Experiments on quantum vortices in a pure superfluid condensate, 3He-B at ultralow temperatures.

Lancaster Quantum Fluids

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Classical Vortices (eddies)

can have a wide range of shapes and sizes.

Quantum Vortices (3He-B and 4He)

core size: $^4\mathsf{He}:\, \mathsf{\check{S}}_0 \!\sim\! 0.1 \;\mathsf{nm}$ 3 He : $\boldsymbol{\xi}_0$ ~ 65 - 15 nm (pressure dep.) 2 π phase change around core Gives circulating superfluid flow, $v_{\rm S}$ $=$ $\kappa/2\pi r$ ϵ irculation : $\kappa_4 = h/m_4$ $\kappa_3 = h/2m_3$

Form self propagating Rings

$$
u = \frac{\kappa}{2\pi d} \ln\left(\frac{d}{2\,\xi}\right)
$$

d~ 5 μ m [⇒]*u~*10mm s-¹

Or form a tangle (Quantum Turbulence)

Inter-vortex spacing *l* Line Density L= *1* / *l* 2 (line length per unit volume)

Vortices produced by a rapid phase transition

Cosmological Analogue: Phase Transitions after the Big Bang

$n + 3$ He $\rightarrow p + 3$ H + 764keV The "Big Bang"

Hot Expanding Universe (normal 3He)

The Phase Transition (to superfluid ³He)

Ordering produces domains, limited by causality (fast transition gives small domains)

The order parameter smoothes, leaving defects (Cosmic strings / vortices)

Line defects form a random tangle (Quantum Turbulence)

The tangle may evolve very slowly (and may store a lot of energy)

The damping of the thermometer wire in the box with an external neutron source.

The detector is calibrated (using the heater wire to input a known energy) which then allows us to determine the energies of individual events.

Energy deficit measures the amount of vortices produced

Good agreement with the `Cosmological' model (Kibble-Zurek mechanism)

Vortices produced by annihilation of phase boundaries (analogous to Brane-collisions in cosmology, which may have triggered inflation)

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QUANTUM MOLECULAR DYNAMICS
Explosive simulations

Vortex Production by a vibrating Grid in 3He-B

The excitation dispersion curve is tilted by superflow (energies are shifted by p F.v).

Andreev Scattering by vortex lines The flow around a vortex, Andreev reflects excitations (particles on one side and holes on the other side).

Vibrating Wire Resonator

a loop of superconducting wire is placed in a magnetic field and set into motion by passing an ac current through it .

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The wire damping is suppressed when the grid is oscillated.

First, focus on the decay of the vorticity after we switch off the grid.

Based on simulations by Makoto Tsubota's group.

The grid frequency, 1300Hz, predominantly excites 5 μ*^m diameter loops.*

Simulations by Makoto Tsubota's group.

At low ring production rates, the rings are ballistic and travel with their self-induced velocity with almost no interaction.

Simulations by Makoto Tsubota's group.

At higher ring production rates, the rings collide to produce a vortex tangle (quantum turbulence).

Simulations by Makoto Tsubota's group.

The quantum turbulence then decays relatively slowly.

Thermal decay of vortex rings

Arrows give ange of 5 micron rings based on mutual friction measurements by Bevan *et. al.* JLTP **109**, 243 (1997).

Decay of Pure Quantum Turbulence

Richardson cascade - Kolmogorov spectrum

Classical cascade model (assuming ω = ^κL) predicts: Vortex Line Density at late times, L=D/2πκ (27C/v) $^{1/2}$ t^{-3/2} ν ⁼`effective' kinematic viscosity.

Decay of Pure Quantum Turbulence

Turbulent Fluctuations

Power spectrum of turbulent fluctuations

Power spectrum of turbulent fluctuations

Cross-correlation of turbulent fluctuations

Turbulent fluctuations observed in the most recent experiment

Cross-correlation of vortex ring signal (grid $v=1.8$ mm/s)

time (s)

Cross-correlation of vortex signal (grid v=2.6mm/s)

Cross-correlation

Cross-correlation of vortex signal (grid v=3.3mm/s)

 $time(s)$

Cross-correlation of vortex tangle signal (grid $v=5.7$ mm/s)

Cross-correlation

 $time(s)$

Quasiparticle Imaging

Heated Radiator Box produces a beam of ballistic quasiparticles

Quasiparticle Imaging

Array of detectors (e.g. tuning forks) produce an image of the excitation beam flux.

Quasiparticle Imaging

We can then image the quasiparticle shadows cast by vortices or other superfluid structures.

Can anything like this be done in superconductors ?