SOLVERS FOR QUANTUM IMPURITY PROBLEMS (WITH SUPERCONDUCTING BATHS)

LECTURE 4: IMPURITIES IN SUPERCONDUCTING BATHS





Rok Žιτκο

JOŽEF STEFAN INSTITUTE, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

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Part I: models

ELECTRON-PHONON INTERACTION

 $H = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c_{k\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_{q} \omega_q a_q^{\dagger} a_q + \sum_{k\sigma\sigma} g_{kq} c_{k+q,\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{k,\sigma} \left(a_q + a_{-q}^{\dagger} \right)$ $k\sigma q$ $k\sigma$ \boldsymbol{q}

(Fröhlich)



EFFECTIVE E-E INTERACTION

$$H_{\text{pairing}} = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c_{k\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_{k,q} V_{k,q} c_{k+q,\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{-k-q,\downarrow}^{\dagger} c_{-k,\downarrow} c_{k,\uparrow}$$

$$V_{k,q} \approx \frac{|g_{kq}|^2 \hbar \omega_q}{(\epsilon_{k+q} - \epsilon_k)^2 - (\hbar \omega_q)^2} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Attractive for} \\ \epsilon_k, \epsilon_{k+q} \in [\epsilon_F - \hbar \omega_D : \epsilon_F + \hbar \omega_D] \end{array}$$

$$H_{\rm red} = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c^{\dagger}_{k\sigma} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_{k,k'} V_{k,k'} c^{\dagger}_{k\uparrow} c^{\dagger}_{-k\downarrow} c_{-k'\downarrow} c_{k'\uparrow}$$

$$\Delta_k = \sum_{k'} V_{k,k'} \langle c_{-k'\downarrow} c_{k'\uparrow} \rangle$$

$$H_{\rm BCS} = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c^{\dagger}_{k\sigma} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_k \Delta \left(c^{\dagger}_{k\uparrow} c^{\dagger}_{-k\downarrow} + c_{-k\downarrow} c_{k\uparrow} \right)$$

TIME-REVERSAL INVARIANCE

$\mathbf{k}\leftrightarrow -\mathbf{k},\quad\uparrow\leftrightarrow\downarrow$

Preserved in the presence of potential scattering. Preserved in the presence of spin-orbit coupling.

> Broken by spin-dependent scattering. Broken by magnetic field. Broken by current flow.

ANDERSON'S THEOREM

Superconductivity in a conventional superconductor is robust with respect to (non-magnetic) disorder. T_c barely depends on material purity (in fact, it increases upon increasing disorder!).

Anderson, P. W. (1959). "Theory of dirty superconductors". J. Phys. Chem. Solids. 11: 26–30.

BOGOLIUBOV QUASIPARTICLES

$$H_{BCS} = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c_{k\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_k \Delta \left(c_{k\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{-k\downarrow}^{\dagger} + c_{-k\downarrow} c_{k\uparrow} \right)$$
$$v_{k\uparrow}^{2} = u_k c_{k\uparrow} - v_k c_{-k\downarrow}^{\dagger}$$
$$u_k^{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_k}{\sqrt{\epsilon_k^2 + \Delta^2}} \right)$$
$$v_k^{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon_k}{\sqrt{\epsilon_k^2 + \Delta^2}} \right)$$

$$E_k = \sqrt{\epsilon_k^2 + \Delta^2}$$

quasiparticle continuum



ground state

Δ

SUPERCONDUCTING GAP



Nb,T=170mK, Δ =1.5meV

H. Courtois, Grenoble PRB (2005)

scanning tunneling microscope (STM) dl/dV spectra (proportional to the local density of states)

NAMBU NOTATION

dim=2 for B=0 and B along z-axis, dim=4 for general direction of B



Hamiltonian expressed in terms of 2x2 or 4x4 matrices.

RICHARDSON MODEL

charge-conserving Hamiltonian for superconducting grains





von Delft, Ralph, 2001

Averin, Nazarov (1992) Jankó, Smith, Ambegaokar (1994) Golubev, Zaikin (1996) von Delft, Zaikin, Golubev, Tichy (1996) Mastellone, Falci, Fazio (1998) Braun, von Delft (1998,1999) Dukelsky, Sierra (1999,2000) Tuominen, Hergenrother, Tighe, Tinkham (1992) Lafarge, Joyez, Esteve, Urbina, Devoret (1993) Eiles, Martinis, Devoret (1993)

What is the smallest system size at which the superconductivity persists?

interlevel spacing

number of Cooper pairs = d/Δ

 $d \propto \frac{1}{V}$

 $\frac{d}{\Delta} \approx 1$

Anderson (1959)

