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Pair-Density-Wave Superconducting Order in Two-Leg Ladders

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We show using bosonization methods that extended Hubbard-Heisenberg models on two types of two leg ladders (without flux and with flux π per plaquette) have commensurate pair-density wave (PDW) phases. In the case of the conventional (flux-less) ladder the PDW arises when certain filling fractions for which commensurability conditions are met. For the flux π ladder the PDW phase is generally present. The PDW phase is characterized by a finite spin gap and a superconducting order parameter with a finite (commensurate in this case) wave vector and power-law superconducting correlations. In this phase the uniform superconducting order parameter, the $2k_F$ charge-density-wave (CDW) order parameter and the spin-density-wave Néel order parameter exhibit short range (exponentially decaying) correlations. We discuss in detail the case in which the bonding band of the ladder is half filled for which the PDW phase appears even at weak coupling. The PDW phase is shown to be dual to a uniform superconducting (SC) phase with quasi long range order. By making use of bosonization and the renormalization group we determine the phase diagram of the spin-gapped regime and study the quantum phase transition. The phase boundary between PDW and the uniform SC ordered phases is found to be in the Ising universality class. We generalize the analysis to the case of other commensurate fillings of the bonding band, where we find higher order commensurate PDW states for which we determine the form of the effective bosonized field theory and discuss the phase diagram. We compare our results with recent findings in the Kondo-Heisenberg chain. We show that the formation of PDW order in the ladder embodies the notion of intertwined orders.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A spectacular dynamical layer decoupling of the transport properties accompanied by different types of order parameters (charge, spin and superconducting) developing together has been observed experimentally in the stripe-ordered (or nearly ordered) cuprate superconductor $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{CuO}_4$ at zero external magnetic field^{1,2}, in underdoped $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$ at moderate magnetic fields, and in optimally-doped $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{CuO}_4$ at low magnetic fields.³ A sequence of phase transitions are seen in these materials with the “normal” to charge-stripe ordered transition occurring first, followed by a spin-stripe order transition with a lower critical temperature. For instance, in $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{CuO}_4$ near doping $x = 1/8$ a spectacular decoupling of the layers develops in transport measurements with the ratio of the c-axis ρ_c to the ab-plane ρ_{ab} resistivities, becoming larger than 10^5 , begins to develop quite rapidly at temperatures right below the spin-ordering transition. At a critical temperature of the order of $T_c^{2D} \sim 20K$ (depending on the precise doping) the copper oxide planes appear to become superconducting while the c-axis transport remains resistive. The full three-dimensional resistive transition is seen only below $10K$. A superconducting state with a Meissner effect and (presumably) d -wave superconductivity is seen below $T_c^{3D} \sim 4K$. However, even though the critical temperature of the uniform d -wave superconducting state is much lower near $x = 1/8$ than for other doping levels (where it is typically $\sim 40K$), the experiments show that the antinodal superconducting gap is essentially unsuppressed.^{4,5}

A strikingly similar transport anisotropy has been observed very recently in the temperature-pressure phase diagram of the heavy fermion superconductor CeRhIn_5 .⁶ In this strongly correlated material the orders that develop are conventionally identified as a spin-density wave metallic state and a uniform d -wave superconductor. In the phase in which both orders coexist the ratio ρ_c/ρ_{ab} becomes large ($\sim 10^3$) with ρ_{ab} eventually becoming unmeasurably small as is the superconductivity became two-dimensional (as in the case of $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{CuO}_4$ near $1/8$ doping¹).

The most unusual aspect of these experiments is not just the existence of multiple coexisting orders, but the dynamical layer decoupling seen in transport. That is, the existence of a significant temperature range over which there is a form of two-dimensional superconductivity in the planes but which are otherwise decoupled as if there was no Josephson effect between them.

Berg *et al*⁷⁻¹⁰ showed that these seemingly contradictory results can be explained if one assumes that in this state charge, spin and superconducting orders are not competing with each other but rather that they are intertwined, with the superconducting state in the planes also being striped, *i.e.* it is a unidirectional *pair density wave* (PDW) with the property that the phase of the superconducting order parameter alternates in sign, as if the axes of the d -wave order parameter were to rotate by 90° (with vanishing average value for the superconducting order parameter). The order parameter for the PDW state is

$$\Delta_{\text{PDW}}(\vec{x}) = \Delta_{\vec{Q}_{\text{PDW}}} e^{i\vec{Q}_{\text{PDW}} \cdot \vec{x}} + \Delta_{-\vec{Q}_{\text{PDW}}} e^{-i\vec{Q}_{\text{PDW}} \cdot \vec{x}} \quad (1.1)$$

with the PDW ordering wave vector \vec{Q}_{PDW} pointing in the direction normal to the stripes, and (in the LTT lattice structure of $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{CuO}_4$) rotates by 90° from plane to plane. Translation invariance of the underlying system further dictates that the ordering wave vectors for spin (\vec{Q}_{SDW}), charge (\vec{Q}_{CDW}) and superconducting (\vec{Q}_{PDW}) order parameters obey the relation $2\vec{Q}_{\text{PDW}} = 2\vec{Q}_{\text{SDW}} = \vec{Q}_{\text{CDW}}$.

In this paper we show that PDW type states do occur in the phase diagram of strongly correlated systems on two-leg ladders. We focus on these systems since in this context the physics of strong correlations can be controlled and there are powerful bosonization and numerical methods to investigate their phase diagrams and to compute their correlators. For reasons that will be explained below, states of this type generally involve strong correlation physics which is much harder to control in two dimensions. Results obtained in one-dimensional systems, but with lots of caveats, can be used to develop at least qualitatively theories of two-dimensionally ordered states. In this work we will use bosonization methods, which are accurate at relatively weak coupling, to show how intertwined orders of this type develop in two-leg ladder. This work in many ways is an extension of the results of Ref.[11] that showed that the PDW state represents the spin-gapped phase (“Kondo-singlet”) of the Kondo-Heisenberg chain.

Non-uniform superconducting states were proposed by Fulde and Ferrell¹² and by Larkin and Ovchinnikov¹³, and are conventionally called FFLO states. The superconducting component of the PDW state discussed above has the form of a Larkin-Ovchinnikov state.¹³ The Fulde-Ferrell state¹² has spiral order. FFLO states have been proposed over the years for different types of superconducting materials, most recently in the phase diagram of the heavy fermion superconductor CeCoIn_5 at finite magnetic fields,¹⁴ although the experimental evidence for them is weak (at best). There are also recent theoretical proposals for FFLO-type states in cold atomic fermionic systems with unbalanced populations,¹⁵ and in quantum wires of multi-valley semiconductors.¹⁶

In the conventional theory of FFLO states one assumes a BCS-type system (a Fermi liquid) in which the spin up and down Fermi surfaces are split by the Zeeman interaction with an external magnetic field. As a result the ordering wave vector of the FFLO states is tuned by the Zeeman interaction and, hence by the magnitude of the magnetic field. A problem with this mechanism is that the usual nesting of the Fermi surface that leads to a BCS state zero-momentum pairing is generally lost if the Fermi surfaces are split, and the superconducting states with finite-momentum pairing can only happen for large enough attractive interactions, instead of being an infinitesimal instability as in the conventional BCS case.¹⁷ FFLO phases driven by the Zeeman interaction (and hence with a spin-imbalance and a broken $SU(2)$ spin symmetry) in quasi-one-dimensional systems, including ladders, were discussed in Ref. [18].

On the other hand the PDW state is the result of strong correlation physics, does not involve a Zeeman interaction, and does not occur at weak coupling. In the perspective of Ref.[8], the PDW state is another manifestation of the concept of frustrated phase separation which is behind the development of inhomogeneous electronic states in strongly correlated materials,¹⁹ whose result are electronic liquid crystal phases²⁰ of which the PDW is a particularly interesting example. An understanding of the physics of this state should shed light on the connection between electronic inhomogeneity and superconductivity.

A BCS-mean-field-theory of an extended Hubbard model in two dimensions has been developed by Loder and coworkers^{21,22} who found that, as part of a rich phase diagram, the PDW is the ground state for large enough interactions. Earlier mean field theory results in the $t-J$ model by Yang *et al*²³ found that the PDW is energetically very close to being the ground state. These authors found that (within their mean field theory) the ground state is a modulated d -wave superconductor, *i.e.* a state in which the uniform d -wave order parameter coexists with the PDW state, *i.e.* a state in which superconductivity and stripe order coexist.²⁴ Several variational Monte Carlo calculations in the 2D $t-J$ model have found that this is a very competitive state near doping $x = 1/8$ although not quite the best variational ground state.²⁵⁻²⁷ While these results are encouraging they suffer from the problem that either they use approximations that are not controlled in these strongly coupled regimes (as in the mean field studies), or that the search yields the best variational state within a restricted class which would be adequate at weak coupling but not in these regimes. Nevertheless these results indicate that from the point of view of local energetics the PDW state is very competitive and would most likely be the ground state for some extension of the Hamiltonians that were studied. A very recent and numerically intensive calculation using infinite projected entangled pair states (an extension of the density matrix renormalization group) by Corboz *et al*²⁸ have found stripe states coexisting with superconductivity in the 2D $t-J$ model but has not yet investigated the presence (or absence) of a PDW state.

In this paper we revisit the problem of the phase diagram of extended Hubbard-Heisenberg type models on two-leg ladders using bosonization methods. Here we show that the two-leg ladder has a phase that can be identified with a version of the PDW state, another phase in which uniform superconducting order is present and there is a continuous phase transition between these two phases. The two-leg ladder is an ideal model-system to study since it is well known from DMRG and bosonization results to have broad regimes of coupling constants and doping in which the ground state has a spin-gap and d -wave superconducting correlations, as well as a strong tendency to stripe order.²⁹⁻³² Using a weak coupling band terminology, the PDW state is stabilized when one of the bands of the ladder, say the bonding band, is

at special commensurate fillings.

While there are extensive bosonization studies of the phase diagram of two-leg ladders,^{33,34} the existence of phases with PDW order has not been previously investigated. Here we show that there is a connection between two leg ladder and the Kondo-Heisenberg (KH) chain, a model of a 1D electron system interacting with a spin-1/2 Heisenberg antiferromagnetic chain through Kondo interaction. In a series of papers, Zachar *et. al.*^{35–37} showed the existence of a phase in which the correlations of the uniform superconducting order parameter decays exponentially fast while the correlations of a staggered superconducting state (composite SC) has quasi long range order. Berg *et. al.*¹¹ studied the KH problem using the Density Matrix Renormalization Group (DMRG) calculations and showed that the spin-gapped phase of the KH chain³⁸ is a commensurate PDW state with $\Delta_{\vec{Q}} = \Delta_{-\vec{Q}}^*$. Similarly, the PDW phases that we find in the Hubbard-Heisenberg model are also commensurate and have wave vector $Q_{PDW} = \pi$. In addition, and similarly to what happens in the KH chain, the PDW order parameter is a composite operator of a triplet uniform SC order parameter of the anti-bonding band and the antiferromagnetic (Néel) order parameter of the bonding band. Separately, these two order parameters have short range order in the PDW state. In the PDW phase in the ladder system translation symmetry is broken spontaneously whereas in the KH chain it is broken explicitly by the spacing between the static spins. We discuss in detail the quantum phase transition between the PDW state and the phase with uniform SC order and it is found to be in the universality class of the quantum Ising chain.

We also consider an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model on a two-leg ladder with flux Φ per plaquette. An important difference of this ladder system is that for general flux time reversal symmetry is broken explicitly except for the special case of flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette which is time reversal invariant. The presence of a non-zero flux changes the band structure by doubling the number of Fermi points at which the bonding band crosses the Fermi energy. We have not explored in full the complex phase diagram of this system except for the case of flux $\Phi = \pi$. Here we found that for generic fillings of the bonding band the system obeys an Umklapp condition which leads to a spin gap state. We explored the phase diagram in this case and found that it generally supports two types of uniform and PDW superconducting orders. In this system the PDW order parameters are bilinears in fermion operators and are not composite operators and in the previous case. Here, as in the conventional ladder and in the KH chain, there is no coexistence between PDW and uniform orders: when one order develops (which in 1D means power law correlations) the correlators of the other order parameters decay exponentially at long distances. In addition to the SC phase we also found four incommensurate CDW phases. The quantum critical behavior of this system is more complex, reflecting the larger diversity of phases that we

encountered. In particular while the generic quantum phase transitions are also in the universality class of the quantum Ising chain, for some special choices of parameters the symmetry associated with the quantum critical behavior is enlarged to $U(1)$ and it is now in the universality class of a spinless Luttinger model.

Two-leg ladders with flux Φ per plaquette were studied (both analytically and using numerical DMRG methods) by Roux and coworkers³⁹ in their work on diamagnetic effects in two-leg ladders, as well as by Carr and coworkers^{40,41} who used bosonization methods to study many aspects of the phase diagram. However in their work these authors did not consider the case of flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette in which time reversal invariance plays a key role, and the problem of PDW phases, that (as we show occur here) generically at flux $\Phi = \pi$, and which is the focus of the present work.

This paper is organized as follows. In section II we introduce the model of the two-leg ladder and its effective field theory using bosonization methods. We can draw the phase diagram using the microscopic parameters of the ladder in the the weak coupling regime where their relation with the coupling constants of the bosonized theory is known explicitly. Although the form of the effective field theory does not change with the strength of the coupling constants, in more strongly coupled regimes numerical methods must be used to established this relation. In section III we present the bosonized theory of a ladder whose bonding band is half-filled. Here we show that this effective low energy theory has a hidden self-duality. In section IV we use renormalization group methods to determine the phase diagram for the case of a half-filled bonding band, and show that, in addition of a Luttinger Liquid type phase, it also has two SC states, one with uniform SC order and the other with PDW order with wave vector $Q_{PDW} = \pi$. We show that in this case there is a direct quantum phase transition between the phase with uniform SC order and the PDW phase which is in the universality class of the quantum Ising chain.. In section V we extend this analysis to regimes with a bonding band at other commensurate fillings. The resulting PDW phase with wave vector Q_{PDW} coexists (or is intertwined) with an also commensurate charge-density-wave (CDW) state in the bonding band with wave vector $Q_{CDW} = Q_{PDW}/2$. Unlike the half-filled case, this state does not occur at weak coupling. In section VI we consider an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model on a two-leg ladder with flux Φ per plaquette. Here we show that the commensurate PDW phase arises naturally in this frustrated band structure although through a different mechanism. The conclusions are presented in section VII. The RG equations for the general case are presented in Appendix A. The solution of the effective field theory of the flux $\Phi = \pi$ model for special combinations of coupling constants and refermionization is given in Appendix B.

