Cooper channel and the singularities in the thermodynamics of a Fermi liquid

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We analyze how the logarithmic renormalizations in the Cooper channel affect the non-analytic temperature dependence of the specific heat coefficient $\gamma(T) - \gamma(0) = A(T)T$ in a 2D Fermi liquid. We show that $A(T)$ is expressed exactly in terms of the fully renormalized backscattering amplitude which includes the renormalization in the Cooper channel. In contrast to the 1D case, both charge and spin components of the backscattering amplitudes are subject to this renormalization. We show that the logarithmic renormalization of the charge amplitude vanishes for a flat Fermi surface, when the system becomes effectively one-dimensional.

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Non-analytic behavior of the thermodynamic parameters of a Fermi liquid has been of interest since the early days of Fermi-liquid theory, when it was found that for $D = 3$ the specific heat coefficient $\gamma(T) = C(T)/T$ has a non-analytic temperature dependence $\delta\gamma(T) = (T - \gamma(0)) \propto T^2 \ln T$ \cite{1}. The issue of non-analyticities has been revived in recent years, following the work by Belitz, Kirkpatrick, and Vojta \cite{2}, who found that the same type of logarithmic behavior holds for the spin susceptibility at a finite momentum $q$ in three dimensions.

\begin{equation}
\delta\gamma(T) = \frac{3\zeta(3)}{2\pi (\pi E_F)^2} \left[f_c^2(\pi) + 3f_s^2(\pi)\right] T. \tag{1}
\end{equation}

Validity of Eq. (1) was verified perturbatively in Ref. \cite{11} by calculating $\delta\gamma(T)$ and $f_c, f_s(\pi)$ independently to third and second order in the interaction, respectively, and checking that Eq. (1) holds. That analysis, however, was incomplete – it included the renormalizations in the particle-hole channel but neglected the renormalizations in the Cooper channel. Refs. \cite{11, 12} conjectured–without proof–that Eq. (1) still holds if the Cooper renormalizations are included into $f_c, f_s(\pi)$.

The Cooper renormalization of the backscattering amplitudes is an essential ingredient of the theory, particularly in the limit $T \rightarrow 0$. The argument is that the backscattering amplitude

\[ f_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta}(\pi) = f_{\alpha}(\pi)\delta_{\alpha\beta}\delta_{\gamma\delta} + f_{\delta}(\pi)\delta_{\alpha\beta} \cdot \delta_{\gamma\delta} \]

is expressed in terms of two full vertices with zero total momentum and either zero or $2k_F$ momentum transfer $\Gamma(k, -k; k, -k) \equiv \Gamma(k, k) \text{ and } \Gamma(k, -k; k, k) \equiv \Gamma(k, -k)$:

\[ f_c(\pi) = \frac{m}{\pi} \left[ \Gamma(k, k) - \frac{1}{2}\Gamma(k, -k) \right], \quad f_s(\pi) = -\frac{m}{2\pi} \Gamma(k, -k) \tag{2} \]

Equivalently, each of these two vertices can be expressed via the fully renormalized Cooper vertex with either zero or $2k_F$ momentum transfer: $\Gamma(k, k) = \Gamma^C(0)$, $\Gamma(k, -k) = \Gamma^C(2k_F)$. Therefore, these vertices can be expressed via the partial components $J_C^1$ of the irreducible interaction in the Cooper channel as

\begin{equation}
\Gamma^C(0), \Gamma^C(2k_F) = \sum_n (\pm 1)^n \frac{J_C^n}{1 + \frac{m}{2\pi} J_C^n \ln E_F}. \tag{3}
\end{equation}

At low temperatures, all terms in the sum scale as $(\ln E_F/T)^{-1}$, so that $\Gamma(k, k)$ and $\Gamma(k, -k)$ should, in general, be reduced by the same logarithmic factor. Whether this logarithmic renormalization affects the backscattering amplitudes and $\delta\gamma(T)$ is a more subtle issue which is to be addressed by a direct calculation.

The 1D case serves as a good example here. Both $\Gamma(k, k)$ and $\Gamma(k, -k)$ are logarithmically renormalized in 1D; yet, these renormalizations only affect the spin channel, but cancel out in the charge channel\cite{14, 15, 16, 17}. As a result, the specific heat remains linear in $T$ at the lowest $T$. This agrees with 1D bosonization according to which charge excitations are described by a free Gaussian theory, whereas the spin channel for the case a repulsive interaction contains a marginally irrelevant perturbation that causes a logarithmic flow of the spin amplitude. The issue that we address in this paper is whether this situation occurs only in 1D or in higher dimensions as well.