EXACT SOLUTION OF RICHARDSON MODEL



$$|\psi\rangle = \prod_{\alpha} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{b_i^{\dagger}}{2\epsilon_i - E_{\alpha}}\right) |0\rangle$$

eigenvalue equation:

$$\frac{1}{\alpha d} - \sum_{j} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_{j} - E_{\nu}} + \sum_{\mu \neq \nu} \frac{2}{E_{\mu} - E_{\nu}} = 0$$

Fully equivalent to BCS in the large-N, small- α limit

Richardson, 1963





$$E_c(\hat{n}_{\rm sc}-n_0)^2$$

 $E_c = \frac{e_0^2}{2C}$

charging energy



energy-level/gate-voltage expressed in units of electron number

PB ISLANDS ON INAS(110)





	NC Volume [nm	³] NC Height [nm]	NC Area [nm ²	²] E _C [meV]	$\delta_{\rm F1} [{\rm meV}]$	$\delta_{\rm F2} \ [{\rm meV}]$	$E_{\rm Thouless}$ [meV]
I	807	5.5	324	14	0.2	0.14	44
Π	627	5	278	15	0.3	0.18	48
III	275	3.8	172	35	0.6	0.4	63
IV	160	2.5	120	52	1.1	0.7	75
V	10	0.7	15	200	17	11	191
VI	1.5	0.4	5	1040	123	77	364
							1

Vlaic et al. (2017), Hervé Aubin group

CHARGE-PHASE DUALITY

 $\Delta \phi \cdot \Delta N \gtrsim 1$

DEFECTS IN SUPERCONDUCTORS



Non-magnetic: hardly any effect (Anderson's theorem)

Clean superconductor: pairing between k[↑] and -k↓ Bloch states Dirty superconductor: pairing between time-reversal partners

Magnetic: broken time-reversal symmetry, pair-breaking effect



FIG. 1. Effective magnetic moments and spins of the rare earth elements (see reference 2).



FIG. 3. Ferromagnetic and superconducting transition temperatures of solid solutions of gadolinium in lanthanum.



FIG. 2. Superconducting transition temperatures of 1 at % rare earth solid solutions in lanthanum.

individual impurities involved
exchange scattering (spin d.o.f.)
coupling to itinerant bulk states

Matthias, Suhl, Corenzwit (1958)

$$H_{\rm BCS} = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c^{\dagger}_{k\sigma} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_k \Delta \left(c^{\dagger}_{k\uparrow} c^{\dagger}_{-k\downarrow} + c_{-k\downarrow} c_{k\uparrow} \right)$$

$$H_{\text{imp}} = J\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{r} = 0)$$

with $\mathbf{s} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{kk'} c_k^{\dagger} \left(\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\right) c_{k'} = f_0^{\dagger} \left(\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\right) f_0$

This is <u>Kondo model</u> with superconducting bath. Difficult non-perturbative many-body problem! Classical limit: $S \to \infty, JS = \text{const}$

$$J\langle i|S^+|j\rangle \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{S}} \to 0 \implies \text{effectively a static local} \\ \text{magnetic field of strength } B_{\text{eff}} = JS$$

How do quasiparticles scatter on a static point-like magnetic moment?

$$\gamma_{k\uparrow} = u_k c_{k\uparrow} - v_k c_{-k\downarrow}^{\dagger}$$

Spin-dependent potential scattering: attractive for one spin orientation, repulsive for the other.

Attractive potential for s-wave Bogoliubov wavefunctions has a <u>bound state</u> for any J!

YU-SHIBA-RUSINOV STATES

Magnetic impurity creates a bound state inside the superconducting gap (= subgap state).





SINGLE MAGNETIC ATOMS ADSORBED ON NB SURFACE



A. Yazdani et al., Science 275, 1767 (1997)



Shuai-Hua Ji et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 226801 (2008)

MAGNETIC MOLECULES ON SURFACES OF SUPERCONDUCTORS



Franke, Schulze, Pascual, Science 332, 940 (2011)



Moiré-like structure: molecules have different binding strengths to the substrate



Franke, Schulze, Pascual, Science 332, 940 (2011)

T=4.5K

QUANTUM IMPURITY

$$H_{\rm BCS} = \sum_{k\sigma} \epsilon_k c^{\dagger}_{k\sigma} c_{k\sigma} + \sum_k \Delta \left(c^{\dagger}_{k\uparrow} c^{\dagger}_{-k\downarrow} + c_{-k\downarrow} c_{k\uparrow} \right)$$

$$H_{\rm imp} = J\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{r} = 0)$$
$$\mathbf{s} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{kk'} c_k^{\dagger} \left(\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\right) c_{k'} = f_0^{\dagger} \left(\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\right) f_0$$

Quantum impurities have internal dynamics: spin can flip!

