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Dynamical correlation functions of the mesoscopic pairing model

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We study the dynamical correlation functions of the Richardson pairing model (also known as the reduced- or discrete-state Bardeen, Cooper, Schrieffer model) in the canonical ensemble. We use the algebraic Bethe Ansatz formalism, which gives exact expressions for the form factors of the most important observables. By summing these form factors over a relevant set of states, we obtain very precise estimates of the correlation functions, as confirmed by global sum rules (saturation above 99% in all cases considered). Unlike the case of many other Bethe Ansatz solvable theories, simple two-particle states are sufficient to achieve such saturations, even in the thermodynamic limit. We provide explicit results at half filling and discuss their finite-size scaling behavior.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Possibly the most remarkable incipient property associated to a fermionic gas is its instability to the pairing phenomenon. Under an arbitrarily weak attractive force, which can originate in such a simple process as coupling to phonons, the gas will develop an instability toward the formation of Cooper pairs, this process forming the superconducting gap, which is obtained from the solution of a theory, single-particle excitations are suppressed by the superconducting gap, and in which some energies are conserved anymore. These studies open the door to an exact solvable model, it remains solvable for an arbitrarily choice of parameters and can thus provide quantitative predictions for various situations obtained by considering various choices of the set of energy levels $\epsilon_n$ (both their number and their individual value), coupling $g$, and filling. Besides mesoscopic superconductivity, this model and its solution also find applications in other fields (see the reviews in Refs. 5 and 6 for some applications outside of condensed-matter physics).

The nature of the electronic states in a metallic nanograin can conceivably be probed in a number of different experiments. Electronic transport through such a grain could be studied by attaching either metallic or superconducting leads. The observable $I$-$V$ characteristics or Josephson currents would be theoretically obtained from correlation functions within the grain. Such correlations, however, are not easily obtainable from the basic exact solution of the model, which focuses on wave functions but does not allow to make direct contact with the dynamics of observables. The history of the study of correlations in the Richardson model is, however, already rather rich. Richardson himself in 1965 (Ref. 7) derived a first exact expression for static correlation functions. In a significant development, Amico and Osterloh8 proposed a new method to write down such correlations explicitly but with results limited to system sizes of up to 16 particles. A major simplification was then proposed by Zhou et al.9,10 using the algebraic Bethe Ansatz (ABA) and the Slavnov formula for scalar products of states,11 they managed to obtain the static correlation functions as sums over $N_p \times N_p$ matrices. These expressions have been further simplified by us in a previous publication, where they were evaluated numerically for a particular choice of the energy levels $\epsilon_n$ (Ref. 12) allowing to describe the crossover from mesoscopic to macroscopic physics, going beyond pre-

\begin{equation}
H_{\text{BCS}} = \sum_{a=1}^{N} \epsilon_a c_a^\dagger c_a - g \sum_{a,b=1}^{N} c_a^\dagger c_b^\dagger \sigma_\alpha c_\beta c_\beta^\dagger,
\end{equation}

which was introduced by Richardson in the early 1960s in the context of nuclear physics.4 The model describes (pseudo) spin-1/2 fermions (electrons, nucleons, etc.) in a shell of doubly degenerate single-particle energy levels with energies $\epsilon_a/2$, $a = 1, \ldots, N$, $c_{a,\sigma}$ are the fermionic annihilation operators, $\sigma = \pm$ labels the degenerate time-reversed states (i.e., spin or isospin) and $g$ denotes the effective pairing coupling constant. Despite its simplified character (the interaction couples all levels uniformly), the model does have a number of advantages as compared to BCS theory. First of all, it can be solved within the canonical ensemble (fixed number of electrons), a situation which is relevant for isolated nanograins. Second, and rather remarkably for an exactly solvable model, it remains solvable for an arbitrary choice of parameters and can thus provide quantitative predictions for various situations obtained by considering various choices of the set of energy levels $\epsilon_n$ (both their number and their individual value), coupling $g$, and filling. Besides mesoscopic superconductivity, this model and its solution also find applications in other fields (see the reviews in Refs. 5 and 6 for some applications outside of condensed-matter physics).

The nature of the electronic states in a metallic nanograin can conceivably be probed in a number of different experiments. Electronic transport through such a grain could be studied by attaching either metallic or superconducting leads. The observable $I$-$V$ characteristics or Josephson currents would be theoretically obtained from correlation functions within the grain. Such correlations, however, are not easily obtainable from the basic exact solution of the model, which focuses on wave functions but does not allow to make direct contact with the dynamics of observables. The history of the study of correlations in the Richardson model is, however, already rather rich. Richardson himself in 1965 (Ref. 7) derived a first exact expression for static correlation functions. In a significant development, Amico and Osterloh8 proposed a new method to write down such correlations explicitly but with results limited to system sizes of up to 16 particles. A major simplification was then proposed by Zhou et al.9,10 using the algebraic Bethe Ansatz (ABA) and the Slavnov formula for scalar products of states,11 they managed to obtain the static correlation functions as sums over $N_p \times N_p$ matrices. These expressions have been further simplified by us in a previous publication, where they were evaluated numerically for a particular choice of the energy levels $\epsilon_n$ (Ref. 12) allowing to describe the crossover from mesoscopic to macroscopic physics, going beyond pre-
vious results limited to fewer particles. We mention that a different approach, valid in the case of highly degenerate $\epsilon_\alpha$, is also available.

Despite all these developments, up to now none of these approaches has been adapted and used to calculate dynamical correlation functions, important to quantify the response of a physical system to any realistic experimental probe. In this paper we use a method that mixes integrability and numerics and is similar to that used by some of us to study the dynamical correlation functions and entanglement entropy in spin chains, as well as dynamical correlations in Bose gases. In short, the ABACUS method consists in using the exact knowledge of the form factors of physical observables as determinants of matrices whose entries are the unknown Richardson rapidities. For any given state, these rapidities are calculated by solving the Richardson equations. The corresponding form factors are then evaluated. Finally we need to sum over all these contributions, but this can be done by recognizing form factors are then evaluated. Finally we need to sum over all these contributions, but this can be done by recognizing

$$b_\alpha = c_\alpha c_{\alpha^*}, \quad b^*_\alpha = c_{\alpha^*} c_\alpha,$$

the Hamiltonian is

$$H = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} \epsilon_\alpha b_\alpha b_\alpha^* - g \sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^{N} b_\alpha^* b_\beta,$$

and $n_\alpha = 2b_\alpha^* b_\alpha$ is the number of particles in level $\alpha$.

The pair creation and annihilation operators satisfy the commutation relations

$$[b_\alpha, b_\beta] = \delta_{\alpha\beta} (1 - 2b_\alpha^* b_\alpha), \quad [b_\alpha, b_\beta^*] = [b_\alpha^*, b_\beta] = 0.$$  

The term $2b_\alpha^* b_\alpha$ in the first commutator makes the model different from free bosons and therefore nontrivial.

