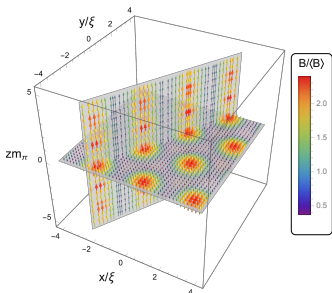


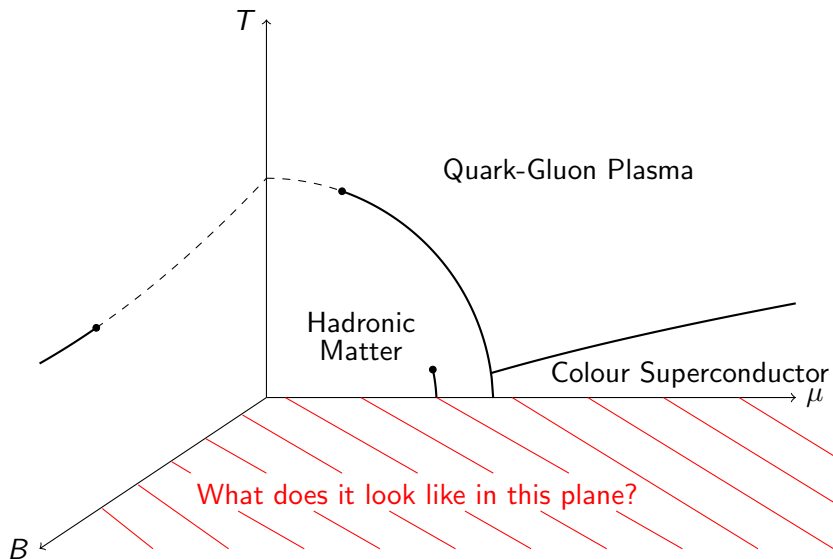
3D Baryon crystal from the chiral anomaly

Geraint W. Evans



based on GWE and A. Schmitt, JHEP 09 (2022) and JHEP 41 (2024)

QCD Phase Diagram extended along the B -axis



Chiral Perturbation Theory with chiral anomaly

$N_f = 2$ ChPT, **electromagnetism** and the **chiral anomaly (WZW term)** [J. Wess and B. Zumino, PLB 37 (1971); E. Witten, NPB 223 (1983)]

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \text{Tr} [\nabla_\mu \Sigma^\dagger \nabla^\mu \Sigma] + \frac{m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2}{4} \text{Tr} [\Sigma + \Sigma^\dagger] - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \left(A_\mu^B - \frac{e}{2} A_\mu \right) j_B^\mu,$$

with $SU(2)$ chiral field $\Sigma(\pi^0, \pi^\pm)$, covariant derivative ∇^μ , gauge fields A_μ and A_μ^B , and anomalous baryon current [J. Goldstone and F. Wilczek, PRL 47 (1981)]

$$j_B^\mu = -\frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\lambda}}{24\pi^2} \text{Tr} \left[(\Sigma \nabla_\nu \Sigma^\dagger) (\Sigma \nabla_\rho \Sigma^\dagger) (\Sigma \nabla_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger) + \frac{3ie}{4} F_{\nu\rho} \tau_3 (\Sigma \nabla_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger + \nabla_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma) \right].$$

With parametrisation $(\pi^0, \pi^\pm) \rightarrow (\alpha, \varphi)$,

$$A_\mu^B j_B^\mu = -\frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\lambda}}{4\pi^2} A_\mu^B \partial_\nu \alpha \left(\frac{e}{2} F_{\rho\lambda} + \frac{\partial_\rho j_\lambda}{ef_\pi^2} \right).$$

⇒ Electromagnetic and “baryonic” coupling to pions

Chiral Soliton Lattice (CSL)

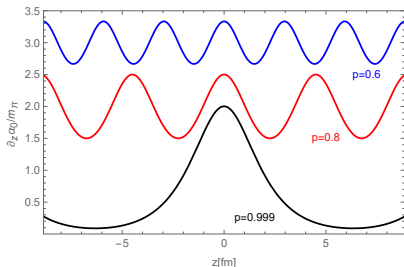
- ▶ In the absence of π^\pm ($\varphi = 0$) [D. T. Son and M. A. Stephanov, PRD 77 (2008)],

$$\Omega_0(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{f_\pi^2}{2} (\nabla\alpha)^2 - m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 (\cos\alpha - 1) + \frac{B^2}{2} - \frac{e\mu}{4\pi^2} \nabla\alpha \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

