Temperature driven crossover in the Lieb-Liniger model

Andreas Klümpер\(^1\) and Ovidiu I. Pătu\(^2\)

\(^1\)Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, 42097 Wuppertal, Germany
\(^2\)Institute for Space Sciences, Bucharest-Măgurele, R 077125, Romania

The large-distance behavior of the density-density correlation function in the Lieb-Liniger model at finite temperature is investigated by means of the recently derived nonlinear integral equations characterizing the correlation lengths. We present extensive numerical results covering all the physical regimes from weak to strong interaction and all temperatures. We find that the leading term of the asymptotic expansion becomes oscillatory at a critical temperature which decreases with the strength of the interaction. As we approach the Tonks-Girardeau limit the asymptotic behavior becomes more complex with a double crossover of the largest and next-largest correlation lengths. The crossovers exist only for intermediate couplings and vanish for \(\gamma = 0 \) and \(\gamma = \infty\).

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Correlation functions play a fundamental role in our understanding of low-dimensional strongly correlated systems. As a result of the remarkable progress in the field of ultracold gases atomic correlations can now be accessed through a variety of techniques\(\)\(^{11-24}\)(and references therein) highlighting the necessity of high-quality experimental phenomenology. In one dimension the class of exactly solvable models represent a particular type of strongly correlated systems for which the powerful techniques associated with Bethe ansatz allows us to go beyond the mean-field Bogoliubov approximation. The paradigmatic example is the Lieb-Liniger (LL) model\(\)\(^3\) which is experimentally realizable\(\)\(^3\)\(^4\)\(^9\) and has been the subject of various theoretical investigations for more than fifty years\(\)\(^10\).

In this Letter we investigate the large distance of the static density-density correlation function at finite temperature in the LL model. Even though the model is integrable the complicated form of the wavefunctions means that the analytical derivation or numerical analysis of the correlators is still an extremely challenging task. While important progress has been made in recent years\(\)\(^11-24\) a complete characterization of the temperature dependent correlators is still lacking. Our analysis is based on the use of the so-called quantum transfer matrix \(T_q\) which describes the evolution of correlators in spatial direction. The eigenvalue equations\(\)\(^23-24\) enjoy a symmetry property which is equivalent to saying that \(T_q\) is a normal operator, i.e. \([T_q^+, T_q] = 0\) from which follows that all eigenvalues are real or occur in complex conjugate pairs. We calculated the leading eigenvalues of \(T_q\) for various densities and temperatures and found results which cannot be captured by the Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid/Conformal Field Theory (TLL/CFT)\(^25\) approach or other approximation or numerical methods. There is a complex crossover scenario with a counterintuitive change of symmetry and dimensionality of the involved states. In the spectral decomposition of the density-density correlator the leading state is symmetric at low temperatures, but has broken symmetry at higher (!) temperatures where it is 2-dimensional with complex conjugate eigenvalues.

The model - The Lieb-Liniger model describes one-dimensional bosons interacting via a \(\delta\)-function potential. The second-quantized Hamiltonian is

\[
H = \int dx \partial_x \Psi(x) \partial_x \Psi(x) + c \Psi(x) \Psi(x)^\dagger \Psi(x) \Psi(x),
\]

where \(c > 0\) is the coupling constant and we consider \(\hbar = 2m = k_B = 1\), with \(m\) the mass of the particles. In\(\)\(^1\) \(\Psi(x)\) and \(\Psi(x)^\dagger\) are Bose fields satisfying the canonical commutation relations \([\Psi(x), \Psi(x')] = \delta(x-x')\), \([\Psi(x), \Psi(x')] = [\Psi(x)^\dagger, \Psi(x)^\dagger] = 0\). The LL model is exactly solvable\(\)\(^3\)\(^10\)\(^26\) and, at finite temperature, is completely characterized by two parameters: the coupling strength \(\gamma = c/n\) with \(n\) the linear density and the temperature \(T\).