QUANTUM IMPURITY IN A NORMAL METAL: THE KONDO EFFECT



free local moments

screened local moments

Part II: methods

NRG FOR BCS MEAN-FIELD BATH

HYBRIDISATION FUNCTION FOR SUPERCONDUCTING BATHS

$$\Delta(z) = \frac{V^2}{z^2 - \left[(\epsilon - \mu)^2 + \Delta^2\right]} \begin{pmatrix} z + (\epsilon - \mu) & -\Delta \\ -\Delta & z - (\epsilon - \mu) \end{pmatrix}$$

Generalization of ODE discretization scheme to (Nambu) matrix case

Normal state

tate:
$$\Delta(z) = \sum_k |V_k|^2 g_k(z) \quad g_k(z) = rac{1}{z - \epsilon_k}$$

SC state:
$$\Delta$$

$$\Delta = \sum_{k} |V_k|^2 \mathbf{g}_k(z) \qquad \mathbf{g}_k^{-1}(z) = z \mathbf{1} - \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_k & -\Delta_k \\ -\Delta_k & -\epsilon_k \end{pmatrix}$$

Additive quantity in presence of multiple (either N or SC) channels:

$$\mathbf{\Delta} = \sum_{lpha} \mathbf{\Delta}_{lpha}$$

Quantum impurities in channel mixing baths Jin-Guo Liu, Da Wang, Qiang-Hua Wang Phys. Rev. B 93, 035102 (2016)

https://github.com/GiggleLiu/nrg_mapping



Soft gaps, too!



COULOMB INTERACTION AND CHARGING TERMS



QD (Anderson impurity) + SI (Richardson model)

J. C. Estrada Saldaña et al., arxiv:2101.10794





$$E_c(\hat{n}_{\rm sc}-n_0)^2$$

 $E_c = \frac{e_0^2}{2C}$

charging energy



energy-level/gate-voltage expressed in units of electron number

 $H_{\rm imp} = \epsilon \hat{n} + U \hat{n}_{\uparrow} \hat{n}_{\downarrow} = \frac{U}{2} (\hat{n} - \nu)^2 + \text{const.}$

energy-level/gate-voltage expressed in units of electron number

$$\hat{n} = \sum_{\sigma} \hat{n}_{\sigma} \qquad \hat{n}_{\sigma} = d_{\sigma}^{\dagger} d_{\sigma} \qquad \sigma = \uparrow, \downarrow \qquad \qquad \nu = 1/2 - \epsilon/U$$

 $\epsilon/U = 1 - \delta/U$

$$H_{\rm SC} = \sum_{i,\sigma} \epsilon_i c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{i\sigma} - \alpha d \sum_{i,j} c_{i\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{i\downarrow}^{\dagger} c_{j\downarrow} c_{j\uparrow} + \frac{E_c (\hat{n}_{\rm sc} - n_0)^2}{\checkmark}$$



coupling

SC

$$H_{\rm hyb} = \left(v/\sqrt{N}\right) \sum_{i\sigma} \left(c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} d_{\sigma} + \text{H.c.}\right) \qquad \Gamma = \pi \rho v^2$$

matrix product operator (MPO) representation of H

W_0	= (I	$\epsilon_{\rm imp} \hat{n}_{\rm imp} + U \hat{n}_{\rm imp,\uparrow} \hat{n}_{\rm imp,\downarrow} - d_{\uparrow} I$	<u>F</u> -	$-d_{\downarrow}$	F	$+d^{\dagger}_{\uparrow}$	$F + d_{\downarrow}^{\dagger}$	F = 0	0 0	
	$(1 \ [\epsilon_i$	$(i + E_c(1 - 2n_0)]\hat{n}_i + (g + 2E_c)\hat{n}_{i\uparrow}\hat{n}_{i\downarrow}$	0	0	0	0	$gc_{i\downarrow}c_{i\uparrow}$	$gc^{\dagger}_{i\uparrow}c^{\dagger}_{i\downarrow}$	$2E_c\hat{n}_i$)
	0	Ι	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	$Vc_{i\uparrow}^{\dagger}$	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	$Vc_{i\perp}^{\dagger}$	0	F	0	0	0	0	0	
$V_i =$	0	$Vc_{i\uparrow}$	0	0	F	0	0	0	0	
	0	$Vc_{i\downarrow}$	0	0	0	F	0	0	0	
	0	$c^{\dagger}_{i\uparrow}c^{\dagger}_{i\downarrow}$	0	0	0	0	Ι	0	0	
	0	$c_{i\downarrow}c_{i\uparrow}$	0	0	0	0	0	Ι	0	
	(0	\hat{n}_{i}	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ι	/
	$\int [\epsilon_N +$	$-E_c(1-2n_0)]\hat{n}_N + (g+2E_c)\hat{n}_{N\uparrow}\hat{n}_N.$	1)		F	is fern	nion-parity	operator		
		I			a	= 0	<i>d</i>			
		$Vc^{\dagger}_{N\uparrow}$			9	u				
		$Vc_{N\downarrow}^{\dagger}$						N		
$V_N =$		$Vc_{N\uparrow}$					**			
		$Vc_{N\downarrow}$					H =	=	W_i	
		$c_{N\uparrow}^{\dagger}c_{N\downarrow}^{\dagger}$						i=0		
		$c_{N\downarrow}c_{N\uparrow}$								
		\hat{n}_N	/				di	m = 0	g	
							d1	m = 1	9	