- ▶ Solution of the α equation of motion is [T. Brauner and N. Yamamoto, JHEP 4 (2017)]

$$\alpha(z, p) = 2 \arccos \left[-\text{sn}(z, p^2) \right],$$

where $\text{sn}(z, p^2)$ is the Jacobi elliptic sine function with elliptic modulus p



- ▶ CSL = “stack of domain walls”
- ▶ From CSL free energy F_0 , find critical magnetic field

$$eB_{\text{CSL}} = \frac{16\pi m_\pi f_\pi^2}{\mu}$$

CSL instability to π^\pm fluctuations

- ▶ From the dispersion relation of π^\pm fluctuations, determine

$$eB_{c2} = \frac{m_\pi^2}{p^2} \left(2 - p^2 + 2\sqrt{p^4 - p^2 + 1} \right)$$

from the lowest energy excitation [T. Brauner and N. Yamamoto, JHEP 4 (2017)]

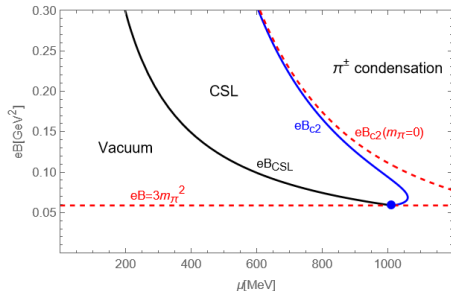
- ▶ p parameterises the instability curve B_{c2}

chiral limit ($p \rightarrow 0$):

$$eB_{c2} = \frac{16\pi^4 f_\pi^4}{\mu^2}$$

domain wall ($p \rightarrow 1$):

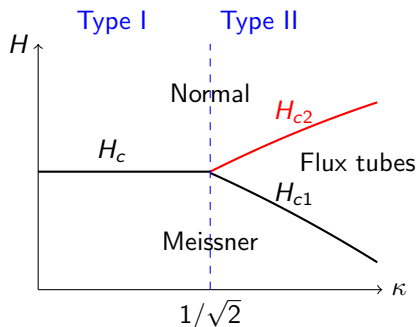
$$eB_{c2} = 3m_\pi^2$$



[D. T. Son and M. A. Stephanov, PRD 77 (2008)]

What is the phase beyond B_{c2} ?

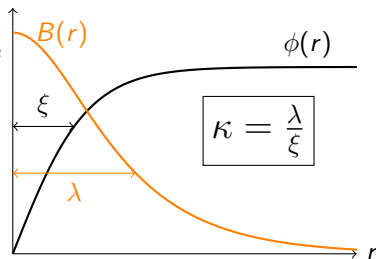
Superconductivity refresher



- ▶ Instability to π^\pm fluctuations implies condensation \rightarrow **superconductivity**
- ▶ Dispersion relation in chiral limit reminiscent of **type-II Flux tube lattice/Normal transition**

▶ (Above) H - κ phase diagram where κ is the Ginzburg-Landau parameter

▶ (Right) Flux tube profile: ϕ has coherence length ξ , B has penetration depth λ



The main idea

- ▶ Aim: construct a type-II flux tube lattice near B_{c2} and determine its free energy
- ▶ Strategy: Adopt Abrikosov's approach originally used in Ginzburg-Landau theory [A. A. Abrikosov, Sov. Phys. JETP 5 (1957), W. H. Kleiner et al., PR 133 5A (1964)]

Abrikosov's approach in ChPT

- ▶ Expand in small parameter $\epsilon = \sqrt{|\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}|/B_{c2}}$,

$$\varphi = \varphi_0 + \delta\varphi + \dots, \quad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_0 + \delta\mathbf{B} + \dots, \quad \alpha = \alpha_0 + \delta\alpha + \dots$$

- ▶ Lowest order equations solved by $\mathbf{B}_0 = B_{c2}(p)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$,

$$\alpha_0(z, p) = 2 \arccos [-\text{sn}(z, p^2)], \quad \varphi_0(x, y, z, p) = f_0(z, p)\phi_0(x, y)$$

- ▶ Move to Fourier space to find $\delta\mathbf{B}$, $\delta\alpha$, and determine the free energy up to ϵ^4 ,