The density-density correlation function is defined by

\[
\langle \rho(x)\rho(0) \rangle_T = \frac{\text{Tr} \left[ e^{-H/T} \rho(x) \rho(0) \right]}{\text{Tr} e^{-H/T}},
\]

where \(\rho(x) = \Psi(x) \Psi(x)^\dagger\). Due to translational invariance and invariance under spatial reflection \(\langle \rho(x)\rho(0) \rangle_T = \langle \rho(0)\rho(x) \rangle_T = \langle \rho(0)\rho(0) \rangle_T\) which means that it is sufficient to consider \(x > 0\). The density-density correlator is closely related to the (unnormalized) second order correlation function \(g_2^T(x) = \langle \rho(x)\rho(0) \rangle_T \) via \(\langle \rho(x)\rho(0) \rangle_T = g_2^T(x) + \delta(x)n\) where :: denotes normal ordering. The large-distance asymptotic expansion of \(\langle \rho(x)\rho(0) \rangle_T\) valid for any value of the coupling strength and temperature has been derived only recently\(\)\(^23-24\):

\[
\langle \rho(x)\rho(0) \rangle_T = n^2 + \sum_i A[u_i] e^{-\frac{\xi[u_i]}{\xi}}, \quad x \to \infty,
\]

with the correlation lengths given by

\[
\frac{1}{\xi[u_i]} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_\mathbb{R} \log \left( \frac{1 + e^{-\epsilon(k)/T}}{1 + e^{-u_i(k)/T}} \right) dk - i \sum_{j=1}^r k_j^r + i \sum_{j=1}^r k_j^l,
\]
and $\varepsilon(k)$ the excitation energy satisfying the Yang-Yang equation

$$
\varepsilon(k) = k^2 - \mu - \frac{\hbar}{2\pi} \int_\mathbb{R} K(k-k') \log \left(1 + e^{-\varepsilon(k')/T}\right) dk'.
$$

In Eq. (2) $u_i(k)$ are a set of functions satisfying the nonlinear integral equations (NLIEs)

$$
u_i(k) = k^2 - \mu + iT \sum_{j=1}^r \theta(k-k_j^+) - iT \sum_{j=1}^r \theta(k-k_j^-)
- \frac{T}{2\pi} \int_\mathbb{R} K(k-k') \ln \left(1 + e^{-u_i(k')/T}\right) dk',
$$

where $\theta(k) = i \ln \left(\frac{\varepsilon + k}{\varepsilon - k}\right), \lim_{k \to -\infty} \theta(k) = \pm \pi$ and $K(k-k') = \frac{a}{\delta k} \delta(k-k') = 2c/[(k-k')^2 + c^2].$ Eq. (3) depends on $2r$ parameters, $\{k_j^\pm\}_{j=1}^r$ located in the upper (lower) half of the complex plane which are subject to the constraint

$$1 + e^{-u_i(k^\pm)/T} = 0.
$$

For a given $r$ there are more than one set of $\{k_j^\pm\}_{j=1}^r$ that satisfy the previous constraint and each one defines a distinct $u$ function. The subscript $i$ labels all these functions for all $r = 1, 2, \cdots$.

We should make an observation regarding the prefactors $A_i[u_i]$ appearing in (2). While analytical expressions were derived in [23] they are too cumbersome to allow for an efficient numerical investigation. For this reason in the following we are going to consider these prefactors as unknowns. Eq. (2) can be understood as the generalization for all non-zero temperatures of the Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid/Conformal Field Theory (TLL/CFT) asymptotic expansion [23] (valid for low-$T$ and $x \gg n^{-1}$)

$$
\langle \rho(x) \rho(0) \rangle_T = n^2 - \frac{(TZ/v_F)^2}{2\sinh^2(\pi T x/v_F)} + \sum_{i=1}^r A_i e^{2\pi i k_i F \left(\frac{\pi T/v_F}{\sinh(\pi T x/v_F)}\right)^{2iz^2}}
$$

In (7), $v_F$ and $k_F$ are the Fermi velocity and wavevector, $A_i$ are unknown prefactors and $Z = Z(q)$ with the dressed charge $Z(k)$ satisfying the integral equation $Z(k) - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty Z(k-k')Z(k') dk' = 1$. In [23, 24] it was shown that in the low temperature limit the correlation lengths obtained using (3) reproduce the TLL/CFT predictions (7). We should stress that even though the TLL/CFT expansion (7) is valid for $0 < \gamma < \infty$ it does not show any crossovers in $T$ as the correlation lengths are reciprocal to the temperature in the conformal regime.

**Tonks-Girardeau limit** - We can perform an additional check of Eq. (3) in the limit of impenetrable particles. This will also allow us to understand the distribution in the complex plane of the discrete parameters that characterize the leading correlation lengths. In the Tonks-Girardeau limit the second order correlation function can be calculated analytically [10] with the result:

$$
\langle \rho(x) \rho(0) \rangle_T = n^2 - \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{ikx} \vartheta(k) dk\right)^2,
$$

where $\vartheta(k) = 1/(1 + e^{(k^2-\mu)/T})$ is the Fermi function and $n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \vartheta(k) dk$. As we will show below, even though (8) is valid for all temperatures, in the limit of impenetrable particles no crossover is present.

