Solitons in a one-dimensional Wigner crystal

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In one-dimensional quantum systems with strong long-range repulsion particles arrange in a quasi-periodic chain, the Wigner crystal. We demonstrate that besides the familiar phonons, such one-dimensional Wigner crystal supports an additional mode of elementary excitations, which can be identified with solitons in the classical limit. We compute the corresponding excitation spectrum and argue that the solitons have a parametrically small decay rate at low energies. We discuss implications of our results for the behavior of the dynamic structure factor.

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Landau’s concept of elementary excitations plays a central role in our understanding of interacting quantum systems [1]. Even if the interaction between the constituent particles in the system of interest is strong, low-energy excited states can be described in terms of weakly interacting elementary excitations. In this paper we study elementary excitations of a one-dimensional quantum system with strong long-range repulsion. Properties of such systems are dominated by the interaction, and can often be understood from semi-classical considerations. For example, the particles, regardless their statistics, are expected to form a configuration that minimizes the potential energy. Such minimal-energy configuration is, obviously, an equidistant chain [2–5]. In the case of electrons interacting via the Coulomb potential such periodic structures are usually referred to as Wigner crystals [3–6]; here we adopt this term for systems of particles of any nature with strong long-range repulsion. Although quantum fluctuations destroy the long-range order in the one-dimensional Wigner crystal [3], the distances between neighboring particles remain close to their mean value \(1/n_0\), where \(n_0\) is the particle density.

Classical one-dimensional Wigner crystals support propagation of harmonic waves of density. Their dispersion relation at low wave numbers \(q \ll n_0\) reads

\[
\omega(q) = v q \left[ 1 - \chi(q/n_0)^2 \right],
\]

where \(v\) is the sound velocity and \(\chi\) is a positive dimensionless coefficient that depends on the functional form of the interaction potential, but not on its strength [4]. In a quantum system, the wave with frequency \(\omega\) and wavenumber \(q\) corresponds to a phonon with energy \(\epsilon_{ph} = \hbar \omega\) and momentum \(p = \hbar q\). The phonon spectrum \(\epsilon_{ph}(p) = \hbar \omega(p/\hbar)\) is a concave function of \(p\). Therefore, energy and momentum conservation laws forbid interaction-induced decay of phonons at zero temperature [4].

The nonlinear correction in the phonon spectrum \(\epsilon_{ph}(p)\) is small, and can often be neglected, which amounts [3] to the Luttinger liquid [4] approximation. It is well-known [3] that the interaction between phonons in the Luttinger liquid, although irrelevant in the renormalization group sense [7], leads to divergences in perturbation theory [8]. This difficulty is resolved [9] by describing the system in terms of effective spinless fermions rather than phonons. Accordingly, elementary excitations at \(p \to 0\) are fermionic quasiparticles and quasiholes [9] with energies given by

\[
\epsilon_\pm(p) = vp \pm \frac{p^2}{2m_*},
\]

Here \(m_*\) is the effective mass [8–10], which can be estimated as \(m_* \sim m \sqrt{K}\) [4], where \(m\) is the mass of the constituent particles and \(K = \pi \hbar n_0mv\) is a dimensionless parameter characterizing the interaction strength. For the Wigner crystal \(K \ll 1\).

Similar to phonons, the spectrum of the quasiholes \(\epsilon_-(p)\) is a concave function of \(p\), hence the quasiholes do not decay at zero temperature. It is therefore natural to view the phonons and the quasiholes as the same branch of elementary excitations, but in different regimes. The crossover between these regimes occurs at momenta of order \(p_*\) defined by the equation \(\epsilon_{ph}(p_*) = \epsilon_-(p_*)\), which yields the estimate \(p_* \sim \hbar n_0 \sqrt{K}\) [4]. The crossover separates the classical regime at \(p \gg p_*\) from the quantum regime at \(p \ll p_*\). Indeed, unlike phonons, the fermions do not allow for a classical interpretation. Note also that the wavenumber corresponding to the crossover momentum, \(p_*/h\), vanishes in the classical limit \(K \propto h \to 0\), leaving no room for the quantum regime.

A new element in the quantum regime \(p \ll p_*\) is the emergence of the second excitation branch, the quasiparticle excitation with spectrum \(\epsilon_+(p)\), see Eq. (2). It is then natural to ask whether the Wigner crystal supports a second, distinct from the phonons, excitation mode at relatively high momenta \(p \gtrsim p_*\), beyond the range of applicability of Eq. (2). The main goal of this paper is to show that such excitations indeed exist and can be interpreted as solitons on the classical side of the quantum-to-classical crossover.