II. MODEL OF THE TWO-LEG LADDER AND EFFECTIVE FIELD THEORY

Consider a model of the two-leg ladder whose Hamiltonian is $H = H_0 + H_{\text{int}}$. The kinetic energy term is

$$H_0 = -t \sum_{i,j,\sigma} \left\{ c_{i,j,\sigma}^\dagger c_{i,j+1,\sigma} + \text{h.c.} \right\} - t_\perp \sum_{j,\sigma} \left\{ c_{1,j,\sigma}^\dagger c_{2,j,\sigma} + \text{h.c.} \right\} \quad (2.1)$$

with t and t_\perp being, respectively, the intra-leg and inter-leg hopping amplitudes, and $i = 1, 2$ being the chain index and j being the lattice site index. The interaction terms of the ladder Hamiltonian have the form of an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model,

$$H_{\text{int}} = U \sum_{i,j} n_{i,j,\uparrow} n_{i,j,\downarrow} + V_\parallel \sum_{i,j} n_{i,j} n_{i,j+1} + V_\perp \sum_j n_{1,j} n_{2,j} + V_d \sum_j \{ n_{1,j} n_{2,j+1} + n_{1,j+1} n_{2,j} \} + J_\parallel \sum_{i,j} \vec{S}_{i,j} \cdot \vec{S}_{i,j+1} + J_\perp \sum_j \vec{S}_{1,j} \cdot \vec{S}_{2,j} + J_d \sum_j \{ \vec{S}_{1,j} \cdot \vec{S}_{2,j+1} + \vec{S}_{1,j+1} \cdot \vec{S}_{2,j} \} \quad (2.2)$$

where U is the on-site Hubbard repulsion, V_\parallel , V_\perp and V_d are the nearest neighbor and next-nearest neighbor ‘‘Coulomb’’ repulsions, and J_\parallel , J_\perp and J_d are the nearest and next-nearest neighbor exchange interactions.

In the weak coupling regime, $U, V, J \ll t, t_\perp$, we proceed by first diagonalizing the kinetic energy term H_0 and finding its low-energy spectrum. This can be done by switching to the bonding and anti-bonding basis defined as (at each rung j of the ladder and for each spin polarization σ)

$$c_{b,a} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (c_2 \pm c_1) \quad (2.3)$$

In the new basis the kinetic term reads as

$$H_0 = \sum_{\eta=a,b} \sum_{j,\sigma} t_\eta \left\{ c_{\eta,j,\sigma}^\dagger c_{\eta,j+1,\sigma} + \text{h.c.} \right\} \quad (2.4)$$

in which b and a stand for bonding and anti-bonding, and where $t_\eta = t \pm t_\perp$ for $\eta = b, a$ respectively.

In order to find the continuum limit representing the low-energy and long-wavelength behavior of the model, we linearize the energy dispersion of each band of the ladder around the respective Fermi wave vector

$$\varepsilon_\eta(k) \approx E_F + v_\eta(k - k_{F,\eta}) \quad (2.5)$$

where $v_\eta = 2t_\eta \sin(k_{F,\eta})$ are the Fermi velocities, $k_{F,\eta}$ the Fermi wave vectors for each band, and E_F is the Fermi

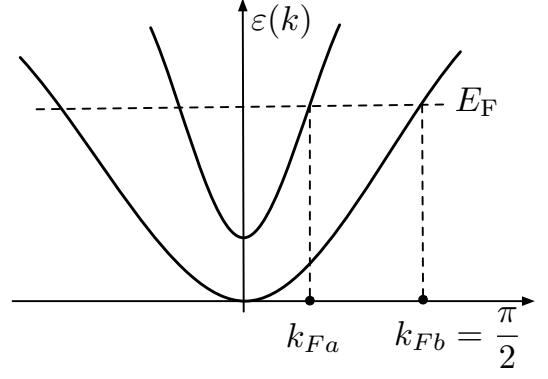


FIG. 1. Schematic picture of the bonding and anti-bonding bands. The bonding band b is kept at half-filling. The filling of the anti-bonding band a is general. Here $k_{F,a}$ and $k_{F,b} = \frac{\pi}{2}$ are the Fermi points for each band.

energy. We now consider the regime of small fluctuations close to the Fermi points of each band:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} c_{\eta,j,\sigma} \rightarrow R_{\eta,\sigma}(x) e^{ik_{F,\eta}x} + L_{\eta,\sigma}(x) e^{-ik_{F,\eta}x}, \quad (2.6)$$

where R and L are right- and left-moving components of the electron field, $x = ja$ is the position, and a is the lattice constant (the rung spacing). In this limit, the kinetic term of the Hamiltonian takes the standard continuum form

$$H_0 = \sum_{\eta,\sigma} \int dx (-iv_\eta) \{ R_{\eta,\sigma}^\dagger \partial_x R_{\eta,\sigma} - L_{\eta,\sigma}^\dagger \partial_x L_{\eta,\sigma} \}. \quad (2.7)$$

The most general continuum interacting Hamiltonian density (up to possible Umklapp processes that will be discussed below) compatible with the charge conservation and the global $SU(2)$ spin symmetry with scaling dimension two (marginal) operators has the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}} = & \sum_{\eta=a,b} \{ f_{c1\eta} (J_{R\eta}^2 + J_{L\eta}^2) + g_{c1\eta} J_{R\eta} J_{L\eta} \} \\ & + \sum_{\eta=a,b} \{ f_{s1\eta} (\vec{J}_{R\eta}^2 + \vec{J}_{L\eta}^2) + g_{s\eta} \vec{J}_{R\eta} \cdot \vec{J}_{L\eta} \} \\ & + f_{c2} (J_{Ra} J_{Rb} + J_{La} J_{Lb}) \\ & + g_{c2} (J_{Ra} J_{Lb} + J_{La} J_{Rb}) \\ & + f_{s2} (\vec{J}_{Ra} \cdot \vec{J}_{Rb} + \vec{J}_{La} \cdot \vec{J}_{Lb}) \\ & + g_{s2} (\vec{J}_{Ra} \cdot \vec{J}_{Lb} + \vec{J}_{La} \cdot \vec{J}_{Rb}) \\ & + \lambda_t (\vec{\Delta}_b^\dagger \cdot \vec{\Delta}_a + \text{h.c.}) + \lambda_s (\Delta_b^\dagger \Delta_a + \text{h.c.}) \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

in which $J_{R/L,\eta}$ are the right and left moving components of the charge density $J_\eta = J_{R,\eta} + J_{L,\eta}$ for each band η

$$J_{R,\eta} = \sum_\sigma R_{\sigma,\eta}^\dagger R_{\sigma,\eta}, \quad J_{L,\eta} = \sum_\sigma L_{\sigma,\eta}^\dagger L_{\sigma,\eta} \quad (2.9)$$

$\vec{J}_{R/L,\eta}$ are right and left moving components of spin density $\vec{J}_\eta = \vec{J}_{R,\eta} + \vec{J}_{L,\eta}$ for each band η ,

$$\vec{J}_{R,\eta} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha\beta} R_{\alpha,\eta}^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} R_{\beta,\eta}, \quad \vec{J}_{L,\eta} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha\beta} L_{\alpha,\eta}^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} L_{\beta,\eta}. \quad (2.10)$$

where the components of the vector $\vec{\sigma}$ are the three Pauli spin matrices, and

$$\Delta_\eta = L_{\uparrow,\eta} R_{\downarrow,\eta} - L_{\downarrow,\eta} R_{\uparrow,\eta}, \quad \bar{\Delta}_\eta = \sum_{\alpha,\beta} L_{\alpha,\eta} (i\vec{\sigma}\sigma_y)_{\alpha\beta} R_{\beta,\eta} \quad (2.11)$$

are singlet and triplet pairing operators respectively for each band η .

In the weak coupling limit, the relation between the coupling constants of the continuum theory of Eq.(2.8) and the parameters of the Hamiltonian of the microscopic lattice model of Eq.(2.2) can be found through this naive continuum limit procedure. This has been done before and can be found, for example, in Ref. [33]. We note that here by keeping only (naively) marginal operators we have neglected a host of irrelevant operators that are present in the lattice model that do not change the form of the low energy theory (although change the definition of the coupling constants by small amounts). In the intermediate to strong coupling limit, either non-perturbative methods such as Bethe ansatz (applicable only if the system is integrable) or numerical density-matrix renormalization group (DMRG) calculations are required to make a quantitative connection between the the lattice model and the effective continuum field theory that we will use below. Nevertheless the form of \mathcal{H}_{int} is general as seen here.

Here we will be interested in the case of a half-filled bonding band. This situation will happen naturally as the total filling of the ladder is varied without breaking any symmetries of the ladder. we should note that if one wanted to specify the filling of the bonding and anti-bonding bands separately, it would be necessary to set a chemical potential difference between the two legs which would make the ladder asymmetric. At any rate, for a half-filled bonding band, in addition to the interactions presented in \mathcal{H}_{int} , we need to include the following (bonding band) Umklapp process

$$\mathcal{H}_{u,b} = g_{u,b} (L_{b\uparrow}^\dagger L_{b\downarrow}^\dagger R_{b\downarrow} R_{b\uparrow} e^{i4k_{Fb}x} + \text{h.c.}) \quad (2.12)$$

The value of $g_{u,b}$ in the weak coupling regime is found to be given by

$$\frac{1}{a} g_{u,b} = \frac{1}{2} (U + V_\perp) - (V_\parallel + V_d) - \frac{3}{8} J_\perp + \frac{3}{4} (J_\parallel + J_d) \quad (2.13)$$

We will furthermore assume that for a substantial range of parameters of interest \mathcal{H}_u is marginally relevant for a half filled bonding band. We will get back to this point in the next section.

III. ANALYSIS OF A TWO-LEG LADDER SYSTEM WITH A HALF-FILLED BONDING BAND

We will now consider in detail the case when the bonding band is half filled and its Fermi wave vector is $k_{Fb} = \pi/2$. In this case there is a marginally relevant interaction representing the Umklapp process mentioned above. The main effect of this process is to open a charge gap Δ_c in the bonding band. Therefore for the energies much smaller than the charge gap, one can assume that the charge degrees of freedom on bonding-band b are frozen-out and hence play no roll in the low energy limit of the remaining degrees of freedom. Moreover, due to the charge gap in the bonding band, all the interactions with net charge transfer between the bands, namely singlet and triplet SC in Eq. (2.8) processes, become irrelevant. Therefore the only remaining charge degree of freedom, which is that of the anti-bonding band a , is decoupled from the rest of the dynamics, and this being a one-dimensional system, the effective field theory of the charge sector of the anti-bonding band is described by the Luttinger Liquid (LL) theory. In its bosonized form the effective Hamiltonian density for the charge sector involves the Bose field ϕ_c and its dual field θ_c for the anti-bonding band a only (where to simplify the notation we dropped the label) and reads as

$$\mathcal{H}_c = \frac{v_c}{2} \left\{ K_c (\partial_x \theta_c)^2 + \frac{1}{K_c} (\partial_x \phi_c)^2 \right\} \quad (3.1)$$

where K_c is the charge Luttinger parameter of the system and v_c is the velocity. The fields ϕ_c and θ_c are dual to each other and satisfy the standard equal-time canonical commutation relations

$$[\phi_c(x), \partial_x \theta_c(x')] = i\delta(x - x') \quad (3.2)$$

which identifies $\Pi_c = \partial_x \theta_c$ with the canonical momentum.

All the possible remaining interactions between the degrees of freedom of both bands are in the spin sector. The most general interacting Hamiltonian for the spin sector, which is symmetric under the exchange of the band index $\eta = a, b$, is

$$\mathcal{H}_s = -g_{s1} (\vec{J}_{Rb} \cdot \vec{J}_{Lb} + \vec{J}_{Ra} \cdot \vec{J}_{La}) \quad (3.3)$$

$$- g_{s2} (\vec{J}_{Rb} \cdot \vec{J}_{La} + \vec{J}_{Lb} \cdot \vec{J}_{Ra}) \quad (3.4)$$

Following the standard bosonization procedure in one dimension, in terms of spin boson fields

$$\phi_{s\pm} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_{s,b} \pm \phi_{s,a}) \quad (3.5)$$

we arrive at the following form for \mathcal{H}_s

$$\mathcal{H}_s = \frac{v_{s\pm}}{2} [K_{s\pm} (\partial_x \theta_{s\pm})^2 + K_{s\pm}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{s\pm})^2] \quad (3.6)$$

$$+ \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_{s1} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) + g_{s2} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-})]$$

where the Luttinger parameters $K_{s\pm}$ and velocities $v_{s\pm}$ are related to $g_{s\pm} = (g_{s,1} \pm g_{s,2})/2$ as

$$K_{s\pm} = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi v_f + g_{s\pm}}{2\pi v_f - g_{s\pm}}}, \quad v_{s\pm} = \sqrt{v_f^2 - \left(\frac{g_{s\pm}}{2\pi}\right)^2}. \quad (3.7)$$

in which v_f is the Fermi velocity of the noninteracting problem. The dual fields $(\theta_{s\pm}, \phi_{s\pm})$ obey similar commutation relations as the dual fields in the charge sector. In general g_{s1} is different for each band $g_{1b} \neq g_{1a}$. This introduces terms involving operators of the form $\partial_x \phi_{s+} \partial_x \phi_{s-}$ and $\partial_x \theta_{s+} \partial_x \theta_{s-}$. Although these are marginal operators we will neglect them for now since we will later argue that the results are not essentially affected by these terms in phases with a spin gap. In the absence of the spin gap, *i.e.* in the Luttinger Liquid phase, these operators change (among other things) the scaling dimensions of the observables.⁴²

Upon inspecting the Hamiltonian of the spin sector Eq. (3.6), we see that it is invariant under the duality transformation

$$(\phi_{s-}, \theta_{s-}, g_{s1}, g_{s2}, K_{s-}) \rightarrow (\theta_{s-}, -\phi_{s-}, g_{s2}, g_{s1}, K_{s-}^{-1}) \quad (3.8)$$

Thus, this duality symmetry guarantees the existence of a dual phase associated with the vanishing of the coupling constant $g_{s2} = 0$. We will see that in contrast to the PDW phase which is controlled by KH fixed point, in the dual phase the uniform SC is the most dominant instability. We will discuss the implications of this symmetry on the phase diagram later on.