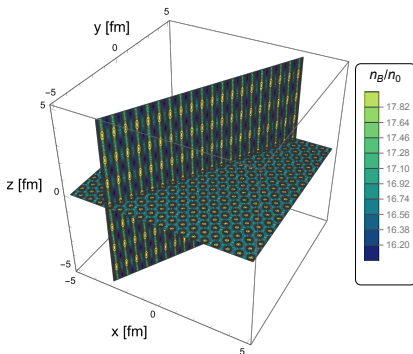
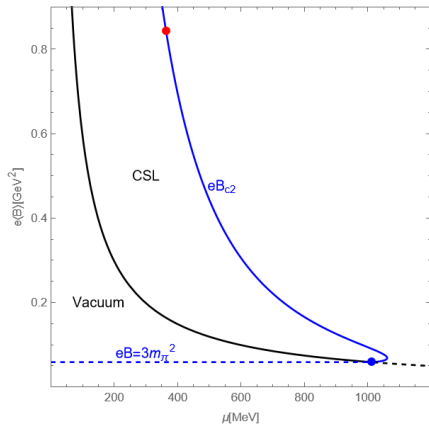
$$F \simeq F_0 - \frac{\mathcal{G}(p)^2}{2} \frac{(\langle B \rangle - B_{c2})^2}{(2\kappa^2 - 1)\beta + 1 + 2(\mathcal{H}_1 - \mathcal{H}_2)},$$

where $\mathcal{G}(p)$ contains elliptic integrals, $\mathcal{H}_{1,2}$ are Fourier sums, and

$$\beta \equiv \frac{\langle |\phi_0|^4 \rangle}{\langle |\phi_0|^2 \rangle^2}$$

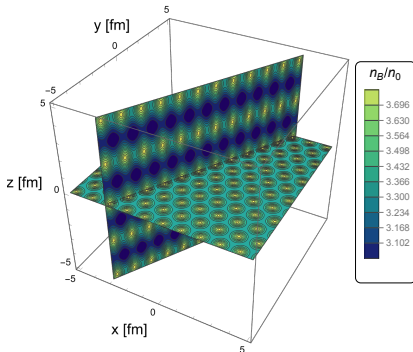
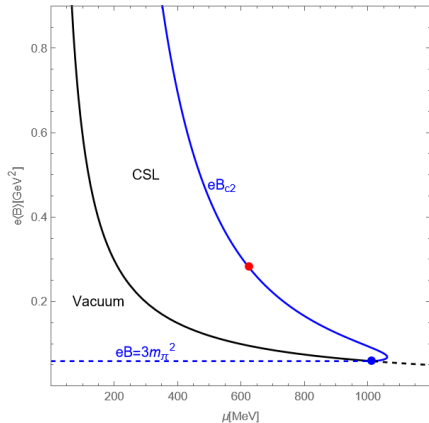
where $\langle \dots \rangle$ denotes a spatial average

Baryon number density (1/4)



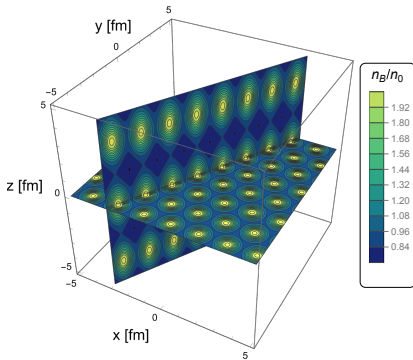
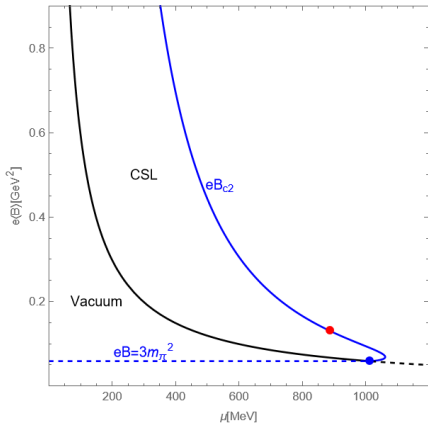
$e\langle B \rangle \gg m_\pi^2$: comparable to chiral limit

Baryon number density (2/4)



