finite temperature although some quantity of neutrons with spin up are always present at $T \neq 0$. Nevertheless, this quantity may be made arbitrary small with further increasing the magnetic field, and we consider that a fully polarized state is formed, if the deviation from the limiting value $\Pi = -1$ is less than $10^{-4}$. With increasing the temperature, the value of the magnetic field, at which a fully polarized state occurs, increases, as one could expect. However, practically up to magnetic fields of about $10^{19}$ G, spin polarization demonstrates the unusual behavior and increases with temperature. Further it will be shown that this behavior is thermodynamically supported by the corresponding balance of the Helmholtz free energies. The meaning of the vertical arrows in Fig. 4 is explained later in the text.

Now, we should check whether a fully spin polarized state of neutrons in a strong magnetic field can indeed be formed by calculating the anisotropic pressure in dense neutron matter. Fig. 5 shows the pressures (longitudinal and transverse) in neutron matter as functions of the magnetic field $H$ at the same fixed temperatures and densities, considered above. The upper branches in the branching curves correspond to the transverse pressure, the lower ones to the longitudinal pressure. First, it is clearly seen that up to some threshold magnetic field the difference between the transverse and longitudinal pressures is unessential that corresponds to the isotropic regime. Beyond this threshold magnetic field strength, the anisotropic regime holds for which the transverse pressure increases with $H$ while the longitudinal pressure decreases. The increase of the temperature leads to the increase of the pressures, transverse $p_t$ and longitudinal $p_l$. Also, the increase of the density has the same effect on the pressures $p_t$ and $p_l$ as the increase of the temperature. The most important feature is that the longitudinal pressure vanishes at some critical magnetic field $H_c$ marking the onset of the longitudinal instability in neutron matter. For example, $H_c \approx 1.56 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 0$ MeV and $H_c \approx 1.64 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 3\varrho_0$, and $H_c \approx 2.42 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 0$ MeV and $H_c \approx 2.48 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 4\varrho_0$. Hence, at finite temperatures relevant for proto-neutron stars the critical magnetic field is increased compared to the zero temperature case but this increase is, in fact, insignificant. Even with accounting for the finite temperature effects, the critical field doesn’t exceed $10^{19}$ G for the density range under consideration.

The magnitude of the spin polarization parameter $\Pi$ cannot also exceed some limiting value corresponding to the critical field $H_c$. These maximum values of the $\Pi$’s magnitude are shown in Fig. 7 by the vertical arrows. In particular, $\Pi_c \approx -0.46$ for $T = 0$ MeV and $\Pi_c \approx -0.58$ for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 3\varrho_0$, and $\Pi_c \approx -0.38$ for $T = 0$ MeV and $\Pi_c \approx -0.41$ for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 4\varrho_0$. As can be inferred from these values, the appearance of the negative longitudinal pressure in an ultrastrong magnetic field prevents the formation of a fully polarized spin state in the core of a magnetar. Therefore, only the onset of a field-induced ferromagnetic phase transition, or its near vicinity, can be caught under increasing the magnetic field strength in dense neutron matter at finite temperature. A complete spin polarization in the magnetar core is not allowed by the appearance of the negative pressure along the direction of the magnetic field, contrary to the conclusion of Ref. [38] where the pressure anisotropy in a strong magnetic field was disregarded.

Fig. 5 shows the difference between the transverse and longitudinal pressures normalized to the value of the pressure $p_0$ in the isotropic regime (which corresponds to the weak field limit with $p_l = p_t = p_0$):

$$\delta = \frac{p_t - p_l}{p_0}.$$  

Applying for the transition from the isotropic regime to the anisotropic one the criterion $\delta \simeq 1$, the transition occurs at the threshold field $H_{th} \approx 1.15 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 0$ MeV and $H_{th} \approx 1.22 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 3\varrho_0$, and at $H_{th} \approx 1.83 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 0$ MeV and $H_{th} \approx 1.86 \cdot 10^{18}$ G for $T = 30$ MeV at $\varrho = 4\varrho_0$.  

