

LUTTINGER LIQUIDS

Recall (p. 5) that our derivation of the bosonization techniques is based on the linearization of the spectrum at the Fermi surface (Tomonaga-Luttinger model). But what happens when it isn't possible to remain coupled at the Fermi surface, i.e. because the interactions are very strong?

In the following lecture we shall have a look to the idea of Luttinger liquid, which in 1D plays a similar role as that of Fermi liquids in higher dimensions

Phenomenological bosonization

In the following we shall re-derive the bosonization formulas in a phenomenological way, following ideas of Haldane.

Let's consider any 1D system (fermions or bosons). The density operator of the system is:

$$\rho(x) = \sum_i \delta(x - x_i)$$

$x_i \rightarrow$ position operator of the i^{th} particle.

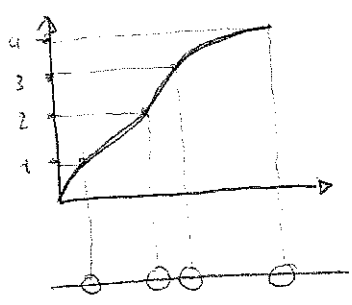
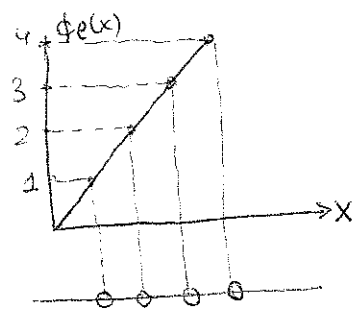
Let $R_i^0 \equiv$ equilibrium position that the particle would occupy in a perfect crystalline lattice

$\rho_0 \equiv$ average density

$d = \rho_0^{-1} \equiv$ mean interparticle distance $\rightarrow R_i^0 = di$

Then $x_i = R_i^0 + u_i$ \leftarrow deviation from the equilibrium position.

Let's introduce a labelling field: $\phi_e(x)$, such that $\phi_e(x_i) = 2\pi i$



\leftarrow Clearly $\phi_e(x)$ is a way of numbering the particles, something one can always do in 1D in a unique way.

* Note that

$$\rho(x) = \sum_n \delta[x - \phi_e^{-1}(2\pi n)] \stackrel{\delta[\phi_e(x) - 2\pi n] = \frac{1}{|\nabla\phi_e(x)|} \delta[x - \phi_e^{-1}(2\pi n)]}{=} \left[\text{Note: This is because } \delta(f(x)) = \sum_{\text{zeros of } f} \frac{1}{|f'(x_i)|} \delta(x - x_i) \right]$$

$$= \sum_n |\nabla\phi_e(x)| \delta[\phi_e(x) - 2\pi n] \stackrel{\phi_e \text{ grows monotonically, hence } \nabla\phi_e(x) > 0}{=} \nabla\phi_e(x) \sum_n \delta[\phi_e(x) - 2\pi n]$$

Poisson summation formula: $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} f(t+nT) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{f}\left(\frac{k}{T}\right) e^{2\pi i k t / T}$
 (Note: here $T = 2\pi$, $f(x) = \delta(x) \rightarrow \tilde{f}(k) = 1$)

$$= \nabla\phi_e(x) \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_p e^{ip\phi_e}$$

* We introduce now a field $\phi(x)$ relative to the perfect crystalline

solution: $\phi_e(x) = 2\pi\rho_0 x - 2\phi(x) \rightarrow \nabla\phi_e(x) = 2\pi\rho_0 - 2\nabla\phi$

Hence $\rho(x) = \left(\rho_0 - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla\phi\right) \sum_p e^{i2p(\pi\rho_0 x - \phi(x))}$

Since the density operator commutes with itself so we expect for $\phi(x)$.
 * Note that if we average $\rho(x)$ over distances $\gg 1/\rho_0$ then only the $p=0$ term survives and we may approximate

$$\rho(x) \approx \rho_0 - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla\phi(x)$$

