

Phase Transitions and Critical Phenomena



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Exercise Sheet 10

HS 14
V. B. Geshkenbein

Problem 1 Low temperature expansion

The partition function of the 2D Ising model at low temperatures can be written as

$$Z = \exp\left(-\frac{E_{\text{GS}}}{T}\right) \left[1 + \sum_n \Delta Z^{(n)}\right] \quad (1)$$

where E_{GS} is the energy of the perfectly ordered state (the ground state) and $\Delta Z^{(n)}$ is the correction due to configurations that contain n flipped spins.

Let us define a small parameter

$$U = \exp\left(-\frac{2J}{T}\right) \quad (2)$$

where $2J$ is the excitation energy due to one broken bond. The first few corrections to the partition function can then be identified to be (cf. lecture notes)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Z^{(1)} &= NU^4 \\ \Delta Z^{(2)} &= 2NU^6 + \frac{N(N-5)}{2}U^8 \\ \Delta Z^{(3)} &= 2NU^8 + 4NU^8 + 2N(N-8)U^{10} + \frac{N(N^2-15N+62)}{6}U^{12}. \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

Summing up all contributions one finds that

$$Z = \exp\left(-\frac{E_{\text{GS}}}{T}\right) \left[1 + NU^4 + 2NU^6 + \frac{N(N+9)}{2}U^8 + 2N(N+6)U^{10} + \dots\right] \quad (3)$$

Identify the missing higher $\Delta Z^{(n)}$ corrections necessary to reproduce formula (3) up to the U^8 order!