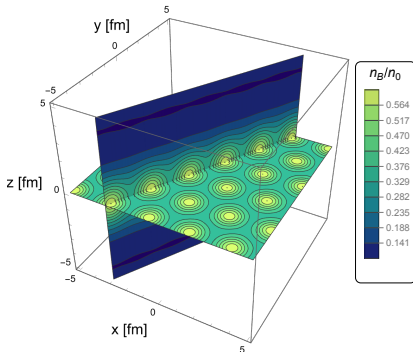
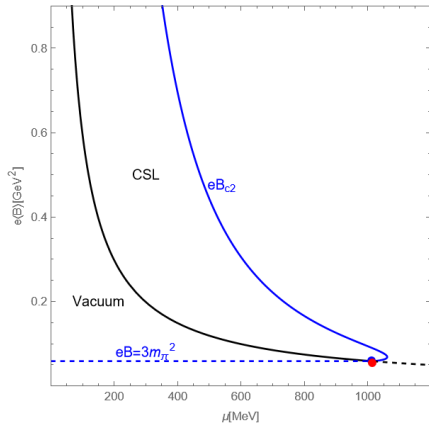
$e\langle B \rangle \gtrsim 3m_\pi^2$: z -dependence of π^\pm condensate is significant

Baryon number density (3/4)



As $e\langle B \rangle$ approaches $3m_\pi^2$ from above, separation between “layers” increases

Baryon number density (4/4)

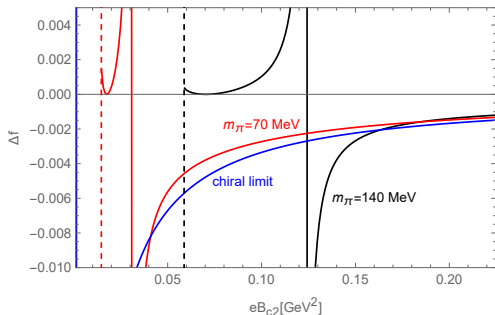


$$e\langle B \rangle \simeq 3m_\pi^2 : \text{domain wall limit}$$

Is it preferred over CSL?

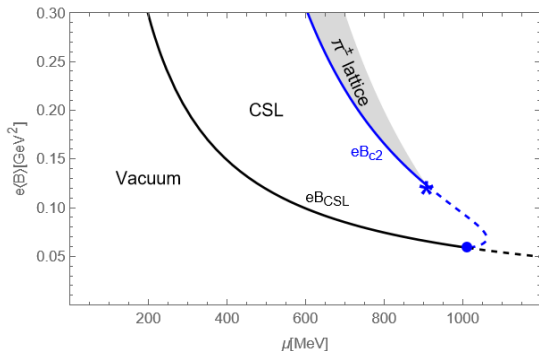
$$F \simeq F_0 + \Delta f (\langle B \rangle - B_{c2})^2$$

- ▶ Minimum of Δf at lattice spacing = $1/\sqrt{3}$ for all $p \rightarrow$ hexagonal lattice
- ▶ $\Delta f < 0$ for $\mu \lesssim 910$ MeV



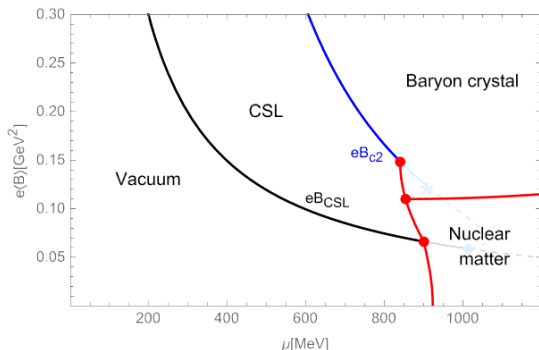
We have constructed a phase which is preferred over the CSL for $e\langle B \rangle \gtrsim 0.12 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\mu \lesssim 910 \text{ MeV}$!

Phase diagram - Results



- ▶ Solid blue line: 3D crystal is preferred over CSL
- ▶ Dashed blue line: 3D crystal is *not* preferred over CSL

Phase diagram - Conjecture



- ▶ Region where our solution is not preferred but CSL is unstable implies earlier discontinuous transition
- ▶ Nuclear matter liquid-gas phase transition at $\mu \simeq 922.7$ MeV, $B = 0$

Summary

- ▶ In the μ - B plane at $T = 0$, the CSL phase instability to π^\pm fluctuations implies π^\pm condense to a superconducting phase
- ▶ Adapting Abrikosov's original calculation, we constructed a superconducting flux tube lattice which **lowers the free energy of the CSL phase** for $e\langle B \rangle \gtrsim 0.12 \text{ GeV}^2$, $\mu \lesssim 910 \text{ MeV}$
- ▶ Baryon number density is non-zero and inhomogeneous with periodicity in $(x, y, z) \rightarrow$ **3D Baryon crystal**