In the $g_{s1} = 0$ limit the Hamiltonian of Eq.(3.6) turns out to be the same as the effective field theory description of the continuum limit of the one-dimensional Kondo-Heisenberg (KH) chain^{11,36,37} with nearest-neighbor Kondo spins. The KH chain is a system of a 1DEG (which usually is taken to be non-interacting but this is not necessary) and a one-dimensional array of spin-1/2 degrees of freedom, a 1D quantum antiferromagnet with exchange interaction J_H . The spacing between the spin degrees of freedom defines the unit cell of the chain and in general it is not equal to the lattice spacing of the 1DEG. The coupling between the spin chain and the 1DEG is the Kondo exchange coupling J_K .

That these two problems have almost the same low energy effective field theory of the same form is not a coincidence since there is a formal analogy between the two problems. In both cases we have a gapless 1DEG, the free fermion band of the KH problem with the 1DEG of the electrons in the anti-bonding a -band of the two leg ladder system, which in both cases is coupled to a Heisenberg spin-1/2 chain. It is known that the KH chain (regardless of the spacing between the Kondo spins) has a broad regime of its phase diagram in which there is a spin gap.³⁸ This phase has been identified with a commensurate PDW phase.¹¹ One difference between these two systems is that in the two-leg ladder the coupling is the tunneling matrix element t_{\perp} whereas in the KH

case it is the local Kondo exchange J_K . However since the bonding band of the ladder has a charge gap the only active coupling allowed at low energies is also the effective exchange coupling. Thus in the $g_{s1} = 0$ limit both problems are the same. We will see below that in the regime with $g_{s1} = 0$ the parameters of the Hamiltonian flow under the renormalization group to a stable fixed point of the characterized by pair density wave correlations. Also, in the $g_{s1} = 0$ limit the system has an exponentially small gap (which can be determined from a mapping to the $SU(2)$ Thirring model³⁶) that is stable against small perturbations of the form we discussed above^{43,44}.

However, there is an important qualitative difference between these two systems. While the Kondo-Heisenberg chain is translationally invariant only if the lattice spacing of the quantum antiferromagnet (the distance between the Kondo spins) is the same as the lattice spacing of the 1DEG, whereas the ladder is a translationally invariant system in all cases. This will play an important role in our analysis.

IV. PHASE DIAGRAM OF THE SYSTEM WITH A HALF-FILLED BONDING BAND

We will now discuss in detail the phase diagram and phase transitions of a extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model on a ladder in which one band, the bonding b band is half filled, as shown schematically in Fig.2.

A. Weak Coupling RG analysis

The total effective Hamiltonian is $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_c + \mathcal{H}_s$, where the Hamiltonian density for the charge sector \mathcal{H}_c is given by Eq.(3.1) and the Hamiltonian density of the spin sector \mathcal{H}_s is given by Eq.(3.6). The total Hamiltonian has five coupling/parameters, K_c , $K_{s\pm}$, and g_{\pm} (or equivalently g_{s1} and g_{s2}). The Luttinger parameter of the charge sector will not renormalize since the charge sector decouples, while all the parameters in the spin sector are subject to renormalization. The one-loop RG equations for the couplings in the spin sector are

$$\frac{dK_{s+}}{dl} = -\frac{K_{s+}^2}{8\pi^2} (g_{s1}^2 + g_{s2}^2), \quad (4.1a)$$

$$\frac{dK_{s-}}{dl} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} g_{s2}^2 - \frac{K_{s-}^2}{8\pi^2} g_{s1}^2, \quad (4.1b)$$

$$\frac{dg_{s1}}{dl} = (2 - K_{s+} - K_{s-})g_{s1}, \quad (4.1c)$$

$$\frac{dg_{s2}}{dl} = (2 - K_{s+} - \frac{1}{K_{s-}})g_{s2}. \quad (4.1d)$$

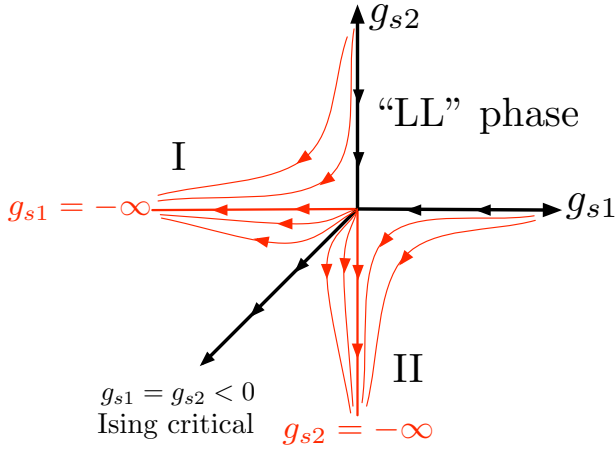


FIG. 2. Schematic phase diagram when the bonding band of the ladder is half-filled, shown as a projection of the $SU(2)$ -invariant RG flows onto the (g_{s1}, g_{s2}) plane. The solid black lines represent the separatrix between different phases. Due to the duality symmetry in the effective Hamiltonian for the spin sector, the phase diagram is symmetric around $g_{s-} = 0$. The quadrant $g_{s1}, g_{s2} > 0$ flows into the Gaussian fixed point $g_{s1} = g_{s2} = 0$ and is a Luttinger Liquid (LL) phase. Region II is controlled by the PDW strong coupling fixed point at $(g_{s1} = 0, g_{s2} = -\infty)$. Region I is controlled by decoupled spin-gapped fixed point of $(g_{s1} = 0, g_{s2} = -\infty)$. There is a KT transition from the LL behavior across the half-line $g_{s2} = 0$ and $g_{s1} > 0$ to region II, and across the half-line $g_{s1} = 0$ and $g_{s2} > 0$ to region I. The half-line $g_{s1} = g_{s2} < 0$ represents a quantum phase transition between the two strong-coupling phases and it is in the Ising universality class.

B. Luttinger Liquid Phase

We start with the case where $g_{s1} = 0$ and $|g_{s2}(0)|$ small. The analysis for this regime is similar to what is done in the Kondo-Heisenberg chain (with nearest neighbor Kondo spins).^{11,36,37}

In this regime the RG equations of Eq. (4.1) become

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dK_{s+}^{-1}}{dl} &= \frac{dK_{s-}}{dl} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} g_{s2}^2, \\ \frac{dg_{s2}}{dl} &= (2 - K_{s+} - \frac{1}{K_{s-}}) g_{s2}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

To guarantee the $SU(2)$ invariance, these equations are subject to the initial conditions $K_{s-}(0) = K_{s+}^{-1}(0) \simeq 1 - g_{s2}(0)/4\pi$. The relation $K_{s-} = K_{s+}^{-1}$ is an invariant of this RG flow. Upon implementing this constraint, the set of RG equations (4.2) can be further simplified to the Kosterlitz RG equations

$$\frac{dx}{dl} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} g_{s2}^2, \quad \frac{dg_{s2}}{dl} = 2x g_{s2}, \quad (4.3)$$

where $x = K_{s-} - 1 \ll 1$. The solution of this flow equation is well known. Here we will only be interested in the $SU(2)$ invariant trajectories of the RG flow which

satisfy $g = \pm 4\pi x$. Thus, a point on the $SU(2)$ invariant trajectory $x(0) = K_{s-}(0) - 1 \simeq -g_{s2}(0)/4\pi < 0$ flows into the Gaussian (free field) fixed point $g_{s1} = g_{s2} = 0$, $K_{s+} = K_{s-} = 1$ where the system is a (spin 1/2) Luttinger Liquid which is a gapless and hence scale invariant system. In other words, the fixed point of $(g_{s1} = 0, g_{s2} = \infty)$ is perturbatively unstable and flows to the Luttinger liquid fixed point along the $SU(2)$ invariant RG trajectory. At this Luttinger liquid fixed point all three different components of the triplet SC order parameter $\tilde{\Delta}_a$ on the anti-bonding a -band and the Spin Density Wave (SDW) order on both bands decay as a power law. This is the Luttinger Liquid phase, shown in Fig.2, and its correlators are standard. Since it has one gapless charge mode and two gapless spin modes it is a C1S2 Luttinger state (in the terminology of Balents and Fisher⁴⁵).

C. The PDW phase

In contrast, points along the other $SU(2)$ invariant trajectory, $x(0) = K_{s-}(0) - 1 \simeq -g_{s2}(0)/4\pi > 0$, flow to the strong coupling fixed point $(g_{s1} = 0, g_{s2} = -\infty)$. At this fixed point both $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-})$ and $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+})$ acquire non-vanishing expectation values, the fields are pinned at values $(\theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}(N_{s-}, N_{s+})$ (where $N_{s,\pm}$ are both odd or even integers at the same time) and their quantum fluctuations are gapped. It is easy to see that the identity $\langle \cos \sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-} \rangle = \langle \cos \sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+} \rangle$ holds along the $SU(2)$ invariant trajectories. This observation will be useful later.

This means that a extended-Hubbard Heisenberg model on a ladder when one of its bands is half-filled, has is a Kosterlitz-Thouless (KT) phase transition from the gapless Luttinger Liquid phase to the spin-gap phase described by the same strong coupling fixed point of the spin-gap phase (“Kondo singlet”) of the Kondo-Heisenberg chain (with nearest-neighbor Kondo “impurities”).

However, at this strong coupling fixed point observables that involve the dual fields of either ϕ_{s-} and θ_{s+} have vanishing expectation values and their correlations decay exponentially fast. This results in short range correlations for the singlet uniform superconducting order parameter on the anti-bonding a band, Δ_a , and of the Charge Density Wave (CDW) order parameter, O_{CDW} for both bands a and b , which have the charge-spin factorized form

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_a &= \frac{1}{\pi a} e^{-i\sqrt{2\pi}\theta_{c,a}} \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{s,a}), \\ O_{CDW,a/b} &= \frac{1}{\pi a} e^{-i\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{c,a/b}} \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{s,a/b}) \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

where here a is the lattice spacing. For instance, in the case of the singlet uniform SC order parameter Δ_a for the anti-bonding a band, in the $s\pm$ basis, its spin part is

decomposed as

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{s,a}) &= \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \\ &+ \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

The presence of $\cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-})$ and $\sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-})$ guarantees exponentially decaying correlation functions. A similar form is also found for the CDW operators of the bonding and anti-bonding bands.

However this does not imply that there are no long range correlations at this fixed point since there are composite order parameters built from products of these operators which do have quasi long range order³⁶. To this end we define the order parameters for the PDW phase as the staggered part of the following product of operators in the two bands¹¹

$$O = \vec{\Delta}_a \cdot \vec{S}_b = \vec{\Delta}_a \cdot \vec{J}_b + (-1)^{x/a} O_{\text{PDW}} \quad (4.6)$$

where $\vec{S}_b = \vec{J}_b + (-1)^{x/a} \vec{N}_b$, and J_b is the total spin density vector on the bonding b band and \vec{N}_b is the Néel order parameter also for the bonding b band. The explicit bosonized expression for the pair-density-wave order parameter O_{PDW} is

$$\begin{aligned} O_{\text{PDW}} &= \vec{\Delta}_a \cdot \vec{N}_b = \frac{1}{2(\pi a)^2} \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{c,b}) e^{-i\sqrt{2\pi}\theta_{c,a}} \\ &\times \left[2 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) + \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) - \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

It is easy to see that the spin part of O_{PDW} has a nonzero expectation value in this phase. Therefore in spite of the fact that the correlation functions of the individual Néel (or SDW) order parameter of the bonding b band and uniform triplet SC of the anti-bonding a band are exponentially decaying, the correlation function of their product, the PDW order parameter O_{PDW} , exhibits power law correlations:

$$\langle O_{\text{PDW}}(x) O_{\text{PDW}}^\dagger(0) \rangle \sim \mathcal{C}_c^2 \mathcal{C}_s^2 |x|^{-2/K_{c,a}} \quad (4.8)$$

in which $\mathcal{C}_c = \langle \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{c,b}) \rangle$ and $\mathcal{C}_s = \langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) \rangle$. Therefore Δ_{PDW} has quasi long range order with the exponent of $2K_{c,a}^{-1}$. The very same argument holds for a composite operator obtained from the product of the CDW order parameter on the bonding b band and the uniform singlet SC on the anti-bonding a band. Similar to the O_{PDW} case, in $g_{s1} = 0$ limit the individual CDW on the bonding b band and uniform singlet SC on the anti-bonding a band both decay exponentially fast but their product has quasi long range order with the same exponent as PDW order parameter. This is the Region II phase shown in Fig.2.

D. Uniform Superconducting Phase

Let us now consider the opposite limit of $g_{s2} = 0$. Here one can repeat a similar RG analysis as in the $g_{s1} = 0$

limit (or make use of the duality symmetry hidden in the problem, shown in Eq.(3.8)) to show that the RG with $0 < g_{s1}(0) \ll 1$ will be renormalized back to $g_{s1} = 0$ along the $SU(2)$ invariant trajectory and we are again in the Luttinger Liquid phase we found before. Therefore, just like the fixed point at $(g_{s1} = 0, g_{s2} = \infty)$ in the former regime, the fixed point $(g_{s1} = \infty, g_{s2} = 0)$ is also not accessible in this case. This means that components of the uniform triplet SC or the Néel (SDW) order parameters have power law correlations.