Using the pseudospin realization of electron pairs $S_\alpha^a = b_\alpha^* b_\alpha - 1/2$, $S_\alpha^z = b_\alpha^* b_\alpha$, and $S_\alpha^a = b_\alpha'$, the BCS Hamiltonian becomes (up to a constant)

$$H = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} \epsilon_\alpha S_\alpha^a - g \sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^{N} S_\alpha^a S_\beta^a.$$  

The operators $S_\alpha^{a-z}$ obey the standard $(2\times 2)$ spin algebra and so Hamiltonian (5) describes a spin-1/2 magnet with long-range interaction for the $XY$ components in a site-dependent longitudinal magnetic field $\epsilon_\alpha$. Such a magnetic Hamiltonian is known in the literature as a Gaudin magnet. An important relation is

$$S_\alpha^a S_\beta^z = S_\alpha^z S_\beta^a - (S_\alpha^a)^2 \pm S_\alpha^z.$$  

A. Grand-canonical BCS wave function

In the grand-canonical (GC) ensemble the ground-state wave function is the BCS (Ref. 1) variational ansatz

$$|GS\rangle = \prod_\alpha \left( u_\alpha + \epsilon^{\phi_\alpha} u_\alpha b_\alpha^\dagger \right) |0\rangle, \quad u_\alpha^2 + v_\alpha^2 = 1,$$

where the variational parameters $u_\alpha$ and $v_\alpha$ are real and $\phi_\alpha$ is a phase which, it turns out, must be $\alpha$ independent. $|GS\rangle$ is not an eigenstate of the particle number operator $N_\alpha$ and the average condition $\langle N_\alpha \rangle = N_\alpha$ determines the GC chemical potential. Likewise, the commonly used definition

$$\Delta_{GC} = 2g \sum_\alpha \langle b_\alpha^\dagger \rangle = 2g \sum_\alpha u_\alpha v_\alpha e^{i\phi_\alpha}$$

for the superconducting gap makes sense only in a GC ensemble, since $\langle b_\alpha^\dagger \rangle$ is zero when evaluated at fixed particle number. The variational parameters are obtained as
\[ v_{\alpha}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu}{\sqrt{(\epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu)^2 + |\Delta_{GC}|^2}} \right], \]

where \( \mu \) is the GC chemical potential.

B. Canonical description and Richardson solution

The exact solution (i.e., the full set of eigenstates and eigenvalues) of Hamiltonian \( (1) \) in the canonical ensemble was derived by Richardson.\(^4\) The model can be encompassed into the framework on integrable models\(^22\) and is tractable by means of algebraic methods.\(^9,10,23,24\) We review here only the main points of this solution.

In the ABA, eigenstates are constructed by applying raising operators on a so-called reference state (pseudovacuum). We here choose the pseudovacuum (in the pseudospin representation) to be fully polarized along the \( -\hat{z} \) axis

\[ S'_{\alpha}|0\rangle = -\frac{1}{2}|0\rangle, \quad \forall \alpha. \quad (10) \]

In the pair representation, this state thus corresponds to the Fock vacuum. Eigenstates with \( N_p \) pairs are then characterized by \( N_p \) spectral parameters (rapidities) \( w_j \), and take the form of Bethe wave functions

\[ |(w_j)\rangle = \prod_{k=1}^{N_p} C(w_k)|0\rangle. \quad (11) \]

The operators \( C \), together with operators \( A, B, \) and \( D \) defined as

\[ A(w_k) = -\frac{1}{g} + \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{S^a_{\alpha}}{w_k - \epsilon_{\alpha}}, \quad B(w_k) = \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{S^a_{\alpha}}{w_k - \epsilon_{\alpha}}, \]

\[ C(w_k) = \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{S^a_{\alpha}}{w_k - \epsilon_{\alpha}}, \quad D(w_k) = \frac{1}{g} - \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{S^a_{\alpha}}{w_k - \epsilon_{\alpha}} \quad (12) \]

obey the Gaudin algebra, which is the quasiclassical limit of the quadratic Yang-Baxter algebra associated to the \( gl(2) \) invariant \( R \) matrix (we refer the readers to Ref. 10 for details).

The wave functions [Eq. (11)] are eigenstates of the transfer matrix, and thus of Hamiltonian \( (1) \), when the parameters \( w_j \) satisfy the Richardson equations

\[ -\frac{1}{g} = \frac{1}{w_j - \epsilon_{\alpha}} - \frac{2}{w_j - w_k} \quad j = 1, \ldots, N_p. \quad (13) \]

Throughout the paper we will refer with Latin indices to the rapidities and with greek ones to the energy levels. The total energy of a Bethe state is, up to a constant,

\[ E_{(w)} = \sum_j w_j. \quad (14) \]

For a given \( N \) and \( N_p \) the number of solutions of the Richardson equations is \( \binom{N}{N_p} \), and coincides with the dimension of the Hilbert space of \( N_p \) pairs distributed into \( N \) different levels, i.e., the solutions to the Richardson equations give all the eigenstates of the model.

Note that one could also use the pseudovacuum to be the state fully polarized along the \( \hat{z} \) axis (instead of \( -\hat{z} \)). This leads to slight differences in the expressions, which one can resolve by comparing Refs. 9 and 10.

III. CORRELATION FUNCTIONS AND ALGEBRAIC BETHE ANSATZ

We are interested in the dynamical correlation functions of the form

\[ G_{O_{\alpha}O_{\beta}}(t) = \frac{\langle GS|O_{\alpha}^+(t)O_{\beta}|0\rangle_{GS}}{\langle GS|GS \rangle}, \quad (15) \]

at fixed number of pairs \( N_p \). Here \( O_{\alpha} \) stands for a “local” operator in the Heisenberg picture (i.e., depending on a single energy level \( \alpha \)). We consider \( O_{\alpha} \) equal to \( S^+_{\alpha} \) or \( S^z_{\alpha} \).

By inserting the complete set of states \( \{ |w\rangle \} \) with \( \{|w\rangle \} \) a set of \( M_{\alpha} \) rapidities solution to the Richardson equations, and using the time evolution of the eigenstate, we can rewrite the dynamical correlation function as the sum

\[ G_{O_{\alpha}O_{\beta}}(t) = \sum_{\{w\}} \frac{\langle \{|w\} |O_{\alpha}(t)O_{\beta}(0)|0\rangle_{GS}}{\langle GS|GS \rangle <\{|w\}|w\rangle}, \quad (16) \]

where form factors and norms are obtainable by algebraic Bethe Ansatz\(^9,10\) and will be discussed in the next section. The frequency \( \omega_{w} \) is just \( \omega_{w} = E_{\alpha} - E_{GS} - \mu(M_{\alpha} - N_p) \), where the energies \( E_{\alpha} \) and \( E_{GS} \) are given in Eq. (14). \( \mu \) is the chemical potential (needed only for \( S^+ \) and \( M_{\alpha} \) is the number of rapidities of the state \( \{|w\}\rangle \)). More easily, we can write \( \omega_{w} = E_{\alpha} - E_{0\alpha} \), where \( E_{0\alpha} \) is the lowest energy state with the same number of rapidities as \( \{|w\}\rangle \). Notice that for \( S_{\alpha} \) correlation function, we only need states with \( M_{\alpha} = N_p \), and so the chemical-potential term is absent while for \( \langle S^+S^z \rangle \), we need only states with \( N_p - 1 \) rapidities.

The most relevant physical observables are clearly global ones, when the sum over the internal energy levels is performed. We will consider diagonal and global correlation functions, whose static counterparts for \( S^+ \) are the diagonal\(^25\) and off-diagonal order parameters. We consider in the following the three global correlators:

\[ G_{zz}(t) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} \frac{\langle GS|S^+_{\alpha}(t)S^z_{\alpha}(0)|GS \rangle}{\langle GS|GS \rangle}, \quad (17) \]

\[ G_{+-}(t) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} \frac{\langle GS|S^+_{\alpha}(t)S^z_{\alpha}(0)|GS \rangle}{\langle GS|GS \rangle}, \quad (18) \]

\[ G_{++}(t) = \sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^{N} \frac{\langle GS|S^+_{\alpha}(t)S^+_{\alpha}(0)|GS \rangle}{\langle GS|GS \rangle}. \quad (19) \]

We will mainly study them in frequency space, since their structure is less complicated, and we will only plot a few examples in real time.

We stress that while the level-resolved correlators depend strongly on the choice of the energy levels \( \epsilon_{\alpha} \) for the global ones it is expected that most of the qualitative features and
several quantitative ones are not affected by the choice of the model. Thus our results, even if obtained for a specific choice of $\epsilon_a$, should display the main features of the dynamical correlation functions for a wide variety of Richardson models.

