Long Josephson Junctions in Magnetic Field

Joseph Mathew, Tapas Kumar Sinha, Sanjib Malla Bujar Baruah

Abstract— **We develop a model to account for the recently observed phase jump of electrons in Josephson Junction, in a magnetic field, as the electrons cross the junction. We suggest that electrons are trapped in the potential formed by a kink anti-kink pair. When the electron escapes from this potential well it suffers a potential jump as it crosses the junction. Electrons at lower depths suffer greater potential jumps. The potential jumps were evaluated by using the Lax pair for the Sine Gordon equation and then using Gelfand-Levitan equation on the bound states formed by the kink-anti kink pair.**

Index Terms— **Josephson Junction, Phase jumps, Gelfand Levitan equation, Solitons .**

I. INTRODUCTION

Josephson junction has been studied by a number of authors [1-4]. Further Solitons in Josephson junctions has been both predicted [5, 7] and found experimentally [5, 6]. Josephson Junctions are described by Sine Gordon equation which has kink Soliton solutions. These Solitons tunnel through the Josephson junction barrier A detailed numerical analysis of Josephson tunnel junctions has been done by Lomdahl, Soerensen and Christiansen [7]. They find comprehensive numerical evidence of Solitons in both long and intermediate junctions. Charge Soliton Solutions have been found by Ziv Herman, Eshel Ben-Jacob and Gerd Schon [8] for serially coupled Josephson junctions. T. Doderer et. al [9] have experimentally stimulated Solitons in Josephson junctions and studied their dynamics. They find that the junction properties are accurately described by the perturbed Sine Gordon equation.

Recently [11] have found spectacular series of phase jumps in electrons passing through a Josephson junction in a magnetic field. We propose that these jumps occur due to electrons escaping from a potential well formed by a kink anti kink pair and crossing the Josephson junction. We first solve the Sine Gordon equation in the long wavelength limit following the technique first outlined by Sakaguchi and Malomed [10] in their classic paper. Via this technique we find the Green's function in the long wave length limit. This agrees very well with Greens functions computed intuitively with approximate Green's functions of electrons in Josephson junctions. This therefore establishes that the approach adopted here is indeed correct. Thereafter one computes the bound states of the kink anti kink pair. Thereafter one uses the fact that bound states decay. In other words the electron escapes from the kink anti kink potential.

Joseph Mathew, Department of Mathematics, North Eastern Hill University/ UCCc, Shillong India,+919436707015.,

Tapas Kumar Sinha, Computer Centre, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India +919863095051

Sanjib Malla Bujar Baruah, Mathematics,, University of Sc. and Technology, Khanapar, India, +919435387523

The Gelfand-Levitan equation is applied to this process to obtain the phase jumps.

II. SOLUTION OF THE SINE GORDON EQUATION IN ASYMPTOTIC LIMIT

The Sine –Gordon equation is

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \sin \psi = 0 \tag{1}$$

We look for solutions of the form [1]

$$\psi(x,t) = \psi^{(0)}(x,t) + \psi^{(1)}(x,t)\cos(2x) + ... \tag{2}$$

Using

$$e^{ix\sin\phi} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} J_n(x) e^{in\phi} \tag{3}$$

Equating the coefficients of cos2x

$$\psi_{tt}^{(0)} = \psi_{xx}^{(0)} - \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty}\left[\sin\psi^{(0)}\cos n\left(\phi+\frac{\pi}{2}\right)\cos\psi^{(0)}\sin n\left(\phi+\frac{\pi}{2}\right)\right]J_n\left(\psi^{(1)}\right) \tag{4}$$

For n=0

$$\psi_{tt}^{(0)} = \psi_{xx}^{(0)} - \left[\sin\psi^{(0)} J_0\left(\psi^{(1)}\right)\right] \tag{5}$$

Assume a travelling wave solution

$$\psi^{(0)} = f(x-vt), \tag{6}$$

$$\psi_{tt}^{(0)} = v^2 f'' \quad \sin\psi^{(0)} \approx \psi^{(0)} \tag{7}$$

On substituting above we get

$$v^2 f'' = f'' - J_0\left(\psi^{(1)}\right) f \tag{8}$$

$$\frac{f''}{f} = \frac{J_0\left(\psi^{(1)}\right)}{1-v^2} \tag{9}$$

The solution of (25) must be of the form

$$\psi^{(0)} = \exp\left((x-vt)\sqrt{\frac{J_0\left(\psi^{(1)}\right)}{1-v^2}}\right) \tag{10}$$

We now derive the conservation equation corresponding to(21). Using

$$\psi_t^{(0)} = \phi, \psi^{(0)} = \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial x}, \tag{11}$$

we obtain

$$\phi_t = \rho_{xxx} - \sin(\psi^{(0)})J_0(\psi^{(1)}) \tag{12}$$

Using the asymptotic expansion of $J_0(\psi^{(1)})$

$$J_0(\psi^{(1)}) \approx \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi \psi^{(1)}}} \cos\left(\psi^{(1)} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \quad (13)$$