However, assuming again $SU(2)$ invariance, in a system with $g_{s2} = 0$ a small negative $g_{s1} < 0$ will flow to the strong coupling fixed point $(g_{s1} = -\infty, g_{s2} = 0)$. This is the fixed point dual to the $(g_{s1} = 0, g_{s2} = -\infty)$ fixed point under the duality transformation of Eq.(3.8). In this phase now the expectation values $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s\pm}) \rangle$ are nonzero and observables that are functions of $\phi_{s\pm}$ have long-ranged correlations. Instead the expectation values $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) \rangle = 0$ and its fluctuation has short-ranged correlations. At this strong coupling fixed point the semi-classical expectation values of the $\phi_{s,a}$ and $\phi_{s,b}$ are such that $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \rangle \times \langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) \rangle > 0$ and hence $\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+} = \sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-} = 0, \pi \pmod{2\pi}$. In a phase controlled by this fixed point the two sectors, \pm , have separate spin gaps. Furthermore, in this regime the expectation value $\langle \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{s,a}) \rangle \neq 0$ is nonzero, and therefore in the phase controlled by this fixed point the uniform singlet SC on the anti-bonding a band has quasi long range order,

$$\langle \Delta_a(x) \Delta_a^\dagger(0) \rangle \sim \mathcal{C}_{s,a}^2 |x|^{-2/K_{c,a}}. \quad (4.9)$$

where $\mathcal{C}_{s,a} = \langle \cos(\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_{s,a}) \rangle$ in this phase. By the same argument, the CDW order parameter of the anti-bonding a band has quasi long range order as well,

$$\langle O_{\text{CDW}}^a(x) O_{\text{CDW}}^{a\dagger}(0) \rangle \sim \mathcal{C}_{s,a}^2 |x|^{-2K_{c,a}}, \quad (4.10)$$

However, given the repulsive nature of the interactions the Luttinger parameters obey $K_{c,a} < 1$ and therefore SC is the dominant fluctuations of this phase. Nevertheless, unlike the PDW phase, this phase has dominant uniform SC correlations. Nevertheless we note that in this phase there exists subdominant CDW correlations.

On the other hand we will now see that the correlation function of O_{PDW} decays exponentially fast in this phase. Similar to the previous discussion, it is easy to see that $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \rangle = \langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) \rangle$ for a $SU(2)$ invariant RG flow. Therefore, looking back at the structure of the PDW order parameter given in Eq.(4.7), we see that the expectation values of $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{\pm})$ cancel each other out at this fixed point. Hence, the expectation value of the spin part of O_{PDW} is zero since the expectation value $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) \rangle = 0$ vanishes exactly in this phase. Moreover the two-point correlation function of O_{PDW} has to be proportional to the vertex operator $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-})$ whose correlations decay exponentially fast. Consequently the correlations of O_{PDW} are short-ranged.

On the other, since there are independent spin gaps on both bands, the product of SC on a -band and CDW on b -band still has long range order. Therefore this product has similar correlations at both phases. This means it can not be used as an order parameter to distinguish these two phases. Therefore O_{PDW} is the unique order parameter to distinguish the state with PDW order from the state with uniform SC order at the spin-gapped regime of the two-leg ladder system with one band kept at half-filling. This is the Region I phase shown in Fig.2 and it is identified with a phase with uniform superconductivity.

E. The PDW-uniform SC Quantum Phase Transition

We will now discuss the quantum phase transition between the state with uniform SC order (with power law correlations) and the PDW state. To this end we first note that both PDW and uniform SC in their associate phases have quasi long range order with the same exponent of $2/K_{c,a}$. This happens since the exponents are controlled in both cases by the decoupled charge degree of freedom left in the system. However the two phases are distinguished by the fact that one SC state is staggered (the PDW state) while the other is uniform. Therefore by symmetry the phase transition between these two states is similar to the transition from a state with translational symmetry to the one with only a \mathbb{Z}_2 discrete broken translational symmetry. So we expect to find that this transition to be in the Ising universality class. However, as we will see, the way this happens is actually rather subtle.

To discuss the nature of the phase transition between Region I and Region II of Fig.2 we need to look at the $g_{s1} = g_{s2}$ line in the parameter space. The duality symmetry of the Hamiltonian implies that the phase diagram must be symmetric under it. We will now see that there is a direct quantum phase transition at the self-dual line, the half-line that separates Region I from Region II in Fig.2. From the first RG equation in Eq.(4.1), it is clear that the Luttinger parameter $K_{s+} \rightarrow 0$ flows to zero whenever either g_{s1} or g_{s2} is relevant. Furthermore along the $g_{s1} = g_{s2}$ line system flows to a new strong coupling fixed point with $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \rangle \neq 0$ and the field ϕ_{s+} is pinned. At the strong coupling fixed point the effective bosonized Hamiltonian can be further simplified to the following

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{v_{s-}}{2} \{ K_{s-} (\partial_x \theta_{s-})^2 + K_{s-}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{s-})^2 \} + \frac{\mu_\phi}{\pi} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) + \frac{\mu_\theta}{\pi} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}), \quad (4.11)$$

where the new couplings $\mu_{\phi/\theta}$ are related to the g_s 's as

$$\mu_{(\phi,\theta)} = \frac{g_{s(1,2)}}{2\pi} \langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \rangle. \quad (4.12)$$

This system was discussed extensively by Lecheminant et. al.⁴⁶, who showed at $K_{s-} = 1$ the resulting H_{eff}

of Eq.(4.11) can be re-fermionized in terms of two sets of chiral Majorana fermions. For $\mu_\theta = \mu_\phi$, *i.e.* along the self-dual line of our problem, one of the chiral Majorana fermion pairs becomes massless and its mass changes sign across this phase transition. Therefore, the phase boundary between the phases corresponding to g_{s1} and g_{s2} is in the same universality class as the quantum Ising chain, a theory of a (non-chiral) massless Majorana fermion. We should point out that the expression of the Ising order (and disorder) operators in terms of the bosonized fields of the ladder is highly non-local.

This question can also be addressed directly through RG equations as well. Indeed along the self-dual line they reduce to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dK_{s-}}{dl} &= \mu_\theta^2 - K_{s-}^2 \mu_\phi^2, \\ \frac{d\mu_\phi}{dl} &= (2 - K_{s-})\mu_\phi, \\ \frac{d\mu_\theta}{dl} &= (2 - \frac{1}{K_{s-}})\mu_\theta. \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

Starting with $K_{s-}(0) = 1$ and $|\mu_\theta(0)| > |\mu_\phi(0)|$, we see that RG flows to the fixed point of ($|\mu_\theta| = \infty, \mu_\phi = 0, K_{s-} = \infty$) which is the same as the PDW fixed point. In contrast, if we start with $K_{s-}(0) = 1$ and $|\mu_\phi(0)| > |\mu_\theta(0)|$, the RG flow will take us to ($\mu_\theta = 0, |\mu_\phi| = \infty, K_{s-} = 0$), *i.e.* the uniform SC fixed point. The flow with the initial condition $K_{s-}(0) = 1$ and $g_{s1}(0) = g_{s2}(0) < 0$ will flow to the Ising critical point with $g_{s1} = g_{s2} = -\infty$ and $K_{s-} = 1$ while $g_{s1} = g_{s2} > 0$ flows to the Gaussian fixed point.

Fig.2 shows the results of a numerical calculation of all the $SU(2)$ -invariant RG flows projected onto the (g_{s1}, g_{s2}) plane. Solid black lines represent the separatrix between different phases. The low energy behavior of all the models with $SU(2)$ -invariance which satisfy $g_{s1}, g_{s2} > 0$ is controlled by the Gaussian fixed point. The rest of the flow, except for the semi line $g_{s1} = g_{s2} < 0$, will end either at $(g_{s1}, g_{s2}) = (-\infty, 0)$ or at $(g_{s1}, g_{s2}) = (0, -\infty)$ depending on the initial values of the couplings. The RG flow pattern is symmetric around the $g_{s1} = g_{s2}$ line as dictated by the duality symmetry.

V. BONDING BAND AT GENERAL COMMENSURATE FILLINGS

We will now discuss the case of a ladder with a bonding band at other commensurate fillings. To understand this case it is useful to recall first the physics of the simpler problem of the extended repulsive one-band Hubbard-Model at quarter filling $k_F = \pi/4$. This system has a quantum phase transition at a critical value of the nearest neighbor ‘‘Coulomb’’ interaction between a Luttinger liquid and a commensurate insulating CDW state. An intuitive classical picture of the ground state of such a system is as if the electrons occupy every other site on the

lattice with their spins arranged in a “stretched” Néel antiferromagnetic state, as in an antiferromagnetic Heisenberg chain with twice the lattice constant. In this regime, the charge sector of the Hubbard chain is gapped (and hence insulating).

This phase transition is driven by a higher order Umklapp interaction, which appears at third order in perturbation theory, which stabilizes this period 2 CDW state. As it is well known, and easy to see, in the bosonized form of this system the Umklapp term for the $1/4$ filled band has the form (see, *e.g.* Ref.[34] and references therein)

$$\mathcal{H}_{u,1/4} = g_{1/4} \cos(4\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_c) \quad (5.1)$$

The scaling dimension of this Umklapp operator is $4K_c$, where K_c is the charge Luttinger parameter of the extended Hubbard chain. Therefore, this Umklapp process is relevant for $K_c < 1/4$ which always lays in the intermediate to strong coupling repulsive regime. Although in this regime the bosonization formulas that relate the *parameters* of the microscopic model (in its naive continuum limit) and the bosonized theory is no longer accurate, the *form* of the effective low energy bosonized theory retains its form as it is dictated by symmetry. The main problem is that the connections between the Luttinger parameter(s) and the microscopic parameters is more complex due to finite renormalizations induced by the irrelevant operators. In practice this relation must (and is) determined from numerical calculations on the microscopic model.

For a system on a two-leg ladder one can pursue a similar line of reasoning and use the fact that, for certain fillings, there is a similar Umklapp processes for the bonding band (for instance). However, just as in the case of the extended Hubbard chain, here too the couplings corresponding to these Umklapp terms in the strong coupling effective theory can not be easily related to the microscopic parameters of the original lattice model and requires serious numerical work. Nevertheless, such Umklapp processes still exist and should eventually become relevant. At this value of the parameters, where $K_c = 1/4$, the Umklapp process for the bonding band becomes marginally relevant, and the system has a Kosterlitz-Thouless phase transition to a period 2 commensurate CDW state that coexists with antiferromagnetic order, with power law correlations in the spin sector.

We can now follow the same approach we used for the case of a half-filled bonding band of the preceding sections to determine the phase diagram. We will not present the details here but give the main results. As before, the phase diagram in general has three phases: a) a Luttinger Liquid phase (similar to the one discussed by Wu *et al.*³³), b) a phase with uniform superconducting order (and hence a spin gap), and c) a PDW phase (also with a spin gap). However, the ordering wave vector of the PDW state is now $Q_{\text{PDW}} = \pi/2$ (instead of $Q_{\text{PDW}} = \pi$ for the case discussed in the preceding sections). This PDW state there is a “composite” CDW

quasi ordered state (with power-law correlations) with degrees of freedom partially on the anti-bonding band, in this case with wave vector $Q_{\text{CDW}}^2 = 2k_{F,a} + Q_{\text{PDW}}$. Thus the resulting PDW phase is similar to the one discussed in Refs. [11 and 37]. In contrast, the phase with uniform SC order has a CDW state that develops on the anti-bonding bands alone and has a conventional $2k_{F,a}$ ordering wave vector. In spite of these differences with the case of the half-filled bonding band, the quantum phase transition between the PDW phase and the phase with uniform SC order for the quarter filled bonding band is also in the Ising universality class.

A state with very similar properties was found in the Kondo-Heisenberg chain for a Kondo lattice with period 2 (see Ref.[11]). However, while in the KH chain translation invariance is broken explicitly by the assumed fixed spacing of the Kondo spins, in the case of the ladder translation invariance is broken spontaneously at the Kosterlitz-Thouless quantum phase transition we just discussed. However the spin gap (and the PDW state as well) can only develop once this CDW state is formed. In this sense this is an example of *intertwined* (as opposed to *competing*) orders in the sense discussed by Berg *et al.*^{7,9}

This line of argument can, naturally, also be extended to states in which the bonding band has other fillings, such as $1/2^n$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, and consider Umklapp terms of the form $g_{\frac{1}{2^n}} \cos(2n\sqrt{2\pi}\phi_c)$. Although such terms will generally be present, their effects become relevant only for $K_c < 1/n^2$ which lays deep in the extreme repulsive regime for $n \geq 2$. Thus, unless the system has substantial interactions beyond nearest neighbors, the resulting higher order commensurate CDW and PDW states will be quite weak and difficult to stabilize.

VI. PDW STATE IN AN EXTENDED HUBBARD-HEISENBERG MODEL ON A TWO-LEG LADDER WITH Φ FLUX PER PLAQUETTE

We will now introduce and investigate another ladder model in which we can show has a PDW phase. More specifically we will consider an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model in a two-leg ladder with flux Φ per plaquette (in units of the flux quantum $\phi_0 = hc/e$). As usual the flux is introduced by a Peierls substitution which here reduces to assigning a phase $\pm\Phi/2$ to the electron hopping matrix elements along the two legs which now become complex and are complex conjugate of each other, $t_1 = t_2^*$, where $t_{1,2}$ are the hopping amplitudes on top and bottom leg (see Fig.3 a). In addition to the hopping along the rungs, we assume a real hopping amplitude between the legs.

