Drude Weight at Finite Temperatures for Some Nonintegrable Quantum Systems in One Dimension

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Using conformal perturbation theory, we show that, for some classes of the one-dimensional quantum liquids that possess the Luttinger liquid fixed point in the low-energy limit, the Drude weight at finite temperatures is nonvanishing, even when the system is nonintegrable and the total current is not conserved. We also obtain the asymptotically exact low-temperature formula of the Drude weight for Heisenberg XXZ spin chains, which agrees quite well with recent numerical data.

Quantum one-dimensional (1D) systems show anomalous transport properties quite different from higher dimensional systems [1–16]. In particular, Zotos and co-workers showed the remarkable fact that in integrable 1D systems the Drude weight is nonvanishing at finite temperatures $T$, and the transport is ballistic, because of the presence of nontrivial conservation laws [1,2]. The Drude weight is a coefficient of the singular part of the conductivity; $\sigma(\omega) = \pi D(T)\delta(\omega) + \text{(regular part)}$. Their proposal has been followed up by extensive studies based on various techniques, such as the Bethe ansatz [3–5,9], numerical methods [6–8,10], and bosonization [12]. Some authors also investigated how this anomalous transport is affected by the perturbations that break the integrability [6–8,10]. Recent numerical studies suggest that some classes of nonintegrable 1D systems may also show the nonzero Drude weight at finite temperatures, implying that the integrability is not a necessary condition for $D(T) \neq 0$ [6–8]. However, the relation between the finite Drude weight and nonintegrable perturbations has not yet been fully elucidated. The main purpose of this Letter is to address this issue. Using conformal perturbation theory, we explore the effects of integrability-breaking perturbations on the finite-temperature Drude weight in 1D Luttinger liquids including spin systems and one-component fermion systems. As a by-product, we also obtain the asymptotically exact low-temperature formula of the Drude weight for Heisenberg XXZ spin chains.

The Hamiltonian consists of the low-energy fixed point part $H_G$ and the irrelevant perturbation $H'$ that may render the system nonintegrable. Namely, $H = H_G + H'$. $H_G$ is given by the Hamiltonian of the $c = 1$ Gaussian model [17],

$$H_G = \frac{\mu}{2} \int_0^L dx \left[ (\partial_x \phi(x))^2 + (\partial_x \theta(x))^2 \right],$$

for the system of the linear size $L$ with the velocity $v$. Here the boson fields $\phi$ and $\theta$ satisfy the canonical commutation relation, $[\phi(x), \partial_x \theta(x')] = i \delta(x - x')$. The charge density (or spin density) operator and the corresponding current operator, which satisfy the continuity equation, are, respectively, given by $\rho(x) = \sqrt{K} \partial_x \phi/\sqrt{\pi}$ and $J(x) = -\sqrt{K} \partial_x \phi/\sqrt{\pi}$. Here $K$ is the Luttinger liquid parameter. The irrelevant perturbation $H'$ is expressed in terms of primary fields of the $c = 1$ universality class. We are concerned with the case that the total current $I = \int dx J(x)$ is not conserved by the interaction $H'$: $[H', I] \neq 0$. This happens when $H'$ contains the cosine interaction $\cos[\alpha \phi(x)]$ which stems from Umklapp processes. In general, $H = H_G + H'$ is not integrable. For instance, the multiple-frequency cosine interaction such as $\int dx \sum_n [g_n \cos[\beta_n \phi(x)] + g_n' \cos[\gamma_n \theta(x)]]$ breaks the integrability of the system [18].

To show the presence of nonvanishing Drude weight, following Zotos et al. [2], we exploit the Mazur inequality, which gives the lower bound for the Drude weight. The lower bound is expressed in terms of nontrivial conserved quantities, which can be found in our case as follows. Introducing a cylindrical geometry with a system size $L$, we write the spatial translation operator as [19],

$$I = \int_0^L dx \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ T(x) - \bar{T}(x) \right] = \frac{2\pi}{L}(L_0 - \bar{L}_0),$$