The interplay between the logarithmic renormalization of the interaction and the behavior of specific heat coefficient in 2D has recently been considered by Aleiner and Efetov (AE) \cite{13} (for a subsequent analysis see \cite{8, 9}). AE invented an elegant supersymmetric method to treat the problem in arbitrary $D$ by integrating out fermions and expressing the low-energy ac-
tion solely in terms of the low-energy collective bosonic modes. They found that the spin contribution to \(\delta \gamma(T)\) is affected by the Cooper renormalization and behaves as \(T(\ln |\ln T|/\ln T)^2\) in the limit of \(T \to 0\). They treated the charge component in the eikonal approximation which neglects the curvature of the Fermi surface, and found that, in this approximation, the charge component remains unrenormalized.

In this communication, we re-consider this issue. We evaluate \(\delta \gamma(T)\) explicitly to third order in the interaction \(U(q)\), including Cooper renormalizations, and also evaluate the spin and charge components of the backscattering amplitude to second order in \(U(q)\). We find that, in contrast to the 1D case, both \(f_s(\pi)\) and \(f_c(\pi)\) undergo logarithmic renormalization in 2D. We also find that Eq. [1] still holds when \(U(q)\) is re-expressed in terms of \(f_s(\pi)\) and \(f_c(\pi)\). This result agrees with the conjecture made in Refs. [11, 12]. For a short-range interaction, we find that the spin contribution to \(\delta \gamma(T)\) scales as \((1/\ln T)^2\), while the charge contribution scales as \((\ln |\ln T|/\ln T)^2\).

As a result, if the system remains in the normal state down to very low \(T\), \(\delta \gamma(T)\) would be dominated by charge fluctuations and behaved as \(\delta \gamma(T) \propto T(\ln |\ln T|/\ln T)^2\). The normal state behavior in 2D, however, exists only down to the temperature \(T_p\) of the Kohn-Luttinger instability towards \(p\)-wave pairing [22, 23]. We analyzed \(\delta \gamma(T) = A(T)T \rho \ln |\ln T|/\ln T^2\).

As a simple check, we verified that the same procedure that we used for calculating the scattering amplitudes in 2D reproduces the known result in 1D, namely, the cancellation of the logarithmic renormalizations in the charge channel [16, 17, 18, 19]. This comparison helps to see where exactly the cases of \(D > 1\) and \(D = 1\) differ: for \(D > 1\), only the Cooper channel is logarithmic; hence there is no cancellation between the Cooper and particle-hole channels, and \(f_c(\pi)\) is renormalized along with \(f_s(\pi)\). For \(D = 1\), both particle-hole and particle-particle renormalizations are logarithmic, and the two cancel each other in the charge channel. To further emphasize this point, we also considered the 2D case with a non-circular Fermi surface and demonstrated that when the Fermi surface becomes flat, the particle-hole renormalization becomes logarithmic and the Cooper and particle-hole renormalizations again cancel each other in the charge channel.

We believe that it is the effect of the curvature that is responsible for the difference between our result and that of AE.

We begin with the 2D case and a circular Fermi surface. To second order in \(U(q)\), the diagrams for the thermodynamic potential \(\Xi\) contain two fermionic bubbles \(\Pi(q, \Omega)\). To this order, the non-analyticity comes from the square of the dynamic part of \(\Pi(q, \Omega)\) which contains the term \(\Omega^2/q^2\) at \(v_F q \gg |\Omega|\) [9, 11, 12]. Because the momentum integral is logarithmic in 2D, the second-order thermodynamic potential

\[
\Xi \sim U^2 T \sum_{\Omega} \int d^2 q \Pi^2 \sim U^2 T \sum_{\Omega} \Omega^2 \ln |\Omega| \sim U^2 T^3 \quad (4)
\]

contains a universal \(T^3\) term, which gives rise to a \(O(T)\) term in \(\delta \gamma\). It was shown in Refs. [11, 12] that the momenta carried by fermions in the two bubbles, \(k_1, k_2, k_3,\) and \(k_4,\) are correlated in such a way that \(k_1 \approx k_2 \approx -k_3 \approx -k_4\). These four fermions can then be re-arranged either into a convolution of two particle-hole bubbles \(\Pi_{ph}(\Omega, q)\) or two particle-particle bubbles \(\Pi_{pp}(\Omega, q)\): the term \(\Omega^2/q^2\) is produced regardless of the choice.