**Algebraic Bethe Ansatz and form factors**

The previous exact expression [Eq. (11)] gives one an extremely compact parametrization of the system’s eigenstates. Only $N_p$ complex parameters (rapidities) are needed despite the factorially large Hilbert space. As stated in the current section, it is also possible to find compact expressions for the scalar products and form factors (matrix elements of operators) needed to evaluate Eq. (16). They are given by determinants of $N_p$ square matrices which are also easily computable despite the large dimension of the Hilbert space.

We can find eigenstates one by one by finding given so-

\begin{equation}
G_{ab} = \begin{cases} 
\sum_{\beta=1}^{N_p} \frac{1}{(v_a - \epsilon_\beta)^2} - 2 \sum_{c \neq a} \frac{1}{(v_a - v_c)^2} & a = b, \\
\frac{2}{(v_a - v_b)^2} & a \neq b,
\end{cases}
\end{equation}

recovering Richardson’s old result.\(^7\)

The key point is that any form factor of a local spin operator between two Bethe eigenstates can be represented via Eq. (12) as a scalar product with one set, e.g., $\{v\}$ not satisfying the Bethe equations, for which Slavnov’s formula is applicable. This has been explicitly worked out in Ref. 9. For $\{w\}$, $\{v\}$ containing, respectively, $N_p+1$ and $N_p$ elements, the nonzero form factors are

\begin{equation}
\langle \{w\}|S^\alpha_{ab}(v)|\{v\}\rangle = \langle \{v\}|S^\alpha_{ab}(w)|\{w\}\rangle
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\prod_{b=1}^{N_p+1} (w_b - \epsilon_a) \det_{a=1}^{N_p} T(\alpha,\{v\},\{v\})
= \prod_{a=1}^{N_p} (v_a - \epsilon_a) \prod_{b>a} (w_b - w_a) \prod_{b<a} (v_b - v_a)
\end{equation}

and, for both $\{w\}$ and $\{v\}$ containing $N_p$ rapidities

\begin{equation}
\langle \{w\}|S^\alpha_{ab}(v)|\{v\}\rangle = \prod_{a=1}^{N_p} (w_a - \epsilon_a)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\det_{b=1}^{N_p+1} \frac{1}{2} T(\alpha,\{v\},\{v\}) - Q(\alpha,\{v\},\{v\})
\times \prod_{b>a} (w_b - w_a) \prod_{b<a} (v_b - v_a)
\end{equation}

with the matrix elements of $T$ given by ($b < N_p + 1$)

\begin{equation}
T_{ab}(\alpha) = \prod_{c \neq a}^{N_p+1} (w_c - v_b) \sum_{a=1}^{N_p} \frac{1}{(w_a - \epsilon_a)(v_a - \epsilon_a)}
- 2 \prod_{c \neq a}^{N_p+1} \frac{1}{(w_b - v_c)(v_a - v_c)}.
\end{equation}

Above, $T$ is the $N_p \times N_p$ matrix obtained from $T$ by deleting the last row and column and replacing $N_p + 1$ by $N_p$ in the matrix elements. Here it is assumed that both $\{v\}$ and $\{w\}$ are solutions to Richardson’s Bethe equations. However, the results are still valid for $S^\alpha_{ab}$ if only $\{w\}$ satisfy the Bethe equations.

When approaching a bifurcation point (see Appendix A) in the solutions of the Richardson equations, some individual terms in the sum defining the matrix elements of $T$ tend to diverge (because $w_a - \epsilon_a$ for some $b$ and $\alpha$). Those divergences cancel out when the sum is taken, but they can still lead to large numerical inaccuracies. By using the Richard-
son equations, it is possible to eliminate such potentially problematic terms and rewrite the matrix $T$ as

$$T_{ab} = \frac{1}{w_a - w_b} \left[ \sum_{c \neq b} \frac{1}{v_b - v_c} - \sum_{c \neq a} \frac{1}{v_b - w_c} \right].$$  

(26)

where potentially diverging terms have been removed. We stress once again that such a formula holds only if both $\{w_a\}$ and $\{v_a\}$ are solutions to the Richardson equations with the same $g$. This expression has been obtained before in Ref. 19.

IV. SUM RULES AND SELECTION RULES

The standard way to assess the accuracy of a numerical calculation in which we discard part of the states consists in using sum rules, e.g., summing of all the contributions independently of the energy of the intermediate state. When summing over all states, we always get static quantities, and, in the present case, they can be obtained by very simple considerations.

For $G_{zz}^d$, we have the sum rule

$$\sum_{a=1}^{N_p} \sum_{c \neq b} \left| \langle S_a^z S_b^z \rangle_{GS} \right|^2 = \frac{N}{4}.$$  

(27)

Only the $(\frac{N}{2})$ states with the same number of rapidities as the ground state contribute to this correlation function. Instead for $G_{zz}^{\text{off}}$, we have

$$\sum_{a=1}^{N_p} \frac{\langle GS | S_a^z S_b^z | GS \rangle^2}{\langle GS | GS \rangle} = \frac{N}{2} + \frac{(S')^2}{2},$$  

(28)

easily shown by using Eq. (6). Here, only the $(\frac{N - 1}{2})$ states with one less rapidity than the ground state contribute to this correlation and to the similar one containing off-diagonal terms $G_{zz}^{\text{off}}$. In this last case we have

$$\sum_{a,b=1}^{N_p} \frac{\langle GS | S_a^z S_b^z | GS \rangle}{\langle GS | GS \rangle} = \Psi_{\text{off}},$$  

(29)

that is the off-diagonal order parameter, which can be obtained by the solution of the Richardson equations for the ground state and using the Hellmann-Feynman theorem.12

We will see in the following that the two-particle states will give most of the contribution to the correlation functions, always saturating the sum rules to more than 99% accuracy. We show in the following sections that some selection rules imply that only two-particle states have nonzero contribution to the correlation functions for $g=0$ and for $g \to \infty$. Although at intermediate couplings this set of states does not give 100% saturation of the sum rules, these two limits clearly give insight as to why they remain extremely dominant in every regime.

A. Weak-coupling regime

In the noninteracting $g=0$ limit, the fixed $N_p$ eigenstates are quite naturally described by placing the $N_p$ Cooper pairs (flipped pseudospins) in any of the $(\frac{N}{2})$ possible sets of $N_p$ energy levels picked from the $N$ available ones. This translates into a representation in terms of rapidities given by setting the $N_p$ rapidities to be strictly equal to the energies $\epsilon_\alpha$ of the $N_p$ levels occupied by a pair. Since

$$\lim_{u \to -\epsilon_\alpha} \mathcal{C}(u) = \lim_{u \to -\epsilon_\alpha} \frac{S^z_N}{u - \epsilon_\alpha},$$  

(30)

the states built in such way will have diverging norms and form factors, but it remains possible to describe the limit correctly because in the ratio of form factors and norm the two divergences cancel. Since any of these states is an eigenvector of every $S_n$ operators, at $g=0$ the only contributions to the $S_n$ correlations come from the ground state to ground-state form factor $\langle GS | S_n^z | GS \rangle$. In a perturbative expansion in $g$, it is easy to see that at first order, the corrections to the ground state comes only from states $|\{v\} = \{\epsilon_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{\alpha_{N_p}}\}|$ differing from it by at most one rapidity (in the $g \to 0$ limit). They constitute the full set of two-particle states, obtained by creating a “hole” and a “particle,” i.e., moving a single Cooper pair (rapidity) in the ground state to any of the available unoccupied states.

At $g=0$, the $\langle \langle v | S_n^z | GS \rangle$ form factors are nonzero whenever $|\{v\} = \{\epsilon_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{\alpha_{N_p}}\}|$ is obtained by removing a single rapidity from the $N_p$ pairs ground state $|GS = \{\epsilon_{1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{N_p}\}|$. These states can also be thought of as two-particle states in the $N_p - 1$ pairs sector, since they can all be generated by moving a single rapidity in the $N_p - 1$ ground state.