We get

$$J_0(\psi^{(1)}) \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{\psi^{(1)}}} + \sqrt{\psi^{(1)}} \right] \quad (14)$$

Using $\quad \boldsymbol{\psi^{(1)} = e^{i\theta}}$ (15)

In the θ space the eigen value equation is

$$\rho_{\theta\theta} + \left(\lambda - \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cos(\psi^0) \cos\frac{\theta}{2} \right) \rho = 0 \quad (16)$$

Since we are interested in the asymptotic limit, we take the t =0 solution of (17) as the effective potential in (22). The equation to solve is

$$\rho_{\theta\theta} + \left(\lambda - \exp\left((x) \sqrt{\frac{J_0(\psi^{(1)})}{1-v^2}} \right) \right) \rho = 0 \quad (17)$$

Using $\quad \phi(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\theta s} \rho(\theta) d\theta \quad (18)$

equation(17) becomes

$$(s^2 - \lambda)\phi(s) - \phi(s+k) = s\phi(0) + \phi'(0) \quad (19)$$

OR

$$\phi(s) = \frac{\phi(s+k)}{s^2 - \lambda} + \frac{s\phi(0)}{s^2 - \lambda} + \frac{\phi'(0)}{s^2 - \lambda} \quad (20)$$

Taking the inverse transform

$$\rho(\theta) \;\square\; \frac{\phi'(0)\cos\sqrt{\lambda}\theta}{1 - e^{\sqrt{\lambda}\theta}\cos\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} \quad (21)$$

Using $\phi(0) = 0$

When $e^{\sqrt{\lambda}\theta}\cos\sqrt{\lambda}\theta \;\square\; 1$

$$\rho(\theta) \;\square\; \phi'(0)e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} \quad (22)$$

The Green's function is

$$G(x,x') = \phi'(0)\sum_R^\infty e^{-k(\theta-\theta')} \quad (23)$$

Eqn. (23) is the Green's function of an electron in a Josephson junction. The above result could have been derived intuitively by noting that the wave function of an electron in a Josephson junction is $\boldsymbol{\psi(\vec{r}) = e^{k\theta}}$
The Green's function may now be written as

$$G(r,r') = \sum_k e^{k(\theta'-\theta)} \quad (24)$$

Thus the result derived in (23) is in agreement with (24) derived from basic physical considerations.

III. LAX OPERATERS

The Lax operators [] for the Sine Gordon equation are

$$L = I\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{i}{2}\left[\lambda - \frac{\cos(u)}{4\lambda}\right]\sigma_3 - \frac{\sigma_2}{4\lambda}\sin(u) + \frac{\sigma_1}{2}(u_x - u_t)$$

$$B = I\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{i}{2}\left[\lambda + \frac{\cos(u)}{4\lambda}\right]\sigma_3 + \frac{\sigma_2}{4\lambda}\sin(u) + \frac{\sigma_1}{2}(u_x - u_t) \quad (25)$$

Let $\phi(k,t)$ be a soliton solution of the Sine Gordon equation. Since the Soliton is a localized solution we must have

$$\phi(k,t) = a_+(k,t)e^{-ikx} \text{ as } x \to \infty$$
$$\phi(k,t) = b_-(k,t)e^{+ikx} \text{ as } x \to -\infty \quad (26)$$

Now the time evolution of $\phi(k,t)$ is given by

$$i\frac{\partial\phi(k,t)}{\partial t} = B(t)\phi(k,t) \quad (27)$$

Assuming the operator B is time independent we obtain

$$\phi(k,t) = e^{-iBt}\phi(k,0) \quad (28)$$

where

$$B = h_0 1 + h_1\sigma_1 + h_2\sigma_2 + h_3\sigma_3 \quad (29)$$

$$h_0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, h_1 = \frac{(u_x - u_t)}{2}, h_2 = \frac{\sin(u)}{4\lambda}, h_3 = \frac{i}{2}\left(\lambda + \frac{\cos(u)}{4\lambda}\right) \quad (30)$$

and

$$u = \tan^{-1}\left(\exp\left(\frac{x-vt}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}\right)\right) \quad (31)$$

where u is the kink solution of the Sine Gordon equation.
Using (37) – (39) we obtain

$$a_+(k,t) = e^{-it(h_0 + h_3)}a_+(k,0)$$
$$b_-(k,t) = e^{-it(h_0 - h_3)}b_-(k,0)$$