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FIG. 7. Neutron spin polarization parameter as a function of the magnetic field strength for the BSk20 Skyrme force at $T = 0$ and $T = 30$ MeV, and at two fixed densities, $\varrho = 3\varrho_0$ and $\varrho = 4\varrho_0$. The vertical arrows indicate the maximum magnitude of spin polarization attainable at the given temperature and density, see further details in the text.
In all cases under consideration, the threshold field $H_{th}$ is greater than $10^{18}$ G, and, hence, the isotropic regime holds for the fields up to $10^{18}$ G. For comparison, the threshold field for a relativistic dense gas of free charged fermions at zero temperature was found to be about $10^{17}$ G (without including the anomalous magnetic moments of fermions). For a degenerate gas of free neutrons at zero temperature the model dependent estimate gives $H_{th} \approx 4.5 \cdot 10^{18}$ G (including the neutron anomalous magnetic moment). The normalized splitting of the transverse and longitudinal pressures increases more rapidly with the magnetic field at the smaller density and/or at the lower temperature. The vertical arrows in Fig. 8, indicate the points corresponding to the onset of the longitudinal instability in neutron matter. Since the threshold field $H_{th}$ is less than the critical field $H_c$ for the appearance of the longitudinal instability, the anisotropic regime can be relevant for the core of a magnetar. The maximum allowable normalized splitting of the pressures corresponding to the critical field $H_c$ is $\delta \sim 2$. If the anisotropic regime sets in, a neutron star has the oblate form. Thus, as follows from the preceding discussions, in the anisotropic regime the pressure anisotropy plays an important role in determining the spin structure and configuration of a neutron star.

At the given thermodynamic variables $\rho, T$ and $H$, the Helmholtz free energy is a relevant thermodynamic function, whose minimum determines a state of thermodynamic equilibrium. Fig. 9 shows the Helmholtz free energy density of the system as a function of the magnetic field $H$ at two fixed temperatures, $T = 0$ and $T = 30$ MeV, and at two different densities, $\rho = 3\rho_0$ and $\rho = 4\rho_0$. It is seen that the magnetic fields up to $H \sim 10^{18}$ G have practically small effect on the Helmholtz free energy density $f_H$, but beyond this field the contribution of the magnetic field energy to the free energy $f_H$ rapidly increases with $H$. However, this increase is limited by the values of the critical magnetic field corresponding to the onset of the longitudinal instability in neutron matter. The respective points on
the curves are indicated by the vertical arrows.

Fig. 9 shows the ratio of the magnetic field energy density \( e_f \) to the Helmholtz free energy density under the same assumptions as in Fig. 5a. The intersection points of the respective curves in this panel with the line \( e_f/f_H = 0.5 \) correspond to the magnetic fields at which the matter and field contributions to the Helmholtz free energy density are equal. This happens at \( H \approx 1.18 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ G} \) for \( T = 0 \text{ MeV} \) and \( H \approx 1.08 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ G} \) for \( T = 30 \text{ MeV} \) at \( \rho = 3\rho_0 \), and at \( H \approx 1.81 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ G} \) for \( T = 0 \text{ MeV} \) and \( H \approx 1.76 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ G} \) for \( T = 30 \text{ MeV} \) at \( \rho = 4\rho_0 \). These values are quite close to the respective values of the threshold field \( H_{th} \), and, hence, the transition to the anisotropic regime occurs at the magnetic field strength at which the field and matter contributions to the Helmholtz free energy density become equally important. It is also seen from Fig. 9 that in all cases when the longitudinal instability occurs in the magnetic field \( H \), the contribution of the magnetic field energy density to the Helmholtz free energy density of the system dominates over the matter contribution.

