THIS RESPONSE CONTAINS TWO PARTS:

The first part is Response to Perk's Comment, the second part is Reply to Perk's

Rejoinder, focusing on singularities at/near infinite temperature

PART I

Response to 'Comment on 'Conjectures on exact solution of three-dimensional

(3D) simple orthorhombic Ising lattices ' ' by Perk

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The error of eq. (15b) in my article [Z.D. Zhang, Phil. Mag. **87**, 5309 (2007) and also see arXiv: 0705.1045] in the application of the Jordan-Wigner transformation does not affect the validity of the putative exact solution, since the solution is not derived directly from it. Other objections of Perk's Comment [J.H.H. Perk, Phil. Mag. **88**, (2008) in press, also see arXiv:0811.1802v2] are the same as those in Wu et al.'s Comments [F.Y. Wu et al., Phil. Mag. **88**, (2008) 3093; 3103], which do not stand on solid ground and have been rejected in my previous Response [Z.D. Zhang, Phil. Mag. **88**, (2008) 3097]. The conjectured solution can be utilized to understand critical phenomena in various systems, while the conjectures are open to prove rigorously.

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This is a Response to Perk's Comment [1] on the conjectured solution of the three-dimensional (3D) Ising model [2]. At first, I would like to appreciate Dr. Perk for pointing out the error of eq. (15b) in [2] in the application of the Jordan-Wigner transformation, which should be corrected as eq. (3) of [1].[1] However, although this error is the same as Maddox's [4], the essential difference is that my putative solution in [2] is obtained by introducing two conjectures dealing with the topologic problem in the 3D Ising model, not derived directly from the error. Thus it does not affect the validity of the putative exact solution. When I wrote [2], I thought that the topologic troubles are due to the U factors in eq. (15). According to Lou and Wu [3] and discussion with Perk, the appearance of the high-order terms in eq. (3) of [1] and the corresponding exponential factors of the transfer matrix (not the U factors in eq. (15) of [2]) is the root of difficulties of the 3D Ising model. The U factors come from the periodic boundary conditions, but disappear for open boundary condition. It is clear now that there is no need to get rid of the U factors at the boundary by some topologic trick, but the high-order 'internal' factors might need. Since there is an 'internal' factor for each j (j runs from 1 to nl in [1], corresponding to (r, s) running from (1, 1) to (n, l) in [2]), the number of the 'internal' factors is in the order of nl more than that of the U factors. These 'internal' factors raise more difficulties since they do not commute with the rest in the transfer matrix (e.g., the product of the factors like $e^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha\Gamma\Gamma}$ [3]) and one does not have representations of the rotation group so that one

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[1] Lou and Wu [3] also apply correctly an equivalent equation. An error in eq. (16) of [2] should be corrected as eq. (1) of [1]. A factor of 2 should be added in all the exponentials on the right hand of eq. (28) and also the **Conjecture 2** on page 5321 of [2] (e.g. $e^{i\frac{2\pi}{n}},\ldots e^{i\frac{2t_x\pi}{n}}$, etc.).

cannot continue as Kaufman did [5]. Although the situation becomes more complicating, we can still make the same conjectures, with the motivation for the conjecture only slightly different with what I had in [2]. Suppose that we are given a 3D manifold bounding a 4D manifold [6,7]. It might be possible to attach an "internal" space on every point of the 3D lattice to provide with some operators to allow these "internal" factors to commute with the transfer matrix. In this sense, we add an extra dimension with an additional rotation as a kind of boundary condition as what I conjectured in my original paper [2] and then we might solve simultaneously the topologic problem in eq. (15) as a whole regarding to its non-local behavior, no matter how complicating it is.

Istrail showed that the essential ingredient in the NP-completeness of the Ising model is nonplanarity [8], which indicates also that the origin of difficulties is topologic. As discussed on page 5393 of [2], the NP-completeness only prevents algorithms from solving all instances of the problem in polynomial time [9,10]. Such NP-completeness from the point view of computer sciences cannot be fully used to judge the advances in mathematics which are needed to uncover the exact solution. Furthermore, as Istrail and Cipra claimed [8-10], there exists the possibility for exact answers in the ferromagnetic 3D Ising model dealt with in [2]. As discussed above, the main difficulties caused by these high-order terms are topologic [1,8-10]. Therefore, the conjectures of introducing the fourth dimension [2], which serve for dealing with the topologic problem in the 3D Ising model, are still meaningful, and open to be proved rigorously (however, with the new form of eq. (15b) for the matrix

V [2], thanks to Dr. Perk).

