I Ginzburg-Landau theory of superconductivity

I.1 Coherence length and penetration depth in strongly correlated superconductors

From [**wittBypassingLatticeBCSBEC2024**].

In most materials: Cooper pairs do not carry finite center-of-mass momentum. In presence of e.g. external fields or magnetism: SC states with FMP might arise.

Theory/procedure in the paper: enforce FMP states via constraints on pair-center-of-mass momentum $\mathbf{q}$, access characteristic lenght scales ξ_0, λ_L through analysis of the momentum and temperature-dependent OP. Constrain for FF-type pairing:

$$\psi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{r}) = |\psi_{\mathbf{q}}| e^{\mathbf{iqr}} \tag{I.1}$$

I.2 Phase transitions and broken symmetry

Following [**colemanIntroductionManyBodyPhysics2015**].

I.2.1 Order parameter concept

Landau theory: phase transitions (e.g. iron becomes magnetic, water freezes, superfluidity/superconductivity) are associated with the development of an order parameter when the temperature drops below the transition temperature T_C.

$$|\psi| = \begin{cases} 0 \ , \ T > T_C \\ |\psi_0| > 0 \ , \ T < T_C \end{cases} \tag{I.2}$$

Landau theory does not need microscopic expression for order parameter, it provides corse-grained description of the properties of matter. The order parameter description is good at length scales above ξ_0, the coherence length (e.g. size of Cooper pairs for SC).

I.2.2 Landau theory

Basic idea of Landau theory: write free energy as function $F[\psi]$ of the order parameter. Region of small ψ, expand free energy of many-body system as simple polynomial:

$$f_L = \frac{1}{V}F[\psi] = \frac{r}{2}\psi^2 + \frac{u}{4}\psi^4 \tag{I.3}$$

Provided r and u are greater that 0: minimum of $f_L[\psi])$ lies at $\psi = 0$. Landau theory assumes: at phase transition temperature r changes sign, so:

$$r = a(T - T_C) \tag{I.4}$$

Minimum of free energy occurs for:

$$\psi = \begin{cases} 0 \\ \pm\sqrt{\frac{a(T_C - T)}{u}} \end{cases} \tag{I.5}$$

Two minima for free energy function for $T < T_C$. With this, we can extract T_C from the knowledge of the dependence of $|\psi|^2$ on T via a linear fit. This is only valid for an area near T_C (where Landau theory holds), but can be used to get T_C from microscopic theories.

Could put a bit more into here about second order phase transition

Going from a one to a n-component order parameters, OP acquires directions and magnitude. Particularly important example: complex or two component order parameter in superfluids and superconductors:

$$\psi = \psi_1 + \mathrm{i}\psi_2 = |\psi|e^{\mathrm{i}\phi} \tag{I.6}$$

The Landau free energy takes the form:

$$f[\psi] = r(\psi^*\psi) + \frac{u}{2}(\psi^*\psi)^2 \tag{I.7}$$

As before:

$$r = a(T - T_C) \tag{I.8}$$

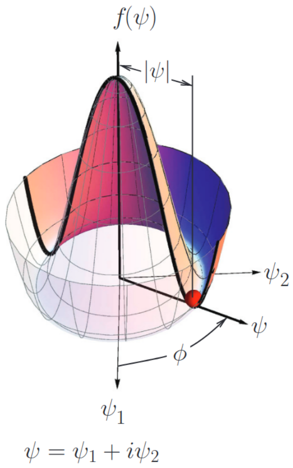

Figure I.1: *Mexican hat potential*

Figure I.1 shows the Landau free energy as function of ψ.

Rotational symmetry, because free energy is independent of the global phase of the OP:

$$f[\psi] = f[e^{\mathrm{i}a}\psi] \tag{I.9}$$

In this 'Mexican hat' potential: order parameter can be rotated continuously from one broken-symmetry state to another. If we want the phase to be rigid, we need to introduce an There is a topological argument for the fact that the phase is rigid. This leads to Ginzburg-Landau theory. Will see later: well-defined phase is associated with persistent currents or superflow.

I.2.3 Ginzburg-Landau theory I: Ising order

Landau theory: energy cost of a uniform order parameter, more general theory needs to account for inhomogenous order parameters, in which the amplitude varies or direction of order parameter is twisted -> GL theory. First: one-component, 'Ising' order parameter. GL introduces additional energy $\delta f \propto |\Delta\psi|^2$, $f_{GL}[\psi, \Delta\psi] = \frac{s}{2}|\Delta\psi|^2 + f_L[\psi(s)]$, or in full:

$$f_{GL}[\psi, \Delta\psi, h] = \frac{s}{2}(\Delta\psi)^2 + \frac{r}{2}\psi^2 + \frac{u}{4}\psi^4 - h\psi \tag{I.10}$$

What is the h here?