Because of the pressure anisotropy, the EoS of neutron matter in a strong magnetic field is also anisotropic. Fig. 10 shows the dependence of the Helmholtz free energy density \( f_H \) on the transverse pressure (top panel) and on the longitudinal pressure (bottom panel) after excluding the dependence on \( H \) in these quantities. Since the dominant Maxwell term enters the pressure \( p_t \) and free energy density \( f_H \) with positive sign and the pressure \( p_l \) with negative sign, the free energy density \( f_H \) is the increasing function of \( p_t \) and decreasing function of \( p_l \). In the case of \( f_H(p_t) \) dependence, at the given density, the same \( p_t \) corresponds to the larger magnetic field \( H \) at the temperature \( T = 0 \text{ MeV} \) compared to the \( T = 30 \text{ MeV} \) case (see Fig. 9a). The overall effect of two factors (temperature and magnetic field) will be the larger value of the free energy density \( f_H \) at the given \( p_t \) and density for the temperature \( T = 0 \text{ MeV} \) compared with the \( T = 30 \text{ MeV} \) case (see Fig. 9a). The analogous arguments show that, at the given temperature and \( p_t \), the Helmholtz free energy density is larger for the smaller density. In the case of \( f_H(p_l) \) dependence, at the given density, the same \( p_l \) corresponds to the smaller magnetic field \( H \) for the temperature \( T = 0 \text{ MeV} \) compared to the \( T = 30 \text{ MeV} \) case (see Fig. 9a). Hence, the free energy density \( f_H \) at the given \( p_l \) and density is larger for the temperature \( T = 30 \text{ MeV} \) than that for the \( T = 0 \text{ MeV} \) case (see Fig. 9a). Analogously, at the given temperature and \( p_l \), the free energy density \( f_H \) is larger for the larger density. In the bottom panel, the physical region corresponds to the positive values of the longitudinal pressure.

It is worthy to note at this point that since the EoS of neutron matter becomes essentially anisotropic in an ultrastrong magnetic field, the usual scheme for finding the mass-radius relationship based on the Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff (TOV) equations [58] for a spherically symmetric and static neutron star, should be revisited. Instead of this, the corresponding relationship should be found by the self-consistent treatment of the anisotropic EoS and axisymmetric TOV equations substituting the conventional TOV equations in the case of an axisymmetric neutron star.

V. UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF THE ENTROPY AT \( H \neq 0 \)

As was discussed in the previous section, the magnitude of the spin polarization parameter increases with temperature in the fields up to about \( 10^{19} \text{ G} \). The Helmholtz free energy density \( f_H \), whose minimum at the given \( \rho, T, H \) determines the state of a thermodynamic equilibrium, decreases with temperature (cf. Fig. 9a) and, hence, such an unusual behavior of spin polarization with temperature is supported thermodynamically. The Helmholtz free energy density \( f_H \) can be decomposed
into the matter and field contributions,

\[ f_H = f_{Hm} + f_f, \]

with the matter contribution being \( f_{Hm} = \frac{1}{2} (E_m - TS) - HM \). The decrease of the Helmholtz free energy with temperature is, therefore, to be attributed to its matter part. Fig. 11 explicitly shows this point.

An unexpected moment appears if we consider separately the behavior of the entropy of neutron matter with a generalized Skyrme interaction in a strong magnetic field. In Fig. 12, the difference between the entropy per neutron of magnetized neutron matter and that of the nonpolarized state (with \( \Pi = 0 \) at \( H = 0 \)) is presented as a function of magnetic field at the temperatures \( T = 15 \) MeV and \( T = 30 \) MeV, and at the same densities regarded above. It is seen that this difference is positive for all relevant magnetic field strengths. It looks like a spin polarized state is less ordered than the nonpolarized one, contrary to intuitive assumption. In section III we showed that the unusual behavior of the entropy of a spontaneously polarized state is related to its dependence on the effective masses of neutrons with spin up and spin down and to the violation of the criterion (27). The entropy of magnetized neutron matter is given by the same general expression (17), and, after providing the low-temperature expansion, we would arrive at the same constraint (27) on the effective masses in a spin polarized state guaranteeing that its entropy is less than that of the nonpolarized state. Fig. 13 shows the left side of the constraint (27) as a function of the magnetic field strength at the temperature \( T = 15 \) MeV, and densities \( \varrho = 3\varrho_0 \) and \( \varrho = 4\varrho_0 \), at which the accuracy of the approximation \( T/\varepsilon_{FS} \ll 1 \) is acceptable. It is seen that the criterion (27) is violated, and this explains the unusual behavior of the entropy of dense neutron matter in a strong magnetic field shown in Fig. 12.