In the specific case of half filling ($N_p = N/2$), treating every two-particle excitation means that only $N^2/4$ states are needed, out of the full $(\frac{N}{2})$-dimensional Hilbert space. Quite naturally, when a nonzero coupling is included these states might not be sufficient anymore, but as will be shown in the next two sections, for $g \to \infty$, only this set of states is once again needed to compute every nonzero form factor of local spin operators.

B. Strong-coupling ($g \to \infty$) regime

Yuzbashyan et al.27,28 showed that the solutions to the Richardson equations are such that in the $g \to \infty$ limit, a number $N_r$ of the rapidities will diverge as $w_j \approx C_g + O(g^0)$. The coefficients $C_j$ are given by the $N_r$ roots of the appropriate Laguerre polynomial

$$L_N^{-1-N-2(N_r-N_p)}.$$  

(31)

In the infinitely large-coupling limit, the impact of the diverging rapidities is well defined. In fact, $\lim_{g \to \infty} \mathcal{C}(u) \propto \Sigma_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha} = \Sigma_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha}$ is the total spin raising operator. In this limit, the coupling term $g \Sigma_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha}$ completely dominates the Hamiltonian and so its eigenstates become eigenstates of the $S_{\alpha_\alpha} S_{\alpha_\alpha}$ operator too. Through simple energetic consideration,27,28 one can then easily show that the number of
of diverging rapidities is related to the eigenvalue $J(J+1)$ of $S_{tot}^2$ by the relation

$$N_r = J + N_p - \frac{N}{2}. \quad (32)$$

A state defined by $N_p$ rapidities, of which $N_r$ are infinite, therefore belongs to a subspace of the total Fock space defined by eigenvalues of $S_{tot}^2$ and $S_{tot}^z$ given by quantum numbers $m = -N/2 + N_p$, and $J = N_r - N_p + N/2$. This allows us to derive explicit strong-coupling selection rules for the various form factors used in this work.

Since a given eigenstate, in this limit, is built out of a linear superposition of the various spin states with fixed $J$ and $m$, it can be decomposed onto the joint eigenbasis of spin $\alpha$ combined with the various multiplets emerging from the addition of the remaining $N-1$ spins $\frac{1}{2}$.

For a given (fixed degeneracy index $k$) $N-1$ spins multiplet with magnitude $J'$, one can write the highest weight state as

$$|k, J + \frac{1}{2}, m = J' + \frac{1}{2}\rangle = |\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J', m' = J'\rangle. \quad (33)$$

The $n$ times repeated action of $S_{tot}^z$ on this state will generate the eigenstates

$$|k, J + \frac{1}{2}, m' + \frac{1}{2} - n\rangle = C^1_{m'}|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J', J' - n\rangle + C^2_{m'}|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J', J' - n + 1\rangle,$$

where we do not need to explicitly specify the Clebsch-Gordan coefficients. Combining this multiplet with a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ also gives rise to a second set of states given by $J = J'-1/2$ and the corresponding allowed values of $m \in \{-J, -J + 1, \ldots, J-1, J\}$. These states are easily constructed by making them orthogonal to the previously found ones, i.e.,

$$|k, J' - \frac{1}{2}, m' + \frac{1}{2} - n\rangle = -C^1_{m'}|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J', J' - n\rangle + C^2_{m'}|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J', J' - n + 1\rangle. \quad (34)$$

Any general state with fixed $J$ and $m$ can therefore have contributions coming from $J+1/2$ or $J-1/2$ multiplets of the $N-1$ excluded spins, i.e.,

$$\sum_k A_k|k, J, m\rangle = \sum_k \left[ B^1_k|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J - \frac{1}{2}, m - \frac{1}{2}\rangle + B^2_k|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J + \frac{1}{2}, m + \frac{1}{2}\rangle \right]\otimes \left[ k, J - \frac{1}{2}, m + \frac{1}{2}\rangle + B^2_k|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J + \frac{1}{2}, m - \frac{1}{2}\rangle \right]. \quad (35)$$

Given this form, it is trivial to see that the application of $S^\alpha_a$ or $S^\alpha_b$ on any of these states will result in

$$S^\alpha_a \sum_k A_k|k, J, m\rangle \propto \sum_k \left[ B^1_k|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J - \frac{1}{2}, m - \frac{1}{2}\rangle + B^2_k|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J + \frac{1}{2}, m + \frac{1}{2}\rangle \right]
\otimes \left[ k, J - \frac{1}{2}, m + \frac{1}{2}\rangle + B^2_k|\alpha\rangle \otimes |k, J + \frac{1}{2}, m - \frac{1}{2}\rangle \right].$$

Consequently, the form factors for $S^\alpha_a$

$$\left( \sum_{k'} A_{k'}|k', J', m'\rangle \right) S^\alpha_a \left( \sum_k A_k|k, J, m\rangle \right), \quad (36)$$

can exclusively be nonzero if $J' \in \{J-1, J+1\}$ and $m' = m$. Similarly, the $S^\alpha_b$ form factor

$$\left( \sum_{k'} A_{k'}|k', J', m'\rangle \right) S^\alpha_b \left( \sum_k A_k|k, J, m\rangle \right), \quad (37)$$

is nonzero only if $J' \in \{J-1, J+1\}$ and $m' = m-1$.

Since, as we pointed out earlier, the value of $J$ is related to the number of diverging rapidities, these selection rules translate into selection rules for the total number of rapidities and the number of diverging rapidities.

The $S^\alpha_a$ form factor is nonzero for $m' = m$ and therefore for a total number of rapidities in the intermediate states ($N'_{\alpha}$) given $N'_{\alpha} = N_p$. Using this fact, the selection rule on $J'$ and Eq. (32), we easily find that the only contributions come from states with $N'_{\alpha} = (N_r - 1, N_r, N_r + 1)$.

Similarly, for $S^\alpha_b$, we find that $N'_{\alpha} = N_p - 1$ and the number of diverging rapidities must be given by $N'_{\alpha} = \{N_r - 1, N_r, N_r - 2\}$. For the specific case of ground state ($N_r = N_p$), diverging (rapidities) expectation values, nonzero contributions to $S^\alpha_{tot}$ are found exclusively for intermediate states with either $N_r$ or $N_p - 1$ diverging rapidities since $N'_{\alpha} = N_p + 1 > N_p$ is impossible. Identically, for $S^\alpha_{tot}$ the only possible cases are given by an intermediate state with $N_p - 1$ or $N_p - 2$ diverging rapidities.

Finally, for the $S^\alpha_{tot}$ form factors involving only the ground state, one can use the fact that

$$\lim_{g \to \infty} |GS\rangle = \prod_{g \to \infty} \left( N_{\alpha} \right) C(v_j) \left( 0 \right) \times \left( S^\alpha_{tot} \right) |0\alpha\rangle = |\alpha\rangle,$$

$$\sum_{i_1, \ldots, i_{N_p - 1}} \left| \left\{ \alpha_{i_1}, \ldots, \alpha_{i_{N_p - 1}} \right\} \right\rangle |\alpha\rangle$$

$$\sum_{i_1, \ldots, i_{N_p}} \left| \left\{ \alpha_{i_1}, \ldots, \alpha_{i_{N_p}} \right\} \right\rangle,$$
where $\Sigma_{\{a_1,\ldots,a_M\}|\{\uparrow_a,\ldots,\uparrow_M\}}$ is simply the sum over all possible states containing $M$ up spins picked out of the $N-1$ levels which exclude level $\alpha$. The action of $S^z_\alpha$ on this state is trivially given by multiplying by $1/2$ while adding a minus sign to the second sum, which in the end allows us to simply prove that

$$\lim_{g \to \infty} \langle GS|S^z_\alpha|GS\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(N-1)!}{(N-N_p-1)!(N_p-1)!} \right] \frac{2N_p-N}{(N-N_p)N_p}. \tag{39}$$

One immediately sees that the half-filling $2N_p=N$ case has the peculiar feature of having these “ground state to ground state” form factors go down to zero in the strong-limit coupling.