W

Pavešić, Bauernfeind, Žitko, arxiv:2101.10168

Part III: basic properties

S=1/2 QUANTUM IMPURITY IN A SUPERCONDUCTOR: DOUBLET-SINGLET TRANSITION



SCALING OF SUB-GAP EXCITATIONS



see also Luitz, Assaad, Novotný, Karrasch, Meden, PRL 108, 227001 (2012)

GATE DEPENDENCE





experiment







JD Pillet, P Joyez, R Žitko, MF Goffman, PRB 88, 045101 (2013)

ANDREEV BOUND STATES, U=O LIMIT

$$\begin{split} H &= \sum_{\sigma} \epsilon d_{\sigma}^{\dagger} d_{\sigma} + \Gamma d_{\uparrow}^{\dagger} d_{\downarrow}^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.} & \text{large } \Delta \text{ limit} \\ \epsilon &= 0 & \psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|0\rangle \pm |2\rangle \right) \end{split}$$

YSR VS ABS: ROLE OF U/Δ



IMPURITY IN A JOSEPHSON'S JUNCTION

$$H = \epsilon n + U n_{\uparrow} n_{\downarrow} + \sum_{k,i} \epsilon_k n_{k,i} + \sum_{k,i} \left(\Delta_i c_{ki\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{ki\downarrow}^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.} \right) + \sum_{k,i,\sigma} \left(V_i c_{ki\sigma}^{\dagger} d_{\sigma} + \text{H.c.} \right)$$

 $\Delta_1 = \Delta e^{i\phi/2}$ and $\Delta_2 = \Delta e^{-i\phi/2}$

SINGLET-DOUBLET PHASE DIAGRAMS







JOSEPHSON CURRENT



Choi et al. PRB 70, 020502 (2004)

PHASE BIAS DEPENDENCE















EFFECTS OF CHANNEL ASYMMETRY

$$\Delta(z) = \sum_{\alpha=1,2} \frac{|V_{\alpha}|^2}{z^2 - \left[(\epsilon - \mu)^2 + \Delta^2\right]} \begin{pmatrix} z + (\epsilon - \mu) & -\Delta e^{i\phi_{\alpha}} \\ -\Delta e^{-i\phi_{\alpha}} & z - (\epsilon - \mu) \end{pmatrix}$$



Figure 13: Results for $U/\Delta = 5$, $\Gamma_1/\Gamma_2 = 5$.





B = 0





gate voltage

Lee, Jiang, Houzet, Aguado, Lieber, De Franceschi, Nature Nanotech. 9, 79 (2014)

bias voltage

0

RELATION BETWEEN MANY-BODY STATES AND SINGLE-PARTICLE SPECTRAL FUNCTION







S. Otte et al., Nature Physics 4, 847 (2008)

MAGNETIC FIELD EFFECTS ON SHIBA STATES





FULL-SHELL NANOWIRES



SHIBA STATES IN HIGH-SPIN IMPURITIES



MAGNETIC ANISOTROPY FOR $S \geq 1$ (ALSO KNOWN AS "ZERO-FIELD SPLITTING")

$$H_{\text{aniso}} = DS_z^2 + E(S_x^2 - S_y^2)$$

= $DS_z^2 + E(S_+^2 + S_-^2)$
longitudinal anisotropy
Example (S=I): $H_{\text{aniso}} = \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & E \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ E & 0 & D \end{pmatrix}$
$$S = 1$$

$$E_1 = 0 \quad |1\rangle = |S_z = 0\rangle$$

$$E_3 = D + E \quad |3\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|S_z = -1\rangle + |S_z = 1\rangle)$$

$$E_2 = D - E \quad |2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|S_z = -1\rangle - |S_z = 1\rangle)$$



Žitko, Bodensiek, Pruschke (2011)



N. Hatter, B.W. Heinrich, M. Ruby, J. I. Pascual, K. J. Franke, Nat. Comm. 6:8988 (2015)



N. Hatter, B.W. Heinrich, M. Ruby, J. I. Pascual, K. J. Franke, Nat. Comm. 6:8988 (2015)