We model our strongly interacting one-dimensional
quantum system by the Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_i \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} V(x_i - x_j). \quad (3)$$

Here $x_i$ and $p_i$ are the coordinate and momentum of the $i$th particle satisfying the usual commutation relations $[x_i, p_j] = i\hbar \delta_{ij}$. We assume periodic boundary conditions and consider the thermodynamic limit when both the number of particles $N_0$ and the system size $L_0$ are taken to infinity, with the density $n_0 = N_0/L_0$ kept fixed.

For excitations with wavelengths much larger than the distance between the particles $1/n_0$, including excitations with momenta of order $p_* \ll \hbar n_0$, the Wigner crystal can be treated as a continuous medium. Such continuum description is obtained by expanding the Hamiltonian [3] in powers of the displacements $u_i = x_i - l/n_0$ and replacing the sums over $l$ and $l'$ by integrals. Substituting $u_{l'} - u_l = (l' - l) \partial_u + \frac{1}{2} (l' - l)^2 \partial^2_u + \ldots$, one obtains the gradient expansion $H = H_0 + H_1 + \ldots$. The leading term in this expansion corresponds [3] to the Luttinger liquid [4] approximation. Changing the integration variable to $y = l/n_0$, we write this term as

$$H_0 = \int dy \left[ \frac{p^2}{2m_0} + \frac{m_0 v^2}{2} (\partial_u y)^2 \right], \quad (4)$$

where the displacement field $u$ and the conjugate momentum density $p$ satisfy $[u(y), p(y')] = i\hbar \delta(y - y')$.

The Hamiltonian (4) describes the strongly interacting quantum fluid in terms of the Lagrangian variables [11][12], in which the position of the fluid element is specified by the reference coordinate $y$ rather than by the physical coordinate $x(y) = y + u(y)$. A subtle point in this description is the form of the momentum operator. The total momentum $\mathcal{P} = \int dy \, p(y)$ can be written as a sum of two terms, $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_+ + \mathcal{P}_0$. Here

$$\mathcal{P} = -\int dy (\partial_y u) p(y) \quad (5)$$

is the continuum version of the quasi-momentum [13], and $\mathcal{P}_0$ accounts for the reciprocal lattice vector of the one-dimensional Wigner crystal; its eigenvalues are integer multiples of $2\pi n_0$. In the continuum description excitations with wavelengths of order $1/n_0$, responsible for the umklapp scattering [5], are neglected, and both $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{P}_0$ commute with the low-energy Hamiltonian. Excitations near zero momentum ground state correspond to $\mathcal{P}_0 = 0$, which gives $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}$ for the total momentum.

It is convenient to write $u$ and $p$ as

$$u = -\sqrt{K/2\pi n_0} (\varphi_+ + \varphi_-), \quad p = \frac{\hbar n_0}{2\sqrt{K}} \partial_y (\varphi_+ - \varphi_-), \quad (6)$$

where the right/left-moving bosonic fields $\varphi_{\pm}$ satisfy $[\varphi_+, \varphi_-] = 0$ and $[\varphi_{\pm}(y), \varphi_{\gamma}(y')] = i\pi \text{sgn}(y - y')$. Substitution into Eqs. (4) and (5) yields

$$H_0 = v(P_+ - P_-), \quad P = P_+ + P_- \quad (7)$$

where $P_{\pm} = \pm \frac{\hbar}{2\pi} \int dy (\partial_y \varphi_{\pm})^2$ are the momenta of the right/left-moving excitations.

Nonlinear corrections to spectra in Eqs. (1) and (2) arise due to higher-order terms in the gradient expansion. The two leading contributions of this type read

$$H_1 = \frac{\hbar^2}{12\pi m_0} \int \left[ (\partial_y \varphi)^3 - a_\ast (\partial_y^2 \varphi)^2 \right] \quad (8)$$

where $\varphi = \varphi_+ + \varphi_-$, $m_\ast$ is the effective mass [9], and $a_\ast$ the emergent length scale, which can be estimated as $a_\ast \sim (n_0/\sqrt{K})^{-1}$ [14]. The two terms in the right-hand side of Eq. (8) describe the leading nonlinearity and dispersion, respectively. The first term in Eq. (8) has lower scaling dimension and thus represents the leading irrelevant correction to $H_0$ at small momenta $p \ll \hbar/a_\ast$.