C. Correspondence between $g=0$ and $g\to\infty$ eigenstates

1. General algorithm

An algorithm relating the $g=0$ structure of a state to the number of diverging rapidities it will have at $g\to\infty$ was already proposed in Refs. 30 and 31. It necessitates the evaluation of various quantities for every possible partitions of the $N$ levels into three disjoint contiguous sets of levels. An equivalent result can be obtained through the simple following algorithm, which was discussed before in Ref. 20.

By splitting any $g=0$ configuration of rapidities into blocks of contiguous occupied and empty states, one can simply obtain the number of diverging roots. Figure 1 shows some examples of this construction. Every circle represents a single-energy level and the blackened ones are occupied by a Cooper pair at $g=0$.

We then label the various blocks according to the following prescription. The highest block of rapidities is labeled by index $i=1$ and contains $P_1$ rapidities. The block of unoccupied states right below it will be also labeled by $i=1$ and contains $H_1$ empty levels. We continue this labeling by defining $P_2(H_2)$ as the number of rapidities (unoccupied states) in the next block until every single one of the $N_b$ blocks has been labeled. In the event that the lowest block ($i=N_b$) is a block of rapidities, as is the case in the middle example in Fig. 1, we set $H_{N_b}=0$.

The number of diverging rapidities is then simply given by

$$N_r = [P_{N_b} + A_{N_b-1} - \min(P_{N_b} + A_{N_b-1},H_{N_b})] \tag{40}$$

with the $A_i$ terms defined recursively as

$$A_i = [P_i + A_{i-1} - \min(P_i + A_{i-1},H_i)] \tag{41}$$

with $A_0=0$.

This can be thought of as a “dynamical” process which is best understood by looking at the $g$ evolution of the rapidities as shown in Fig. 2 for the three states in Fig. 1.
As $g$ rises, each rapidity has a tendency to go down toward $-\infty$. Any block of $H_i$ unoccupied states stops up to $H_i$ rapidities from doing so by keeping them finite. If $P_i$ rapidities are going down and they meet a block of unoccupied levels $P_i$ rapidities will go through and continue their descent. Keeping this analysis unoccupied blocks of unoccupied levels are below, we will keep going down toward $-\infty$. On the other hand, whenever $H_i < P_i$ only $H_i$ rapidities can be kept finite and the remaining $A_i = P_i - H_i$ will go through the $H_i$ empty states below. These will be added to the following block of $P_2$ rapidities giving $P_2 + A_1$ rapidities which then meet a block of $H_2$ unoccupied states. $A_2 = (P_2 + A_1) - \min(P_2 + A_1, H_2)$ will go through and continue their descent. Keeping this analysis going until we reach the last blocks gives out the result given above.

2. Application to ground states and single excitation states

At $g=0$, for any of the canonical ground states containing $N_p$ rapidities in the $N_p$ lowest energy levels, we have a single block of unoccupied $N-N_p$ levels and a single block of $N_p$ occupied levels (see the left group in Fig. 3). Since no unoccupied levels are below this $N_p$-rapidities block, they would all diverge in the $g-\infty$ limit.

Focusing on the states built out of a single excitation above this ground state, we find three distinct cases. When one moves the top rapidity (from level $N_p$) to a higher level (say, level $\beta > N_p$), the resulting block structure is $(P_1 = 1)(H_1 = \beta - N_p)(P_2 = N_p - 1)$ (see middle group in Fig. 3) which leads in the strong-coupling limit to the single $P_1$ rapidity being kept finite while the remaining $N_p - 1$ will diverge. In the second scenario, if one promotes any of the rapidities at level $\alpha < N_p$ (excluding the topmost one) to the level $N_p+1$ the resulting structure is $(P_1 = N_p - \alpha + 1)(H_1 = 1)(P_2 = \alpha - 1)$ (see the right group in Fig. 3). Once again, this leads to one of the $P_1$ rapidities staying finite due to the unoccupied block $H_1 = 1$ while the other $N_p - 1$ rapidities will diverge.

The last possible case is a single excitation obtained by moving a rapidity from level $\alpha < N_p$ into an empty level $\beta > N_p+1$. Doing this gives the following block structure $(P_1 = 1)(H_1 = \beta - N_p - 1)(P_2 = N_p - \alpha)(H_2 = 1)(P_3 = \alpha - 1)$. In the end the $P_1$ rapidity will stay finite because of $H_1$, and one of the $P_2$ rapidities will remain finite as well, leading to a total of two finite rapidities.

From very simple combinatorics we therefore find that we can build $N-1$ single finite rapidity states (at $g-\infty$) by de-
with a density-density correlator. At any finite level spacing weighted with the corresponding form factor. We are interested here in mesoscopic effects at finite potential presence of nontrivial contribution from other excitations encoded in the quantization of the energy levels and in the character of superconducting nanograins. We are now in a position to understand these results quantitatively.

However, without a realistic idea of the kind and amplitude of broadening these plots are still only indicative. Moreover, it is difficult to correctly visualize these functions and the relative importance of the various contributions. A more precise information about the mesoscopic effects is encoded in the integrated correlation function obtained from $G^d_{zz}(\omega)$, integrating it up to a given $\omega$

$$I^d_{zz}(\omega) = \int_0^\omega d\omega' G^d_{zz}(\omega'),$$

i.e., the sum of the form factors of states with energy smaller than $\omega$. The integrated correlation functions can be plotted without any smoothing. For several values of $g$, we report them in Fig. 6 for fixed $N=16$. Any step corresponds to a different eigenvalue (most of them have a twofold degeneracy) of the Hamiltonian. Notice that for large $\omega$ the integrated correlation function gives the value of the sum rule being the sum of all form factors, i.e., $I^d_{zz}(\omega=\infty) = (S^2_{z0}) = N/4$ [cf. Eq. (27)].
The correlation functions, we do not need to sum over the total \( \binom{N}{N/2} \) states, but only over the \( N^2/4 \) two-particle states. For this reason, in the various figures, all correlation functions have been calculated by only considering two-particle states (for lower \( N \), we checked by full sums that this “approximation” does not introduce any visible modification.)

We can now come back to the analysis of the correlation function \( I_z^z(\omega) \) itself. In Fig. 8 we plot three different curves at fixed \( gN \) in such a way that the BCS gap is constant in the large \( g \) approximation [see Eq. (44) giving the BCS gap in the grand-canonical ensemble]. It is evident that for the smallest value of \( N=16 \), which corresponds to the largest value of \( g=2.8 \), \( I_z^z(\omega) \) has almost its asymptotic expression (see Appendix B) that is a step function at the BCS gap [the integral of \( \delta(\omega-\Delta) \) contribution for large \( g \)]. Although the first energy band still has a finite width [which would go down to zero as \( g^{-1} \) according to Eq. (B13)] this width is already significantly smaller than the BCS gap (which scales as \( g \)). Oppositely for \( N=64 \) and \( g=0.7 \), despite \( N \) being larger, the small value of \( g \) and the still significant relative width of the subband leads to a nice quantization of the energy spectrum, resulting in a staircase function with unequal steps. In the inset of Fig. 6, the zoom of the lower energy sector for small \( g \) at \( N=16 \) is reported, showing the formation of intermediates steps of unequal contributions with increasing \( g \).

Finally in Fig. 9, we report \( I_z^z(\omega) \) at fixed \( N=64 \) and varying \( g \), rescaling the horizontal axis by the grand-canonical BCS gap [Eq. (44)]. For large \( g \), \( \Delta_{GC} \) corresponds exactly to the energy of the first excited state (and therefore subband) and all the curves start rising from 1. However for smaller values of \( g \) (in particular for \( g=0.5 \), visible finite-size effects are present. As already stressed above, the staircase structure for small \( g \), smoothly connects to a step function for large-enough \( g \).