The large distance behavior of (8) (note that the density-density correlation function has the same large-distance asymptotic behavior as $\langle \rho(x) \rho(0) \rangle_T$) can be derived having the contour of integration in the upper-half plane (for $x > 0$) with the leading terms being the residues closest to the real axis. The residues of the integrand are given by the solutions of the equation $k^2 - \mu = i\pi(2s+1)T$, $s = 0, \pm 1, \cdots$. Explicitly, the solutions closest to the real axis ($s = 0$) are

$$
k_r^\pm = [(\alpha + \mu)^{1/2} \pm i(\alpha - \mu)^{1/2}]/\sqrt{2},
$$

$$
k_r^{\pm i} = -[(\alpha + \mu)^{1/2} \pm i(\alpha - \mu)^{1/2}]/\sqrt{2},
$$

with $\alpha = \sqrt{\mu^2 + \pi^2 T^2}$ implying the asymptotic expansion

$$
\langle \rho(x) \rho(0) \rangle_T = n^2 + \frac{T^2}{2k_r^+ k_r^-} e^{(k_r^++k_r^-)x} + \frac{T^2}{4(k_r^+)^2} e^{2ik_r^+ x} + \frac{T^2}{4(k_r^-)^2} e^{2ik_r^- x} + O(e^{2\text{Re}(k_r^+) x}).
$$

(10)

We note that due to $\text{Im}(k_r^+ + k_r^-) = \text{Im}(2k_r^+) = \text{Im}(2k_r^-) = 0$ and $\text{Re}(k_r^+ + k_r^-) = 0$ the leading term of the expansion is oscillatory at all temperatures and no crossover is present. We can show that the correlation lengths appearing in (10) can also be derived using Eq. (3). For this, we need to notice that in the Tonks-Girardeau limit Eq. (5) reduces to $u_i(k) = k^2 - \mu$ which means that (6) is equivalent to $(k_r^+)^2 - \mu = i\pi(2s+1)T$, $s = 0, \pm 1, \cdots$ and $1/\xi[u_i] = -i \sum_{j=1}^r k_j^+ + i \sum_{j=1}^r k_j^-$. Then, the leading correlation lengths ($r = 1$) are: $1/\xi_0 = -ik_r^+ + ik_r^- = -ik_r^+ + ik_r^- = -ik_r^+ + ik_r^- = 2ik_r^+ + 1/\xi_1 = -ik_r^+ + ik_r^- = -2ik_r^+$ proving our previous assertion. In the low-$T$ limit the expansion (10) reduces to the $l = 0, \pm 1$ terms of the TLL/CFT expression (7). This can be easily seen using $k_r^+ = \sqrt{\mu} + i\pi T/2\sqrt{\mu} + O(T^2)$, $k_r^- = -\sqrt{\mu} + i\pi T/2\sqrt{\mu} + O(T^2)$, and the fact that for the impenetrable gas $Z = 1, k_F = \sqrt{\mu}, v_F = 2\sqrt{\mu}$.

**Numerical results** - From the numerical point of view the relevant NLIEs and the subsidiary equations for the
The leading correlation length, denoted by $\xi_0$, is obtained considering $r = 1$ in Eq. (5) and $k_1^+$ the pair of parameters which are closest to the real axis with $k_1^+$ located in the first quadrant of the complex plane (Re $k_1^+ \geq 0$, Im $k_1^+ \geq 0$) and $k_1^-$ located in the fourth quadrant (Re $k_1^- \geq 0$, Im $k_1^- \leq 0$). Similar to the impenetrable case there is another correlation length with the same magnitude which can be obtained considering $k_1^+$ located in the second quadrant of the complex plane (Re $k_1^+ \leq 0$, Im $k_1^+ \geq 0$) and $k_1^-$ located in the third quadrant (Re $k_1^- \leq 0$, Im $k_1^- \leq 0$). In Fig. 1 we plot $1/\xi_0$ as a function of temperature for several values of $\gamma$. At low-T $k_1^+$ and $k_1^-$ are complex conjugate ($k_1^+ = k_1^-$) which also means that $\xi_0$ is real. In this regime $1/\xi_0$ reproduces the exponential decay predicted by the first term on the r.h.s of the TLL/CFT expansion. However, there is a critical temperature, which depends on $\gamma$, at which the discrete parameters are no longer complex conjugates and Im $[1/\xi_0]$ is no longer zero. Above this temperature, which we will denote $T_o(\gamma)$, the leading term of the asymptotic expansion becomes oscillatory with a wavevector $2k_{n,F}$ which is incommensurate with $2k_F$. In addition, at $T_o$ the derivative of the correlation length is discontinuous. From Fig. 1 we can infer that $T_o(0) = \infty$ and $T_o(\gamma) = 0$. Regarding this last statement it is instructive to look at the asymptotic expansion (Eq. (10)) of $\langle \rho(x)\rho(0)\rangle_T$ in the $\gamma = \infty$ limit from which it is easy to see that in this case the leading term of the correlator is oscillatory at all non-zero temperatures.

