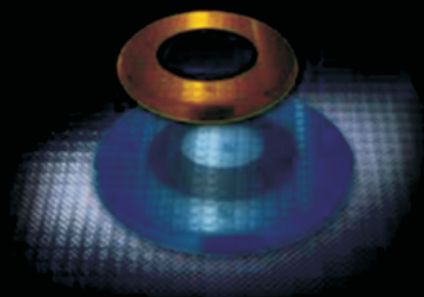


Boris V. Vasiliev



Superconductivity Superfluidity

Superconductivity and Superfluidity

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Annotation

1. The prevailing now BCS-theory is based on the phonon mechanism. The impetus for its development was the discovery of the isotope-effect in superconductors. As it has been observed, this effect (for some superconductors) has the same dependence on the mass of the isotope as the cut-off frequency of phonon spectrum.

It was found later that the zero-point oscillations of ions in the crystal lattice of metals are anharmonic. Therefore, the isotopic substitution leads to a change in the interatomic distances in the lattice, to a change in the density of the electron gas and hence to a change in the Fermi energy of the metal.

That was not known during the creation of the BCS-theory.

2. Conduction electrons in the metal are in a potential well. One must act photons or by heating, to pull them out from this well. The lowest level in the well is the level of zero-point oscillations. Quantum mechanics requires from particles at the lowest level to make these oscillations.

At a sufficiently low temperature, electrons form pairs. The mechanism of formation of these bosons does not matter. It is important that this mechanism began its work above the critical temperature of superconductor. At low temperature all bosons are collected at the lowest level and all have the same energy. That means that they have the same frequencies and amplitudes of zero-point oscillations.

But pairs of the same energy can have different phases and orientation (polarization) of the zero-point oscillations. If the temperature is not low enough (above the interaction energy of steam), the interaction between them can be neglected. At that the oscillating with different phases and polarizations pairs will be described by different wave functions. They are not identical.

3. Due to the fact that the charged particles oscillate, there is an interaction between them. At sufficiently low temperatures, this interaction leads to a kind of ordered structure of zero-point oscillations at which due to their mutual attraction their energy decreases. As a result, this attraction forms a superconducting condensate, which is not scattered by

the defects, if the scattering energy is less than the energy of attraction.

4. Calculations show that the ratio of the critical temperature of formation of such condensate to the metal Fermi temperature:

$$\frac{T_c}{T_F} \simeq 5\pi\alpha^3 \simeq 6 \cdot 10^{-6} \quad (1)$$

(where α is the fine structure constant).

The critical magnetic field in this model is a field that destroys the coherence of the zero-point oscillations of the particles of the condensate.

These results of calculations are in good agreement with measured data for all superconductors.

It is appropriate to emphasize that the BCS-theory there are no workable formula that determines the specific critical parameters of superconductors.

5. Zero-point oscillations of shells of neutral atoms in the s-state were considered by F.London (in 1937). He showed that the helium atoms arrange the oscillations of their shells at about 4K. This ordering is energetically favorable, since in this case the attraction arises between atoms. He paid no attention, that only one oscillation mode is ordered at this temperature. But this is enough for the helium liquefaction as a repulsion is absent in the gas of neutral bosons.

The complete arrangement appears at twice less temperature. The calculation shows that the temperature of complete ordering of zero-point oscillations depends on the universal constants only:

$$T_0 = \frac{1}{3} \frac{M_4 c^2 \alpha^6}{k} = 2.177K. \quad (2)$$

This value is a very good agreement with the measured value of the superfluid transition temperature $T_\lambda = 2.172K$. This difference in the 4 digits may occur because of the inaccuracy of the calibration of thermometers, which are very difficult in this temperature range.

Also in this case it is possible to calculate the density of the superfluid condensate in liquid helium. It turns out that the density of particles in the condensate, as well as T_0 ,

depends on the ratio universal constants only:

$$n_0 = \frac{\alpha^2}{a_B^3} \sqrt{\frac{M_4}{2m_e}} \cong 2.172 \cdot 10^{22} \text{ atom/cm}^3. \quad (3)$$

(where a_B is the Bohr radius).

