Variational wavefunctions for the pseudogap metal

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Long-standing mystery in cuprates - the nature of the pseudogap



Long-standing mystery in cuprates - the nature of the pseudogap



View the pseudogap metal as a quantum state, which could be stable at T = 0 under suitable conditions

Goal: construct a mean-field theory that captures both FL and psuedogap metals



$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}\alpha} c_{\mathbf{p}\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{p}\alpha} + U \sum_{i} n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow}$$



$$H_{sf} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} c_{\mathbf{p}\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{p}\alpha} - \lambda \sum_{i} c_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} \frac{\sigma_{\alpha\beta}}{2} c_{i\beta} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}_{i} + J_{\perp} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{\Phi}i}^{2}$$



AFQMC connection: reformulate $e^{-\tau H} |\psi_0\rangle$ as 2D free fermions coupled to (2+1)D classical fields. "Re-quantizing" classical fields gives $e^{-\tau H_{sf}} |\psi_0\rangle \otimes |a\rangle$

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Represent $\ell = 0, 1$ excitations as
antiferromagnetic spin pair, $\mathbf{\Phi}_{i} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (\mathbf{S}_{2i} - \mathbf{S}_{1i})$

Mean-field phase diagram of the pseudogap metal



FL^* phase qualitatively captures pseudogap features



Mean-field calculation reproduces small hole pockets with weak backside spectral weight

Mascot et al. 2022; Nikolaenko et al. 2023; Christos et al. 2023.

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Paramagnon fractionalization admits trial wavefunctions



- How do these states fare energetically?
- Can they reproduce (static) correlation functions?

Paramagnon fractionalization admits trial wavefunctions



Rung singlet projection

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Javier Robledo Moreno^{sta} (0), Giuseppe Carleord, Antoine Georges^{asta}(0), and James Stokes^{at}



Spin singlet projection implementation

 $\psi(R) \equiv \underbrace{\left(\langle R | \otimes \langle \uparrow \downarrow | \right) | \psi_{\mathrm{MF}} \rangle}$ Scales exponentially

Spin singlet projection implementation



Spin singlet projection implementation



Results at half filling, 4×4 lattice



Results at half filling, $4 \times \underline{4}$ lattice



RESEARCH

QUANTUM SIMULATION

Microscopic evolution of doped Mott insulators from polaronic metal to Fermi liquid

Joannis Koepsell^{1,2}*, Dominik Bourgund^{1,2}, Pimonpan Sompet^{1,2}, Sarah Hirthe^{1,2}, Annabelle Bohrd^{1,2}1+, Jao Wang^{4,5}, Fabian Grusdt^{1,5}, Eugene Demler⁴S, Guillaume Salomon^{1,2,7,8}, Christian Gross^{1,5,6}, Inmanuel Bloch^{1,2,6}



Future directions

For pseudogap:

- Careful finite size analysis average over BCs, extrapolate to thermodynamic limit, etc
- Non-zero doping at U/t = 8, energetic favourability vanishes around $p \approx 0.25$
- GA for simplifying wavefunctions?

General perspectives:

• Using "quantum" auxiliary fields for trial variational wavefunctions - how optimizable is a more general projection?