where $T(x)$ [$\bar{T}(x)$] is the holomorphic (antiholomorphic) part of the stress tensor. $L_n$ and $\bar{L}_n$ are the Virasoro generators. For any local field $O(x)$, the commutation relation $[I, O(x)] = -i \partial_x O(x)$ holds. Note that $O(x)$ should not be multiplied by a $c$-number function $f(x)$, because $I$ does not operate on $f(x)$ as translation [20]. In the case that the Hamiltonian is written in terms of local operators, $H = \int dx O(x)$, we have $[I, H] = 0$ under the periodic boundary condition. Thus, $I$ is a nontrivial conserved quantity in the perturbed system. An important role played by the conservation law $[I, H] = 0$ for transport properties was also noticed by Rosch and Andrei previously [12,21]. For the $c = 1$ Gaussian model (1), $I$ is expressed as $I = v \int dx \partial_x \theta(x) \partial_x \phi(x)$. This is nothing but the free field representation of the Virasoro generator (2). Using the equation of motion of $\phi(x)$ in the presence of

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\( H' \), we rewrite \( I \) as
\[
I = \int dx \partial_t \phi(x) \delta_+ \phi(x) + I' \quad \text{with} \quad I' = -i \int dx H' \phi(x) \partial_+ \phi(x).
\]
The total momentum is given by \( P = I + p_F J/K \), where \( p_F \) is the Fermi momentum. For the Hamiltonian \( H = H_0 + H' \), although the system is translationally invariant \( \{ I, H \} = 0 \) as expected for continuum field theory, the charge current (or spin current) and the total momentum are not conserved, i.e., \([P, H] \neq 0\), and hence its transport property is nontrivial. With the conserved quantity \( I \), the Mazur inequality reads [2]
\[
D(T) \geq \frac{1}{LT} \langle JJ \rangle^2.
\]
In general, the system has the reflection symmetry (particle-hole symmetry in terms of fermion fields) \( \phi \rightarrow -\phi \), which leads to \( \langle JJ \rangle = 0 \). However, in the presence of a symmetry-breaking field \( -h \partial_+ \phi \) (magnetic field in spin systems or chemical potential in fermion systems), \( \langle JJ \rangle \) may be nonzero. We can easily see that this external field still conserves \( I \). The symmetry-breaking field is incorporated into the shift of the boson field \( \phi(x) = \phi(x) - \xi \). Then we have
\[
\frac{\langle JJ \rangle}{LT} = \frac{1}{LT} \left( -\hbar \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{K}} (f') + \langle JJ \rangle \right)
\]
\[
= -\frac{\hbar}{T} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{K}} \int_0^\infty \sigma (\omega) \left( \frac{\omega}{2T} \right)^2 \coth \left( \frac{\omega}{2T} \right) + \frac{\omega}{LT},
\]
with
\[
\Pi^R(\omega) = -\frac{i}{L} \int_0^\infty dt \langle J(q, t), J(-q, 0) \rangle e^{i\omega t} |_{q \rightarrow 0}.
\]
Here we have used the fluctuation-dissipation theorem in the last line of (4). In the case of \( \text{Im} \Pi^R(\omega) = 0 \), the conductivity is given by \( \text{Re} [\sigma(\omega)] = K v \delta(\omega) \), showing the presence of the finite-temperature Drude weight [see (6) below]. In the other cases, the first term of the right-hand side of (4) is nonvanishing, because \( \text{Im} \Pi^R(\omega) \) is non-negative. Note that the first term of (4) cannot be canceled with the second term for the following reason. Let \( a \) be the lattice constant and \( s - 2 \) the dimension of the leading term of \( H' \). Then the second term of (4) is proportional to \( a^{s-2} \), of which the order in terms of \( a \) is different from that of the first term. Hence, these two terms cannot be canceled with each other and give a nonzero lower bound for the Drude weight (3) provided that \( \langle f'^2 \rangle/LT \) is finite. It is easily seen that \( \langle f'^2 \rangle/LT \) is never divergent, since it is given by the derivative of the free energy, and the free energy has no thermodynamic singularities in 1D systems. As a result, we have shown that as long as the translational invariance is recovered in the scaling limit (i.e., \( I \) is conserved), the Drude weight at finite temperatures is nonvanishing for the 1D systems that have the Luttinger liquid fixed point in the presence of particle-hole symmetry-breaking fields (magnetic fields in spin systems), even if the system is nonintegrable, and the charge current (or spin current) is not conserved.