* Let's have a look to the single-particle operator, which we may always write in the density-phase representation as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \psi^\dagger(x) &= [\rho(x)]^{1/2} e^{i\theta(x)} \\ \psi(x) &= e^{i\theta(x)} [\rho(x)]^{1/2} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{where } \theta(x) \text{ is some operator}$$

* Suppose that we are dealing with bosons: $\psi(x) = \psi_B(x)$, hence

$$[\psi_B(x), \psi_B^\dagger(x')] = \delta(x-x')$$

Hence: $e^{i\theta(x)} \rho(x)^{1/2} \rho(x')^{1/2} e^{-i\theta(x')} - \rho(x')^{1/2} e^{-i\theta(x')} e^{i\theta(x)} \rho(x)^{1/2} = \delta(x-x')$

If we assume that $[\theta(x), \theta(x')] = 0$ and that for $x \neq x'$

$$\rho(x)^{1/2} e^{-i\theta(x)} = e^{-i\theta(x')} \rho(x)^{1/2}, \text{ then:}$$

$$[\psi_B(x), \psi_B^+(x')] \underset{x \neq x'}{=} e^{i\theta(x)} \rho(x)^{1/2} \rho(x')^{1/2} e^{-i\theta(x')} - \frac{\rho(x')^{1/2} e^{i\theta(x)} e^{-i\theta(x)} \rho(x)}{e^{i\theta(x)} \rho(x)^{1/2} \rho(x')^{1/2} e^{-i\theta(x')}} = 0$$

For $x = x'$:

$$[\psi_B(x), \psi_B^+(x)] = e^{i\theta(x)} \rho(x) e^{-i\theta(x)} - \rho(x) = 1$$

Hence: $\rho(x) e^{-i\theta(x)} - e^{-i\theta(x)} \rho(x) = e^{-i\theta(x)}$

Hence a sufficient condition to satisfy $[\psi_B(x), \psi_B^+(x')] = \delta(x-x')$

is: $[\rho(x), e^{-i\theta(x')}] = \delta(x-x') e^{-i\theta(x')}$

If the density is only the $\rho=0$ part then: $\theta(x) \cong \theta_0 - \frac{\nabla\phi(x)}{\pi}$

and hence:

$$[-\frac{1}{\pi} \nabla\phi(x), e^{-i\theta(x')}] = \frac{i}{\pi} [\nabla\phi, \theta(x')] e^{-i\theta(x')} = \delta(x-x') e^{-i\theta(x')}$$

$$\Rightarrow [\frac{1}{\pi} \nabla\phi(x), \theta(x')] = -i \delta(x-x')$$

$$\Rightarrow \partial_x [\frac{\phi(x)}{\pi}, \theta(x')] = -i \delta(x-x')$$

$$\Rightarrow [\phi(x), \theta(x')] = i \frac{\pi}{2} \text{sign}(x'-x)$$

$$\partial_x \text{sign}(x-x') = 2\delta(x-x')$$

This is exactly the result we obtained in p. (13).

* If we consider also higher harmonics ($\rho \neq 0$)

$$[\rho(x), e^{-i\theta(x')}] = [\rho_0 - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla\phi(x), e^{-i\theta(x')}] \sum_p e^{izp(\pi\rho_0 x - \phi(x))} + (\rho_0 - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla\phi(x)) \sum_p e^{izp\pi\rho_0 x} [e^{-z ip \phi(x)}, e^{-i\theta(x')}]$$

$$\rightarrow e^{-z ip \phi(x)} e^{-i\theta(x')} - e^{-i\theta(x')} e^{-z ip \phi(x)} \underset{\text{Baker-Hausdorff formula}}{=} e^{z p [\phi(x), \theta(x')]} =$$

$$= e^{-z ip \phi(x)} e^{-i\theta(x')} [1 - e^{z p [\phi(x), \theta(x')]}] =$$

$$= e^{-z ip \phi(x)} e^{-i\theta(x')} [1 - e^{i \frac{\pi}{2} \text{sign}(x'-x)}] \text{ which is zero when } x = x'$$

* In the unknown limit only $p=0$ survives and we will assume that ϕ and θ must fulfill the commutation

$$\left[\frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi(x), \theta(x') \right] = -i \delta(x-x')$$

⇓

when $x=x'$

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi(x) \theta(x) - \frac{1}{\pi} \theta(x) \nabla \phi(x) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \phi(x) \nabla \theta(x) + \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \theta(x) \phi(x) = \left(\phi(x), \frac{\nabla \theta(x)}{\pi} \right)$$

Hence $\left[\phi(x), \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \theta(x') \right] = i \delta(x-x')$

Consequently (as we know from p. 13)

$$\pi(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \theta(x)$$

is the canonically conjugate momentum to $\phi(x)$.