### B. Diagonal \((S^+S^-)\) correlator

This correlation function (as well as the corresponding off-diagonal one) is directly connected with the annihilation and creation of a Cooper pair. We could imagine, for example, an experiment in which a superconducting grain was contacted on the left and right by two separate bulk super-
conducting leads, each having their respective order parameters, a problem which was studied, for example, in Refs. 33 and 34. The Josephson current in such a system is given by perturbation theory in the coupling between the leads and the grain, and its calculation involves computing such correlators as the one above. We will treat this problem in more detail in a separate publication, concentrating for the moment on the results for the correlators themselves.

We start by showing the sum rule [cf. Eq. (28)] obtained from the ground state and all the two-particle states as function of $g$ at fixed $N$ in Fig. 10. For the ground state, we have an opposite behavior compared to the $S^z$ correlation: the value for small $g$ is low and it increases by increasing $g$, but never saturating it completely. The missing contribution is again mostly in the two-particle states, as evident from Fig. 10. For $g=0$ and $g \to \infty$, it has been proved analytically in the previous section that this class of states gives a perfect saturation of the sum rule and hence the full correlation function. The figure shows that even for intermediate $g$, a very accurate calculation comes only from two-particle states, and so in the following we will ignore all the other too small contributions. Notice that the contribution of the leading excitations is even more relevant than for $C^d_{zz}$, having always saturation above 99% and that again for large-enough $N$ it increases while increasing $N$.

The integrated correlations

$$I^d_{\pm}(\omega) = \int_0^\infty d\omega' G^d_{\pm}(\omega')$$

are reported in Fig. 11 for $N=64$. In the left panel we report the small $g \approx 1$. At very low $g$, the BCS gap is not yet formed and the correlation function has a staircase structure with almost equal steps, as a consequence of the almost perfect equispacing of the energy level. Increasing $g$, the levels become incommensurate and the correlation function acquires a structure that reflects the formation of the BCS gap. In the right panel we show the same correlation function plotted in terms of $\omega/\Delta_{GC}$ with the grand-canonical gap given by Eq. (44). For large values of $g$, the “band structure” of the energy levels is evident in the formation of the two main steps at $\Delta_{GC}$ and at $2\Delta_{GC}$. In the same panel we also show some intermediate and small values of $g$ to show the formation of this two-step structure from the sharpening of the smaller steps. This is the main signature of mesoscopic effects in the correlation functions. Whereas for the $S^z$ correlators the second excited band’s contributions were very rapidly suppressed, in the case at hand, it maintains a very important contribution in the full regime studied in this paper. Although the selection rules point out that it no longer contributes at $\gamma \to \infty$ it appears that the suppression of the $S^z$ form factors happens at much stronger coupling than it does for $S^z$. This seems to suggest that corrections to the mean-field BCS results (more or less equivalent to the $g \to \infty$ limit) could show up in a wide regime when looking at the previously mentioned Josephson current experiments.

C. Off-diagonal correlators

The off-diagonals correlators have properties very similar to the diagonal ones. For this reason we only shortly present
them, without an extensive discussion. In Fig. 12, we report the contribution to the sum rule [cf. Eq. (29)] from the ground state and from all two-particle states. The ground state by itself saturates the sum rule for large-enough $g$, while for small values the contributions of the two-particle states are essential. Notice that the saturation of the sum rule is always above 99.9%, even more than in the diagonal case. Since the ground state is the strongly dominant contribution to the correlation, $G_{zz}^\text{od}$ will be a $\delta$ peak at the ground-state value. Thus this is the less sensitive function to reveal mesoscopic effects.

In Fig. 13, we report the integrated correlation function

$$P^\text{od}_{\pm}(\omega) = \int_0^\omega d\omega' G_{\pm}^\text{od}(\omega')$$

for several $g$ and $N=64$. To make the plot visible we divide by the off-diagonal order parameter $\Psi_{\omega\omega'}$ as obtained by the Hellmann-Feynman theorem. In the main plot, small $g \leq 1$ are reported. As before, for small-enough $g$ we have a regular staircase behavior, that, however, becomes quickly flat because the ground-state contribution to the correlation function is too large. For large values of $2.8 \leq g < 3$ are reported in the inset of the figure and are zoomed very close to 1. The contribution from two bands at $\DeltaGC$ and $2\DeltaGC$ is evident, but it is visible only because we have an exact solution at hand. It would have been very hard, if not impossible, to see such a small effect in any numerical approach and in a real experiment.

D. Real-time correlations

It is also interesting to look at these correlation functions in real time. The presence of incommensurate energy levels gives indeed a quite complicated structure that greatly simplifies in the best known large and small $g$ behavior. We show in Fig. 14 the typical evolution of the two diagonal correlation functions. It is evident that for small $g$, the functions are almost periodic as a trivial consequence of the almost commensurate levels (this is strictly true only at $g=0$, but at $g=0.1$ several periods should pass before the nonexact commensurability is manifest). Increasing $g$, the behavior becomes irregular and for very large $g$, new structure emerges due to the formation of a well-defined energy subband structure.

As can be seen on the top right panel, for large-enough $g$, we find a peculiar scaling behavior for the norm of the $G_{zz}^d$ correlation function. Indeed, dividing time by $g'$, the dimensionless coupling constant ($g' = g/d$ with $d$ the interlevel spacing) we find an almost perfect agreement between the curves for various strong-coupling cases. The specific details allowing a clear understanding of this regime are presented in Appendix B where we compute the $1/g'$ expansion of both the energies and the form factors. One should know, however, that looking independently at the real and imaginary parts of this correlation function they both still show a rapidly oscillating component associated with the gap frequency. It is only when looking at the norm of the correlation that this surprising scaling can be found.

The same is not true for the $G_{zz}^d$ correlator shown on the right two panel of Fig. 14. In this case, even when looking exclusively at the norm of the correlation a contribution oscillating at the very large energy gap frequency remains present. Due to the time scales plotted, this rapid oscillation can rarely be resolved on the figure for coupling strength larger than 0.40 but a rescaling of the plots clearly shows that they remain present.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the dynamical correlation functions of the reduced BCS model in the canonical ensemble by means of algebraic Bethe Ansatz techniques. We presented analytic selection rules in the weak- and large-coupling regimes. For finite values of the coupling and for finite number of particles, the correlation functions are calculated numerically by summing over the form factors of the relevant states. We showed that two-particle states always give saturation of the sum rules that is above 99% for all $g$ and $N$ considered, in
stark contrast with other integrable models like spin-chains and one-dimensional gases. We presented and discussed extensively the crossover from small to large $g$, where quantum fluctuations have a dominant role and lead to a difference between the canonical and grand-canonical ensemble, and where a perturbative treatment would provide incorrect results.

Additionally, we showed unexpected behavior of $S^c$ correlations at half filling. The properties of these correlations give rise to a scaling law which is the exact opposite of what one would expect if the properties were dominated by the energy scale associated to the superconducting gap.

We remind the reader that while we only studied the case of $N$ nondegenerate equidistant energy levels at half filling (which is the most interesting model from the condensed matter point of view\cite{3,35}), this is in no way a strict limitation of our approach, which can be, in principle, applied to any choice of initial energy-level distribution. The description of pairing in nuclei is, for example, a situation where other choices of the parameters $\epsilon_n$ are more natural.\cite{6,36–38} These could be treated by a simple adaptation of our results.

The correlation functions we have provided have applicability in the phenomenology of many experimental situations. In further work, we will apply the current results to transport phenomena through metallic nanograins coupled to normal and/or superconducting leads.

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**APPENDIX A: SOLVING RICHARDSON EQUATIONS**

As explained in our previous publications\cite{12,19,20} (see also Refs. 30 and 39–42), we find the solutions starting from the trivial $g=0$ solutions and slowly raising the value of the coupling constant. With a linear regression using the previously found solutions, one gets an appropriate guess for the new solution at $g + \delta g$. Using a simple Newton algorithm for solving coupled nonlinear algebraic equations is then sufficient, provided one makes the necessary change in variables.