The free part of the Hamiltonian of this system is

$$H_0 = -t \sum_j \left(e^{i\Phi/2} c_{1,j+1}^\dagger c_{1,j} + e^{-i\Phi/2} c_{2,j+1}^\dagger c_{2,j} + \text{h.c.} \right) - t_\perp \sum_j \left(c_{1,j}^\dagger c_{2,j} + c_{2,j}^\dagger c_{1,j} \right) \quad (6.1)$$

in which $i = 1, 2$ is the chain index referring to the top and bottom chains respectively and $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ denotes the lattice sites. To the best of our knowledge this electronically frustrated system has not been discussed previously. The interaction terms, H_{int} that we will consider are the

$$H_0 = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \left[-2t \cos(k + \Phi/2) c_1^\dagger(k) c_1(k) - 2t \cos(k - \Phi/2) c_2^\dagger(k) c_2(k) - t_\perp (c_1^\dagger(k) c_2(k) + c_2^\dagger(k) c_1(k)) \right] \quad (6.2)$$

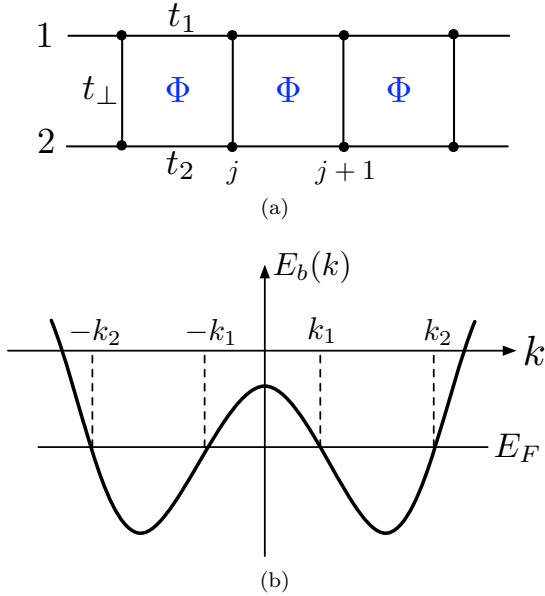


FIG. 3. a) A two-leg ladder with flux Φ (in units of the flux quantum) per plaquette. Here 1 and 2 label the two legs, j and $j + 1$ label two consecutive rungs. The hopping amplitudes are $t_1 = t e^{i\Phi/2}$, $t_2 = t e^{-i\Phi/2}$ and t_\perp . b) Schematic plot of the dispersion relation of the bonding band $E_b(k)$ for a non-vanishing flux per plaquette, $\Phi \neq 0$.

For $t_\perp = 0$ the band structure consists of right and left branches centered at $k = \Phi/2$ and $k = -\Phi/2$ respectively. For $t_\perp \neq 0$ a full gap opens up at the crossing point of the two bands and bonding and anti-bonding bands form.

The Hamiltonian is diagonalized if we switch to the new basis defined by the orthogonal transformations $c_\eta(k) = \sum_i M_{\eta,i}(k) c_i(k)$ with the transformation matrix $M(k)$:

$$M_{\eta,i}(k) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\xi(k)/2) & -\sin(\xi(k)/2) \\ \sin(\xi(k)/2) & \cos(\xi(k)/2) \end{pmatrix} \quad (6.3)$$

same as in the conventional ladder system and are given in Eq.(2.2).

We will see here that this model has a very rich phase diagram which we will not explore completely. However we will show that PDW phases occur naturally although through a rather different mechanism that we found in the conventional ladder discussed in the previous sections. We will discuss this problem using the same methods bosonization we used above.

We begin by constructing an effective field theory. In momentum space the free fermion part of the Hamiltonian becomes

where $\eta = a, b$ stands for the bonding and anti-bonding bands, $i = 1, 2$ labels the legs of the ladder, and ξ is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \sin(\xi(k)/2) &= \frac{u(k)}{\sqrt{1+u^2(k)}} \\ \cos(\xi(k)/2) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+u^2(k)}} \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

in which

$$t_\perp u(k) = 2t \sin(\Phi/2) \sin(k) + \sqrt{(2t \sin(\Phi/2) \sin(k))^2 + t_\perp^2}. \quad (6.5)$$

The inverse transformations are defined by the inverse matrix $M_{i,\eta}^{-1}$ as following

$$\begin{aligned} c_{1,j,\sigma} &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} e^{ijk} \left[\cos\left(\frac{\xi(k)}{2}\right) c_\sigma^a(k) + \sin\left(\frac{\xi(k)}{2}\right) c_\sigma^b(k) \right] \\ c_{2,j,\sigma} &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} e^{ijk} \left[-\sin\left(\frac{\xi(k)}{2}\right) c_\sigma^a(k) + \cos\left(\frac{\xi(k)}{2}\right) c_\sigma^b(k) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (6.6)$$

where b and a label the bonding and the anti-bonding bands respectively.

The dispersion relations for the bonding and anti-bonding bands are

$$E_\eta(k) = -2t \cos(\Phi/2) \cos(k) \pm \sqrt{(2t \sin(\Phi/2) \sin(k))^2 + t_\perp^2}. \quad (6.7)$$

Band structures of this type appear in quantum wires with two pockets¹⁶ and in 1D electronic systems with spin-orbit interactions (with the leg label playing the role of the electron spin) (see, *e.g.* Ref.[47] and references therein). The dispersion relations $E_\eta(k)$ satisfies the symmetries

$$E_\eta(-k) = E_\eta(k), \quad E_a(\Phi + 2\pi, k) = -E_b(\Phi, k) \quad (6.8)$$

For a wide range of parameters, t_{\perp}/t and flux Φ , the bonding band has the form sketched in Fig.3 with two minima in momentum space. For the rest of this section we will focus on the regime of the parameters in which the Fermi energy lies below the hybridization gap of the bonding band, $E_F < E_b(0) = -2t \cos(\Phi/2) - t_{\perp}$. In this regime, the Fermi energy crosses the bonding band at four distinct points, $\pm k_1, \pm k_2$, while the anti-bonding band is empty, as shown in Fig. 3 b.

Here we will consider an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model on a ladder with flux Φ per plaquette. We will see now that this system has an interesting phase structure. We will analyze this system using the same bosonization methods as in the conventional ladder. For reasons that we will explain below we will focus on the special case of flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette.

A. Low energy continuum limit

In this work we are interested in the regime in which the Fermi energy crosses only the bonding band and hence the anti-bonding band is empty. Furthermore we assume that the interactions are weak enough that we can focus only in the low energy excitations near the four Fermi points $\pm k_1, \pm k_2$ where the Fermi energy crosses the bonding band. Furthermore, for the more interesting case of flux $\Phi = \pi$, the Fermi points obey the commensurability condition $k_1 + k_2 = \pi$. In this case we also have $u(k_1) = u(k_2)$. Hence the parameter $\xi(k)$ obeys the same identity and it is the same for both Fermi points. Henceforth it will be denoted by ξ .

By looking only at the low energy fluctuations around the Fermi points in the bonding band, the expansion of Eq.(6.6) reduces to the operator identifications

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}c_{1,\sigma}(j) &\rightarrow \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)L_{1\sigma}(x)e^{ik_1x} + \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)R_{1\sigma}(x)e^{-ik_1x} \\ &+ \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)R_{2\sigma}(x)e^{ik_2x} + \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)L_{2\sigma}(x)e^{-ik_2x} \end{aligned} \quad (6.9a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}c_{2,\sigma}(j) &\rightarrow \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)L_{1\sigma}(x)e^{ik_1x} + \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)R_{1\sigma}(x)e^{-ik_1x} \\ &+ \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)R_{2\sigma}(x)e^{ik_2x} + \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)L_{2\sigma}(x)e^{-ik_2x} \end{aligned} \quad (6.9b)$$

where we have used $\cos(\xi(-k)/2) = \sin(\xi(k)/2)$ and $\xi(k_1) = \xi(k_2) \equiv \xi$ which are both true for $\Phi = \pi$, and where we have also projected out the anti-bonding band. We will treat the Fermi point labels as a flavor index $f = 1, 2$.

By inspection of the free fermion lattice Hamiltonian one can see that the Fermi momenta k_1 and k_2 are essentially determined by the flux Φ and by the filling fraction of the bonding band. In what follows we will ignore the contribution of the anti-bonding band since it is empty

and its excitations have energies larger than the cutoff of the effective field theory.

Following a similar discussion as in section II, the non-interacting continuum Hamiltonian becomes

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = \sum_{f=1,2} (-iv_f) \left\{ R_{f,\sigma}^{\dagger} \partial_x R_{f,\sigma} - L_{f,\sigma}^{\dagger} \partial_x L_{f,\sigma} \right\} \quad (6.10)$$

where $v_1 = -\frac{dE_b}{dk}|_{k_1}$ and $v_2 = \frac{dE_b}{dk}|_{k_2}$ are the Fermi velocities associated with the two Fermi points. For general flux Φ there is no symmetry relation the Fermi points and the two Fermi velocities are different, $v_1 \neq v_2$.

However, the the case of flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette the energy bands have the additional symmetry $k \rightarrow \pi - k$. This symmetry reflects that fact that an exchange of the two legs, $1 \leftrightarrow 2$, is in general equivalent to the reversal of the flux $\Phi \leftrightarrow -\Phi$ which is the time-reversed state. However due to the flux quantization, the states with $\Phi = \pi$ and $\Phi = -\pi$ are equivalent since the Hamiltonian is a periodic function of the flux with period 2π (corresponding to unobservable changes by an integer multiple of the flux quantum). On the other hand, from Eq.(6.7), we see that for flux $\Phi = \pi$ the dispersion relations are also invariant under $k \rightarrow \pi - k$ which amounts to an exchange of the two fermi points. Thus, in the case of flux $\Phi = \pi$ which insures that the Fermi velocities are equal, $v_1 = v_2$, for all fillings of the bonding band (and of the anti-bonding band as well). Therefore, for flux $\Phi = \pi$, the symmetry of exchanging the two legs implies that the effective low energy theory must have a symmetry under the exchange of the flavor labels 1 and 2 (together with a chiral transformation which exchanges right and left movers).

In order to introduce all possible four-fermion intra-band and inter-band interactions, one considers an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg type lattice problem, just as what we did for the two-leg ladder system of Section II, and construct the continuum theory for the present case. All four-fermion interactions for this system can be represented by simple diagrams similar of the type shown in Fig.4. All the interactions can again be classified into charge and spin current-current interactions, singlet and triplet SC couplings or Umklapp processes with different commensurabilities.

This means that the effective field theory for the present system has the same field theoretical form as the Hamiltonian of the two-leg ladder system given by Eq. (2.8). The only difference is that in the present case, the two sets of right- and left-moving labeled by the flavor index $f = 1, 2$ are low energy fluctuations of the bonding band. Moreover the connection between the couplings in the effective theory and the microscopic parameters of the original lattice problem is different for the two problems. The two top diagrams in Fig. 4 represent singlet and triplet SC interactions between the 1 and 2 while the lower diagrams corresponds to the most relevant $Q = 2(k_1 + k_2)$ Umklapp processes. We will further assume that the Fermi points $\pm k_1, \pm k_2$ are such that no other Umklapp processes are allowed.

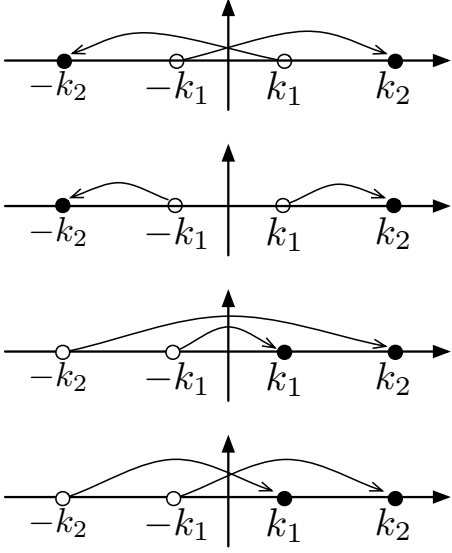


FIG. 4. Schematic representation of all the processes leading to uniform SC couplings and $Q = 2(k_1 + k_2)$ Umklapp processes. The sum of the top two diagrams represent the uniform singlet and triplet SC interactions while the two lower diagrams correspond to the Umklapp process.

The discussion of the phase diagram of this system in the incommensurate regime is analogous to what has been discussed in the conventional ladder by many authors. C. Wu et. al.³³ find that the only SC state in the phase diagram of the system away from the half-filling is the uniform s - or d -wave SC. Similar conclusions hold for the incommensurate regime of the this model which is in Luttinger liquid phase with two gapless charge modes and two gapless spin modes, $C2S2$. The only difference is that in this case these modes originate entirely from the bonding band.

For general flux Φ and for certain filling fractions of the bonding band Umklapp process involving separately the pairs of Fermi points $\pm k_1$ and $\pm k_2$ become allowed. The physics that follows in these cases is similar to what we discussed for the conventional ladder in Section II and will not be repeated here.

However, for flux $\Phi \neq 0$ a new type of Umklapp process, shown in Fig.4, becomes allowed. For this process to be possible Fermi momenta must satisfy the condition $Q = 2(k_1 + k_2)$. This Umklapp process leads to the following interactions:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{Um}} = \left(\lambda_{u3} n_1^\dagger n_2 + \lambda_{u4} \vec{n}_1^\dagger \cdot \vec{n}_2 \right) e^{iQx} + \text{h.c.} \quad (6.11)$$

where n_f (with $f = 1, 2$) are the $2k_F$ CDW order parameters associated with the Fermi points at $\pm k_1$ and $\pm k_2$, with ordering wave vectors $2k_1$ and $2k_2$ respectively. Similarly, \vec{n}_f is the associated SDW order parameters with the same ordering wave vectors. When the commensurability condition is satisfied this process is marginal and needs to be included in the effective low energy theory.

However the commensurability condition $k_1 + k_2 = \pi$ can only be met if the flux is $\Phi = \pi$. Furthermore, in this case the system is commensurate for all fillings of the bonding band. For $\Phi = \pi$ the one-particle spectrum is given by $E_b(k) = -\sqrt{4t^2 \sin^2(k) + t_1^2}$ which satisfies $E_b(\pi - k) = E_b(k)$. Therefore if k_1 is a Fermi momentum so is $k_2 = \pi - k_1$. Hence for flux $\Phi = \pi$ the system remains commensurate for all electron fillings. We will see below that for $\Phi = \pi$ the pair-density-wave state exists for all values of the filling (with the Fermi energy in the bonding band). From now on we will restrict ourselves to the case of flux $\Phi = \pi$.