Outlook

- ▶ **Domain wall skyrmions** also a candidate phase - competition or connection? [M. Eto et al., JHEP 12 (2023)]
- ▶ We could try to: Look at **lattice away from B_{c2}** numerically, **include baryons**, go to **$T \neq 0$** [T. Brauner and H. Kolešová, JHEP 07 (2023)]
- ▶ Can we extend our results to other planes e.g. **μ_I - B plane** plane?
[P. Adhikari et al., PRC 91 (2015); M. S. Grønli and T. Brauner, Eur. Phys. J. C 82 (2022); Z. Qiu, M. Nitta, JHEP 139 (2024)]

Back-up slides

Free energy density

- ▶ Use parametrisation $\pi^0, \pi^\pm \rightarrow \alpha, \varphi$
- ▶ Dropping time-dependence, the thermodynamic potential is

$$\Omega(\mathbf{r}) = |\nabla - i(e\mathbf{A} + \nabla\alpha)]\varphi|^2 + \frac{(\nabla|\varphi|^2)^2}{2(f_\pi^2 - 2|\varphi|^2)} + \frac{f_\pi^2 - 2|\varphi|^2}{2} (\nabla\alpha)^2 \\ - m_\pi^2 f_\pi \sqrt{f_\pi^2 - 2|\varphi|^2} \cos\alpha + \frac{\mathbf{B}^2}{2} - \mu n_B(\mathbf{r}),$$

where $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$, and

$$n_B(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{e\nabla\alpha \cdot \mathbf{B}}{4\pi^2} + \frac{\nabla\alpha \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{j}}{4\pi^2 e f_\pi^2}$$

is the baryon number density with electromagnetic current \mathbf{j}

Equations of motion

From the Lagrangian/free energy we obtain the equations of motion for φ , \mathbf{A} and α

$$\left[\mathcal{D} + \frac{\nabla^2 |\varphi|^2}{f_\pi^2 - 2|\varphi|^2} + \frac{(\nabla |\varphi|^2)^2}{(f_\pi^2 - 2|\varphi|^2)^2} + m_\pi^2 \cos \alpha \left(1 - \frac{f_\pi}{\sqrt{f_\pi^2 - 2|\varphi|^2}} \right) \right] \varphi = 0,$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = -ie(\varphi^* \nabla \varphi - \varphi \nabla \varphi^*) - 2e(\mathbf{eA} + \nabla \alpha) |\varphi|^2,$$

$$\nabla \cdot \left[\left(1 - \frac{2|\varphi|^2}{f_\pi^2} \right) \nabla \alpha \right] = m_\pi^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{2|\varphi|^2}{f_\pi^2}} \sin \alpha,$$

respectively, where

$$\mathcal{D} \equiv \nabla^2 - i\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{eA} + \nabla \alpha) - 2i(\mathbf{eA} + \nabla \alpha) \cdot \nabla - (\mathbf{eA} + \nabla \alpha)^2 + (\nabla \alpha)^2 - m_\pi^2 \cos \alpha.$$

CSL π^\pm instability

- ▶ Linearise EoMs in φ and use product ansatz $\varphi = e^{-i\omega t} g(x, y) f(z)$ to find the (z -dependent) dispersion relation [T. Brauner and N. Yamamoto, JHEP 4 (2017)]

$$\omega^2 = (2l + 1) eB - \frac{m_\pi^2}{p^2} [4 + p^2 - 6p^2 \text{sn}^2(\bar{z}, p^2)] - f^{-1} \partial_z^2 f,$$

where $g(x, y)$ is the solution to Schrödinger equation for the quantum harmonic oscillator

- ▶ Above can be cast into a Lamé equation with lowest eigenvalue

$$\varepsilon_0 = 2(1 + p^2 - \sqrt{p^4 - p^2 + 1})$$

and corresponding eigenfunction

$$f_0(z) = \frac{1}{N(p)} \left(\frac{\sqrt{p^4 - p^2 + 1} + 1 - 2p^2}{3p^2} + \text{sn}^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \right),$$

where $N(p)$ is a normalisation factor

β parameter and lattice configurations

- ▶ Minimise $\beta \rightarrow$ minimise F
- ▶ Depends on periodicity condition $C_n = C_{n+N}$
- ▶ Explore a continuum of geometries with $N = 2$ and $C_0 = \pm iC_1$ [W. H. Kleiner et al., PR 133 5A (1964)]

