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**GROUND STATES FOR THE SOS MODEL WITH COMPETING  
BINARY INTERACTIONS ON A CAYLEY TREE OF ORDER THREE**

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**Abstract:** *We consider a SOS (solid-on-solid) model with nearest-neighbor interaction  $J_1$ , prolonged next-nearest-neighbor interaction  $J_2$  and one level next-nearest-neighbor interaction  $J_3$ , where the spin takes values in the set  $\Phi = \{0, 1, 2\}$  on a Cayley tree of order three. In the paper, we study translation-invariant and periodic ground states of the model SOS.*

**Keywords:** *Cayley tree, configuration, competing next-nearest-neighbor interactions, translation-invariant and periodic ground state.*

**ОСНОВНЫЕ СОСТОЯНИЯ ДЛЯ МОДЕЛИ SOS С  
КОНКУРИРУЮЩИМИ БИНАРНЫМИ ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЯМИ НА  
ДЕРЕВЕ КЭЛИ ПОРЯДКА ТРИ**

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**Аннотация:** Мы рассматриваем модель SOS (solid-on-solid) с взаимодействием ближайших соседей  $J_1$ , длительным взаимодействием следующих ближайших соседей  $J_2$  и одноуровневым взаимодействием следующих ближайших соседей  $J_3$ , где спин принимает значения в множестве  $\Phi = \{0, 1, 2\}$  на дереве Кэли порядка три. В статье исследуются трансляционно-инвариантные и периодические основные состояния модели SOS.

**Ключевые слова:** Дерево Кэли, конфигурация, конкурирующие взаимодействия ближайших соседей, трансляционно-инвариантное и периодическое основное состояние.

It is known that a phase diagram of Gibbs measures for a Hamiltonian is close to the phase diagram of isolated (stable) ground states of this Hamiltonian. At low temperatures, a periodic ground state corresponds to a periodic Gibbs measure (see, e.g., [1]). It leads us to investigate the problem of description of periodic and weakly periodic ground states. In this paper, we study periodic ground states for the SOS model with nearest-neighbor and competing binary interactions on a Cayley tree of order three.

Let  $\Gamma^k = (V, L)$  be the Cayley tree of order  $k \geq 1$ , i.e., an infinite tree such that exactly  $k + 1$  edges are incident to each vertex. Here  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $L$  is the set of edges of  $\Gamma^k$ . It is known (see [2]) that there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the set  $V$  of vertices of the Cayley tree of order  $k \geq 1$  and the group  $G_k$  of the free products of  $k + 1$  cyclic groups  $\{e, a_i\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k + 1$  of the second order (i.e.  $a_i^2 = e$ ,  $a_i^{-1} = a_i$ ) with generators  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k+1}$ .

For an arbitrary vertex  $x^0 \in V$ , we put

$$W_n = \{x \in V \mid d(x, x^0) = n\}, V_n = \{x \in V \mid d(x, x^0) \leq n\},$$

where  $d(x, y)$  is a natural distance, being the number of nearest-neighbor pairs of the minimal path between the vertices  $x$  and  $y$ .  $L_n$  denotes the set of edges in  $V_n$ . The fixed vertex  $x^0$  is called the 0-th level and the vertices in  $W_n$  are called the  $n$ -th level. For the sake of simplicity, we put  $|x| = d(x, x^0)$ ,  $x \in V$ .

Two vertices  $x, y \in V$  are called the next-nearest-neighbour neighbors if  $d(x, y) = 2$ . The next-nearest-neighbour vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are called prolonged next-nearest-neighbours if  $|x| \neq |y|$  and is denoted by  $\rangle x, y \langle$ . The next-nearest-neighbour vertices  $x, y \in V$  that are not prolonged are called one-level next-nearest-neighbours since  $|x| = |y|$  and are denoted by  $\rangle x, y \langle$ .

For each  $x \in G_k$ , let  $S(x)$  denote the set of direct successors of  $x$ , i.e., if  $x \in W_n$  then  $S(x) = \{y \in W_{n+1} : d(x, y) = 1\}$ . For each  $x \in G_k$ , let  $S_1(x)$  denote the set of all neighbors of  $x$ , i.e.,  $S_1(x) = \{y \in G_k : \langle x, y \rangle \in L\}$ . The set  $S_1(x) \setminus S(x)$  is a singleton. Let  $x_\downarrow$  denote the (unique) element of this set.

