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)



2 π phase change around core Gives circulating superfluid flow, $v_{\rm S} = \kappa/2\pi r$ circulation : $\kappa_4 = h/m_4$ $\kappa_3 = h/2m_3$ core size: ⁴He : $\xi_0 \sim 0.1$ nm ³He : $\xi_0 \sim 65 - 15$ nm (pressure dep.)









Form self propagating Rings

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

 $d\sim 5\mu m \Rightarrow u\sim 10 mm s^{-1}$







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





$n + {}^{3}He \rightarrow p + {}^{3}H + 764 keV$ 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)











nature physics

Branestorm

OUANTUM OPTICS Few-photon fluorescence SUPERCONDUCTIVITY Charge without spin OUANTUM 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_{Γ} .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 µm 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 $\omega = \kappa L$) predicts: Vortex Line Density at late times, L=D/2 $\pi \kappa$ (27C/v)^{1/2} t^{3/2} v = `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=1.8mm/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=5.7mm/s)



Cross-correlation

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 ?