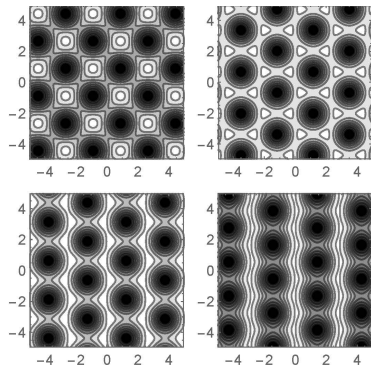
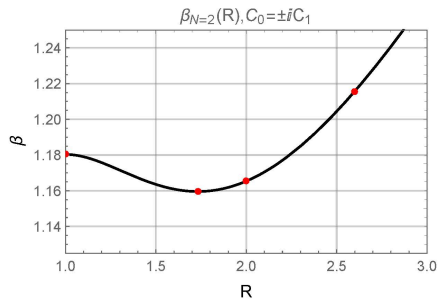


Figure: $R = L_x/L_y$. *Left*: Red dots correspond to contour plots on the right. *Right*: $|\phi_0(x, y)|^2$ in the x - y plane. Dark regions correspond to flux tubes.

Abrikosov's calculation in Ginzburg-Landau theory

- ▶ Near second order phase transition \rightarrow expand ϕ and \mathbf{B} in small parameter $\epsilon \sim \sqrt{B_{c2} - B}$

$$\phi = \phi_0 + \delta\phi + \dots, \quad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_0 + \delta\mathbf{B} + \dots,$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_0(x, y) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} C_n e^{inqy} e^{-\frac{eB_{c2}}{2} \left(x - \frac{nq}{eB_{c2}}\right)^2}, \quad \mathbf{B} \simeq (\text{const.} - |\phi_0(x, y)|^2) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

- ▶ With unit cell lengths L_x, L_y, L_z , introduce

$$\langle f(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{L_x} \frac{1}{L_y} \frac{1}{L_z} \int_0^{L_x} dx \int_0^{L_y} dy \int_0^{L_z} dz f(\mathbf{r})$$

and parameter

$$\beta \equiv \frac{\langle |\phi_0|^4 \rangle}{\langle |\phi_0|^2 \rangle^2}$$

- ▶ Minimised free energy up to and including ϵ^4 terms is

$$F \simeq \frac{\langle B \rangle^2}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{(B_{c2} - \langle B \rangle)^2}{(2\kappa^2 - 1)\beta + 1}$$

Warm-up: chiral Limit

- ▶ Adapt Abrikosov's expansion with $\epsilon \equiv \sqrt{|\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}|/B_{c2}}$ [A. A. Abrikosov, Sov. Phys. JETP 5 (1957)]:

$$\varphi = \varphi_0 + \delta\varphi + \dots, \quad \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_0 + \delta\mathbf{A} + \dots, \quad \alpha = \alpha_0 + \delta\alpha + \dots$$

- ▶ At leading order

$$\mathbf{B}_0 = B_{c2} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z, \quad \alpha_0(z) = \frac{e\mu}{4\pi^2 f_\pi^2} B_{c2} z,$$

$$\varphi_0(x, y) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} C_n e^{inqy} e^{-\frac{eB_{c2}}{2}(x - \frac{nq}{eB_{c2}})^2} \equiv \phi_0(x, y)$$

- ▶ Next-to-leading order correction to \mathbf{B} and α become

$$\delta\mathbf{B}(x, y) = [\langle B \rangle - B_{c2} + e (|\langle \varphi_0(x, y) \rangle|^2 - |\varphi_0(x, y)|^2)] \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z,$$

$$\delta\alpha(z) = \frac{e\mu}{4\pi^2 f_\pi^2} (\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}) z$$

- ▶ Introduce the average over unit cell lengths L_x, L_y, L_z ;

$$\langle f(\mathbf{r}) \rangle_{x,y,z} \equiv \frac{1}{L_x} \frac{1}{L_y} \frac{1}{L_z} \int_0^{L_x} dx \int_0^{L_y} dy \int_0^{L_z} dz f(\mathbf{r})$$

Warm-up: chiral Limit

- ▶ Do not solve $\delta\varphi$ equation, use instead to show

$$e\langle|\varphi_0|^2\rangle_{x,y,z} = \frac{\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}}{(2\kappa^2 - 1)\beta + 1}, \quad \text{where} \quad \beta = \frac{\langle|\varphi_0|^4\rangle_{x,y,z}}{(\langle|\varphi_0|^2\rangle_{x,y,z})^2},$$

and $\kappa = \sqrt{eB_{c2}}/\sqrt{2ef_\pi}$ is an effective Ginzburg-Landau parameter

- ▶ Up to and including ϵ^4 terms,

$$F \simeq F_0 + \Delta f (\langle B \rangle - B_{c2})^2,$$

where F_0 is calculated in the chiral limit and

$$\Delta f = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{(2\kappa^2 - 1)\beta + 1}$$

We have constructed a phase which is preferred above B_{c2} in the chiral limit!

