

# Mean-field SK solution for Spin Glass

D. Sherrington and S. Kirkpatrick, Phys. Rev.Lett. **35**, 1792 (1975)  
Phys Rev. B**17**, 4384 (1978)

1. Infinite-range spin glass model: averaging via replica method
2. Edwards-Anderson order parameter
3. Sherrington-Kirkpatrick solution and its inconsistency
4. De Almeida-Thouless instability line

# SK model for Spin Glass

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} J_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j + h \sum_i \sigma_i,$$

Random couplings  $J_{ij}$  are distributed according to

$$P[J_{ij}] = \exp \left[ -\frac{(J_{ij} - J_0)^2 N}{2J^2} \right] \left( \frac{N}{2\pi J^2} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Free energy and other physical quantities is to be averaged as

$$F = \int \prod_{i,j} dJ_{ij} P[J_{ij}] F\{J_{ij}\},$$

where

$$F\{J_{ij}\} = -T \ln Z\{J_{ij}\}, \quad Z\{J_{ij}\} = \sum_{\{\sigma_i\}} e^{-H/T}.$$

# Edwards-Anderson order parameter

$$q_{\text{EA}} = \overline{\langle \sigma_i \rangle^2} = (1/N) \sum_i \langle \sigma_i \rangle^2$$

It is not a simple object: it contains, **first**, calculation of thermodynamics average, then, **second**, taking square, and **finally** average over disorder realizations

SK solution neglects these subtle issues

## Replica Solution of the SK Model

$J_0 = 0$  below

The free energy averaged over random interactions  $J_{ij}$  can be represented in the form

$$F = \langle F\{J_{ij}\} \rangle = -T \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \frac{1}{n} [Z^n - 1] \right\rangle = -T \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\langle Z^n \rangle - 1}{n}$$

The  $n$ th power of the partition function in (1.2.1) can be obtained as a partition function of the replica Hamiltonian

$$Z^n = \sum_{\{\sigma_i^\alpha\}} \exp \left( -\frac{H\{\sigma_i^\alpha\}}{T} \right),$$

where

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,\alpha} J_{ij} \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_j^\alpha + h \sum_{i,\alpha} \sigma_i^\alpha, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, \dots, n \text{ labels the replicas.}$$

$$\langle Z^n \rangle = \sum_{\{\sigma_i^\alpha\}} \exp \left[ \frac{J^2}{4NT^2} \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_j^\alpha \sigma_i^\beta \sigma_j^\beta + \frac{h}{T} \sum_{i,\alpha} \sigma_i^\alpha \right] \times \exp \left( \frac{nJ^2N}{4T^2} \right)$$

Here  $\alpha \neq \beta$

4-spin term can be decoupled via auxiliary matrix field

$$\langle Z^n \rangle = \exp \left( \frac{nJ^2 N}{4NT^2} \right) \int \prod_{\alpha \neq \beta} dQ_{\alpha\beta} \sum_{\{\sigma\}} \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{NQ_{\alpha\beta}^2}{4T^2} + \frac{1}{2T^2} Q_{\alpha\beta} \sum_i \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_i^\beta \right) J^2 + \frac{h}{T} \sum_{\alpha, i} \sigma_i^\alpha \right] \left( \frac{N}{4\pi T^2} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Due to  $N \rightarrow \infty$  condition steepest descend method can be used:

$$\langle Z^n \rangle = \exp \left( \frac{nJ^2 N}{4T^2} \right) \exp \left( - \frac{NJ^2}{4T^2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} Q_{\alpha\beta}^2 - \frac{1}{T} f_s \{ Q_{\alpha\beta} \} \right)$$

$$f_s \{ Q_{\alpha\beta} \} = -T \ln \sum_{\{\sigma_i^\alpha\}} \exp \left[ \frac{J^2}{2T^2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} Q_{\alpha\beta} \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_i^\beta \right],$$

where

$Q_{\alpha\beta}$  is the saddle-point solution

$$Q_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \rangle \equiv \sum_{\{\sigma^\alpha\}} \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \exp \left( \frac{J^2}{2T^2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} Q_{\alpha\beta} \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta + \frac{h}{T} \sum_{\alpha} \sigma^\alpha \right)$$

# Sherrington-Kirkpatrick ansatz

simple form of  $Q_{\alpha\beta}$  matrix  $Q_{\alpha\beta} = q$  ( $\alpha \neq \beta$ )

Now:

$$Q_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \rangle \equiv \sum_{\{\sigma^\alpha\}} \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \exp \left( \frac{J^2}{2T^2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} Q_{\alpha\beta} \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta + \frac{h}{T} \sum_{\alpha} \sigma^\alpha \right)$$