Moreover, in order to obtain the leading nonlinear corrections to the excitation spectra, it is sufficient [9] to retain in $H_1$ contributions proportional to $(\partial_y \varphi_{\pm})^3$. With this approximation, $H_0 + H_1$ can be rewritten [9][14] in terms of effective non-interacting fermions, which leads to Eq. (2) for the spectra of the elementary excitations. Conversely, at relatively large momenta $p \gg \hbar/a_\ast$ it is the dispersion that has the dominant effect. With the nonlinearity term in Eq. (9) neglected, the Hamiltonian $H_0 + H_1$ is quadratic, and one finds Eq. (1) with $\chi = 1/2 K(m/m_\ast)(a_\ast n_0)$, resulting in $p_* = 3\hbar/2a_\ast$ for the crossover momentum.

To study the crossover between the quantum and classical regimes, we focus on momenta of order $p_\ast$, where the nonlinearity and dispersion contributions to Eq. (8) have a comparable effect. With this in mind, we change the integration variable to $\xi = y/a_\ast$, and write the gradient expansion of the low-energy Hamiltonian as [14]

$$H = vp_\ast (h_0 + \zeta h_1 + \zeta^2 h_2 + \ldots), \quad \zeta = \frac{p_\ast}{2m_\ast v}. \quad (9)$$

Here $h_0$ and $h_1$ follow directly from Eqs. (1) and (8), respectively, and have a universal, i.e., model-independent, form. The operators $h_0$ and $h_1$ are given by integrals of $(\partial^2 \varphi_{\pm})^2 + (\partial^2 \varphi_{\mp})^2$ and $(\partial^2 \varphi_{\pm})^3 + (\partial^2 \varphi_{\mp})^3$, respectively. On the other hand, the operator $h_2$ consists of integrals of $(\partial^4 \varphi)$, $(\partial^2 \varphi_{\pm})^2$, and $(\partial^4 \varphi_{\pm})^2$ with model-dependent coefficients of order unity [14]. The parameter $\zeta$ in Eq. (9) characterizes the relative magnitude of the nonlinear corrections to the excitation spectra at the quantum-to-classical crossover. At small $K$ the ratio $\zeta/K$ depends on the functional form of the interaction potential in Eq. (3), but is independent of its strength [14]. Careful analysis [14] shows that the expansion (9) is justified provided that both $K$ and $\zeta$ are small.

Consider now a state with a single right-moving excitation, such that $\langle P_\ast \rangle \sim p_\ast$ and $\langle P_- \rangle = 0$. In this state the expectation values of $\hbar n_\ast$ are of order unity for all $n$. Equation (9) then yields the expansion of the energy
in powers of $\zeta$. Keeping the first two terms in this expansion is sufficient to lift the degeneracy between the two excitation branches. These terms correspond to the model-independent contributions $h_0$ and $h_1$ in the expansion [9]. In other words, with corrections of order $vp,\zeta^2$ neglected, the excitation spectra $\varepsilon_{\pm}(p)$ can be written as

$$\varepsilon_{\pm}(p) = vp + \frac{p^2}{2m_+} e_{\pm}(p/p_+), \quad (10)$$

where $e_{\pm}(s)$ are universal crossover functions.

In order to compute the functions $e_{\pm}(s)$, we take advantage of their universality: $e_{\pm}(s)$ are the same for all models that admit the expansion [9]. Here we consider the hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland model [16] [17]

$$V(x) = \frac{\hbar^2}{ma_0^2} \frac{\lambda(\lambda - 1)}{\sinh^2(2x/a_0)} \quad (11)$$

in the regime $\lambda \gg e^\alpha$, where $\alpha = (aq_0a_0)^{-1} \gg 1$. In this regime both $K = \pi e^\alpha (4a_0^2\lambda)^{-1}$ and $\zeta = 3 e^\alpha (8\pi \lambda)^{-1}$ [14] are small, which guarantees the applicability of the expansion [9]. The model is integrable [16] [17], and its excitation spectra can be found exactly by asymptotic Bethe ansatz [17]. Evaluation of the spectra at $p = p_+$ proceeds in the same fashion as a similar calculation for the Lieb-Liniger model [18] and results in the crossover functions $e_{\pm}(s)$ in parametric form,

$$s(t) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}} \int_0^t dt \psi_0(t), \quad e_{\pm}(\tau) = \frac{2\pi}{3} \int_0^\tau dt s(t), \quad (12)$$

where $\tau > 0$. The function $\psi_0(t)$ in Eq. (12) is analytic at all real $t$, including $t = 0$, and is given by