Indeed, at any value of the coupling, rapidities are either real or form complex-conjugate pairs (CCPs) and the pairing
of two rapidities only occurs at bifurcation points $g^*$ at which they are both exactly worth $\epsilon_*$, i.e., one of the single-particle energy levels. It is also possible, as $g$ is increased, that two paired rapidities split apart becoming both real again. At a critical $g^*$ where a pair splits or forms, the derivatives $dw_i/dg$ are not defined making the computation of the necessary Jacobian impossible. This problem is easily circumvented by, in the vicinity of critical point at which $w_i = w_j = \epsilon_*$, making the following change in variables:

$$\lambda_+ = w_i + w_j,$$
$$\lambda_- = (w_i - w_j)^2.$$  \hfill (A1)

On both sides of $g^*$, those are two real variables and they have well-defined derivatives even at the bifurcation point. The fact that $g$ is slowly increased allows us to figure out beforehand whether given rapidities are about to form (or break) complex-conjugate pairs. Naturally, it makes the numerical procedure more tedious than it would be if one was able to guess correctly the structure at the precise value of $g$ in which we are interested. However the lack of known analytical results about the solutions to these precise Bethe equations forces us to use this scanning procedure. Fortunately, for the dynamical correlations we only need a very restricted set of states in order to get a very accurate description. Since single solutions are addressed one by one independently of the dimension of the full Hilbert space, the problem remains numerically tractable for fairly large system sizes which matrix diagonalization could not tackle.

In Fig. 15, we show the real part of rapidities for: ground state (upper left), promoted top ($\alpha = N_p$) rapidity (upper right), rapidity promoted at $\beta = N_p + 1$ right above the Fermi level (middle left), rapidity promoted at $\beta = N_p + 1$ right above the Fermi level (middle right), non-top rapidity promoted above $N_p + 1$ level (lower left), non-top rapidity promoted above $N_p + 1$ level (lower right).

FIG. 15. (Color online) Real part of rapidities for: ground state (upper left), promoted top ($\alpha = N_p$) rapidity (upper right), rapidity promoted at $\beta = N_p + 1$ right above the Fermi level (middle left), rapidity promoted at $\beta = N_p + 1$ right above the Fermi level (middle right), non-top rapidity promoted above $N_p + 1$ level (lower left), non-top rapidity promoted above $N_p + 1$ level (lower right).
form a pair to go through the energy level $\epsilon_{\beta-1}$. Indeed, the structure of the Richardson equations prevents a single rapidity to be equal to an energy level $\epsilon_\alpha$ since the diverging term $\frac{1}{w_\alpha - \epsilon_\alpha}$ has to be cancelled by a diverging term $\frac{1}{w_\beta - \epsilon_\beta}$. The remaining ridpids will simply form CCPs as they would for a $N_p-1$ pairs ground state.

The two figures in the middle are built by promoting a rapidity with index $\alpha < N_p$ to level $\beta = N_p+1$. In both cases, we find only a single finite rapidity at strong coupling but we still have two different scenarios. The top contiguous block has an even (odd) number of rapidity on the left (right) panel. For an odd number of rapidities in the top block, the lowest one from that block will simply stay real and between $\epsilon_{\alpha+1}$ and $\epsilon_{\alpha}$. In the even case, the lowest two rapidities from the top block will actually form a pair at the energy level $\alpha+1$, then split apart into two real rapidities at level $\alpha$. This splitting will make one rapidity be above $\epsilon_{\alpha}$ where it will stay until $g \to \infty$ while the other one goes below $\epsilon_{\alpha}$ and will later form a pair with the top rapidity from the block underneath.

Finally, the lowest panels which lead to two finite rapidities at strong coupling behave in a similar way for the lowest $N_p-1$ rapidities, whereas the promoted one stays finite in the same way it did in the top right panel. At $g \to \infty$ the state with one single finite rapidity in between $\epsilon_{\beta-1}$ and $\epsilon_{\beta}$ for $N_p \leq \beta \leq N$ is the deformed version of the $g=0$ state built by exciting the ground state’s top rapidity $w_i = \epsilon_{N_p}$ to level $\epsilon_{\beta}$. On the other hand if the finite rapidity is between $1 < \alpha < N_p$ and $\alpha+1$ the state is the deformed version of $g=0$ state obtained by promoting the ground state’s rapidity $w_i = \epsilon_{\alpha}$ to level $\epsilon_{N_p+1}$. The approximative location (between given energy states) of these strong-coupling finite rapidities was already know and used in $\approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx \approx 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\[-\frac{\omega_j}{g} = \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\epsilon_a}{\omega_j}} - 2 - \sum_{j' \neq j} \frac{\omega_j - \omega_{j'}}{1 - \frac{\eta_k}{\omega_j}}, \tag{B7}\]

\[-C_{ij}^{N_p - 1} - A_j^{\frac{1}{g}} = (N - 2) - 2 \sum_{j' \neq j} \frac{C_{ij}^{N_p - 1} - C_{ij'}^{N_p - 1}}{C_{ij'}^{N_p - 1} - C_{ij'}^{N_p - 1}}, \tag{B9}\]

\[-A_j^{\frac{k}{g}} = \left( \sum_{a=1}^{N} \epsilon_a \right) - 2 \eta \frac{1}{C_{ij}^{N_p - 1}}, \tag{B10}\]

These equations are defined for any of the \(N_p - 1\) values of index \(j\). Summing up the \(N_p - 1\) \([\text{Eq. (B9)}]\) (divided by \(C_{ij}^{N_p - 1}\)), we find

\[-(N_p - 1) = (N - 2) \sum_j \frac{1}{C_{ij}^{N_p - 1}}, \tag{B11}\]

while summing up the Eq. (B10) gives us

\[-\sum_j A_j^{\frac{k}{g}} = \left( \sum_{a=1}^{N} \epsilon_a \right) \frac{1}{C_{ij}^{N_p - 1}}, \tag{B12}\]

Using this last expression, the energies of every single finite rapidity state can be written including the lowest correction in \(\frac{1}{g}\) as

\[E_k = \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N_p - 1} C_{ij}^{N_p - 1} \right) g + (\eta_k) \frac{N - 2N_p}{N - 2} + \sum_{j=1}^{N_p - 1} \left( B_j^{\frac{k}{g}} \right) + O\left( \frac{1}{g^2} \right). \tag{B13}\]

This shows that the half-filled case leads to the complete energy collapse of the first excited band as proven before in Ref. 27, i.e., \(\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} E_k - E_k = 0\). The zero bandwidth obtained in this specific case will be shown to be one of the central elements in the scaling properties of the \(S^c\) operators dynamical correlations.

2. Eigenstates

In order to establish a similar expansion for the states themselves, one can simply use their representation as a Bethe-state [Eq. (11)] and expand the \(C\) operators used to construct them. Keeping terms up to order \(\frac{1}{g}\) for both divergent \((w = C + \frac{g}{\eta})\) and finite \((\eta = \eta_\infty + \frac{g}{\eta})\) rapidities we have

\[C(w) \approx \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{S^+_a}{w - \epsilon_a} = \frac{1}{Cg} \sum_{a=1}^{N} S^+_a \left[ 1 + \frac{\epsilon_a - A_1}{g} \right] \]

\[= \frac{1}{Cg} \sum_{a=1}^{N} S^+_a - \frac{1}{g} \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{\epsilon_a}{g} \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{\epsilon_a}{g}\]

\[C(\eta) \approx \sum_{a=1}^{N} S^+_a \left[ \frac{1}{\eta} - \frac{g}{(\eta - \epsilon_a)^2} \right]. \tag{B14}\]