The bosonized Hamiltonian for flux $\Phi = \pi$ is (including the Umklapp process)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} = & \frac{v_{c+}}{2} \{ K_{c+} (\partial_x \theta_{c+})^2 + K_{c+}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{c+})^2 \} \\ & + \frac{v_{c-}}{2} \{ K_{c-} (\partial_x \theta_{c-})^2 + K_{c-}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{c-})^2 \} \\ & + \frac{v_{s+}}{2} \{ K_{s+} (\partial_x \theta_{s+})^2 + K_{s+}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{s+})^2 \} \\ & + \frac{v_{s-}}{2} \{ K_{s-} (\partial_x \theta_{s-})^2 + K_{s-}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{s-})^2 \} \\ & + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_{s1} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) + g_{s2} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-})] \\ & + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_{u5} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{c-}) + g_{u5} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{c-})] \\ & + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{c-})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_3 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) + g_4 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-})] \\ & + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{c-})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_{u3} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) + g_{u4} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-})] \end{aligned} \quad (6.12)$$

where $\phi_\pm = (\phi_2 \pm \phi_1)/\sqrt{2}$ and similarly for θ fields. As before, there are marginal operators (both in the charge and spin sectors) of the form $\partial_x \phi_+ \partial_x \phi_-$ and $\partial_x \theta_+ \partial_x \theta_-$. However, as in Section II, these operators can be ignored since their main effect is a renormalization of the scaling dimensions⁴² which here translate in smooth changes of the phase diagrams (without changing their topology) and in the spin gap phases they have essentially no effect.

The first two lines of Eq.(6.12) is the sum of four different LL Hamiltonians for for the two charge and spin sectors. The third line corresponds to different spin backscattering processes, while the fourth and fifth lines represent the singlet and triplet SC couplings and the $Q = 2(k_1 + k_2) = 2\pi$ Umklapp processes respectively. In addition to the relation between initial value of the luttinger parameters of different sectors and the couplings in the various current-current interaction given in Eq. (3.7), the spin $SU(2)$ invariance dictates that $g_5 = g_4 + g_3$ and $g_{u5} = g_{u4} + g_{u3}$. This will be useful in the discussion of the RG equations and phase diagram.

The Hamiltonian of Eq.(6.12) has several symmetries. Similarly to the half-filled bonding band case discussed in the preceding sections, we find a duality symmetry in the $s-$ spin sector, $(\phi_{s-}, \theta_{s-}) \rightarrow (\theta_{s-}, -\phi_{s-})$, under

which the Hamiltonian of Eq.(6.12) retains its form. We will denote this symmetry by \mathbb{Z}_2^{s-} . However, self-duality holds only if $g_{s1} = g_{s2}$, $g_3 = g_4$ and $g_{u3} = g_{u4}$. In addition, the last two lines of the Hamiltonian of Eq.(6.12) have identical form which indicates that we can define yet another duality symmetry of the same form but this time in the $c-$ charge sector, $(\phi_{c-}, \theta_{c-}) \rightarrow (\theta_{c-}, -\phi_{c-})$, and which will be denoted by \mathbb{Z}_2^{c-} . Self-duality in this sector requires, in addition, to set $g_5 = g_{u5}$. Finally, the Hamiltonian of Eq.(6.12) is also even in the fields $\phi_{c,\pm}$, $\theta_{c,\pm}$, $\phi_{s,\pm}$ and $\theta_{s,\pm}$, which reflects the invariance under the exchange of the labels of the Fermi points (or flavors), $1 \leftrightarrow 2$, which is an exact symmetry only for flux $\Phi = \pi$.

In the next section we will look at the different SC and CDW states, each with a unique symmetry properties under the action of the total symmetry group, and construct the order parameters for each state in order to identify the associated quantum phase diagram.

B. Order parameters and phases

To identify all the phases present in the phase diagram we construct the associated order parameters consistent with the symmetries of the current problem. In terms of the two flavors $f = 1, 2$ of the fermions in the bonding band we define for this system two uniform SC order parameters, Δ_{\pm} , and two PDW order parameters $\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}$ (both with ordering wave vector $Q_{PDW} = \pi$). They are

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\pm} &= (L_{1\uparrow}R_{1\downarrow} + R_{1\uparrow}L_{1\downarrow}) \pm (L_{2\uparrow}R_{2\downarrow} + R_{2\uparrow}L_{2\downarrow}) \\ \tilde{\Delta}_{\pm} &= (L_{2\uparrow}R_{1\downarrow} + R_{1\uparrow}L_{2\downarrow}) \pm (L_{1\uparrow}R_{2\downarrow} + R_{2\uparrow}L_{1\downarrow}) \end{aligned} \quad (6.13)$$

Similarly we also four CDW order parameters, n_{\pm} and \tilde{n}_{\pm} ,

$$\begin{aligned} n_{\pm} &= \sum_{\sigma} \left(L_{1\sigma}^{\dagger} R_{1\sigma} \pm L_{2\sigma}^{\dagger} R_{2\sigma} \right) \\ \tilde{n}_{\pm} &= \sum_{\sigma} \left(L_{2\sigma}^{\dagger} R_{1\sigma} \pm L_{1\sigma}^{\dagger} R_{2\sigma} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (6.14)$$

and their adjoint operators.

The relation between these order parameters and the microscopic pair fields and CDW fields is as follows.

The pair fields defined on site j on each leg $i = 1, 2$ of the ladder, Δ_j^i , on the rung j , Δ_j^{12} , and on each leg $i = 1, 2$, $\Delta_{j,j+1}^i$, are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{i,j} &= c_{i,j,\uparrow} c_{i,j,\downarrow} \\ \Delta_j^{12} &= c_{1,j,\uparrow} c_{2,j,\downarrow} + c_{2,j,\uparrow} c_{1,j,\downarrow} \\ \Delta_{j,j+1}^i &= c_{i,\uparrow}(j) c_{i,\downarrow}(j+1) + c_{i,\uparrow}(j+1) c_{i,\downarrow}(j) \end{aligned} \quad (6.15)$$

These observables can be written in terms of the slowly varying chiral Dirac fermions $R_{f,\sigma}$ and $L_{f,\sigma}$ (for the two flavors $f = 1, 2$) in the symmetrized and anti-symmetrized forms (with respect to the exchange of the

labels 1 and 2 of the legs of the ladder)

$$\Delta_j^1 + \Delta_j^2 \rightarrow \sin \xi \Delta_+ + (-1)^{x/a} \tilde{\Delta}_+ \quad (6.16a)$$

$$\Delta_j^1 - \Delta_j^2 \rightarrow -\cos \xi (-1)^{x/a} \tilde{\Delta}_- \quad (6.16b)$$

$$\Delta_j^{12} \rightarrow \Delta_+ + \sin \xi (-1)^{x/a} \tilde{\Delta}_+ \quad (6.16c)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{j,j+1}^1 + \Delta_{j,j+1}^2 &\rightarrow 2 \sin \xi \sin(qa/4) \Delta_- \\ &\quad - (-1)^{x/a} 2i \cos(qa/4) \tilde{\Delta}_- \end{aligned} \quad (6.16d)$$

$$\Delta_{j,j+1}^1 - \Delta_{j,j+1}^2 \rightarrow -(-1)^{x/a} 2i \cos \xi \cos(qa/4) \tilde{\Delta}_+ \quad (6.16e)$$

where $q = 2(k_2 - k_1)$ and where we have used the definitions of Eq.(6.13). We see that the SC order parameters Δ_{\pm} and $\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}$ represent two different types of uniform SC states and PDW SC states (both with wave vector $Q_{PDW} = \pi$) respectively. These pairs of SC states differ by their symmetry transformations under flavor exchange. It is worth to note that in the flux $\Phi = \pi$ model the PDW order parameters are actually bilinears of fermion operators, *c.f.* Eq.(6.16). This is in contrast to what we found in the conventional two-leg ladder in section III, and to the recent results by Berg *et al*¹¹ in the Kondo-Heisenberg chain, where the PDW order parameter is microscopically quartic in fermion operators. In this sense the PDW states of the flux $\Phi = \pi$ two-leg ladder is closer in spirit to the conventional construction of FFLO states,^{12,13} even though the spin $SU(2)$ symmetry is preserved here and explicitly broken in the standard FFLO construction.

Similarly we can relate the site $n_{i,j}$ (with $i = 1, 2$ the leg index) and rung, n_j^{12} electron charge density operators

$$n_{i,j} = \sum_{\sigma} c_{i,j,\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{i,j,\sigma}, \quad n_j^{12} = \sum_{\sigma} c_{1,j,\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{2,j,\sigma} = n_j^{21\dagger} \quad (6.17)$$

which, after symmetrizing and anti-symmetrizing with respect to the exchange of the two legs lead to a set of four order CDW parameters, n_{\pm} and \tilde{n}_{\pm} ,

The relation between the microscopic charge density operators of Eq.(6.17) and the slowly varying chiral Dirac fermions $R_{f,\sigma}$ and $L_{f,\sigma}$ (with $f = 1, 2$) is

$$\begin{aligned} n_{1,j} + n_{2,j} &\rightarrow j_1^0 + j_2^0 + \\ &\quad \sin \xi (-1)^{x/a} e^{iqx/2} n_+ + e^{iqx/2} \tilde{n}_+ + \text{h.c.} \end{aligned} \quad (6.18a)$$

$$n_{1,j} - n_{2,j} \rightarrow -\cos \xi (j_1^1 - j_2^1) - (\cos \xi e^{iqx/2} \tilde{n}_- + \text{h.c.}) \quad (6.18b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} n_j^{12} + n_j^{21} &\rightarrow \sin \xi (j_2^0 + j_1^0) \\ &\quad + (-1)^{x/a} e^{iqx/2} n_+ + \sin \xi e^{iqx/2} \tilde{n}_+ + \text{h.c.} \end{aligned} \quad (6.18c)$$

$$n_j^{12} - n_j^{21} \rightarrow -\cos \xi (-1)^{x/a} e^{iqx/2} n_- - \text{h.c.} \quad (6.18d)$$

where we used the definitions of Eq.(6.14), and the usual definitions of the (normal ordered) currents and densities

of the Dirac fermions (again with $f = 1, 2$)

$$\begin{aligned} j_f^R &= \sum_{\sigma} R_{f,\sigma}^{\dagger} R_{f,\sigma}, & j_f^L &= \sum_{\sigma} L_{f,\sigma}^{\dagger} L_{f,\sigma} \\ j_f^0 &= j_f^R + j_f^L, & j_f^1 &= j_f^R - j_f^L \end{aligned} \quad (6.19)$$

We can also define CDW order parameters on the legs of the ladder. However we will not discuss them since it turns out that they can also be expressed in terms of the same four slowly varying observables n_{\pm} and \tilde{n}_{\pm} and hence do not bring new information.

From these results we see that in general we find both uniform SC order parameters and PDW order parameters, which always have a commensurate ordering wave vector $Q_{PDW} = \pi$. The CDW order parameters are generally incommensurate and have ordering wave vectors $Q_{CDW} = q/2, \pi \pm q/2$ (or, equivalently $k_2 - k_1, 2k_1$ and $2k_2$).

We will now proceed to write down the bosonized expressions of the SC and CDW order parameters. The bosonized expressions of the SC order parameters are

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_+ &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c+}} \left\{ \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.20a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_- &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c+}} \left\{ \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.20b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Delta}_+ &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c+}} \left\{ -\cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.20c)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Delta}_- &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c+}} \left\{ \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.20d)$$

Here, and below, in order to simplify the notation we have dropped the prefactors of these expressions, including the Klein factors, whose effects are taken into account in our results. (A discussion of the role of Klein factors in the identification of phases in ladders is found in ref.[48].

The bosonized form of the CDW order parameters n_{\pm}

and \tilde{n}_{\pm} are

$$\begin{aligned} n_+ &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c+}} \left\{ -\cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.21a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} n_- &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c+}} \left\{ \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.21b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{n}_+ &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c+}} \left\{ -\cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.21c)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{n}_- &\propto e^{-i\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{c+}} \left\{ \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - i \sin(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{s+}) \cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{s-}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.21d)$$

where we have also dropped the prefactors and their dependence on the Klein factors.

The effective field theory of Eq.(6.12) shows that the spin sector $s+$ couples to the two remaining sectors, the charge sector $c-$ and the spin sector $s-$, only through terms that involve the operator $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+})$ but not the dual field θ_{s+} . A consequence of this feature of the effective Hamiltonian is that the Luttinger parameter K_{s+} always decreases under the RG flow, as can be seen by an examination of Eq.(A1b), and flows to a regime in which $K_{s+} \rightarrow 0$. In this regime the field ϕ_{s+} is locked and its fluctuations become massive. Hence there is a gap in the spin sector, the field ϕ_{s+} is pinned, and $\langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \rangle \neq 0$ has a non-vanishing expectation value.

The RG equations given in Appendix A reveal that for the range of parameters of physical interest all the coupling constants (including those in Eq.(6.22)) generically flow to strong coupling. Hence, we expect that the operators $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-})$, $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-})$, $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{c-})$, and $\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{c-})$ will acquire an expectation value and that the fields become locked to the values $\phi_{c-} = n_{\phi_{c-}}\sqrt{\pi}/2$, $\theta_{c-} = n_{\theta_{c-}}\sqrt{\pi}/2$, $\phi_{s-} = n_{\phi_{s-}}\sqrt{\pi}/2$, where $n_{\phi_{c-}}$, $n_{\theta_{c-}}$, $n_{\phi_{s-}}$, and $n_{\theta_{s-}}$ are integers that can each be even or odd. Depending of this choice the locked states represent different phases. In addition, we recall that operators involving dual fields cannot have an expectation value simultaneously as this is forbidden by the commutation relations. This leads us to the conclusion that in general we will have different phases depending on which fields are locked and to which values. We will label the phases by the locked fields: $(\phi_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+})$, $(\phi_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+})$, $(\theta_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+})$, and $(\theta_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+})$ respectively. Thus, in general we will have a total of eight phases characterized by different order parameters. In all these phases only the charge sector $c+$ remains gapless. Additional gapless excitations appear at the continuous quantum phase transitions between these different phases.