$$\psi_0(t) = \int_0^\infty dz \frac{dz}{2\pi z^{3/2}} \sin(2\pi z)\Gamma(z) e^{-z(\ln z - 1 - 2\pi t)} \quad (13)$$

at $t < 0$ and

$$\psi_0(t) = \int_0^\infty dz \frac{dz}{2\pi z^{3/2}} \left[ 1 - \frac{\pi e^\alpha(\ln z - 1 - 2\pi t)}{\tan(\pi z)\Gamma(z)} \right] \quad (14)$$

at $t > 0$. Simple poles in the integrand of Eq. (14) are understood as Cauchy principal values. On the quantum side of the crossover Eqs. (12) [14] yield

$$e_{\pm}(s) = \pm s^2 - \frac{1}{3} s^3 + \ldots, \quad s \ll 1, \quad (15)$$

in agreement with Eq. (2). On the classical side of the crossover we find

$$e_+(s) = 3 \left( \frac{2\pi}{3} \right)^{2/3} s^{2/3} - 2 s^3 + \ldots, \quad s \gg 1, \quad (16a)$$

$$e_-(s) = -s^3 - \frac{2}{3} s + \ldots, \quad s \gg 1, \quad (16b)$$

The first terms in the right-hand sides of Eqs. (16a) and (16b) have a purely classical origin, whereas the second ones represent the leading quantum corrections. The classical contributions can be obtained [17] by solving classical equations of motion instead of resorting to Bethe ansatz. In the regime we consider, the sinh function in Eq. (11) can be approximated by exponential, and the sum in the potential energy term in Eq. (3) can be restricted to nearest neighbors. Thus, the hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland model reduces [17] to the Toda lattice model [19]. The corresponding classical equation of motion, the Toda equation [19], has two kinds of solutions, the harmonic waves and the solitons [19]. Converting solutions of the Toda equation to the excitation spectra results [17] in Eq. (10) with $e_{\pm}(s)$ approximated by the leading terms of the asymptotes [16a] and [16b]. As expected, fermionic quasiholes on the quantum side of the crossover turn to phonons on its classical side, see the discussion above. At the same time, fermionic quasiparticles morph to the classical Toda solitons.

The spectra $\varepsilon_{\pm}(p)$ reveal themselves in the behavior of the dynamic correlation functions, such as the dynamic structure factor $S(p, \varepsilon)$ defined as the Fourier transform of the density-density correlation function. At zero temperature most of the spectral weight of $S(p, \varepsilon)$ is confined between $\varepsilon_-(p)$ and $\varepsilon_+(p)$ [8, 10, 20, 21]. Indeed, at $\varepsilon < \varepsilon_-(p)$ the structure factor vanishes identically because $\varepsilon_-(p)$ represents the exact finite-momentum ground state of the system [8, 10]. At $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_+(p)$, on the other hand, the structure factor differs from zero due to the interaction between the right- and left-movers [20] [22]. The corresponding coupling constant is proportional to $\zeta$, hence $S(p, \varepsilon)$ at $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_+(p)$ is suppressed by the factor $\zeta^2$. At $\varepsilon$ approaching $\varepsilon_{\pm}(p)$ the structure factor exhibits power-law singularities [8, 20, 21]

$$S(p, \varepsilon) \propto |\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{\pm}(p)|^{\mu_{\pm}(p/p_*)}. \quad (17)$$

The exponents $\mu_{\pm}$ in Eq. (17) can be expressed via the spectra $\varepsilon_{\pm}(p)$ [8, 23]. Substituting $\varepsilon_{\pm}(p)$ in the form of Eq. (10) into the relations derived in Refs. [8, 23], we arrive at

$$\mu_{\pm}(s) = \left[ \frac{2s}{e'_{\pm}(s)} \right]^2 - 1, \quad (18)$$

where $e'_\pm(s) = de_{\pm}/ds$. The functions $\mu_{\pm}(s)$ are plotted in Fig. 1a. In the quantum regime, $s \ll 1$, Eq. (18) yields $\mu_{\pm}(s) = \pm s$, as expected for fermions with weak repulsive interaction [8, 20]. The resulting dependence of $S(p, \varepsilon)$ on $\varepsilon$ is sketched in Fig. 1b. In the classical regime, $s \gg 1$, the exponent $\mu_+$ grows as $s^{2/3}$, whereas $\mu_-$ approaches $-1$. The latter behavior is consistent with the expectation that in the classical limit the structure factor is confined to the phonon branch, $S(p, \varepsilon) \propto \delta(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_-(p))$, see Fig. 1c.