Let us assume that the spin values belong to the set  $\Phi = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ . A function  $\sigma : x \in V \rightarrow \sigma(x) \in \Phi$  is called configuration on  $V$ . The set of all configurations coincides with the set  $\Omega = \Phi^V$ .

Consider the quotient group  $G_k / G_k^* = \{H_1, H_2, \dots, H_r\}$ , where  $G_k^*$  is a normal subgroup of index  $r$  with  $r \geq 1$ .

**Definition 1.** A configuration  $\sigma(x)$ ,  $x \in V$  is said to be  $G_k^*$ -periodic, if  $\sigma(x) = \sigma_i$  for all  $x \in H_i$ . A  $G_k$ -periodic configuration is called translation invariant.

The period of a periodic configuration is the index of the corresponding normal subgroup.

The Hamiltonian of the SOS model with competing nearest-neighbour and next-nearest-neighbour binary interactions has the form:

$$H(\sigma) = -J_1 \sum_{\langle x,y \rangle \in L} |\sigma(x) - \sigma(y)| - J_3 \sum_{\substack{\rangle x,y \langle \\ x,y \in V}} |\sigma(x) - \sigma(y)|, \\ -J_2 \sum_{\substack{\rangle x,y \langle \\ x,y \in V}} |\sigma(x) - \sigma(y)| \quad (1)$$

where  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

We define the energy of the configuration  $\sigma_b$  on  $b$  by the following formula

$$U(\sigma_b, J_1, J_2, J_3) = -\frac{1}{2} J_1 \sum_{\substack{\langle x,y \rangle \\ x,y \in b}} |\sigma(x) - \sigma(y)| - J_2 \sum_{\substack{\rangle x,y \langle \\ x,y \in b}} |\sigma(x) - \sigma(y)| \\ - J_3 \sum_{\substack{\rangle x,y \langle \\ x,y \in b}} (|\sigma(x) - \sigma(y)|), \quad (2)$$

where  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

In [4] we studied ground state for SOS model with competing nearest-neighbour and next-nearest-neighbour binary interactions on a Cayley tree of order two.

We consider the case  $k = 3$ .

Let  $m = 2$ . By (2) for any  $\sigma_b$  we have  $U(\sigma_b) \in \{U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_{24}\}$ , where

$$U_1 = 0, U_2 = -\frac{1}{2} J_1 - 3J_2, U_3 = -\frac{1}{2} J_1 - J_2 - 2J_3, U_4 = -J_1 - 2J_2 - 2J_3, \\ U_5 = -J_1 - 6J_2, U_6 = -J_1 - 2J_2 - 4J_3, U_7 = -\frac{3}{2} J_1 - 3J_2, U_8 = -\frac{3}{2} J_1 - J_2 - 2J_3, \\ U_9 = -2J_1 - 4J_2 - 4J_3, U_{10} = -3J_1 - 6J_2, U_{11} = -3J_1 - 2J_2 - 4J_3, \\ U_{12} = -2J_1 - 4J_2 - 2J_3, U_{13} = -2J_1 - 2J_2 - 4J_3, U_{14} = -\frac{5}{2} J_1 - 5J_2 - 2J_3, \\ U_{15} = -\frac{5}{2} J_1 - 3J_2 - 4J_3, U_{16} = -\frac{3}{2} J_1 - 5J_2 - 2J_3, U_{17} = -\frac{3}{2} J_1 - 3J_2 - 4J_3, \\ U_{18} = -2J_1, U_{19} = -4J_1, U_{20} = -\frac{7}{2} J_1 - 3J_2, U_{21} = -\frac{7}{2} J_1 - J_2 - 2J_3, \\ U_{22} = -\frac{5}{2} J_1 - 3J_2, U_{23} = -\frac{5}{2} J_1 - J_2 - 2J_3, U_{24} = -3J_1 - 2J_2 - 2J_3.$$

**Definition 2.** A configuration  $\varphi$  is called a ground state for the Hamiltonian (1), if  $U(\varphi_b) = \min\{U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_{24}\}$  for  $\forall b \in M$ .