* Let's come back to the single-particle operator. Recall that $\psi_B^+(x) = \rho(x)^{1/2} e^{-i\phi(x)}$. We may substitute the expression of $\rho(x)$ to get ψ_B^+ as a function of ϕ and θ :

$$\psi_B^+(x) = \left[\rho_0 - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi(x) \right]^{1/2} \sum_p e^{i2p(\pi \rho_0 x - \phi(x))} e^{-i\theta(x)}$$

(Note: Recall that $\rho(x) = \nabla \phi_e(x) \sum_n \delta(\phi_e(x) - 2\pi n) \rightarrow \rho(x)^{1/2} \sim \nabla \phi_e(x)^{1/2} \sum_n \delta(\phi_e(x) - 2\pi n)$ up to a normalisation factor that depends on cut-off at short distances. Recall the factor $1/\sqrt{2\pi a}$ in e.g. p. 14).

* This is for the bosonic case. Let's see now for the fermionic case. Now one has to satisfy anticommutation $[\psi_F(x), \psi_F^+(x')]_+ = \delta(x-x')$. This may be done by adding something to the previous expression of $\psi_B^+(x)$ such that one gets a minus sign when two fermions are commuted (this is an example of a so-called Wigner-Jordan transformation).

Actually it's enough to add:

$$\psi_F^+(x) = \psi_B^+(x) e^{i\phi_e(x)/2} = \left[\rho_0 - \frac{\nabla \phi(x)}{\pi} \right]^{1/2} \sum_p e^{i(2p+1)(\pi \rho_0 x - \phi(x))} e^{-i\theta(x)}$$

* We can compare the expression of $\psi_F^+(x)$ to that obtained in p. (14) for the Tomonaga-Luttinger model.

For spin-less fermions $\rho_0 = k_F/\pi$.

Recall from p. (28) that for spin-less fermions we had:

$$\rho(x) = \frac{-1}{\pi} \nabla \phi(x) + \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha} [e^{2ik_F x - 2i\phi(x)} + e^{-2ik_F x} e^{2i\phi(x)}]$$

Let's compare this with the expression of p. (71).

Very clearly, the two structures are very similar. However, in the Tomonaga-Luttinger model we had only the $p=0$ and $p=\pm 2k_F$. Higher harmonics were absent due to an artefact of the strictly linear dispersion (p. (5)).

* Let's have a look to the Hamiltonian, and how is it written in terms of θ and ϕ .

• First of all the term $(\nabla\phi(x))^2$ must be there. These terms come from e.g. interaction terms $\sim \int dx \rho(x)^2$ (and the $p=0$ term is hence $(\phi)^2$).

• Also $(\nabla\theta(x))^2$ must be there. For example the part of $\psi_B^+(x)$ containing less powers of $(\nabla\phi)$ (and hence the most relevant part in terms of decaying of correlations) is:

$$\psi^+(x) = \rho_0^{1/2} e^{-i\theta(x)} \rightarrow (\nabla\psi^+(x))(\nabla\psi(x)) = \frac{\rho_0}{2m} (\nabla\theta(x))^2$$

and hence the kinetic energy $H_k = \int \frac{dx}{2m} (\nabla\psi^+(x))(\nabla\psi(x))$ depends on $(\nabla\theta(x))^2$.

• Of course the prefactors of $(\nabla\phi)^2$ and $(\nabla\theta)^2$ can't be obtained reliably (they depend, as we already showed from interactions) but the important point is that the Hamiltonian depends on $(\nabla\phi)^2$ and $(\nabla\theta)^2$.