In the hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland model the quasiparticles/solitons are protected from inelastic decay
strongly suggests that the inequality $\Gamma > p_s$ on the quasihole/phonon excitation. Moreover, it is reason-
classical crossover, but can be readily distinguished from
imation not only remains well-defined at the quantum-to-
ions, but exact eigenstates. In a generic Wigner crystal,
ements [29].

An estimate of $\Gamma$ can be obtained with the help of
the results of Ref. [24] which express the decay rate of
the fermionic quasiparticles in terms of the corresponding
spectrum. Substituting $\varepsilon_\pm(p)$ in the form [10] with $\varepsilon_\pm(s)$
given by Eq. [15] into the relations derived in Ref. [24]
we obtain [14]
\[
\Gamma(p) = g \xi^5 v_p (p/p_*)^8, \quad p \ll p_*
\] (19)
The dimensionless coefficient $g$ in Eq. [19] is the func-
tional of the interaction potential in Eq. [3]. It van-
ishess identically for the hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland
model [11], but is of order unity for a generic poten-
tial [14]. Extrapolating Eq. [19] to $p \sim p_*$ yields the estimate
\[
\frac{\Gamma(p_*)}{\delta \varepsilon(p_*)} \sim \xi^4
\] (20)
This estimate shows that the quasiparticle/soliton exci-
tation not only remains well-defined at the quantum-to-
classical crossover, but can be readily distinguished from
the quasihole/phonon excitation. Moreover, it is reason-
able to assume that the dependence of the ratio $\Gamma/\delta \varepsilon$
on $p$ is smooth and featureless. The estimate (20) then
strongly suggests that the inequality $\Gamma/\delta \varepsilon \ll 1$ holds also
on the classical side of the crossover $p \gtrsim p_*$, breaking
down at $p \sim p_* \gg p_*$. Finding $p_*$, is beyond the scope of
this paper.

Our results can be tested in experiments with quantum
wires in the Wigner crystal regime [2] [25]. The spectra of
elementary excitations can be studied by measuring
momentum-resolved tunneling between parallel quantum
wires [20], and the dynamic structure factor is accessible
[22] via measurements of the Coulomb drag effect [27].
It should be noted that in the classical regime $p \gg p_*$ the
phonons dominate the structure factor, whereas the soli-
tons have a negligible effect. The solitons, nevertheless,
do exist in the classical regime as well, and affect the evolu-
tion of an initially localized density perturbation [28].
Such perturbation would break up into phonons and soli-
tons. Because the solitons propagate with supersonic ve-
locities, they will reach remote parts of the system faster
than the phonons, and their early arrival can in prin-
ciple be detected in time-resolved charge transport experi-
ments [29].

To summarize, in this paper we demonstrated that
in addition to phonons, one-dimensional Wigner crystals
support a second mode of elementary excitations. This
mode is identified with solitons in the classical regime,
and crosses over to fermionic quasiparticle excitations in
the quantum regime of low momenta. The quantum-to-
classical crossover in the excitation spectra is described
by universal crossover functions, which we found analyt-
ically.

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Explicit microscopic expressions for the sound velocity $v$, the coefficient $\chi$, the effective mass $m_*$, the length scale $a_*$, and details of the derivations of Eqs. (9) and (19) are presented in the Supplemental Material.

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Solitons in a one-dimensional Wigner crystal

Supplemental Material

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I. Microscopic model of the Wigner crystal

We model our strongly interacting one-dimensional system by the Hamiltonian

\[ H = \sum_{l} \frac{p_{l}^{2}}{2m} + U, \quad U = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l \neq l'} V(x_{l} - x_{l'}), \quad (1.1) \]

see Eq. (3) in the paper. For simplicity, we shall assume that the interaction potential \( V(x) \) in Eq. (1.1) decreases with \( |x| \) monotonically and sufficiently fast to ensure convergence of the series

\[ V_{kk'} = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} V_{l}^{(k)} p_{k'}^{(k')}, \quad V_{l}^{(k)} = \left. \frac{d^{k} V(x)}{dx^{k}} \right|_{x=-/n_{0}}. \quad (1.2) \]

The quantities \( V_{kk'} \) defined by Eq. (1.2) obviously satisfy

\[ \frac{d}{dn_{0}} V_{kk'} = - \frac{1}{n_{0}^{2}} V_{k+1,k'+1}. \quad (1.3) \]

We will also use the estimate

\[ V_{k+1,k'} \sim - \alpha n_{0} V_{kk'}, \quad (1.4) \]

where

\[ \alpha = - \frac{1}{2n_{0}} \frac{d}{dx} \ln V(x) \bigg|_{x=1/n_{0}} \quad (1.5) \]

is a dimensionless parameter characterizing the interaction range.