The next-leading correlation lengths are obtained considering $k_1^+$ in the second quadrant and $k_1^-$ in the fourth quadrant (denoted by $\xi_1$ or $k_1^+$ in the first quadrant and $k_1^-$ in the third quadrant (denoted by $\xi_2$). At low-T these correlation lengths reproduce the asymptotic behavior of the $l = \pm 1$ terms in the TLL/CFT expansion. In Fig. 2 we show graphs of $1/\xi_1$ for some relevant values of $\gamma$. We notice that the region of validity for the TLL/CFT predictions (linear dependence on temperature of the correlation lengths and constancy of the wavevector) decreases with $\gamma$. Also we can clearly see that for $\gamma = 4$, Re$[1/\xi_1]$ develops a “shoulder” in the region of temperatures for which the conformal predictions break down. However, it should be stressed that the derivative remains continuous unlike the case of the leading correlation length.

Plotting $1/\xi_0$ and $1/\xi_1$ in the same graph as in Fig. 3 (see also Fig. 4) reveals an extremely interesting phenomenon. For weak interactions we have Re$[1/\xi_0] < \text{Re}[1/\xi_1]$ for all temperatures but for stronger interactions a complex crossover scenario emerges. We find that for large $\gamma$ we can distinguish three distinct intervals of temperature for which the asymptotic behavior of $\langle \rho(x)\rho(0)\rangle_T$ is different. For $T \in (0, T_{hc}(\gamma))$ where $T_{hc}(\gamma)$ is the lower crossover temperature the leading correlation length is $\xi_0$ which is real for all temperatures in this interval. $\xi_1$ becomes dominant for $T \in (T_{hc}(\gamma), T_{hc}(\gamma))$ interval in which also lies $T_o$ the temperature for which $\xi_0$ acquires a nonzero imaginary part. Here $\langle \rho(x)\rho(0)\rangle_T$ is oscillatory and exponentially decreasing with leading correlation length $\xi_1$. Finally, for $T > T_{hc}(\gamma)$ we have

![Image 1](https://example.com/image1.png)

![Image 2](https://example.com/image2.png)
another crossover with $\xi_0$ (for which $\text{Im}[1/\xi_0] \neq 0$) characterizing the leading term of the expansion. It should be emphasized that the description of this crossover scenario is out of the reach of the TLL/CFT approach or other approximation methods.

**Conclusions** - We have performed an extensive numerical investigation of the large distance asymptotic behavior of the second order correlation function in the Lieb-Liniger model discovering an extremely complex crossover phenomenon. Our findings can be summarized as follows. For all strengths of interactions the leading correlation length develops a nonzero imaginary part for temperatures larger than a critical temperature $T_o(\gamma)$ with $T_o(0) = \infty$ and $T_o(\infty) = 0$. As we approach the Tonks-Girardeau limit we find two additional crossovers in which $\xi_0$ and $\xi_1$ successively change places as the dominant one.

The crossover to oscillatory behavior of the leading correlation length is reminiscent of the one observed in the XXZ spin chain [28] in the ferromagnetic region ($-1 < \Delta < 0$) and zero magnetization. This may somewhat be expected if we take into account that the Bose gas is a continuum limit of the XXZ spin chain at $\Delta = -1$, but this holds close to the fully polarized state. Naturally, the full temperature scenarios are different for the two systems. However, for cold gases the prospects of finding experimental signatures of the crossovers are much better than for crystals as a result of the continuous improvement in the creation and manipulation of such systems.

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