Relevant third-order diagrams for \(\Xi\) are shown in Fig. 1. They contain either three particle-hole or three particle-particle bubbles. It can be shown that the non-analytic terms in \(\delta \gamma(T)\) come from the terms containing the products of two dynamic and one static parts of these bubbles. Two dynamic parts of the bubbles produce \(\Omega^2/q^2\) term, which is the source of non-analyticity, whereas the third bubble renormalizes static backscattering vertex. If the third bubble is a particle-hole one, the renormalized vertex is a constant. The momentum integration then yields \(\Omega^2 \ln |\Omega|\), and subsequent frequency summation gives rise to the \(T^3\)-term in \(\Xi\). In the third bubble is a particle-particle one, the renormalized vertex contains an additional factor of \(\ln q\). This changes the result of the momentum integration to \(\Omega^2 \ln^2 |\Omega|\) [note an extra \(\ln |\Omega|\) as compared to Eq. (4)] and gives rise to a \(T \ln T\)-term in \(\delta \gamma(T)\).

The contributions from diagrams (a-d) have already been presented in [11], diagrams (e) and (f) were not considered there. For completeness, we present the results for all third-order diagrams. We have [21].
where \( K \equiv \zeta(3)T^3/\pi v_F^3 \) and \( u_\theta = (m/2\pi)U(2k_F \sin \theta/2) \), such that \( u_0 = (m/2\pi)U(0) \) and \( u_\pi = (m/2\pi)U(2k_F) \).

For a circular Fermi surface, \( \langle \theta \rangle = 1 \). Combining \( \Xi_3 \) with the second-order result \( \Xi_2 = (u_0^2 + u_\pi^2)K \) we obtain a complete result for \( \delta \gamma(T) \) to third order in the interaction.

Next, we compute independently the static interaction vertices \( \Gamma(k,k) \) and \( \Gamma(k,-k) \) \((\Gamma^k \text{ in the Fermi liquid notations}) \) to second order in \( U(q) \), including the renormalizations in the particle-hole and particle-particle channels. Collecting both contributions, we find

\[
\frac{m}{2\pi} \Gamma(k,k) = \tilde{u}_0 + \langle \theta^2 \rangle - \langle \theta_0^2 \rangle \ln \frac{E_F}{T};
\]

\[
\frac{m}{2\pi} \Gamma(k,-k) = \tilde{u}_\pi + \langle \theta \theta_\pi \rangle \left( 1 - \ln \frac{E_F}{T} \right).
\]

where

\[
\tilde{u}_0 = u_0 (1 - 2u_0 + 2\langle \theta_0 \rangle),
\]

\[
\tilde{u}_\pi = u_\pi (1 - 2u_\pi (1) + 2\langle \theta_0 \rangle).
\]

The charge and spin components \( f_c(s)(\pi) \) are obtained using Eq. \((2)\). Evaluating the expression \( f^2_\pi(\pi) + 3f^2_\theta(\pi) \) to third order in \( U(q) \) and substituting the result into Eq. \((1)\), we find that Eq. \((2)\) is fully reproduced. Therefore, at least to third order, the prefactor of the \( T \) term in \( \delta \gamma(T) \) is expressed via exact scattering amplitudes, which include the renormalizations in the Cooper channel.

At low \( T \), the particle-particle renormalizations are more relevant that those in the particle-hole channel, as the former contain a large factor of \( \ln E_F/T \). Keeping only the particle-particle renormalization, we obtain

\[
f_c(\pi) = 2u_\pi - u_\pi - (u_\theta u_\pi - \theta) - 2(\theta^2_\pi) \ln \frac{E_F}{T};
\]

\[
f_s(\pi) = -\left( u_\pi - (u_\theta u_\pi - \theta) - 2(\theta^2_\pi) \right) \ln \frac{E_F}{T}
\]

We see that both \( f_c(\pi) \) and \( f_s(\pi) \) contain logarithmic corrections. For \( u_\theta = \text{const} \equiv u \), Eqs. \((10)\) reduce to

\[
f_c(\pi) = -f_s(\pi) = u \left( 1 - u \ln \frac{E_F}{T} \right) \approx \frac{u}{1 + u \ln \frac{E_F}{T}}.
\]