• The Hamiltonian cannot depend on $\nabla\phi \nabla\theta$. This is because the system has mirror symmetry $x \rightarrow -x$, i.e. $\phi(x) \leftrightarrow \phi(-x)$ and $\psi(x) \leftrightarrow \psi(-x)$.

This means that $\phi(-x) = \phi(x)$, $\theta(-x) = \theta(x)$
 $\nabla\phi(x) = \nabla\phi(x)$, $\nabla\theta(-x) = -\nabla\theta(x)$

Hence $\nabla\phi(x)\nabla\theta(x) = -\nabla\phi(x)\nabla\theta(x)$ and hence doesn't show mirror symmetry and can't be part of the Hamiltonian.

Hence the most general Hamiltonian describing the low-energy properties of a massless 1D system is:

$$H = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi} \int dx \left[\frac{uK}{\hbar^2} (\pi\pi(x))^2 + \frac{u}{K} (\nabla\phi(x))^2 \right]$$

i.e. of the form we already got from the Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid for spinless fermions.

(Note: recall that massive cases cannot be reduced in the RG sense to the previous form due to the RG-relevant character of the cosine terms)

The two coefficients u and K totally characterize the low-energy properties of any massless 1D system. It may be difficult to characterize them but once they are fixed, all properties of the system are determined.

* This point is extremely important.

All bosonization formulas we got for the Tomonaga-Luttinger model are actually generic (the only artefact was the absence of harmonics). This includes e.g. correlation functions and phase diagrams.

The bosonic representation and the quadratic Hamiltonian play in 1D the role of the Fermi liquid theory in higher dimensions. This is the so-called Luttinger liquid theory.

It just depends on two parameters: u and K. Once given we may obtain all asymptotic properties of correlation functions both for bosons and for fermions!

For example, it's easy to see using the expansion for $\rho(x)$ in p. 21 and similar calculations as in p. 28 that

$$\langle \rho(r) \rho(0) \rangle = \rho_0^2 + \frac{\kappa}{2\pi^2} \frac{y_0^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y_0^2)^2} + \rho_0^2 A_2 \cos(2\pi \rho_0 x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r}\right)^{2\kappa} + \rho_0^2 A_4 \cos(4\pi \rho_0 x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r}\right)^{4\kappa} + \dots$$

These extra terms are not in p. 29 and result from the extra harmonics in p. 21 compared to the Tomonaga-Luttinger model.

The fact that all asymptotic properties decay with exponents given by a single parameter (the Luttinger parameter κ) is very remarkable and universal.

* One may proceed in a similar fashion for spinful fermions. As we did already, one may bosonize each species, introducing charge and spin $\phi_{\sigma, \tau} = (\phi_1 \pm \phi_2)/\sqrt{2}$, and proceed similarly as above. However with spinful fermions one must be careful with the g₄ terms (ie. the cosine part in the spin Hamiltonian which departs from the quadratic form). This makes the calculation of correlation functions a little bit more tricky.

In particular, the density-density correlation function for a Luttinger-Liquid with spin is:

$$\langle \rho(r) \rho(0) \rangle = \rho_0^2 + \frac{\kappa}{\pi^2} \frac{y_0^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y_0^2)^2} + \rho_0^2 A_2 \cos(2\pi \rho_0 x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r}\right)^{\kappa_e + \kappa_s} + \rho_0^2 A_4 \cos(4\pi \rho_0 x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r}\right)^{4\kappa_p} + \dots$$

Note that the $4\kappa_p$ component does not depend on the spin part. For spin-isotropic interaction ($\kappa_s = 1$) the $4\kappa_p$ part dominates for $4\kappa_p < \kappa_e + \kappa_s = \kappa_e + 1 \rightarrow \boxed{\kappa_p < 1/3}$

• Addendum: Brief comment on operator product expansion.