One may question to what extent this argument is relevant to lattice systems, which are, at short-length scale, not translationally invariant. As the low-energy fixed point of the systems is the Luttinger liquid, the correlation length at \( T = 0 \) is infinite, characterizing the critical state described by the \( c = 1 \) universality class. Thus, at sufficiently low but finite temperatures, the correlation length is much longer than the lattice constant, rendering the systems approximately translationally invariant, provided that there exists no other length scale in the Hamiltonian. It should be stressed that, as mentioned before, to preserve the conservation law of \( I \), the interaction \( H' \) must not contain the \( c \)-number function \( f(x) \) that introduces another length scale [20].

Hitherto, our argument is based on the nonperturbative analysis. However, it is restricted to the case with symmetry-breaking fields. We investigate the case without the external fields, by computing the conductivity perturbatively from the Kubo formula,
\[
\sigma(\omega) = \frac{i}{\omega} \left[ \frac{Kv}{\pi} + \Pi^R(\omega) \right].
\]
For concreteness, we introduce a specific model given by
\[
H' = \int dx \sum_{m=1}^N g_m \cos[\beta_m \phi(x)].
\]
In general, the multiple-frequency cosine terms (7) break the integrability of the system [18]. It is noted that the ratio of any two \( \beta_m \)'s must be rational to ensure that the perturbative expansion in term of \( H' \) does not generate relevant interactions which invalidate the Luttinger liquid fixed point. For simplicity, we assume \( \beta_m = m \beta_1 \). Let us first consider the case that \( g_n = 0 \) for \( n \geq 2 \) and only a single cosine interaction exists. In this case, the system is the standard sine-Gordon model, which is integrable. We expand the imaginary time current-current correlation in terms of \( g_1 \),
\[
\Pi(i\omega) = \int dx \int_0^{1/T} d\tau \langle T \partial_+ \phi(x, \tau) \partial_+ \phi(0, 0) \rangle_0 e^{-i\omega \tau} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{g_1}{2} \right)^n \frac{1}{n!} \int dx \int_0^{1/T} d\tau \int d(1) \ldots d(n) e^{-i\omega \tau}
\]
\[
\times \sum_{a_1, \ldots, a_n = \mp \beta_1} \langle T \partial_+ \phi(x, \tau) \partial_+ \phi(0, 0) e^{i\omega_1 \phi(1)} e^{i\omega_{12} \phi(2)} \ldots e^{i\omega_n \phi(n)} \rangle_0.
\]
Here \( \int d(n) = \int_0^1 dx_n \int_0^{1/T} d\tau_n \phi(n) = \phi(x_n, \tau_n), \langle \cdots \rangle_0 \) is the average with respect to \( H_0 \). Using the conformal Ward identity, we rewrite the \( n \)th order term of (8) as

\[
\int_0^1 \int_0^{1/T} d\tau_n \phi(n) = \phi(x_n, \tau_n), \langle \cdots \rangle_0 \text{is the average with respect to } H_0.
\]
Here we have relabeled the index as $n \rightarrow j$. Following Konik and LeClair [22], we map the IR region to the ultraviolet (UV) region by the conformal transformation $z' = 1/z$. Note that under this transformation the expression of the right-hand side of (12) is unchanged. Thus, although the IR region of the $w$ coordinate is mapped to both the IR and UV regions of the $z$ coordinate, we need to consider only the UV behavior in the $z$ coordinate. Exploiting the short distance expansion of operator product for the U(1) Gaussian theory [19], we find that the dimension of $\langle \exp[i\beta_1 \phi(z_1, \tilde{z}_1)] \rangle_0$ in the UV region is $\beta_1 n/(2\pi)$, and hence the dimension of the right-hand side of (12) is zero. Therefore, the IR singularity of (10) is at most logarithmic, if it exists. We can apply the same argument to $d^q F_{a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n}[(i\omega(1 - \delta_{ij})]/d(i\omega)^q$ and find that its dimension in the UV region of the $z'$ coordinate is also zero, because the derivative with respect to $\omega$ does not give rise to an extra dimension in the right-hand side of (12). Hence, $F_{a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n}[\omega(1 - \delta_{ij})]$ has no singularity in the limit of $\omega \rightarrow 0$. After the analytic continuation in the upper half plane $\omega \rightarrow \omega + i0$, we can expand (10) for small $\omega$: $F_{a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n}[\omega(1 - \delta_{ij})] = a_0 + a_1 \omega(1 - \delta_{ij}) + a_2 \omega^2(1 - \delta_{ij}) \cdots$. Substituting this into (9) and from $\sum \alpha_i = 0$, we find that the expansion of $\Pi^R(\omega)$ in terms of $g_1$ does not give rise to singularity stronger than $1/\omega$. Thus, the Drude weight term of $\sigma(\omega)$ is not eliminated by resummation of higher-order singularities. A careful treatment of the limit $\omega \rightarrow 0$ for the second order term of (9) verifies that the strongest singularity of $\sigma(\omega)$ is not of order $\sim 1/\omega^2$, but $\sim 1/\omega$. Actually, the presence of the double pole $1/\omega^2$ is forbidden, because it breaks the non-negativity of $\text{Re} \sigma(\omega)$. Consequently, we have the Drude weight at finite temperatures as expected from the integrability of the model.