A better estimate is obtained if we assume, following AE, a simple model form for the irreducible interaction in the particle-particle channel: \( J \)

\[
J^C(q) = \Gamma(k,-k; k+q,-k-q) = aw/(q^2 + a^2),
\]

where \( q = 2k_F \sin \theta/2 \) and \( w \) has the units of velocity. The partial components of \( J^C(q) \) are

\[
J^C_n = \frac{\alpha - \beta n}{\sqrt{a^2 + 4k_F}^2}, \quad \beta = 2 \ln \left( \frac{a}{2k_F} \sqrt{1 + \frac{a^2}{4k_F^2}} \right)
\]
In the limit of \( T \to 0 \), the sums over \( n \) in Eq. 3 for \( \Gamma^C(0) \) and \( \Gamma^C(2k_F) \) are dominated by large \( n \); replacing summation over \( n \) by integration, we obtain
\[
\Gamma^C(0) = \frac{2\pi}{m} \ln \frac{L}{\beta L}, \quad \Gamma^C(2k_F) = \frac{2\pi}{m} \frac{1 - e^{-\beta}}{\beta L}, \tag{13}
\]
where \( L = \ln \frac{E_F}{T} \). In this limit, \( \Gamma^C(0) \) is larger than \( \Gamma^C(2k_F) \) by \( \ln L \), hence \( f_n(\pi) \approx 2\ln L / (\beta L) \gg f_n(\pi) \), and the full result for the specific heat coefficient becomes
\[
\delta\gamma(T) = -\frac{3\zeta(3)}{2\pi (v_F^*)^2} \left[ \frac{2\ln \frac{E_F}{T_F}}{\beta \ln \frac{E_F}{T_F}} \right]^2 T. \tag{14}
\]
Note that the prefactor depends on the functional form of \( \Gamma^C(q) \) but not on the magnitude of the interaction. Eq. 13 is valid only at such low temperatures that \( \ln L \gg 1 \). For a more realistic case of \( L \gtrsim 1 \), both \( \Gamma^C(0) \) and \( \Gamma^C(2k_F) \) are of order \( 1/L \), and \( \delta\gamma(T) \propto T / (\ln E_F/T)^2 \).

A more fundamental reason why the ultra-low \( T \) regime is inaccessible is the Kohn-Luttinger effect: the superconducting instability for a nominally repulsive interaction \[22\]. It is known that irreducible \( J^C(q) \) is non-analytic near \( q = 2k_F \) due to screening of the original pairing interaction by the particle-hole excitations. Screening produces a long-range component of \( J^C(q) \). In 2D, the Kohn-Luttinger effect is a bit trickier as one needs to include vertex corrections to the polarization bubble to obtain an oscillating long-range component of the pairing interaction \[23\]. Because of oscillations and \( 1/r^2 \) behavior, the partial harmonics \( J_n^C \) acquire negative parts that fall off with \( n \) algebraically rather than exponentially: \( J_n^C \propto -\alpha/n^2 \), \( \alpha > 0 \) (at small \( U \), \( \alpha \propto U^3 \)). As a result, \( J_n^C \) become negative for \( n > n_c \), which implies superconductivity. For a moderately strong interaction \( nU(q) \gtrsim 1 \), \( J_n^C \) becomes negative already for \( n = 1 \) (\( J_1^C \) is the largest), and the system becomes unstable towards \( p \)-wave pairing at \( T_p \) defined by \( (m\alpha/2\pi)\ln E_F/T_p = 1 \). Near \( T_p \), the \( n = 1 \) term dominates the sums in Eq. 3, both \( \Gamma^C(0) \) and \( \Gamma^C(2k_F) \) diverge as \( \alpha / (1 - (m\alpha/2\pi)L) \propto 1 / (T - T_p) \), hence
\[
\delta\gamma(T) = -\frac{3\zeta(3)}{2\pi (v_F^*)^2} \left( \frac{T_p}{T - T_p} \right)^2 T. \tag{15}
\]
To verify our computational procedure, we also consider the 1D case. The procedure that we used in 2D is also applicable to the 1D case, with the only modification that angular averages of the interaction in the particle-hole channel \[Eq.(4)\] are replaced by a sum of just two terms, for \( \theta = 0 \) and \( \theta = \pi \), as the Fermi surface in 1D consists of just two points \( k = \pm k_F \). The integrand in 4 vanishes at \( \theta = \pi \) and diverges logarithmically at \( \theta = 0 \), i.e., for \( D = 1 \), the renormalization of the interaction in the particle-hole channel also leads to logarithmic corrections:
\[
\langle \langle \theta \rangle \rangle \to u_0 \ln \frac{E_F}{T}, \quad \langle \langle \theta^2 \rangle \rangle \to u_0^2 \ln \frac{E_F}{T}, \quad \langle \langle 1 \rangle \rangle \to \ln \frac{E_F}{T}, \tag{16}
\]
where now \( u_\theta = U(2k_F \sin \theta/2)/(2\pi v_F) \). Combining the logarithms in the particle-particle and particle-hole channel and neglecting non-logarithmic second-order terms, we reproduce the well-known results for the charge- and spin scattering amplitudes in 1D \[16\], \[17\], \[18\]:
\[
f_c(\pi) = 2u_0 - u_\pi, \quad f_s(\pi) \approx -\frac{u_\pi}{1 + 2u_\pi \ln \frac{E_F}{T_F}}.
\]
The logarithmic corrections are cancelled out in \( f_c(\pi) \), but are present in \( f_s(\pi) \). The interplay between the behavior of the renormalized spin amplitude and the specific heat in 1D is a more subtle issue, because the backscattering part of \( \delta\gamma(T) \) in 1D contains extra \( O(T) \) terms and does not reduce to Eq. 11 with the renormalized \( f_s(\pi) \) \[13\], \[24\], \[23\].