• For the case with spin 1/2 we define

$$\rho_{\uparrow, \downarrow}(x) = \left[\rho_{0, \uparrow, \downarrow} - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi_{\uparrow, \downarrow} \right] \sum_p e^{i2p(\pi \rho_{0, \uparrow, \downarrow} x - \phi_{\uparrow, \downarrow}(x))}$$

$$\rho_{\text{TOT}}(x) = \rho_{\uparrow}(x) + \rho_{\downarrow}(x) = \left[\rho_{0\uparrow} + \rho_{0\downarrow} - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla(\phi_{\uparrow} + \phi_{\downarrow}) \right] \\ + \left[\rho_{0\uparrow} - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi_{\uparrow} \right] \left[e^{i2(\pi \rho_{0\uparrow} x - \phi_{\uparrow}(x))} + \text{h.c.} \right] + \left[\rho_{0\downarrow} - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi_{\downarrow} \right] \left[e^{i2(\pi \rho_{0\downarrow} x - \phi_{\downarrow}(x))} + \text{h.c.} \right] \\ + \left[\rho_{0\uparrow} - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi_{\uparrow} \right] \left[e^{i4(\pi \rho_{0\uparrow} x - \phi_{\uparrow}(x))} + \text{h.c.} \right] + \left[\rho_{0\downarrow} - \frac{1}{\pi} \nabla \phi_{\downarrow} \right] \left[e^{i4(\pi \rho_{0\downarrow} x - \phi_{\downarrow}(x))} + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

let $\rho_{0\uparrow} = \rho_{0\downarrow} = \rho_0/2 = \kappa/\pi$ then (using $\phi_{\sigma} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi_{\uparrow} \pm \phi_{\downarrow})$)

$$\rho_{\text{TOT}}(x) = \rho_0 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \nabla \phi_{\rho}(x) + \rho_0 \left[e^{i(\kappa x - \sqrt{2} \phi_{\rho}(x))} \cos \sqrt{2} \phi_{\sigma} + \text{h.c.} \right] \\ + \rho_0 \left[e^{i(4\kappa x - 2\sqrt{2} \phi_{\rho}(x))} \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_{\sigma} + \text{h.c.} \right] + \dots$$

(recall that terms $\nabla \phi e^{i\phi}$ don't contribute to correlation functions)

• If we forget the sine-Gordon contribution ($g_{11} = 0$)

$$\langle \rho_{\text{TOT}}(r) \rho_{\text{TOT}}(0) \rangle_0 \cong \rho_0^2 + \frac{2}{\pi} \langle \nabla \phi_{\rho}(x) \nabla \phi_{\rho}(0) \rangle \\ + \rho_0^2 \left[e^{i2\kappa x} \langle e^{-i\sqrt{2}(\phi_{\rho}(x) - \phi_{\rho}(0))} \rangle + e^{-i2\kappa x} \langle e^{i\sqrt{2}(\phi_{\rho}(x) - \phi_{\rho}(0))} \rangle \right] \times \\ \times 2 \left[\langle e^{i\sqrt{2}(\phi_{\sigma}(x) - \phi_{\sigma}(0))} \rangle + \langle e^{-i\sqrt{2}(\phi_{\sigma}(x) - \phi_{\sigma}(0))} \rangle \right] \\ + \rho_0^2 \left[e^{i4\kappa x} \langle e^{-i2\sqrt{2}(\phi_{\rho}(x) - \phi_{\rho}(0))} \rangle + \text{h.c.} \right] \times 2 \left[\langle e^{2i\sqrt{2}(\phi_{\sigma}(x) - \phi_{\sigma}(0))} + \text{h.c.} \rangle \right] \\ = \rho_0^2 + \frac{\kappa_0}{2\pi^2} \frac{y_{\alpha}^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y_{\alpha}^2)^2} + 2\rho_0^2 \cos(2\kappa x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r} \right)^{\kappa(\kappa_0 + \kappa_{\sigma})} \\ + 2\rho_0^2 \cos(4\kappa x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r} \right)^{2\kappa(\kappa_0 + \kappa_{\sigma})} + \dots$$

• However, if $g_{11} \neq 0$ we cannot forget the sine-Gordon contribution and this leads to surprises. Let's see that.