From the structure of the effective field theory we see

that the $c+$ charge sector decouples and remains critical for all values of the parameters. It is an effective Luttinger liquid with Luttinger parameter K_{c+} and velocity v_{c+} . This sector has the trivially self-duality of the Luttinger models, which guarantees the existence in the phase diagram of a dual CDW state for any SC state, and vice versa. We will denote this duality symmetry by \mathbb{Z}_2^{c+} .

a. Uniform SC phases: The bosonized expressions of Eq.(6.20a) and Eq.(6.20b) for the two uniform SC order parameters, Δ_{\pm} , imply that these operators may exhibit quasi long range order provided that the $c-$ sector is gapped such that the dual field θ_{c-} is pinned and its vertex operator $\cos(\sqrt{\pi}\theta_{c-})$ has a nonzero expectation value. Thus, the uniform SC Δ_+ phase (even under the exchange of the two legs) occurs whenever the fields lock to the classical values $(\theta_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, 0, 0)$ or $(\theta_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2)$. Similarly, the uniform SC Δ_- phase (odd under the exchange of the two legs) occurs whenever the fields lock to the classical values $(\theta_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, \pi/2, \pi/2)$ or $(\theta_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, 0, 0)$.

b. PDW phases: The PDW phase $\tilde{\Delta}_+$ occurs for $(\phi_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, 0, 0)$ and $(\phi_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2)$, while the PDW phase $\tilde{\Delta}_-$ occurs for $(\phi_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, \pi/2, \pi/2)$ and $(\phi_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, 0, 0)$. As it should, the order parameters Δ_{\pm} and $\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}$, which describe PDW phases which are even and odd under the exchange of the two legs respectively, exhibit power law correlations due to the contributions from the charge $c+$ sector. Comparing the bosonized expressions for Δ_{\pm} and $\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}$ it is clear that uniform SC phases and PDW phases are related by the combined dual transformation of the two sectors, $\mathbb{Z}_2^{c-} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{s-}$. In this system PDW phases cannot occur in the absence of Umklapp process available at flux $\Phi = \pi$, and for this reason are absent for other values of the flux.

c. CDW phases: Similarly, the CDW phase n_+ has quasi long range order if the field that now lock are $(\phi_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, 0, 0)$ or $(\phi_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2)$, the phase n_- for $(\phi_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, \pi/2, \pi/2)$ or $(\phi_{c-}, \phi_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, 0, 0)$, the phase \tilde{n}_+ for $(\theta_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, 0, 0)$ or $(\theta_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2)$, and \tilde{n}_- for $(\theta_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (0, \pi/2, \pi/2)$ or $(\theta_{c-}, \theta_{s-}, \phi_{s+}) = (\pi/2, 0, 0)$.

The diagram of Fig.5 illustrates the symmetry relations between various order parameters.

C. Quantum Phase Transitions

The effective field theory of the ladder with flux $\Phi = \pi$ given in Eq.(6.12) has many effective parameters and coupling constants. We will not attempt to give a detailed description of this theory here. Some important details are given in the Appendices. In particular the RG equations for the effective field theory are given in Appendix

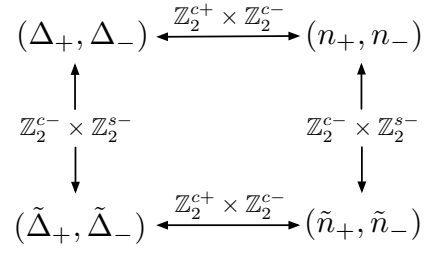


FIG. 5. The relation between various uniform and staggered SC and their CDW counterparts present in the phase diagram of the model with the flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette.

A and their solution for general couplings is a complex problem. From the simpler case of the standard ladder we know that there is always a regime in which the couplings flow to strong values which in this case also corresponds to a system with a spin gap. The situation is very similar here. Thus while there are regimes in which some sectors can remain gapless, there is also a generic regime in which only one sector, the charge $c+$ sector, remains gapless while all the other ones are massive.

Let us now look at the effective field theory under the assumption that the $s+$ sector is massive (and hence ϕ_{s+} is pinned). We will now examine in detail the dynamics of the two remaining sectors, the charge sector $c-$ and the spin sector $s-$. In this regime Eq.(6.12) reduces to the simpler system (ignoring for now the decoupled and critical charge sector $c+$)

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H} = & \frac{v_{c-}}{2} \{ K_{c-} (\partial_x \theta_{c-})^2 + K_{c-}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{c-})^2 \} \\
& + \frac{v_{s-}}{2} \{ K_{s-} (\partial_x \theta_{s-})^2 + K_{s-}^{-1} (\partial_x \phi_{s-})^2 \} \\
& + g_{s1}^* \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-}) + g_{s2}^* \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) \\
& + g_5^* \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{c-}) + g_{u5}^* \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{c-}) \\
& + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{c-})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_3 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) + g_4 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-})] \\
& + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{c-})}{2(\pi a)^2} [g_{u3} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{s-}) + g_{u4} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s-})]
\end{aligned} \tag{6.22}$$

where we absorbed the expectation values of the $s+$ sector in the effective coupling constants $g_{\alpha}^* = 2g_{\alpha} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) / (2\pi a)^2$, where $g_{\alpha} = g_{s1}, g_{s2}, g_5, g_{u5}$ respectively.

Let us consider the subspace defined by $g_{s2} = g_3 = g_{u3} = 0$ in the parameter space. From the RG equations it can be inferred that once we start with this initial condition, the RG flow will remain on the same hypersurface defined by $g_{s2} = g_3 = g_{u3} = 0$. In this regime luttinger parameters $K_{c\pm}$ and $K_{s\pm}$ follow the RG

equations below

$$\frac{dK_{c+}}{dl} = 0 \quad (6.23a)$$

$$\frac{dK_{s+}}{dl} = -\frac{K_{s+}^2}{8\pi^2}(g_{s1}^2 + g_5^2) \quad (6.23b)$$

$$\frac{dK_{s-}}{dl} = -\frac{K_{s-}^2}{8\pi^2}(g_{s1}^2 + g_4^2) \quad (6.23c)$$

$$\frac{dK_{c-}}{dl} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2}(g_4^2 + g_5^2) - \frac{K_{c-}^2}{8\pi^2}(g_{u4}^2 + g_{u5}^2) \quad (6.23d)$$

The first equation states that the Luttinger parameter of the decoupled $c+$ sector does not renormalize. The second and the third equations state that $K_{s\pm}$ renormalize to small values, $K_{s\pm} \rightarrow 0$. This means both $s\pm$ sectors are opening up a gap such that the vertex functions of $\phi_{s\pm}$ will acquire expectation values. The effective Hamiltonian when the for the regime where ϕ_{s+} is pinned is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{c-} = & \frac{v_{c-}}{2} \{K_{c-}(\partial_x \theta_{c-})^2 + K_{c-}^{-1}(\partial_x \phi_{c-})^2\} \\ & + \frac{g_{\theta}^{c-}}{\pi} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\theta_{c-}) + \frac{g_{\phi}^{c-}}{\pi} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{c-}) \end{aligned} \quad (6.24)$$

in which $g_{\theta}^{c-} = \frac{C_{s+}}{2\pi a} g_4$ and $g_{\phi}^{c-} = \frac{C_{s+}}{2\pi a} g_{u4}$ where $C_{s+} = \langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi}\phi_{s+}) \rangle$. This is the same effective theory of Eq.(4.11) in section IV E except that it is written for the dual fields in the charge $c-$ sector (instead of the spin sector). It predicts existence of a pair of dual phases which between them there is a phase transition in Ising critical class. The duality symmetry in the (6.24) will be denoted by \mathbb{Z}_2^{c-} . It relates the state presented by SC operators Δ_{\pm} to the states with the same parity presented by n_{\pm} . Similarly $\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}$ phases and \tilde{n}_{\pm} are dual under $\mathbb{Z}_2^{c+} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{c-}$. Similar analysis holds in the $s-$ sector. The states with the same parity in $(\Delta_{\pm}, \tilde{n}_{\pm})$ and $(\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}, n_{\pm})$ are dual under $\mathbb{Z}_2^{c+} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{s-}$.

On the other hand, if we assume that there is relation between some of the couplings (up to restrictions imposed by the $SU(2)$ spin invariance) we arrive to a system that can be solved by refermionization. This is discussed in detail in Appendix B. Depending on the relations between the coupling constants the system may be in one of the phases we discussed above or be quantum critical. We find two types of quantum criticality. One possibility is an Ising quantum critical point at which one of the Majorana fermions becomes massless. Clearly we have four choices for this. On the other hand we also find a case in which two Majorana fermions become massless. In this case the system has a quantum critical regime which can be described as an effective Luttinger model coupled to a massive Thirring model. Away from the quantum critical regime this system becomes a theory of four coupled massive Majorana fermions.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we investigated the mechanisms of formation of pair-density-wave superconducting order in quasi-one-dimensional systems. Although at present time the existence and relevance of the PDW state to the interpretation of experiments in the cuprate superconductors can be argued on purely phenomenological grounds, we know that this is not a state that is naturally favored in a weak coupling BCS theory. The main motivation of this work is to investigate the mechanisms of formation of PDW order. For this reason it is natural to examine how (and if) it appears on one and quasi-one-dimensional systems.

Here we investigate the occurrence of PDW phases in two models of two-leg ladders. In the first model we re-examined the properties of the spin-gap phase of a model of a two-leg ladder in the regime where the microscopic interactions are repulsive and showed that it includes a phase with PDW order. Here we showed that within the repulsive regime, a PDW state exists provided that one of the bands, the bonding band for example, is kept at half filling. We showed that in this regime the phase diagram of the ladder has, in addition to a conventional Luttinger liquid phase, two superconducting phases: a phase with uniform superconducting order (with power law correlations) and a PDW phase, a superconducting state (again with power law correlations) but with wave vector $Q_{\text{PDW}} = \pi$. We also investigated the nature of the quantum phase transition between these two superconducting states and showed that it is in the Ising universality class. We discussed in detail the connections that exist between this system and the Kondo-Heisenberg chain. In particular, much as in the case of the Kondo-Heisenberg chain, the PDW order parameter in the two-leg ladder is a composite operators of two order parameters of the bonding and anti-bonding bands which separately have only short range order. Thus this is a highly non-BCS realization of PDW order. By extending the analysis to the case other commensurate fillings of the bonding band, we showed that the state with PDW order arises in conjunction with the development of a commensurate CDW state. In this sense this result embodies the notion of intertwined orders proposed in Ref.[8].

We also investigated the existence of PDW phases in an extended Hubbard-Heisenberg model on a two leg ladder with flux Φ per plaquette. We showed that commensurate PDW phases appears in this system when the flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette. In contrast to the case of the conventional ladder, this realization of PDW order in the flux $\Phi = \pi$ ladder can be expressed as a bilinear of fermion operators. In this sense this realization of the PDW state is closer in spirit to the construction of FFLO states although in the problem at hand the spin rotational symmetry is kept unbroken at all levels. PDW order also appears at other values of the flux but only when certain commensurability conditions are met, just as it is the case in the conventional two-leg ladder.

There are still several interesting open questions. While the results of this work, and the earlier results of Ref.[11], show how the pair-density-wave state arises together with a spin gap in a system with repulsive interactions, the ordering wave vector we find is always commensurate. However there is no reason of principle for the PDW ordering wave vector to be commensurate. The root of this phenomenon is the magnetic mechanism of the PDW order which is present in both the two-leg ladder and in the Kondo-Heisenberg chain. Indeed in both cases the ordering wave vectors of the PDW and of the spin order (even though it becomes short ranged by the development of the spin gap) are the same. On the other hand, it is not possible to have incommensurate magnetic order (even with power law correlations) in one dimension with full $SU(2)$ spin rotational invariance. Indeed it is known from work in frustrated one-dimensional systems that the incommensurate magnetic state is preempted in one dimension by a dimerized state with a spin gap. Naturally, one way around this problem is to consider systems with a weak magnetic anisotropy. At any rate the construction of a system with incommensurate PDW order is an interesting open problem.

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Appendix A: RG equations for the flux $\Phi = \pi$ model

The RG equations for the model with flux $\Phi = \pi$ per plaquette are

$$\frac{dK_{c+}}{dl} = 0 \quad (\text{A1a})$$

$$\frac{dK_{s+}}{dl} = -\frac{K_{s+}^2}{8\pi^2}(g_{s1}^2 + g_{s2}^2 + g_5^2 + g_{u5}^2) \quad (\text{A1b})$$

$$\frac{dK_{c-}}{dl} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2}(g_3^2 + g_4^2 + g_5^2) - \frac{K_{c-}^2}{8\pi^2}(g_{u3}^2 + g_{u4}^2 + g_{u5}^2) \quad (\text{A1c})$$

$$\frac{dK_{s-}}{dl} = -\frac{K_{s-}^2}{8\pi^2}(g_{s1}^2 + g_4^2 + g_{u4}^2) + \frac{1}{8\pi^2}(g_{s2}^2 + g_3^2 + g_{u3}^2) \quad (\text{A1d})$$

$$\frac{dg_{s1}}{dl} = (2 - K_{s+} - K_{s-})g_{s1} - \frac{g_4g_5}{2\pi} - \frac{g_{u4}g_{u5}}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1e})$$

$$\frac{dg_{s2}}{dl} = (2 - K_{s+} - \frac{1}{K_{s-}})g_{s2} - \frac{g_3g_5}{2\pi} - \frac{g_{u3}g_{u5}}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1f})$$

$$\frac{dg_3}{dl} = (2 - \frac{1}{K_{c-}} - \frac{1}{K_{s-}})g_3 - \frac{g_{s2}g_5}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1g})$$

$$\frac{dg_4}{dl} = (2 - \frac{1}{K_{c-}} - K_{s-})g_4 - \frac{g_{s1}g_5}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1h})$$

$$\frac{dg_5}{dl} = (2 - \frac{1}{K_{c-}} - K_{s+})g_5 - \frac{g_{s1}g_4}{2\pi} - \frac{g_{s2}g_3}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1i})$$

$$\frac{dg_{u3}}{dl} = (2 - K_{c-} - \frac{1}{K_{s-}})g_{u3} - \frac{g_{s2}g_{u5}}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1j})$$

$$\frac{dg_{u4}}{dl} = (2 - K_{c-} - K_{s-})g_{u4} - \frac{g_{s1}g_{u5}}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1k})$$

$$\frac{dg_{u5}}{dl} = (2 - K_{c-} - K_{s+})g_{u5} - \frac{g_{s1}g_{u4}}{2\pi} - \frac{g_{s2}g_{u3}}{2\pi} \quad (\text{A1l})$$

with the extra constraint $g_5(0) = g_4(0) + g_3(0)$ and $g_{u5}(0) = g_{u4}(0) + g_{u3}(0)$ to guarantee the spin $SU(2)$ symmetry. The above set of RG equations, just as the Hamiltonian itself, is invariant under all the duality symmetries defined in Section VI as well as under the exchange of the two Fermi points, $1 \leftrightarrow 2$.