By getting rid of the \(\frac{1}{Cg}\) prefactors which, for physical quantities, will always be cancelled by equivalent factors in the norms, we can therefore write

\[|GS = |GS^{N_p} + \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{1}{g} \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{\epsilon_a}{g} \sum_{a=1}^{N} | GS^{N_p}_{a} \rangle, \tag{B15}\]

\[| \eta_\infty \rangle = \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{1}{g} \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{\epsilon_a}{g} \sum_{a=1}^{N} | GS^{N_p}_{a} \rangle, \tag{B16}\]

where the states \(| GS^{N_p} = (S^+_{a=1})^N | 0 \rangle\). The following set of definitions was also used:

\[G_a = \left( \sum_{a=1}^{N} A_j^{\frac{k}{g}} \right) \left( \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{1}{N_p} \right) \epsilon_a, \tag{B17}\]

\[F_a^{\frac{k}{g}} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a}, \tag{B18}\]

\[G_{a,\beta} = - \left( \sum_{a=1}^{N} A_j^{\frac{k}{g}} \right) \left( \sum_{a=1}^{N} \frac{1}{N_p} \right) \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a} - \frac{\delta_k}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a^2}, \tag{B19}\]

\[F_{a,\beta} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a}, \tag{B20}\]

\[F_{a,\beta} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a^2}, \tag{B21}\]

\[F_{a,\beta} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a}, \tag{B22}\]

\[F_{a,\beta} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a^2}, \tag{B23}\]

\[F_{a,\beta} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a}, \tag{B24}\]

\[F_{a,\beta} = \frac{1}{\eta_k - \epsilon_a^2}, \tag{B25}\]
The orthogonality of these states with the ground state also allows us to write various forms factors. For the ground state it was done previously [Eq. (39)]. Although the first-order correction can also be obtained in a similar fashion, we will not explicitly need the coefficients of the expansion and therefore simply write

$$\langle GS|\tilde{S}_a|GS\rangle = \frac{1}{g} \left( \frac{N-1}{N_p-1} - \frac{N-2}{N_p-2} \right) + A_\alpha$$

(18)

3. Form factors

At $g \to \infty$ it is straightforward to compute value of the various forms factors. For the ground state it was done pre-

\begin{equation}
\langle GS|\tilde{S}_a|\eta_2|g,\to \infty = \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})
\end{equation}

$$\sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

$$= \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

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$$= \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

The orthogonality of these states with the ground state also allows us to write

$$\langle GS|\eta_2|g,\to \infty = \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

$$= \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

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$$= \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

and therefore, adding the next order term through an unspecified constant

$$\langle GS|\tilde{S}_a|\eta_2|g,\to \infty = \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

$$= \sum_{\beta} F^k_\beta (GS^{S_\nu}|\tilde{S}_a|S_\nu^{S_\nu^{-1}})$$

It was also proven in Sec. IV B that at $g \to \infty$ we have

$$\langle GS|\tilde{S}_a|\eta_1,\eta_2|g,\to \infty = 0$$

and we therefore have

$$\langle GS|\tilde{S}_a|\eta_1,\eta_2|g,\to \infty = 0$$

Finally one can similarly compute the squared norms of the ground state and the single rapidity states.
Specializing to the half-filled case, we find

$$\sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \frac{|\langle GS|S^c_{a1}|GS\rangle|^2}{\langle GS|GS\rangle} \approx \frac{A}{g^2},$$

(B26)

$$\sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \frac{|\langle GS|S^c_{a1}\eta_k\rangle|^2}{\langle GS|GS\rangle} \approx \left( \frac{N}{4(\mathcal{N}-1)} \right) + \sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \frac{2 \text{Re}[F_{a1}^k B_{a1}^k(N/2)!(N/2)!]}{g \sum_{\beta} |F_{\beta}^k|^2 (N)!} + \frac{B}{g^2},$$

(B27)

$$\sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \frac{|\langle GS|S^c_{a1}|\eta_{1,\lambda}, \eta_{2,\lambda}\rangle|^2}{\langle GS|GS\rangle} \approx \frac{C}{g^2}. \quad \text{(B28)}$$

At order 0 in $\frac{1}{g}$ we therefore find that the only $\mathcal{N}-1$ nonzero contributions coming from the form factors (the ones involving the single finite rapidity states) are actually all equal. At the next leading order the only contributions also come from the same reduced set of states.

Using Eq. (43) we can write the correlation function by summing over the $\mathcal{N}-1$ possible values of $\eta_k$. At order $\frac{1}{g}$, we have

$$G^{d}_{zz}(\omega) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{\mathcal{N}-1} \delta(\omega - E_k + E_{GS}) \left[ \left( \frac{N}{4(\mathcal{N}-1)} \right) + \sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \frac{2 \text{Re}[F_{a1}^k B_{a1}^k(N/2)!(N/2)!]}{g \sum_{\beta} |F_{\beta}^k|^2 (N)!} \right],$$

(B29)

whose Fourier transform gives us

$$G^{d}_{zz}(t) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{\mathcal{N}-1} e^{-i(E_k - E_{GS})t} \left[ \left( \frac{N}{4(\mathcal{N}-1)} \right) + \sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} \frac{2 \text{Re}[F_{a1}^k B_{a1}^k(N/2)!(N/2)!]}{g \sum_{\beta} |F_{\beta}^k|^2 (N)!} \right].$$

(B30)

Looking exclusively at the magnitude of the correlations and therefore at phase-independent properties of this correlator we have

$$|G^{d}_{zz}(t)|^2 \approx \sum_{k,k'=1}^{\mathcal{N}-1} e^{-i(E_k - E_{k'})t} \left[ \left( \frac{N}{4(\mathcal{N}-1)} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{(N/2)!^2}{2(N-1)(N-1)!} \right) \frac{\text{Re} \sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} [F_{a1}^k B_{a1}^k + F_{a1}^{k'} B_{a1}^{k'}]}{g \sum_{\beta} |F_{\beta}^k|^2} \right].$$

(B31)

Since Eq. (B13) tells us that

$$E_k - E_{k'} = \frac{\Delta_{k,k'}}{g}, \quad \text{(B32)}$$

we can write

$$|G^{d}_{zz}(t)|^2 \approx \sum_{k,k'=1}^{\mathcal{N}-1} e^{-i\Delta_{k,k'}(t)/g} \left[ \left( \frac{N}{4(\mathcal{N}-1)} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{(N/2)!^2}{2(N-1)(N-1)!} \right) \frac{\text{Re} \sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{N}} [F_{a1}^k B_{a1}^k + F_{a1}^{k'} B_{a1}^{k'}]}{g \sum_{\beta} |F_{\beta}^k|^2} \right].$$

(B33)

This shows that at strong-enough coupling the dominant term

$$\left( \frac{N}{4(\mathcal{N}-1)} \right)^2 \sum_{k,k'=1}^{\mathcal{N}-1} e^{-i\Delta_{k,k'}(t)/g}$$

is purely a function of $\frac{t}{g}$. This fact is only true at half filling where the ground-state average of any $S^c_{a1}$ is zero. Moreover, half filling also allows fulfillment of the second necessary condition, the vanishing of width of the first excited band. The first effect makes the energy scale associated to the BCS gap irrelevant since only the first band of excited states is contributing to the correlations. The vanishing width of this
hand is then responsible for the "inverted scaling" by making the relevant energy differences smaller as \( g \) increases.

This very peculiar half-filling scaling property makes it possible to slow down specific dynamical processes in this system by making the interaction stronger. Since they are only related to the spectrum and the condition \( \langle G S | S^a_n | G S \rangle = 0 \), this scaling law would hold at half filling for any possible correlations of \( S^a_n \) operators; be they local, global, intralevel or interlevel correlations. The magnitude of any one of the possible correlations would still follow a similarly scalable time evolution.

Although clearly valid in the strong \( g \) limit where \( \frac{1}{g} \ll 1 \), we also find through the numerical work carried out in this paper that this scaling behavior extends to a very broad range of coupling constants. For \( g \approx 1.5d \) with \( d \) the interlevel spacing, we find that \( \frac{1}{g} \) corrections are already strongly suppressed and the scaling behavior is therefore already apparent.