Other objections in [1], concentrating on the low- and high-temperature expansions and the different choices of the weight functions, are all the same as those in recent Comments by Wu et al. [11,12], which have been rejected in my previous Response [13]. The only exception is that literatures referred in [1] for rigorously proving the convergence of the high-temperature series [14-18] are different with those [19-22] in [11]. As remarked in [1], the proof of [14-18] is based on the proof of Gallavotti and Miracle-Solé [14]. However, just below eq. (5) of [14], the authors put for convenience $\beta = 1/(k_B T) = 1$, which is inconsistent with $\beta = 0$ for infinite temperature. Some important conditions for Theorems in [14] are not valid for $\beta = 0$. For instance, the condition for ii), iii) and iv) of Theorem 1, Theorems 2 and 3, will be invalid if $\beta = 0$ is put into eq. (24) of [14]. One may argue that infinite temperature just requires that all interaction energies equal to zero. But in this case, this condition is invalid still and, moreover, one should face a change of all the interaction energies from zero to non-zero at/near $\beta = 0$. Such change results in an intrinsic change of the geometrical (topologic) structure in the 3D Ising interaction system as revealed in [13]. As has been already pointed out in [13], Lebowitz and Penrose [15] and Griffiths [17] distinguished $\beta > 0$ and $\beta = 0$, and started with the condition $\beta > 0$ to prove their theorems. The basic difficulty of these well-known theorems originates from a fact that a phase transition may occur at $\beta = 0$ according to the Yang–Lee theorems [23,24].

Everyone has been brought in a situation in which it is impossible to satisfy the

opposite wishes: being convergent as an exact solution is, while it must agree exactly

with a divergent series. As remarked in [1], the low-temperature series of my putative

exact solution has a finite radius of convergence up to its critical point. So it is normal

that it does not reproduce term by term the well-known low-temperature series that is

divergent. The lack of information of the global behaviours of the 3D Ising system is

the root of such divergence in the well-known low-temperature series. The troubles in

it may originate from some difficulties in the foundation of statistical mechanics

[25-29].

In [13], I indicated the necessity of introducing a (3+1)–dimensional framework

for dealing with the 3D Ising model and discussed briefly the physics beyond the

extra dimension. According to [12],[2] it is very significant to inspect further the

mathematical basis of statistical mechanics, i.e., *ergodic hypothesis* and *mixing*

hypothesis [25-31]. The *ergodic hypothesis* has been proved to be one of the most

difficult problems and a proof of the *ergodic hypothesis* under fairly general

conditions has been lacking [25-31]. For the *mixing hypothesis* that is stronger than

the ergodic hypothesis, talking about a distribution of points on the surface Γ (E), one

is no longer discussing a single system, and mixing is irrelevant for a truly isolated

system [25]. In statistical mechanics, one simply assumes that the time average can be

replaced by the ensemble average [25-31]. Actually, most systems studied in

statistical mechanics are not ergodic [29-31]. It is my understanding that the lack of

ergodicity of the 3D Ising model would lead to that the time average could be

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[2] I take this opportunity to reply briefly the last sentence in Wu et al.'s Rejoinder [12] to my Response [13].

different from the ensemble average that may not contain complete information of the system. Neglecting the difference between the two averages may work well in other models with dimensions D $\neq$ 3, but cause serious troubles in the 3D Ising system because of its global topologic behaviour and geometrical structure [2,13]. Because the well-known low- and high-temperature series of the 3D Ising model might not account properly the time average of the system, they might be invalid at finite temperatures. In my view, it is unjustified to reply upon successes of statistical mechanics to dismiss questions regarding its foundation.

In summary, the error in [2] should be corrected as Perk suggested in [1], but it does not affect the validity of the putative exact solution that is not derived directly from the error. All these well-known theorems in [14-22] are proved only for $\beta > 0$, not for infinite temperature and, other objections in [1] and also those in [11,12] do not stand on solid ground. The conjectured solution can be utilized to understand critical phenomena in various systems [32,33], while the conjectures are open to be rigorously proved.

Acknowledgements

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PART II

Singularities at/near infinite temperature: Reply to Perk's Rejoinder on 'Conjectures on exact solution of three-dimensional (3D) simple orthorhombic Ising lattices'