Charged pion condensate and baryon number density

Oscillation in baryon number density comes primarily from the vorticity term $\nabla \times \mathbf{j} \simeq e \nabla^2 |\varphi_0|^2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z$.

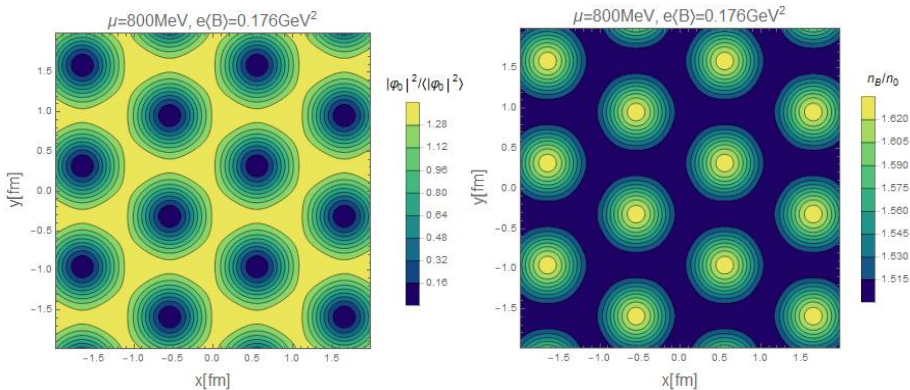
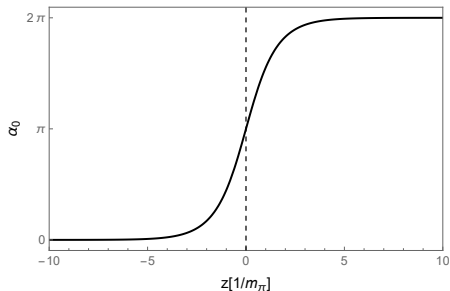
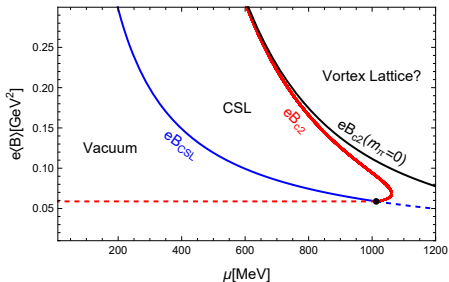


Figure: Charged pion vortex lattice (left) and local baryon number density (right).

Single domain wall

- ▶ Instability now occurs at

$$B \leq B_{c2} = \frac{3m_\pi^2}{e}$$



- ▶ Single domain wall CSL

$$\alpha_0(z) = 4 \arctan(e^{m_\pi z})$$

Free energy with a domain wall

- ▶ First order solution becomes

$$\varphi_0(x, y, z) = \frac{\phi_0(x, y)}{\cosh^2(m_\pi z)}$$

- ▶ Derive semi-analytical results in Fourier space for $\delta\alpha$ and $\delta\mathbf{B}$ to obtain

$$F \simeq F_{\text{DW}} - \frac{2}{3m_\pi} \frac{(B_{c2} - \langle B \rangle)^2}{D(\beta)},$$

where F_{DW} is the domain wall free energy and $D(\beta)$ must be evaluated numerically

- ▶ Find $D < 0$ for physical values of m_π , e , and f_π

Single domain wall CSL preferred over superconducting baryon crystal below B_{c2}

Massive calculation: leading order

- ▶ Similar expansion scheme with $\epsilon = \sqrt{|\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}|/B_{c2}}$:

$$\varphi = \varphi_0 + \delta\varphi + \dots, \quad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_0 + \delta\mathbf{B} + \dots, \quad \alpha = \alpha_0 + \delta\alpha + \dots$$