Since all helium atoms pass into condensate at a low temperature, then it is possible to calculate the density of the liquid helium:

$$\gamma_4 = n_0 M_4 \cong 0.1443 \text{ g/cm}^3, \quad (4)$$

which agrees well with the measured density of liquid helium equal to 0.145 g/cm^3 .

It should be emphasized that the above formulas are derived from the consideration of the mechanism of zero-point oscillations ordering and they were not known previously.

6. Thus the consent of the above formulas with the measurement data clearly shows that both - superconductivity and superfluidity - are the result of the work of the same mechanism - both of these related phenomena occur as a result of ordering zero-point oscillations.

Contents

I	Preface - On the Disservice of Theoretical Physics	1
1	Is It Possible for a Physical Theory to be Harmful?	3
1.1	Experimentalists and Theoreticians	4
1.2	On the Specifics of the Experimental and the Theoretical Working	5
1.3	The Central Principe of Science	7
1.4	The Characteristic Properties of Pseudo-Theories of XX Century	8
2	About Pseudo-Theories of XX Century	11
2.1	The Theory of the Internal Structure of Hot Stars	11
2.2	The Theory of Terrestrial Magnetic Field	16
2.3	The Physics of Metal - The Thermo-Magnetic Effect	17
2.4	Elementary Particle Physics	18
2.5	Superconductivity and Superfluidity	20

II The Development of the Science of Superconductivity and Superfluidity	21
3 Introduction	23
3.1 Superconductivity and Public	23
3.2 Discovery of Superconductivity	27
4 Basic Milestones in the Study of Superconductivity	29
4.1 The London Theory	30
4.2 The Ginsburg-Landau Theory	33
4.3 Experimental Data That Are Important for Creation of the Theory of Superconductivity	35
4.3.1 Features of the Phase Transition	35
4.3.2 The Energy Gap and Specific Heat of a Superconductor	36
4.3.3 Magnetic Flux Quantization in Superconductors	39
4.3.4 The Isotope Effect	40
4.4 BCS	42
4.5 The New Era - HTSC	48
5 Superfluidity	53

III Superconductivity, Superfluidity and Zero-Point Oscillations 59

6 Superconductivity as a Consequence of Ordering of Zero-Point Oscillations in Electron Gas	63
6.1 Superconductivity as a Consequence of Ordering of Zero-Point Oscillations	63
6.2 The Electron Pairing	67
6.3 The Interaction of Zero-Point Oscillations	69
6.4 The Zero-Point Oscillations Amplitude	71
6.5 The Condensation Temperature	73
7 The Condensate of Zero-Point Oscillations and Type-I Superconductors	75
7.1 The Critical Temperature of Type-I Superconductors	75
7.2 The Relation of Critical Parameters of Type-I Superconductors	78
7.3 The Critical Magnetic Field of Superconductors	82
7.4 The Density of Superconducting Carriers	83
7.5 The Sound Velocity of the Zero-Point Oscillations Condensate	88
7.6 The Relationship Δ_0/kT_c	89
8 Another Superconductors	91
8.1 About Type-II Superconductors	91
8.2 Alloys and High-Temperature Superconductors	95
9 About the London Penetration Depth	97
9.1 The Magnetic Energy of a Moving Electron	97

9.2 The Magnetic Energy and the London Penetration Depth 99

10 Three Words to Experimenters 101

10.1 Why Creation of Room-Temperature Superconductors are Hardly
Probably 101

10.2 Magnetic Electron Pairing 104

10.3 The Effect of Isotopic Substitution on the Condensation of Zero-Point
Oscillations 105

11 Superfluidity as a Subsequence of Ordering of Zero-Point Oscillations 107

11.1 Zero-Point Oscillations of the Atoms and Superfluidity 107

11.2 The Dispersion Effect in Interaction of Atoms in the Ground State 108

11.3 The Estimation of Main Characteristic Parameters of Superfluid Helium . 110

11.3.1 The Main Characteristic Parameters of the Zero-Point
Oscillations of Atoms in Superfluid Helium-4 110

11.3.2 The Estimation of Characteristic Properties of He-3 116

IV Conclusion 119

12 Consequences 121

12.1 Super-Phenomena 121

12.2 A Little More About Pseudo-Theories 123