IV. BOUND STATES OF THE KINK-ANTIKINK

Kink and anti kink form a potential well which can be approximated by a harmonic oscillator type of well. Such a well will have bound states. Let $\psi_n(x,0)$ be the bound state . Now the bound state wave function satisfies the boundary conditions

$$\psi_n(x,0) = \begin{cases} R_n(0)e^{-K_n x} & x \to \infty \\ T_n(0)e^{K_n x} & x \to -\infty \end{cases} \quad (33)$$

where $R_n(0)$ and $T_n(0)$ are normalization constants. The time evolution of the bound state wave function is given by

$$\psi_n(x,t) = e^{-iK_n t}e^{-h_3 t}\psi_n(x,0) \quad (34)$$

Note the replacement of k by iK_n. The normalization constant is

$$M_n(t) = e^{-2h_3 t}M_n(0) \quad (35)$$

This simple result tells us that the bound state decays exponentially in time – a fact that has been verified via numerous experiments.

V. GELFAND-LEVITAN EQUATION

In the inverse scattering method the Gelfand-Levitan equation is used to determine the scattering potential V(x,t) for all x,t. The scattering potential satisfies

$$V(x,t) = -2\frac{dg(x,x)}{dx} \tag{36}$$

where $g(x,y)$, for x < y, is the solution of the Gelfand-Levitan equation. Note that causality is built into the system via the inequality. The Gelfand-Levitan equation is

$$g(x,y) + K(x+y) + \int_x^\infty K(y+y)g(x,y)dy = 0 \tag{37}$$

With

$$K(y) = \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-\infty}^\infty R(k,t)e^{iky}dk + \sum_{n=1}^N M_n e^{-K_n y} \tag{38}$$

To solve (38) we take $R(k,0) = 0$ and the bound state energy as $-K^2$. We then obtain

$$g(x,y,t) + e^{-2h_3(x)t}M_n(0)e^{-K(x+y)}$$
$$+ \int_x^\infty e^{-2h_3(x)t}M_n(0)e^{-K(x+y)}g(x,y,t)dy = 0 \tag{39}$$

Since we know that a bound state has an exponential decay we can write

$$g(x,y,t) = e^{-Ky}h(x,t) \tag{40}$$

We then obtain

$$g(x,y,t) = \frac{M_n(0)e^{-2h_3(x)t}e^{-K(x+y)}}{\left(1 - e^{3Kx+Ky}M_n(0)e^{-2h_3(x)t}\right)} \tag{41}$$

Expanding the numerator one obtains

$$g(x,y,t) = M_n(0)e^{-2h_3(x)t}e^{-K(x+y)}\left(1 + e^{3Kx+Ky}M_n(0)e^{-2h_3(x)t} + ...\right) \tag{42}$$

Note that h_3 has been defined in (28). Each term in causes a phase jump. Phase jumps in the electron wave functions have recently been observed [11].

VI. CONCLUSION

We have solved the Sine Gordon equation in the long wavelength approximation using the methods of Sakaguchi and Malomed [10]. The Greens function so obtained is found to agree with results obtained on the basis of wave functions of electrons in a Josephson junction. Now the Sine Gordon equation admits both kink and anti-kink solutions. A kink and anti-kink can form a potential well analogus to harmonic oscillator potential. An electron can get trapped in suc a well. We use the Gelfand –Levitan equation to find the amplitude for the electron to tunnel form kink-anti kink potential to a free state. The solution shows that there is phase jump in the wave function of the electrons as they tunnel through the junction. This phase jump has recently been observed.

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Joseph Mathew the co author is a post graduate in Mathematics (M.Sc) and Computer Science (MCA) working in Union Christian College, Shillong as Associate Professor in the department of Mathematics and Vice Principal. His major field of interest is applications of Nonlinear Dynamics. Currently he is working on applications of Non Linear Dynamics to refractive photonic media, development of nonlinear optical filters and massively parallel optical computers using such media. He is a currently working under Dr. Sinha and Dr. Sanjib Malla Bujar Baruah for his PhD.

Tapas Kumar Sinha, the second author obtained his M.Sc(Physics) BHU, MS(Physics) and MS(BioPhysics) from University of Cincinnati, USA , PhD in Neural Networks in 1995 from North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India. Currently he is Associate Professor (Computer Science) at North Eastern Hill University. His major field of interest is applications of Nonlinear Dynamics. Currently he is working on applications of Nonlinear Dynamics to refractive photonic media, development of non linear optical filters and massively parallel optical computers using such media. Dr. Sinha has worked extensively as a Software Consultant for most major companies (IBM, Mead Paper, Reynolds Tobacco, ITT) in the U.S. Currently he is guiding three students for Ph.D.

Sanjib Malla Bujar Baruah, is the Head of the department of Mathematics, in the University of Sc. and Technology, Khanapara, Meghalaya India. He has completed his PhD from Guwhati University. He is guiding Joseph Mathew for his PhD in Mathematics at USTM.