Is equivalent to

$$q = \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} \sum_{\{\sigma\}} \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \exp \left[ \sum_{\alpha} \sigma^\alpha \left( \frac{h + Jzq^{1/2}}{T} \right) \right] \exp \left( -\frac{z^2}{2} \right) \times \exp \left( -\frac{n}{2T^2} \right)$$

The summation over spin variables of different replicas can be carried out independently, and yields

$$q = \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \tanh^2 \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T}$$

Here  $z$  represents random frozen field with unit dispersion

value of  $q$  has a break at  $T = T_c$ :  $q = 0$  at  $T \geq T_c$  and  $q = \tau + \frac{1}{3} \tau^2$ ,  $\tau = \frac{T_c - T}{T_c} \ll 1$

# Technical point

$$\sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} Q_{\alpha\beta} \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_i^\beta = \left[ \left( \sum_{\alpha} \sigma_i^\alpha \right)^2 - n \right] q$$

The term  $nq$  is important to get correct free energy

Free energy for the SK solution:

$$F = -\frac{(1-q)^2}{4T} J^2 - T \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \ln \left( 2 \cosh \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right)$$

Close to  $T_c$  and at weak field  $h$  free energy per spin is given by

$$f = -\frac{J^2}{4T} + \theta(\tau) \frac{\tau^3}{6} - \frac{1}{2} h^2 \frac{1}{T} [1 - \theta(\tau)\tau]$$

$$(h, \tau \ll 1).$$

“Third-order” transition

Free energy below  $T_c$  is **larger** than its analytic continuation from the region above  $T_c$

Magnetic susceptibility  $\chi = -\partial^2 f / \partial h^2$

has a cusp below  $T_c$



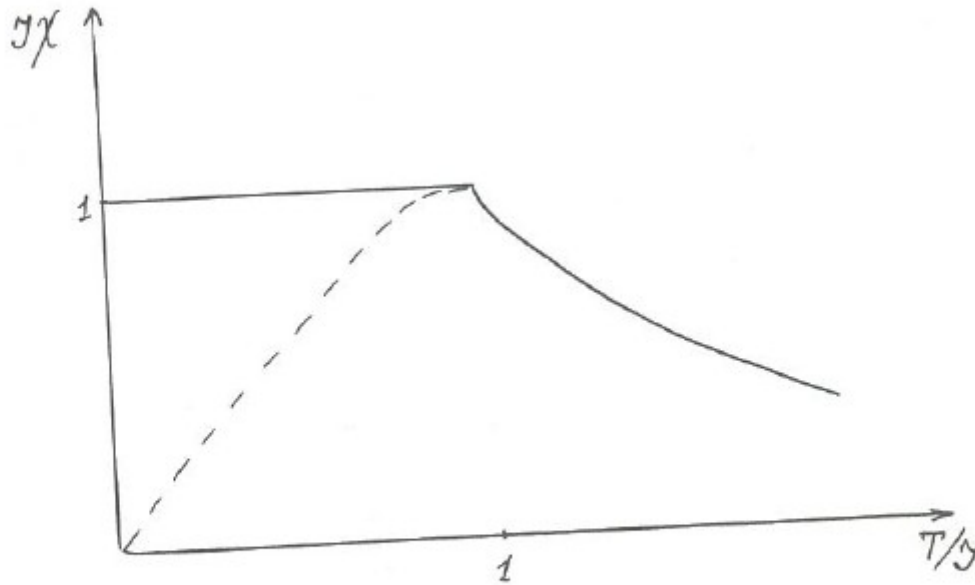


Figure 2 Field-cooling (full line) and zero-field-cooling (dashed line) susceptibilities of the SK model.

SK solution provides a broken line only (ZFC)

The separate result for the FC susceptibility (full line) can be obtained within RSB scheme

Marginal stability condition (TAP):  $(T/J)^2 = \langle (1 - m_i^2)^2 \rangle$

Is not fulfilled by SK solution: LHS =  $1 - 2\tau + \tau^2$       RHS =  $1 - 2\tau + 7/3 \tau^2$

# Zero-temperature entropy catastrophe

Solution of self-consistency equation at  $T \rightarrow 0$  (and  $h=0$ )

$$q = \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \tanh^2 \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T}$$

Gives  $q = 1 - (2/\pi)^{1/2} T/J + O(T^2)$

Together with

$$F = -\frac{(1-q)^2}{4T} J^2 - T \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \ln \left( 2 \cosh \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right)$$

it gives free energy per spin  $f = T/2\pi$  at  $T \rightarrow 0$

Entropy  $S(0) = -1/2\pi$

Something is definitely wrong.....