To elucidate the difference between 2D and 1D further, we consider a 2D system with a non-circular Fermi surface. Near an arbitrary point \( k_F \) on such a surface, the fermionic dispersion can be expanded as
\[
\epsilon_k = v_F k_\parallel + \frac{k^2}{2m_c}. \tag{17}
\]
where \( k_\parallel \) and \( k_\perp \) are the projections of vector \( k - k_F \) on the normal and tangent to the Fermi surface at point \( k_F \), correspondingly, \( v_F \) is the local value of the Fermi velocity, and \( m_c = 1/\kappa v_F \) is related to the local curvature, \( \kappa \), of the Fermi surface \[13\], \[24\]. For a circular Fermi surface, \( \kappa = k_F^{-1} \) so that \( m_c = m = k_F/v_F \) and our 2D results are valid. If \( m_c \gg m \), the dispersion near two symmetric points \( \pm k_F \) is almost one-dimensional and, if only \( u_0 \) and \( u_\pi \) are relevant, we should reproduce 1D results. Indeed, evaluating the particle-hole contributions, labelled above as \( \langle\langle \ldots \rangle\rangle \), for the case of \( m \gg m_c \), we find that they have the same logarithmic behavior, as in Eq. 10; the only difference being that the logarithm is now cut by the largest of the two energies: \( T \) and \( E_c = k_F^2/2m_c \). Substituting these results into the expression for \( f_c(\pi) \), we find that to logarithmic accuracy
\[
f_c(\pi) = 2u_0 - u_\pi - 2(u_0^2 + u_\pi^2 - u_0 u_\pi) \ln \max(E_c/T, 1). \tag{18}
\]
For \( m_c = \infty \), \( E_c = 0 \), and the logarithmic term vanishes, just as it happens in 1D.

We see that the curvature of the Fermi surface is the crucial element of 2D consideration \[27\]. When the curvature is finite, the particle-hole renormalizations of the scattering amplitudes and of \( \delta\gamma(T) \) are not logarithmic at the smallest \( T \), and the logarithms only come from particle-particle renormalizations. Then \( f_s(\pi) \), \( f_c(\pi) \), and \( \delta\gamma(T) \) are all logarithmically reduced. When
the curvature is zero, the dispersion is one-dimensional, particle-hole renormalizations also become logarithmic, and for \( f_c(\pi) \) the logarithms from the particle-particle and particle-hole renormalizations are cancelled out. In the cikonal approximation used by AE and in earlier 2D bosonization theories \[28\], the curvature of the Fermi surface is neglected. In this situation, the charge amplitude becomes linear in \( T \). The eikonal approximation used by AE and in earlier 2D bosonization theories \[28\], the curvature of the Fermi surface is neglected. In this situation, the charge amplitude becomes linear in \( T \).

To summarize, in this paper we analyzed the effect of the Cooper-channel renormalization on the temperature dependence of the specific heat. We have shown the non-analytic term in the specific heat coefficient of a 2D Fermi liquid is expressed via the square of the analytic term in the specific heat coefficient of a 2D Fermi liquid. We have shown the non-analytic term in the specific heat coefficient of a 2D Fermi liquid is expressed via the square of the analytic term in the specific heat coefficient of a 2D Fermi liquid.

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