Appendix B: Refermionized effective field theory for the two-leg ladder with flux $\Phi = \pi$

Here we will assume that the $s+$ sector is gapped and the the gapless charge sector $c+$ is decoupled. The effective Hamiltonian for the coupled $c-$ and $s-$ sectors is given in Eq.(6.22). Here we will discuss the refermionized version of this effective field theory for some special

combinations of parameters.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H} = & \frac{v_{c-}}{2} \{K_{c-}(\partial_x \theta_{c-})^2 + K_{c-}^{-1}(\partial_x \phi_{c-})^2\} \\
& + \frac{v_{s-}}{2} \{K_{s-}(\partial_x \theta_{s-})^2 + K_{s-}^{-1}(\partial_x \phi_{s-})^2\} \\
& + \frac{\mathcal{C}_{s+}}{2(\pi a)^2} \left[g_{s1} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{s-}) + g_{s2} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{s-}) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + g_5 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{c-}) + g_{u5} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{c-}) \right] \\
& + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{c-})}{2(\pi a)^2} \left[g_3 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{s-}) + g_4 \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{s-}) \right] \\
& + \frac{\cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{c-})}{2(\pi a)^2} \left[g_{u3} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{s-}) + g_{u4} \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{s-}) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{B1}$$

where $\mathcal{C}_{s+} = \langle \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{s+}) \rangle$. Spin $SU(2)$ invariance dictates $g_3 + g_4 = g_5$ and $g_{u3} + g_{u4} = g_{u5}$. Let us assume that $g_3 = g_{u3} = g_4 = g_{u4} = g/2$ which implies that $g_5 = g_{u5} = g$. Moreover let's assume that $g_{s1} = g_{s2} = g_5 = g_{u5} = g$, which implies $K_{s-}(0) = 1$. For this regime of parameters, and assuming that the velocities $v_{c-} = v_{s-} = v$ are equal, the Hamiltonian simplifies to (with $\alpha = c-, s-$)

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H} = & \frac{v}{2} \{K_{c-}(\partial_x \theta_{c-})^2 + K_{c-}^{-1}(\partial_x \phi_{c-})^2\} \\
& + \frac{v}{2} \{(\partial_x \theta_{s-})^2 + (\partial_x \phi_{s-})^2\} \\
& + \frac{g}{2(\pi a)^2} \sum_{\alpha} \{ \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{\alpha}) + \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{\alpha}) \} + g\mathcal{I}_{++}
\end{aligned} \tag{B2}$$

where the fields $\mathcal{I}_{\sigma\sigma'}$ are defined as

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{I}_{\sigma\sigma'} = & \frac{1}{(2\pi a)^2} \left[\cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{c-}) + \sigma \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{c-}) \right] \\
& \times \left[\cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{s-}) + \sigma' \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{s-}) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{B3}$$

We will now assume that also $K_{c-} = 1$. (Below we will relax this assumption.) We can now define two species of chiral Majorana fermions

$$\begin{aligned}
\chi_R^{\alpha} + i\xi_R^{\alpha} &= \frac{e^{-i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{\pi a}} e^{i\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{R,\alpha}} \\
\chi_L^{\alpha} + i\xi_L^{\alpha} &= \frac{e^{i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{\pi a}} e^{-i\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{L,\alpha}}
\end{aligned} \tag{B4}$$

where $\alpha = c-, s-$.

It can be shown that the Majorana mass terms have the bosonized form

$$\begin{aligned}
i\chi_R^{\alpha} \chi_L^{\alpha} &= \frac{1}{2\pi a} \left[\cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{\alpha}) + \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{\alpha}) \right] \\
i\xi_R^{\alpha} \xi_L^{\alpha} &= \frac{1}{2\pi a} \left[\cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \phi_{\alpha}) - \cos(\sqrt{4\pi} \theta_{\alpha}) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{B5}$$

Using the equations above, the total Hamiltonian for this sector reads as (after setting the velocity $v = 1$)

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H} = & -\frac{i}{2} \sum_{\alpha=c-,s-} (\xi_R^{\alpha} \partial_x \xi_R^{\alpha} - \xi_L^{\alpha} \partial_x \xi_L^{\alpha}) \\
& -\frac{i}{2} \sum_{\alpha=c-,s-} (\chi_R^{\alpha} \partial_x \chi_R^{\alpha} - \chi_L^{\alpha} \partial_x \chi_L^{\alpha}) \\
& + iM \sum_{\alpha=c-,s-} \chi_R^{\alpha} \chi_L^{\alpha} \\
& - g\chi_R^c \chi_L^c \chi_R^s \chi_L^s
\end{aligned} \tag{B6}$$

where the Majorana mass is $M = g\mathcal{C}_{s+}/(\pi a)$. Here, (ξ_R^{c-}, ξ_L^{c-}) and (ξ_R^{s-}, ξ_L^{s-}) are two massless Majorana fields. In this case the system is at a quantum critical point.

We now note that if $K_{c-} \neq 1$ is allowed, the refermionized theory now has a Luttinger-Thirring four fermion (current current) coupling term for the fermions in the $c-$ sector of the form $\tilde{g}R_{c-}^{\dagger}R_{c-}L_{c-}^{\dagger}L_{c-} = -4\tilde{g}\chi_R^{c-}\xi_R^{c-}\chi_L^{c-}\xi_L^{c-}$, where \tilde{g} measures the departure from $K_{c-} = 1$. This term, which in the conventional Luttinger-Thirring model is marginal, in this case mixes the massless sector with the massive sector. However if we were to integrate out the massive sector it will induce a marginal operator in the remaining massless fermions. We will see below that the same marginal operator is present automatically if we relax some of the relations between the coupling constants. For this reason we will ignore these terms for the time being.

On the other hand, if some of the relations between the coupling constants are lifted (but keeping track of the constraints due to the $SU(2)$ spin symmetry) all four Majorana fields become separately massive and the system is in one of the phases described in section VI B. In this language we can picture the system becoming quantum critical by turning one or two Majorana fermions massless. The case with one Majorana fermion becoming massless is the Ising quantum criticality that we have already discussed.

Let us now focus on the case in which one pair of Majorana fields remains massless. In this case we can build Dirac Fermions out of the Majorana fermions. This transformation will mix the charge and spin fields into a new Dirac field. The right- and the left-moving components are defined as

$$\begin{aligned}
R_1 &= \frac{e^{-i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi_R^{c-} + i\chi_R^{s-}), \quad L_1 = \frac{e^{i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi_L^{c-} + i\chi_L^{s-}) \\
R_2 &= \frac{e^{-i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{2}} (\xi_R^{c-} + i\xi_R^{s-}), \quad L_2 = \frac{e^{i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{2}} (\xi_L^{c-} + i\xi_L^{s-})
\end{aligned} \tag{B7}$$

In terms of the new variables, the Hamiltonian reads as

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i=1,2} \bar{\psi}_i (-i\gamma^1 \partial_x) \psi_i + M \bar{\psi}_1 \psi_1 + \frac{g}{4} (\bar{\psi}_1 \gamma^{\mu} \psi_1)^2 \tag{B8}$$

where $\gamma^0 = \sigma_x$, $\gamma^1 = -i\sigma_y$, $\gamma^5 = \gamma^0 \gamma^1 = \sigma_z$ and $\psi_i^{\dagger} = (R_i^{\dagger}, L_i^{\dagger})$. This Hamiltonian consists of a free

fermion sector described by free Dirac field ψ_2 while the dynamics of the ψ_1 is described by massive Thirring model. Therefore in this regime of parameters the total symmetry associated with the $s-$ and $c-$ sectors is $U(1) \times U(1)$ which includes a global $U(1)$ symmetry and the chiral symmetry of the free sector generated by γ_5 .

For the regime of parameters $g_{s1} = g_{u5} = g_1$ and $g_{s2} = g_5 = g_2$ while $g_{s1} \neq g_{s2}$, the ψ_2 Fermion becomes massive. Thus, the effective Hamiltonian of Eq.(B8) now has two mass terms of the form

$$M\bar{\psi}_1\psi_1 + m\bar{\psi}_2\psi_2 \quad (\text{B9})$$

with masses given by $M = \frac{c_{s+}}{\pi a}g_+$ and $m = \frac{c_{s+}}{\pi a}g_-$ where $g_{\pm} = (g_{s1} \pm g_{s2})/2$. In this language we have four phases depending on the relative signs of the masses M and m of the two Dirac fermions.

Under these assumptions, except for the $SU(2)$ invariance, the $\{g_3, g_4, g_{u3}, g_{u4}\}$ are arbitrary. We re-write the four-fermion interactions as

$$\mathcal{H}_{4F} = f_{11}\mathcal{I}_{++} + f_{12}\mathcal{I}_{+-} + f_{21}\mathcal{I}_{-+} + f_{22}\mathcal{I}_{--} \quad (\text{B10})$$

where new coupling constants $f_{\sigma\sigma'}$ is related to the g 's as

$$\begin{pmatrix} g_3 \\ g_4 \\ g_{u3} \\ g_{u4} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\ +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 \\ +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 \\ +1 & -1 & -1 & +1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\ +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 \\ +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 \\ +1 & -1 & -1 & +1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_3 \\ g_4 \\ g_{u3} \\ g_{u4} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{B11})$$

Using Eq.(B5), one can write $\mathcal{I}_{\sigma\sigma'}$ in terms of the Majorana fermions. \mathcal{I}_{++} , as we saw earlier, is just the current-current interaction of the form $(\bar{\psi}_1\gamma^\mu\psi_1)^2$. By similar argument, \mathcal{I}_{--} is the same type of interaction but for the ψ_2 fields. Together they add up to the following

$$f_{11}\mathcal{I}_{++} + f_{22}\mathcal{I}_{--} = f_{11}(\bar{\psi}_1\gamma^\mu\psi_1)^2 + f_{22}(\bar{\psi}_2\gamma^\mu\psi_2)^2 \quad (\text{B12})$$

where $\bar{\psi} = \psi^\dagger\gamma_0 = (L^\dagger, R^\dagger)$. Each operator \mathcal{I}_{++} and \mathcal{I}_{--} are invariant under the $U(1) \times U(1)$ symmetry composed of a global $U(1)$ symmetry associated with charge conservation and the continuous chiral symmetry of each Dirac fermion. The mass terms break the chiral symmetry down to a discrete \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry.

However, the off-diagonal terms \mathcal{I}_{+-} and \mathcal{I}_{-+} involve both χ and ξ fields. In terms of Majorana fermions they read

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{+-} &= \chi_R^{c-} \chi_L^{c-} \xi_L^{s-} \xi_R^{s-} \\ \mathcal{I}_{-+} &= \chi_R^{s-} \chi_L^{s-} \xi_L^{c-} \xi_R^{c-} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B13})$$

As it turns out these terms violate the conservation of fermion number of the Dirac fermions and, for this reason, are more naturally expressed in terms of Majorana fields.

Let us look at the regime of parameters in which the Dirac fermion number violating couplings are absent and set $f_{12} = f_{21} = 0$. This happens when $g_3 = g_{u4}$ and $g_4 = g_{u3}$. According to the $SU(2)$ spin rotation invariance condition, in this regime $g_5 = g_{u5}$, and therefore the Dirac fermion ψ_1 remains massless. Assuming $g_{s1} = g_{s2}$ the Hamiltonian will read as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= \bar{\psi}_1(-i\gamma^1\partial_x)\psi_1 + \bar{\psi}_2(-i\gamma^1\partial_x)\psi_2 + M\bar{\psi}_1\gamma^0\psi_1 \\ &+ \frac{G_1}{4}(\bar{\psi}_1\gamma^\mu\psi_1)^2 + \frac{G_2}{4}(\bar{\psi}_2\gamma^\mu\psi_2)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B14})$$

where $G_1 = f_{11} = g_3 + g_4$ and $G_2 = f_{22} = g_3 - g_4$. The resulting Hamiltonian splits into the Hamiltonian of massless Thirring model for ψ_2 and a massive Thirring model for the ψ_1 with mass $M = \frac{c_{s+}}{\pi a}(g_3 + g_4)$. Therefore what has changed with respect to the case when $g_3 = g_4 = g_{u3} = g_{u4}$ is that the dynamics of ψ_2 field is now described by the mass-less Thirring model which shares the same $U(1) \times U(1)$ symmetry with the non-interacting case $G_2 = 0$. Thus, under the (less - restrictive) conditions $g_3 = g_{u4}$ and $g_4 = g_{u3}$, the symmetry is still $U(1) \times U(1)$.

Therefore in this case the system decouples into a massless Thirring model and a massive Thirring model each with a separate conserved charge current. The massive Thirring model is an integrable system which by bosonization can be mapped onto the sine Gordon field theory,⁴⁹ in the regime in which the sine Gordon term is relevant. Hence this sector has a spectrum of massive solitons. On the other hand, the massless Thirring model, which is equivalent to a spinless Luttinger model, is a quantum critical system with an exactly marginal operator, parametrized by the coupling constant G_2 . Hence in this case instead of Ising quantum criticality we get Luttinger quantum criticality.

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