II. Low-energy Hamiltonian

The low-energy Hamiltonian is obtained by expanding the potential energy \( U \) in Eq. (1.1) in powers of the displacements \( u_{l} = x_{l} - l/n_{0} \). The leading term in the resulting expansion \( U = U^{(2)} + U^{(3)} + \ldots \) is quadratic in the displacements, which has only one branch of elementary excitations, the phonons. Their spectrum at \( p \ll \hbar n_{0} \) has the form

\[ \varepsilon_{ph}(p) = v_{p}[1 - \chi(p/\hbar n_{0})^{2} + \ldots] \quad (2.2) \]

with the sound velocity \( v \) and the coefficient \( \chi \) given by

\[ v = \left( \frac{V_{22}}{mn_{0}^{2}} \right)^{1/2}, \quad \chi = 1 \frac{V_{24}}{2V_{22}}. \quad (2.3) \]

We now replace the sums over \( l \) and \( l' \) in Eq. (2.1) by the integrals, expand \( u_{l} - u_{l} \) in Taylor series,

\[ u_{l} - u_{l} = (l' - l) \partial_{l} u_{l} + \frac{1}{2} (l' - l)^{2} \partial_{l}^{2} u_{l} + \ldots, \quad (2.4) \]

and rescale \( u_{l} \) as

\[ u_{l} = - \frac{\sqrt{K}}{2\pi n_{0}} \varphi(y), \quad y = l/n_{0}. \quad (2.5) \]

Here \( \varphi(y) = \varphi_{+}(y) + \varphi_{-}(y) \) [see Eq. (6) in the paper], and

\[ K = \frac{\pi \hbar n_{0}}{mv} \ll 1 \quad (2.6) \]

is the dimensionless parameter characterizing the interaction strength. This yields

\[ U^{(2)} = \frac{\hbar v}{8\pi} \int dy (\partial_{y} \varphi)^{2} + \ldots. \quad (2.7) \]

Combining \( U \) in the form of Eq. (2.7) with the kinetic energy, we obtain the Luttinger liquid Hamiltonian

\[ H_{0} = \frac{\hbar v}{4\pi} \int dy \left[ (\partial_{y} \varphi_{+})^{2} + (\partial_{y} \varphi_{-})^{2} \right], \quad (2.8) \]

see Eq. (7) in the paper.

Higher-order contributions responsible for the nonlinear corrections to spectra are obtained in a similar fashion. Combining the lowest order term in the gradient expansion of the cubic contribution \( U^{(3)} \) with the second-order term in the gradient expansion of the quadratic contribution \( U^{(2)} \), we obtain Eq. (8) of the paper,

\[ H_{1} = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{12\pi m_{s}} \int dy \left[ (\partial_{y} \varphi)^{3} - a_{s} (\partial_{y}^{2} \varphi)^{2} \right], \quad (2.9) \]

where the effective mass \( m_{s} \) and the emergent length scale \( a_{s} \) satisfy

\[ m_{s} = - \frac{1}{4\sqrt{K} n_{0}} V_{33}, \quad a_{s} n_{0} = - \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{K}} n_{0} V_{24}. \quad (2.10) \]
and with the help of Eq. [1.4], can be estimated as

$$m_* \sim \frac{m \sqrt{K}}{\alpha}, \quad a_* \sim \frac{1}{n_0 \alpha \sqrt{K}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (2.11)

Using Eq. (2.10), the coefficient $h$ in Eq. (2.2) can be written in the form $\chi = \frac{1}{3\pi} K (m/m_*) (a + a_0)$, quoted in the paper. Note that with the help of Eq. (2.13), the expression for the effective mass can be cast in the form

$$m = \frac{1}{2v_0^2 n_0} \frac{d(vn_0)}{dn_0},$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.12)

valid for all Galilean-invariant systems [1].