For  $i = \overline{1, 24}$  we put

$$C_i = \{\sigma_b : U(\sigma_b) = U_i\} \text{ and } A_m = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid U_m = \min_{1 \leq k \leq 24} \{U_k\}\}.$$

Quite cumbersome, but not difficult calculations show that:

$$A_1 = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 \leq -\frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 \leq -\frac{1}{4}J_1 - \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_2 = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 = -\frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 \leq J_2\},$$

$$A_3 = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 \leq -\frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 = -\frac{1}{4}J_1 - \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_4 = A_{12} = A_{24} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 = 0; J_2 = 0; J_3 = 0\},$$

$$A_5 = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 \geq -\frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 \leq -\frac{1}{4}J_1 + \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_6 = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 \leq -\frac{1}{2}J_1; J_3 \geq -\frac{1}{4}J_1 - \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_7 = A_{22} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 = 0; J_2 = 0; J_3 \leq 0\},$$

$$A_8 = A_{23} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 = 0; J_2 \leq 0; J_3 = -\frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_9 = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 = 0; J_2 \geq 0; J_3 \geq \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{10} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 \geq \frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 \leq \frac{1}{4}J_1 + \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{11} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 \leq \frac{1}{2}J_1; J_3 \geq \frac{1}{4}J_1 - \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{13} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 = 0; J_2 \leq 0; J_3 \geq -\frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{14} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 \geq 0; J_3 = \frac{1}{4}J_1 + \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{15} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 = \frac{1}{2}J_1; J_3 \geq J_2\},$$

$$A_{16} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 \geq 0; J_3 = -\frac{1}{4}J_1 + \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{17} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \leq 0; J_2 = -\frac{1}{2}J_1; J_3 \geq J_2\},$$

$$A_{18} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 = 0; J_2 \leq 0; J_3 \leq -\frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{19} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 \leq \frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 \leq \frac{1}{4}J_1 - \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$A_{20} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 = \frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 \leq J_2\},$$

$$A_{21} = \{(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid J_1 \geq 0; J_2 \leq \frac{1}{6}J_1; J_3 = \frac{1}{4}J_1 - \frac{1}{2}J_2\},$$

$$\text{and } \bigcup_{i=1}^{24} A_i = \mathbb{R}^3.$$

Let  $H_A = \{x \in G_k : \sum_{i \in A} \omega_x(a_i) \text{--even}\}$ , where  $A \subset \{1, 2, 3, \dots, k+1\}$  and  $\omega_x(a_i)$  is the number of  $a_i$  in the word  $x$ . If  $|A| = k+1$ , then  $H_A \equiv G_k^{(2)} = \{x \in G_k : |x| \text{--even}\}$ , where  $|x|$  is length of the word  $x$ .

Note that  $H_A$  is a normal subgroup of index two (see [2]). Let  $G_k / H_A = \{H_A, G_k \setminus H_A\}$  be the quotient group. Denote  $H_0 = H_A, H_1 = G_k \setminus H_A$ .

Now, we shall study  $H_0$ -periodic ground states. We note that each  $H_0$ -periodic configuration has the following form:

$$\sigma(x) = \begin{cases} \sigma_1, & \text{if } x \in H_0, \\ \sigma_2, & \text{if } x \in H_1, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where  $\sigma_i \in \Phi, i = 1, 2$ .

**Theorem 1.** a) Let  $k = 3$  and  $|A| = 1$ . Then for the model (1) the following statements hold:

i) If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_1$  then each translation invariant configuration is a ground state.

ii) If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_2 \cap A_3$  then each  $H_0$ -periodic configuration of the form (3) with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 1, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$ , is a ground state.

iii) If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_5 \cap A_6$  then each  $H_0$ -periodic configuration of the form (3) with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 2, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$ , is a ground state.

b) Let  $k = 3$  and  $|A| = 2$ . If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_9$  then each  $H_0$ -periodic configuration of the form (3) with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 2, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$ , is a ground state.

c) Let  $k = 3$  and  $|A| = 3$ . If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_{10} \cap A_{11}$  then each  $H_0$ -periodic configuration of the form (3) with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 2, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$ , is a ground state.

d) Let  $k = 3$  and  $|A| = 4$ .

i) If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_{18}$  then each  $G_k^{(2)}$ -periodic configuration of the form (3) with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 1, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$ , is a ground state.

ii) If  $(J_1, J_2, J_3) \in A_{19}$  then each  $G_k^{(2)}$ -periodic configuration of the form (3) with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 2, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$ , is a ground state.

**Remark 1.**

1) Note that applying the methods of [3], one can construct some periodic ground states which are different from the ground states mentioned in Theorem 1.

2) Let  $k = 3$  and  $|A| = l, l = 2, 3$ . If  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \pm 1, \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Phi$  then the configuration (3) is not an  $H_0$ -periodic ground state.

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