# What is wrong with SK solution ?

**Physical problem:** order parameter  $q$  is not unique  
if many metastable states contribute to  $Z$

Let  $P_a$   $P_b$  etc to be probabilities to find our system  
in **metastable** states  $a, b, \dots$  Finite-time dynamics  
does not perform transitions between these states

$$q_{EA} = \sum_i (m_i^a)^2 P_a \quad \text{EA order parameter within individual minima}$$

In general does not coincide with

$$q = \sum_i (m_i^a) (m_i^b) P_a P_b \quad \text{Full thermodynamic average}$$

# Formal proof: instability of the SK solution

Consider  $Q_{\alpha\beta} = q + q_{\alpha\beta}$  with small asymmetric  $q_{\alpha\beta}$  and study stability w.r.t. these fluctuations

$$F(Q_{\alpha\beta}) = f(q) - \frac{J^2}{8T^4} \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta} q_{\alpha\beta} q_{\alpha\delta} (\langle \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \sigma^\gamma \sigma^\delta \rangle - \langle \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \rangle \langle \sigma^\gamma \sigma^\delta \rangle),$$

$\langle . . . \rangle$  mean the average over spin variables  
with Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \sigma^\alpha \sigma^\beta \frac{J^2}{2T^2} q + \sum h \sigma^\alpha.$$

$$f(Q_{\alpha\beta}) = f(q) + \frac{J^2}{8nT^4} \left[ (2T^2 - c_0) \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} (q^{\alpha\beta})^2 - 4c_1 \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} q^{\alpha\beta} q^{\beta\gamma} - c_2 \left( \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} q^{\alpha\beta} \right)^2 \right]$$

Crucial term

$$c_0 = 2J^2 \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \operatorname{sech}^4 \left( \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right)$$

$$c_1 = \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \tanh^2 \left( \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right) \operatorname{sech}^2 \left( \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right),$$

$$c_2 = \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \tanh^4 \left( \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right) - q^2.$$

$c_1$  and  $c_2$  do not change their signs with decreasing temperature.

the coefficient  $2T^2 - c_0$  does change its sign at  $T_c = J$  (for  $h=0$ )

Conclusion: replica-symmetric SK solution is unstable at all  $T < T_c$

# De Almeida – Thouless line

J R L de Almeida†‡ and D J Thouless J. Phys. A: Math. Gen., Vol. 11, No. 5, 1978. p983

Instability line we found right now coincides with the marginal stability condition  $(T/J)^2 = \langle (1 - m_i^2)^2 \rangle$

If external field  $h > 0$  is present:

$$(T/J)^2 = \int \frac{dz}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-z^2/2} \operatorname{sech}^4 \left( \frac{Jzq^{1/2} + h}{T} \right)$$

$$\tau_{\text{AT}} = \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^{2/3} \left( \frac{h}{J} \right)^{2/3} \quad (h \ll J)$$

$$T_{\text{AT}} = \frac{4}{3} \frac{J}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} \exp \left( -\frac{h^2}{2J^2} \right) \quad (h \gg J).$$

$T_{AT} > 0$  for all large  $h \gg J$  - how can we understand it?

The effective field acting on each spin  $\sigma_i$

consists of the large external field  $h \gg J, T$  and the field  $\tilde{h}_i = \sum_j J_{ij} \sigma_j$

there are a small number ( $\rho N$ )