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This is a Reply to the Rejoinder (J.H.H. Perk, Phil. Mag. **89**, (2009) in press, arXiv:0901.2935) to the Response (Z.D. Zhang, Phil. Mag. **89**, (2009) in press, arXiv:0812.0194) on Perk's Comment (J.H.H. Perk, Phil. Mag. **89**, (2009) in press, arXiv:0811.1802) on 'Conjectures on exact solution of three-dimensional (3D) simple orthorhombic' (Z.D. Zhang, Phil. Mag. **87**, (2007) p.5309, arXiv:0705.1045). It is shown that the basis of the objections in Perk's Rejoinder (arXiv:0901.2935), with respect to singularities at/near infinite temperature, is based on an error that mixes the concepts $T \to \infty$ and $T = \infty$ (i.e., $\beta \to 0$ and $\beta = 0$, with $\beta \equiv (k_B T)^{-1}$). It is shown that the reduced free energy per site βf can be used only for finite temperatures ($\beta > 0$), not for "exactly" infinite temperature ($\beta = 0$). Thus, the convergence of the well-known high-temperature series has not been rigorously proved for $\beta = 0$. Furthermore, at the thermodynamic limit $N \to \infty$, besides infinite-temperature zeros of Z at $z = -1$ for $H = \pm i\infty$ in the limit $\beta \to 0$, there exists another singularity at $z = 1$ for the partition function as well as the high-temperature series, which is usually concealed in literature by setting $Z^{1/N}$ and dividing the total free energy F by N (equally, disregarding the singularity of zeros of Z^{-1}). Therefore, the well-known high-temperature series cannot serve as a standard for judging the putative exact solution of the 3D Ising model. The objections in Perk's Rejoinder (arXiv:0901.2935) are thoroughly disproved.

After publication of the conjectured exact solution of three-dimensional (3D) simple orthorhombic Ising lattices [1], there have been two rounds of exchanges of Comments/Responses/Rejoinders [2-7]. After all discussions in [2-7], it seems that the only key issue left is that of singularities at/near infinite temperature. Both groups of authors (Wu et al. and Perk) of the Comments/Rejoinders [2,4,5,7] insist that the procedure in [1] is wrong, because the conjectured free energy can fit well with the well-known high-temperature series only at/near infinite temperature, as the convergence of the high-temperature series has been rigorously proved in [8-16]. The proposals of this Reply are to discuss in detail the singularities at/near infinite temperature and also to point out that there is an error in Perk's Rejoinder [7], which is the basis of the arguments with respect to the high-temperature series in [2,4,5,7].

As noted in the previous Responses [3,6], all the rigorous theorems in [8-16] have been proved only for $\beta \equiv 1/(k_B T) > 0$, i.e., $T < \infty$. Exactly infinite temperature has been never touched in these theorems, since there is a possibility of the existence of a phase transition at $\beta = 0$, according to the condition of $z \equiv \exp(-2\beta H) = 1$ in the Yang-Lee Theorem [17,18]. There are three possibilities for the existence of a phase transition: 1) $H = 0$, $\beta \neq 0$; 2) $H \neq 0$, $\beta = 0$; 3) $H = 0$, $\beta = 0$. This point of $\beta = 0$ has been avoided during the procedure of rigorously proving these theorems in [8-16]. The difficulty for a rigorous prove including $\beta = 0$ is due to the fact that there is no general reason to expect a series expansion of p or n in powers of β to converge (p. 102 of [9]), since $\beta = 0$ lies at the boundary of the region E of (β, z) space. The difficulty has been bypassed by using the dimensionless parameters $K_i = \beta J_i$, $(i = 1,2,3)$

and h = βH and setting β = 1 during the procedure.

Let us start from the initial point of the problem to discuss in detail the origin of the singularities at/near infinite temperature. The total free energy of the system is: $F = U - TS = -k_B T \ln Z$. The singularities in the free energy and other thermodynamic consequences (such as the entropy, the internal energy, the specific heat, the spontaneous magnetization, etc) originate from the singularities of the partition function Z. This is why Yang and Lee discuss the phase transition by evaluating the distribution of roots of the grand partition function (i.e., Z = 0) in their general theory [17,18]. In order to describe infinite systems, one usually normalizes the extensive variables that are homogeneous of degree one in the volume, by the volume **V** (or the number of particles N), keeps the density (i. e. the number of particles per volume) fixed and takes the limit for V (or N) tending to infinity. In this sense, one usually defines the thermodynamic limit (N → ∞) for the free energy per site f   by $f = F / N = -k_B T \ln \lambda$ with $\lambda = Z^{1/N}$. By such a procedure, it is expected that one can establish the fact that f converges uniformly to its common limit as N → ∞, namely, it is performed with an assumption (or expectation) that f is finite [17-20]. In this way, one can easily avoid to deal with the total free energy $F = -Nk_B T \ln \lambda$ of the system, which shows singularities at any temperature as N → ∞ and if $\ln \lambda$ is finite. However, it is clearly seen that at infinite temperature (T = ∞), there still exists a singularity in the free energy per site f that is equal to negative infinite in the case that $\ln \lambda$ is positive and finite. Actually, $f = -k_B T \ln \lambda = -k_B \ln \lambda^T$, in both forms, f is equal to negative infinite at T = ∞. Using the value of the 3D Ising model λ = 2, one

easily finds that $f = -k_B T \ln 2 = -k_B \ln 2^T$ has a singularity at T = ∞. This is inconsistent with the assumption for the definition of the free energy per site f, and therefore, it loses physical significance at T = ∞. It is clear that one has to face directly the total free energy F to study the singularities of the system at T = ∞.