- ▶ Lowest order equations solved by $\mathbf{B}_0 = B_{c2}(p)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$,

$$\alpha_0(z, p) = 2 \arccos[-\text{sn}(z, p^2)], \quad \varphi_0(x, y, z) = f_0(z)\phi_0(x, y)$$

(where $f_0(z)$ is the “lowest energy” eigenfunction of the Lamé equation)

- ▶ Solve remaining EoMs in Fourier space with

$$|\phi_0(x, y)|^2 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}_\perp} e^{i\mathbf{k}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{r}} \hat{\omega}(\mathbf{k}_\perp), \quad f_0(z)^2 = \sum_{k_z} e^{ik_z z} \hat{s}(k_z),$$

where $\mathbf{k}_\perp = (k_x, k_y, 0)$ and

$$\hat{\omega}(\mathbf{k}_\perp) = \langle e^{-i\mathbf{k}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{r}} |\phi_0(x, y)|^2 \rangle_{x,y}, \quad \hat{s}(k_z) = \langle e^{-ik_z z} f_0(z)^2 \rangle_z$$

Massive calculation: $\delta\mathbf{B}$

- ▶ Use Coulomb gauge $\nabla \cdot \delta\mathbf{A} = 0$ and Fourier series ansatz

$$\delta\mathbf{A} = c\mathbf{x}\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \delta\hat{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta\mathbf{B} = c\hat{\mathbf{z}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \delta\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{k})$$

where $\mathbf{k} = (k_x, k_y, k_z)$ and c is a constant

- ▶ Solutions in Fourier space are

$$\delta\hat{B}_x(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{k_x k_z}{k^2} e\hat{s}(k_z)\hat{\omega}(\mathbf{k}_\perp),$$

$$\delta\hat{B}_y(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{k_y k_z}{k^2} e\hat{s}(k_z)\hat{\omega}(\mathbf{k}_\perp),$$

$$\delta\hat{B}_z(\mathbf{k}) = -\frac{k_\perp^2}{k^2} e\hat{s}(k_z)\hat{\omega}(\mathbf{k}_\perp)$$

- ▶ Determine c from boundary condition $\langle B \rangle \equiv \langle B_z \rangle_{x,y}$

$$\Rightarrow c = \langle B \rangle - B_{c2} + e\hat{\omega}_0, \quad \text{where } \hat{\omega}_0 \equiv \hat{\omega}(\mathbf{0})$$

Massive calculation: $\delta\alpha$

- ▶ Extend CSL solution from p at B_{c2} , to $p + \delta p$ at $\langle B \rangle \rightarrow$ **Topological contribution** + **Fourier series** ansatz:

$$\delta\alpha = \alpha_1 \delta p + \frac{\omega_0}{f_\pi^2} \delta\alpha_1, \quad \text{with} \quad \delta\alpha_1 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \delta\hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{k})$$

and

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\partial\alpha_0}{\partial p} = -\frac{\mathcal{E}(\bar{z}, p^2) \partial_{\bar{z}} \alpha_0 + \partial_{\bar{z}}^2 \alpha_0}{p(1-p^2)}, \quad \delta p = -\frac{pE(p^2)}{K(p^2)} \frac{\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}}{B_{c2}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4),$$

where \bar{z} is dimensionless z , \mathcal{E} is the Jacobi epsilon function, and K and E are the complete elliptic integrals of the first and second kind respectively

- ▶ Inhomogeneous differential equation reduces to a coupled set of linear equations that must be solved to obtain $\delta\hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{k})$

Free energy

- ▶ Do not solve $\delta\varphi$ equation, use instead to show

$$\langle |\varphi_0|^2 \rangle_{x,y,z} = e\hat{\omega}_0 = \mathcal{G}(p) \frac{\langle B \rangle - B_{c2}}{(2\kappa^2 - 1)\beta + 1 + 2(\mathcal{H}_1 - \mathcal{H}_2)},$$

where $\mathcal{H}_{1,2}$ are infinite sums over \mathbf{k} and κ depends on p

- ▶ $\mathcal{G}(p)$ related to $eB_{c2}(\mu)$ “turning point”
- ▶ Up to and including ϵ^4 terms,

$$F \simeq F_0 + \Delta f (\langle B \rangle - B_{c2})^2,$$

where

$$\Delta f = -\frac{\mathcal{G}^2}{2} \frac{1}{(2\kappa^2 - 1)\beta + 1 + 2(\mathcal{H}_1 - \mathcal{H}_2)}$$