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temperatures. For $2/3 < \beta^2 < 1$, up to logarithmic corrections, it is given by

$$ D(T) = D(0) \left[ 1 - A \frac{\sin(2\pi / \beta^2)}{8\beta^2} \lambda^2 \left(2a\pi T \right)^{(4/\beta^2) - 4} \right] $$

(14)

$$ A = B^2 \left( \frac{1}{\beta^2}, \frac{2}{\beta^2} \right) \left[ 2\pi^2 \cot\left( \frac{\pi}{\beta^2} \right) + \psi\left( \frac{1}{\beta^2} \right) \right. $$

$$ \left. - \psi\left( 1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2} \right) \right] $$

(15)

where $a = 2(1 - \beta^2) / [J \sin(\pi \beta^2)]$, $D(0) = 1/(2a\pi \beta^2)$, and $B(x, y) = \Gamma(x) \Gamma(y) / \Gamma(x + y), \quad \psi(x) = \Gamma'(x) / \Gamma(x)$. For $0 < \beta^2 < 2/3$, we have

$$ D(T) = D(0) \left[ 1 - \frac{6\lambda_ - + \lambda_ +}{12} (a\pi T)^2 \right]. $$

(16)

The expressions for $\lambda_ -$, $\lambda_ +$, and $\lambda_0$ are given by Eq. (2.24) in Ref. [24]. At the isotropic point $\beta^2 = 1$, logarithmic corrections caused by marginal interaction are incorpo-rated into the renormalization of the running coupling constant, and we end up with

$$ D(T) = D(0) \left[ 1 - \frac{g}{2} + O(g^2) \right]. $$

(17)

Here $g$ is determined by Eq. (3.18) in Ref. [24] with $h = 0$. $D(T)$ is nonvanishing at the isotropic point in accordance with Ref. [10]. The above formulas are applicable only in the low-temperature regime $T \ll a^{-1}$. We show the plot of $D(T)$ as a function of $T$ for several values of $\beta^2$ in Fig. 1. The result for $\beta^2 = 5/6$ agrees well with the recent quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) data obtained by Alvarez and Gros [10]. As $\beta^2$ decreases, the temperature dependence becomes stronger. However, it should be cautioned that, for small $\beta^2$, the applicable temperature range becomes narrower; e.g., for $\beta^2 = 1/12$, $a^{-1} = 0.1411$. In principle, we can improve the formulas by taking into account higher-order corrections.

In summary, we have shown that in a wide class of 1D integrable and nonintegrable systems with the Luttinger liquid fixed point, as long as the systems recover translational invariance in the scaling limit, the Drude weight is nonvanishing at finite temperatures, even when the charge current (or spin current) is not conserved.

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[20] When $H'$ consists of two cosine terms such as $\cos[\beta_1(\phi + \delta_1 x)]$ and $\cos[\beta_2(\phi + \delta_2 x)]$ with $\delta_1 \neq \delta_2$, $I$ is not conserved, and our argument is not applicable. The vanishing of the Drude weight in this case was considered in Ref. [12].
[21] Equation (8) in Ref. [12] corresponds to our conservation law $[I, H] = 0$. Note that the definition of the translation operator in Ref. [12] is different from ours. This difference stems from the fact that the boson field $\phi$ in Ref. [12] is the shifted field $\phi - h x$ in this Letter.