What is c?

length scale/correlation length

GL theory is only valid near critical point, where OP is small enough to permit leading-order expansion. Dimensional analysis shows: $\frac{c}{r} = L^2$ has dimension of length squared. Length scale introduced by

I.2.4 Ginzburg-Landau theory II: complex order and superflow

Now: GL theory of complex or two-component order parameters, so superfluids and superconductors. Heart of discussion: emergence of a ‘macroscopic wavefunction’, where the microscopic field operators $\hat{\psi}(x)$ acquire an expectation value:

$$\langle \hat{\psi}(x) \rangle = \psi(x) = |\psi(x)| e^{\mathrm{i}\theta(x)} \tag{I.11}$$

Reminder: Field operators are the real space representations of creation/annihilation operators. They can be thought of the super position of all ways of creating a particle at position x via the basis coefficients.

Magnitude determines density of particles in the superfluid:

$$|\psi(x)|^2 = n_s(x) \tag{I.12}$$

Density operator is

$$\hat{\rho} = \hat{\psi}(x)\hat{\psi}^\dagger(x) \tag{I.13}$$

so expectation value of that is the formula above.

Twist/gradient of phase determines superfluid velocity:

$$\mathbf{v}_s(x) = \frac{\hbar}{m} \Delta\phi(x) \tag{I.14}$$

We will derive this later in the chapter. Counterintuitive from quantum mechanics: GL suggested that $\Phi(x)$ is a macroscopic manifestation of a macroscopic number of particles condensed into precisely the same quantum state. Emergent phenomenon, collective properties of mater not a-priori self-evident from microscopic physics.

GL free energy density for superfluid (with one added term in comparison to Landau energy):

$$f_{GL}[\psi, \Delta\psi] = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\Delta\psi|^2 + r|\psi|^2 + \frac{u}{2}|\psi|^4 \tag{I.15}$$

y density of ic field? -> for arison!

Interpreted as energy density of a condensate of bosons in which the field operator behaves as a complex order parameter. Gives interpretation of gradient term as kinetic energy:

$$s|\Delta\psi|^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\langle\Delta\hat{\psi}^\dagger\Delta\hat{\psi}\rangle \implies s = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \tag{I.16}$$

As in Ising order: correlation length/GL-coherence length governs characteristic range of amplitude fluctuations of the order parameter:

$$\xi = \sqrt{\frac{s}{|r|}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m|r|}} = \xi_0(1-\frac{T}{T_C})^{-\frac{1}{2}} \tag{I.17}$$

where $\xi_0 = \xi(T=0) = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^2}{2maT_C}}$ is the coherence length. Beyond this length: only phase fluctuations survive. Freeze out fluctuations in amplitude (no x-dependence in amplitude) $\psi(x) = \sqrt{n_s}e^{\mathrm{i}\phi(x)}$, then $\Delta\psi = \mathrm{i}\Delta\phi\psi$ and $|\Delta\psi|^2 = n_s(\Delta\phi)^2$, dependency of kinetic energy on the phase twist is (bringing it into the form $\frac{m}{2}v^2$):

Compare with Ising order, especially dependence on T

Compare with Ising order. Is that derived or postulated?

$$\frac{\hbar^2 n_s}{2m}(\Delta\phi)^2 = \frac{mn_s}{2}(\frac{\hbar}{m}\Delta\phi)^2 \tag{I.18}$$

So twist of phase results in increase in kinetic energy, associated with a superfluid velocity:

$$\mathbf{v}_s = \frac{\hbar}{m}\Delta\phi \tag{I.19}$$

For interpretation of superfluid states: coherent states. These are eigenstates of the field operator

$$\hat{\psi}(x)\,|\psi\rangle = \psi(x)\,|\psi\rangle \tag{I.20}$$

and don't have a definite particle number. Importantly, this small uncertainty in particle number enables a high degree of precision in phase (which is the property of a condensate).

Phase rigidity and superflow: in GL theory, energy is sensitive to a twist of the phase. Substitute $\psi = |\psi|e^{\mathrm{i}\phi}$ into GL free energy, gradient term is:

$$\Delta\psi = (\Delta|\psi| + \mathrm{i}\Delta\phi|\psi|)e^{\mathrm{i}\phi} \tag{I.21}$$

So:

$$f_{GL} = \frac{\hbar}{2m}|\psi|^2(\Delta\phi)^2 + \left[\frac{\hbar}{2m}(\Delta|\psi|)^2 + r|\psi|^2 + \frac{u}{2}|\psi|^4\right] \tag{I.22}$$

The second term resembles GL functional for an Ising order parameter, describes energy cost of variations in the magnitude of the order parameter.

Here: particle-current operator, especially for coherent state, connection with phase twist