One may argue that such singularities of the whole system are not of physical significance, which should be removed by using the reduced free energy per site βf. As stated in Perk's Rejoinder [7], the reduced free energy per site βf is often rewritten as βf = $\phi(\{K_i\}, h)$ = $\phi(\{βJ_i\}, βH)$ with some function ϕ. But the error in [7] is easily seen as follows: Setting β = 1 equalizes to T = 1/k_B ≠ ∞. Therefore, the necessary and sufficient condition for using the dimensionless parameters K_i = βJ_i, (i = 1,2,3) and h = βH and setting β = 1 is β ≠ 0. Thus, setting β = 1 is loss of generality for β = 0, and the replacements J_i → βJ_i, H → βH and f → βf are validated only for β → 0. All discussions in the Perk's Rejoinder [7] are only based on the limit β → 0, but not 'exactly' on infinite temperature (T = ∞, β = 0). Thus, the convergence of the well-known high-temperature series for the 3D Ising model has not been rigorously proved for β = 0.

The total free energy of the system can also be written as $F = k_B T \ln Z^{-1}$. Therefore, besides the roots of the partition function Z, one should also discuss the roots of Z^{-1}. Writing z ≡ exp(−2βH) and keeping βH fixed in the limit β → 0, the partition function of an arbitrary lattice with N sites for the Ising model becomes Z = $(z^{1/2}+z^{-1/2})^N$ [7]. It is easily seen that $z^{1/2} + z^{-1/2} > 1$ satisfies the condition for the zeros of the reciprocal of the partition function, i.e., Z^{-1} = $(z^{1/2} + z^{-1/2})^{-N}$. So, the

infinite-temperature zeros of Z^{-1}, i.e., $Z^{-1} \to 0$, occur at $z = 1$ as $N \to \infty$, $Z = 2^N \to \infty$.

Or more explicitly speaking, the zeros are located at $\beta = 0$, $z = 1$. The discussion

above can be supported by the fact that the singularity behavior of the logarithmic

function $\ln x$ in the two cases of $x = 0$ and $x = \infty$ correspond to those in logarithmic

function $\ln y$ with $y = 1/x$ in two cases of $y = \infty$ and $y = 0$, respectively. It indicates

clearly that both singularities at the two limits of $Z = 0$ and $Z = \infty$ are actually the

same, except for a minus sign, and considerable interest should be paid to both of

them.

From the Yang-Lee Theorem [17,18] and the findings above, in the 3D Ising

model there indeed exist three singularities: 1) $H = 0$, $\beta = \beta_c$; 2) $H = \pm i\infty$, $\beta \to 0$; 3) H

$= 0$, $\beta = 0$. The 3D Ising system experiences a change from a 'non-interaction' state at

$\beta = 0$ to an interacting state at $\beta > 0$. This change of the states just likes that there is a

'switch' turning off/on all the interactions at/near infinite temperature, resulting in the

change of the topologic structures and the corresponding phase factors [1,3,6].

In summary, the procedure of using the dimensionless parameters $K_i = \beta J_i$, (i =

1,2,3) and $h = \beta H$ and setting $\beta = 1$ for rigorously proving the analytic behavior of the

free energy can be employed only for $\beta > 0$, not $\beta = 0$. There is an error in Perk's

Rejoinder [7], which mixes the concepts of $T \to \infty$ and $T = \infty$ (i.e., $\beta \to 0$ and $\beta = 0$).

Besides the singularity at $z = -1$, there is another singularity at $z = 1$ of the partition

function as well as the high-temperature series at the thermodynamic limit $N \to \infty$.

The latter singularity may not cause problems in dimensions $D \neq 3$, but does cause

serious troubles in 3D. This is usually concealed in literatures by setting $Z^{1/N}$ and

dividing the total free energy F by N. This procedure of neglecting the singularity of Z $\to \infty$ is the same as disregarding the singularity of the zeros of Z^{-1}. It is concluded that the well-known high-temperature series cannot serve as a standard for judging the putative exact solution of the 3D Ising model. The objections in Perk's Rejoinder [7] (and also in [2,4,5] with respect to the high-temperature series) have been thoroughly disproved.

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