Changing the integration variable in Eqs. (2.8) and (2.9) to $\xi = y/a_*$, we write the expansion of the low-energy Hamiltonian as

$$H = v + \zeta h + \zeta^2 h_2 + \ldots ,$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.13)

see Eq. (9) in the paper. The expansion parameter in Eq. (2.13),

$$\zeta = \frac{p}{{2m_*}}, \quad p_* = \frac{3h}{2a_*},$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.14)

is given by

$$\zeta = \frac{3}{8\pi^2} \frac{V_{22}^2 V_{24}}{n_0^2 V_{22} V_{24}} K \sim \alpha^2 K.$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.15)

The operators $h_0$ and $h_1$ in Eq. (2.13) correspond to Eqs. (2.8) and (2.9), respectively, and have a universal form

$$h_0 = \frac{1}{6\pi} \int d\xi \left[ (\partial_\xi \varphi_+)^2 + (\partial_\xi \varphi_-)^2 \right],$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.16)

$$h_1 = \frac{2}{2\pi} \int d\xi \left[ (\partial_\xi \varphi)^2 - (\partial^2_\xi \varphi)^2 \right],$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.17)

whereas the operator $h_2$ is given by

$$h_2 = \frac{4}{81\pi} \int d\xi \left[ a (\partial_\xi \varphi)^4 + b (\partial_\xi \varphi)^2 (\partial^2_\xi \varphi) + c (\partial^2_\xi \varphi)^2 \right]$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.18)

with model-dependent coefficients

$$a = \frac{V_{22} V_{44}}{V_{23}^2}, \quad b = 2 \frac{V_{22} V_{35}}{V_{24} V_{33}}, \quad c = \frac{8}{15} \frac{V_{22} V_{26}}{V_{24}^2}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.19)

These coefficients are of order unity and depend on the functional form of the interaction potential, but are independent of its strength or range. Higher-order terms in the expansion (2.13) have a similar structure.

### III. Applicability of the low-energy expansion

The continuum theory is applicable for the description of excitations with momenta of order $p_*$ or, equivalently, with wavelengths of order $a_*$ provided that the length scale $a_*$ is large compared with the interparticle distance $1/n_0$. This leads to the condition $\alpha \sqrt{K} \ll 1$, see Eq. (2.11), which can be also written in terms of the parameter $\zeta \sim \alpha^2 K$ as

$$\zeta \ll 1.$$ \hspace{1cm} (3.1)

Alternatively, one can arrive at the condition by observing that the expansion of the potential energy $U$ in Eq. (1.1) in powers of the displacement $u_i$ is justified if $u_i$ is smaller than the scale characterizing the dependence of $U$ on $x_i$, i.e., the interaction range $1/\alpha n_0$, see Eq. [1.4],

$$|u_i| \ll \frac{1}{\alpha n_0}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (3.2)

On the other hand, the displacements $u_i$ are bound from below by zero-point oscillations,

$$|u_i| \gtrsim \frac{\sqrt{K}}{n_0}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (3.3)

The inequalities (3.2) and (3.3) are compatible only if the condition (3.1) is satisfied.

The above consideration rests on the assumption that the system can be treated as a crystal, which is possible only if the displacements are small compared with the mean interparticle distance, or, equivalently, if $K \ll 1$. For large $\alpha$ this condition is less restrictive than $\zeta \ll 1$.

### IV. Hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland model

Consider the potential [2]

$$V(x) = \frac{\hbar^2}{ma_0^2} \frac{\lambda (\lambda - 1)}{\sinh^2(x/a_0)}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (4.1)

We are interested in the dilute limit $a_0 \ll 1/n_0$, when the sinh function in Eq. (4.1) can be approximated by exponential,

$$V(x) \approx \frac{4\hbar^2}{ma_0} \frac{\lambda (\lambda - 1)e^{-2|x|/a_0}}{a_0},$$ \hspace{1cm} (4.2)

and Eq. (1.5) gives

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{a_0 n_0} \gg 1.$$ \hspace{1cm} (4.3)

Because $e^{-2\alpha} \ll 1$, all but the first terms in the series (1.2) can be neglected, and we find

$$V_{kk'} = (-2a_0^2) \frac{4\hbar^2}{ma_0^2} \frac{\lambda (\lambda - 1)}{a_0^2} e^{-2\alpha},$$ \hspace{1cm} (4.4)

irrespective of $k'$. Using Eq. (4.4), we obtain from Eqs. (2.3), (2.6), and (2.15)

$$\zeta = \frac{3}{2\pi^2} \frac{\alpha^2 K}{a_0^2} = \frac{3}{8\pi} \frac{e^{\alpha}}{\sqrt{\lambda (\lambda - 1)}}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (4.5)
Condition (3.1) then translates to
\[ \lambda \gg e^\alpha. \]  

(4.6)

The inequalities (4.3) and (4.6) define the Toda limit [2] of the hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland model.