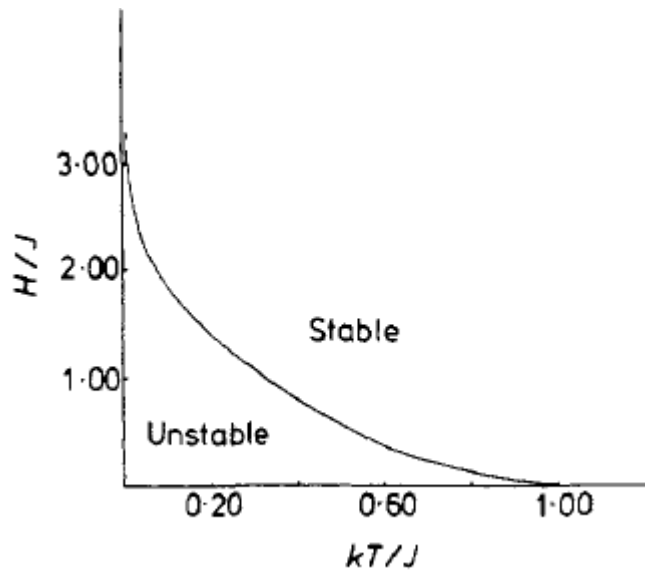
of unfrozen spins

$$\rho \approx T \exp(-h^2/2J^2) / J$$

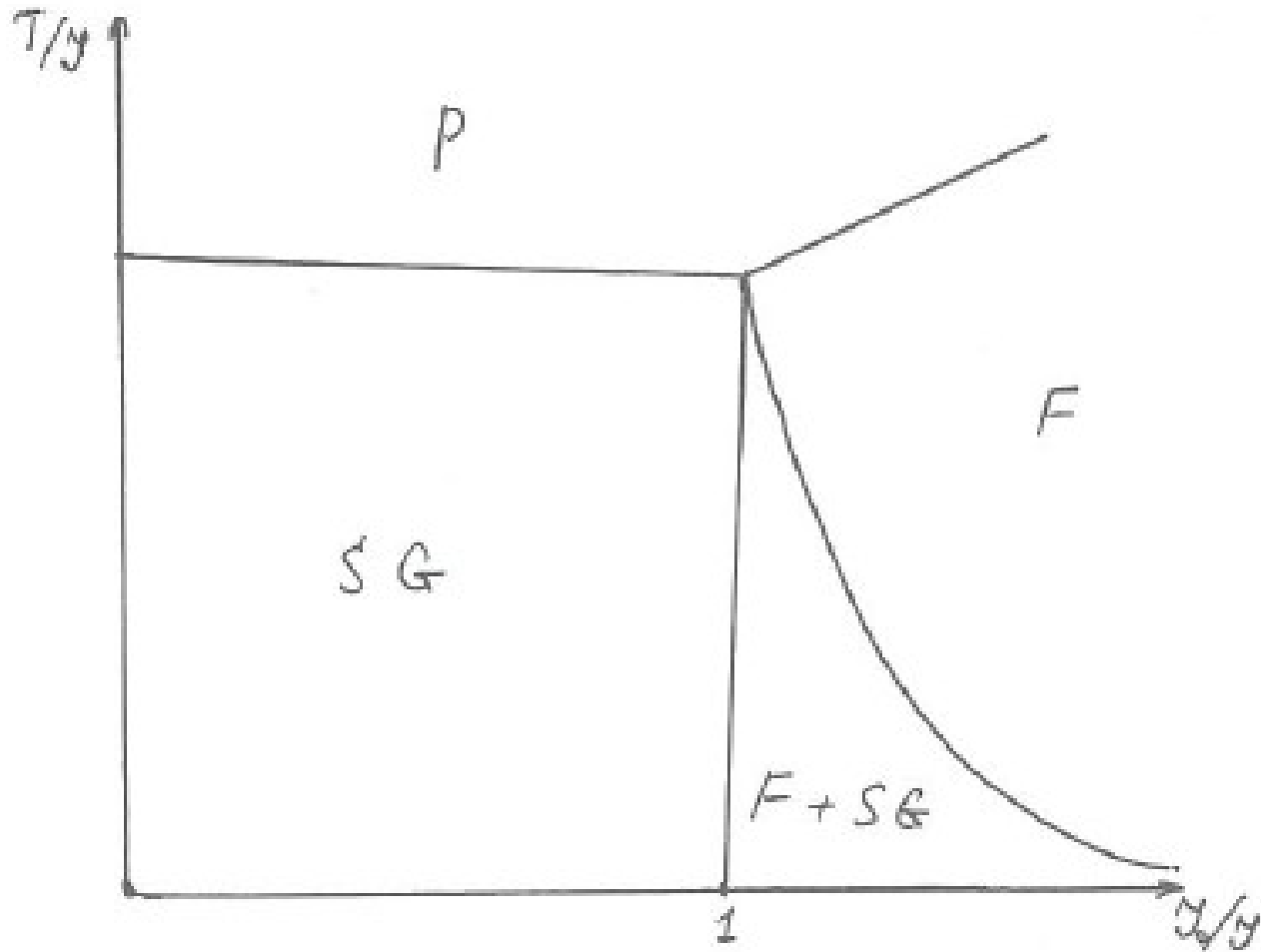
$$(T_{AT}/J)^2 \sim \rho$$



$$T_{AT} \sim J \exp(-h^2/2J^2)$$



# General phase diagram





# Few problems to solve

- Calculate the shape of the line separating F and F+SG states on the phase diagram of the SK model with nonzero average  $J_0$ . Find it analytically in the limit of large  $J_0/J$  and near multicritical point
- Perform the same derivation like SK one for XY spin glass model with random real sign-alternating couplings  $J_{ij}$  and for the “gauge glass” model with complex totally random  $J_{ij}$ . Find transition temperatures and RSB instability increments at near-critical T for both models
- Consider generalization of the SK model with randomly chosen fraction of bonds  $p = Z/N$  which are active, while all the rest of bonds is set to zero. Assuming Z to be large, while  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , try to derive mean-field-like equations and find glass transition point  $T_g$