Note that the unconventional behavior of the entropy of magnetized neutron matter with Skyrme interaction was found earlier in Ref. [51]. The difference is that for the SLy7 Skyrme interaction used in that work a spontaneously polarized state appears already at zero temperature, while in the given research with a newly developed BSk20 Skyrme force spontaneous polarization appears only at temperatures above the critical one. We have checked that the last feature is also characteristic for the BSk19 and BSk21 Skyrme forces. If to consider the appearance of a spontaneously polarized state as a weak point of a certain Skyrme parametrization (just this argument was used in Ref. [14] as the motivation for developing a new series of Skyrme forces) then this underlines the necessity to further concentrate the efforts on building a new generation of Skyrme forces being free of such kind of spin instabilities. Such an attempt was made in the recent article [50] by attracting the ideas from the nuclear energy density functional theory. However, the constraints obtained in this study on the Skyrme force parameters lead to the unrealistic consequence that the effective masses of nucleons with spin up and spin down in a polarized state should be equal, contrary to the results of calculations with realistic NN interaction [29, 31]. On the other hand, the observational data still do not rule out the existence of a ferromagnetic hadronic core inside a neutron star caused by spontaneous ordering of hadron spins (in this respect, see, e.g., Refs. [60, 61]). In any case, developed recently generalized Skyrme parametrizations BSk19-BSk21 are, currently, among the most competitive Skyrme forces for providing neutron star calculations, and, certainly, they are suitable for getting a qualitative estimate of the effects of the pressure anisotropy in strongly magnetized neutron matter at finite temperature.

In summary, we have considered spin polarized states in dense neutron matter in the model with the recently
FIG. 13. The difference $D$ in the constraint \cite{27} as a function of the magnetic field strength for the BSk20 Skyrme force at the temperature $T = 15 \text{ MeV}$, and densities $\rho = 3\rho_0$ and $\rho = 4\rho_0$. The meaning of the vertical arrows is the same as in Fig. \cite{27}.

devolved BSk20 Skyrme interaction at finite temperature under the presence of strong magnetic fields up to $10^{20} \text{ G}$. Although the BSk20 Skyrme force was worked up with the aim to avoid spontaneous spin instability at zero temperature, it has been shown that spontaneous instability appears at temperatures above the critical one, which is, at least, larger than $35 \text{ MeV}$. By this reason, we limited our consideration by the temperatures up to $30 \text{ MeV}$. For a spontaneously polarized state at finite temperature, the entropy demonstrates the unusual behavior being larger than that of the nonpolarized state. This feature has been related to the dependence of the entropy of a spin polarized state on the effective masses of spin-up and spin-down neutrons and to the violation of some constraint on them at the corresponding densities and temperatures. In strong magnetic fields considered in this study the total pressure in neutron matter becomes anisotropic. It has been shown that for the magnetic fields $H > H_{th} \sim 10^{18} \text{ G}$ the pressure anisotropy has a significant impact on thermodynamic properties of neutron matter. In particular, vanishing of the pressure along the direction of the magnetic field in the critical field $H_c > H_{th}$ leads to the appearance of the longitudinal instability of neutron matter. With increasing the density and temperature of neutron matter, the threshold $H_{th}$ and critical $H_c$ magnetic fields also increase. In the limiting case considered in this study and corresponding to the density of about four times nuclear saturation density and the temperature of about a few tens of MeV, the critical field $H_c$ doesn’t exceed $10^{19} \text{ G}$. This value can be considered as the upper bound on the magnetic field strength inside a magnetar. Our calculations show that the appearance of the longitudinal instability prevents the formation of a fully spin polarized state in neutron matter, and only the states with moderate spin polarization can be developed. In the anisotropic regime, the field contribution to the Helmholtz free energy density becomes comparable and even dominates over the matter contribution. The longitudinal and transverse pressures and anisotropic EoS of neutron matter in a strong magnetic field have been determined at the densities and temperatures relevant for the interior of a magnetar. It has been clarified that the entropy of strongly magnetized neutron matter with the Skyrme BSk20 force demonstrates the unusual behavior similar to that of the entropy of spontaneously polarized state. In both cases, the same reason, discussed above, is responsible for such a behavior. The obtained results can be of importance in the studies of cooling history and structure of strongly magnetized neutron stars.

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