V. Quasiparticle decay rate

The decay rate \( \Gamma(p)/\hbar \) can be evaluated exactly [3] in the quantum regime \( p \ll p_* \). According to Ref. [3],
\[ \Gamma(p) = \frac{3}{5120\pi^3} \frac{\Lambda^2 p^8}{\hbar^4 m_\ast \nu^2}, \]

(5.1)

where \( \Lambda \) is expressed via the quasiparticle energy \( \varepsilon_+(p; n_0, \kappa) \) in a moving Wigner crystal viewed as a function of the quasiparticle momentum \( p \), density \( n_0 \), and of the momentum of the crystal per particle \( \kappa \) [3, 4]. In terms of this energy \( \Lambda \) is given by [3]

\[ \Lambda = \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_{R}^2 \frac{1}{m} - 2\pi \hbar \partial_L \lambda \right) - \frac{\partial_L \bar{v}}{4\bar{v}} \partial_L \frac{1}{m} + \frac{(\partial_L \bar{v})^2}{4m\bar{v}^2} - \frac{(\partial_L \bar{v})}{4\bar{v}} + \frac{\bar{m}}{2} \partial_L \frac{1}{m} \left( \partial_R \frac{1}{m} - 2\pi \hbar \partial_L \lambda \right), \]

(5.2)

where
\[ \bar{v} = \frac{\partial \bar{e}_+}{\partial p} \bigg|_{p\to 0}, \quad \frac{1}{m} = \frac{\partial^2 \bar{e}_+}{\partial p^2} \bigg|_{p\to 0}, \quad \bar{\lambda} = \frac{\partial^3 \bar{e}_+}{\partial p^3} \bigg|_{p\to 0}, \]

(5.3)

and
\[ \partial_R = \sqrt{K} \frac{\partial}{\partial n_0} + \frac{\pi \hbar}{\sqrt{K}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \kappa}, \quad \partial_L = \sqrt{K} \frac{\partial}{\partial n_0} - \frac{\pi \hbar}{\sqrt{K}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \kappa}, \]

(5.4)

For Galilean-invariant systems [4]
\[ \bar{e}_+(p; n_0, \kappa) = \bar{e}_+(p; n_0, 0) + \frac{\kappa p}{m}. \]

(5.5)

The energy \( \bar{e}_+(p; n_0, 0) \) coincides with \( \varepsilon_+ \) given by Eqs. (10) and (15) of the paper,
\[ \varepsilon_+ = p + \frac{p^2}{2m_\ast} - \frac{p^3}{6m_\ast p_\ast} + \ldots, \quad p \ll p_. \]

(5.6)

Eqs. (5.3), (5.5), and (5.6) then yield
\[ \bar{v} = v + \frac{\kappa}{m}, \quad \bar{m} = m_\ast, \quad \bar{\lambda} = -\frac{1}{m_\ast p_\ast}. \]

(5.7)

The dominant contributions to \( \Lambda \) in Eq. (5.2) are given by terms containing \( \bar{\lambda} \), whereas the remaining terms are of relative order \( (\zeta K)^{1/2} \ll 1 \). Neglecting these corrections, we find
\[ \Lambda = \frac{2\pi}{3m_\ast n_0} \partial \left( a_\ast \sqrt{K} \right). \]

(5.8)

Substituting here \( a_\ast \) in the form (2.10) and evaluating the derivatives with the help of Eq. (1.3), we obtain
\[ \Lambda = -\frac{\pi^2 (V_{24} V_{44} - V_{33} V_{35})}{3m_\ast n_0^2 V_{35}^2}. \]

(5.9)

Equation (5.1) then yields
\[ \Gamma(p) = g\zeta^5 v_\ast (p/p_\ast)^8 \]

(5.10)

with the coefficient \( g \) given by
\[ g = \frac{3\pi}{10} \frac{V_{22}^2}{V_{24} V_{34}} \left( V_{24} V_{44} - V_{33} V_{35} \right)^2. \]

(5.11)

This coefficient depends on the functional form of the interaction potential, but not on its strength or range. As shown in the Supplemental Material to Ref. [3], \( V_{24} V_{44} = V_{33} V_{35} \) for the hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland model (4.1) irrespective of the values of \( \lambda \) and \( a_0 \). Accordingly, in this case the coefficient \( g \) vanishes identically, as expected for integrable models exhibiting no relaxation. For a generic interaction potential, however, \( g \) is of order unity, and \( \Gamma \) is finite.

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