* Recall that (p. 46) The action may be written as:

$$S = S_0 + \frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \int d^2r \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r)$$

We may hence expand in g :

$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int D\phi e^{-S_0} \left[1 - \int d^2r \frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma + \frac{1}{2} \left[\int d^2r \frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r) \right]^2 \right]$$

$$\text{with } Z \equiv \int D\phi e^{-S_0} \left[1 - \int d^2r \frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma + \frac{1}{2} \left[\int d^2r \left(\frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \right) \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r) \right]^2 \right]$$

$$\text{Let } \langle O \rangle_0 = \frac{1}{Z_0} \int D\phi e^{-S_0} O \quad \text{with } Z_0 = \int D\phi e^{-S_0}$$

Then (note that terms with ~~odd~~ ^{odd number of} cosines vanish).

$$\langle \rho(r) \rho(0) \rangle \approx \langle \rho(r) \rho(0) \rangle_0 + \frac{1}{2} \langle \rho(0) \left[\int d^2r' \left(\frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \right) \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r') \right]^2 \rangle_0$$

In the extra term we have that

$$\rho(r) \rightarrow \tilde{\rho}(r) = \rho(r) \int d^2r' \left(\frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r') \right)$$

and the last term is hence of the form $\langle \tilde{\rho}(r) \tilde{\rho}(0) \rangle$

If r and r' are separated this extra term leads after averaging to an additional power law decay which is less relevant than the $\cos \sqrt{8} \phi$ terms arising in $\langle \rho(r) \rho(0) \rangle_0$. However if r and r' are close within a cut-off distance (α) then $\tilde{\rho}(r)$ contains terms of the form (only these terms are relevant) for $\langle \tilde{\rho}(r) \tilde{\rho}(0) \rangle_0$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r) \int d^2r' \frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \cos \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r') \\ & \approx \cos^2 \sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r) \cdot \frac{2g}{(2\pi\alpha')^2 u} \alpha^2 = \frac{g}{4\pi^2 u} [1 + \cos 2\sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma(r)] \end{aligned}$$

The term with $2\sqrt{8} \phi_\sigma$ decays very fast but we get a constant term $g/4\pi^2 u$ which is hence a constant!

Hence (we only write the most relevant term)

$$\langle \bar{\rho}(r) \bar{\rho}(0) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{g}{4\pi^2 u} \right)^2 \cdot 4 \langle e^{i4k_F x} e^{-i\sqrt{2}(\phi_p(x) - \phi_p(0))} + h.c. \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{g^2}{4\pi^2 u} \right)^2 \cos 4k_F x \left(\frac{\alpha}{r} \right)^{4k_F}$$

Hence the density-density correlation function goes actually

is:

$$\langle \rho(r) \rho(0) \rangle \sim \rho_0^2 A_2 \cos(2k_F x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r} \right)^{2(k_F + k_F)}$$

$$+ \rho_0^2 A_4 \cos(4k_F x) \left(\frac{\alpha}{r} \right)^{4k_F}$$

Note: This tells us that in p. 66 we could have written a better expression for the density where the $4k_F$ term loses the cos factor part: $\rho_0 e^{i(4k_F x - 2\sqrt{2}\phi_p)} + h.c.$

where the constants $A_{2,4}$ are non-universal objects.

Note that compared to the naive non-SIE-Gordon result, now the $4k_F$ term doesn't decay as $(\alpha/r)^{4(k_F + k_F)}$ but as $(\alpha/r)^{4k_F}$.

This is a huge difference.

If the $4k_F$ term decays as $(\alpha/r)^{4(k_F + k_F)}$ then it decays always faster as $(\alpha/r)^{2(k_F + k_F)}$ and hence the $2k_F$ term always dominates. But if $(\alpha/r)^{4k_F}$ then if $4k_F < 2(k_F + k_F)$

i.e. if $k_F < k_F/3$, then the $4k_F$ term dominates.

For spin-isotropic interaction $k_F = 1$ and the condition reduces to $k_F < 1/3$

This example shows that one must be extremely careful when calculating correlation functions, since the interaction with other operators can lead to a part that decays more slowly than each of the original operators. This is the so-called operator product expansion.