The solid state of ⁴He : to flow or not to flow

Lode Pollet Minnesota, July 26, 2007

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Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 080401 (2006).
Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 135301 (2007).
Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 035301 (2007).

Outline

Deformations of perfect crystal
 point defects : vacancies
 line defects : dislocations
 planar defects : grain boundaries





Superfluids

- zero viscosity
- zero entropy
- infinite thermal conductivity (fountain effect)
- does not rotate in slowly rotating cylinder;





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liquid ⁴He



Landau's two-fluid model

condensate fraction 10 % superfluid fraction 100%

Kim-Chan experiment



Kim-Chan experiment



Why study vacancies in solid ⁴He?

the necessary condition for a solid to be sf is to have zero-point vacancies and/or interstitials as an integral part of the ground state.

N.V. Prokof'ev and B.V. Svistunov, Phys. Rev. Lett. **94**, 155302 (2005).

superflow occurs generically in incommensurate solids

Iook at vacancies/interstitials











































Shear stress

12x12x12, T=0.2K, n=0.0292 A⁻¹ Ν $\left(\right)$ 10 15 20 25 30 35

Χ

smaller L_x , more stress

Shear stress



Shear stress



Vacancy scenarios



Vacancy scenarios



Vacancy scenarios



Vacancy scenarios



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Vacancy scenarios



Vacancy scenarios


Vacancy scenarios



Vacancy scenarios













dispersion curve















States with many vacancies



- grand-canonical ensemble : runaway in particle/vacancy number; thermodynamic unstable
- canonical ensemble : phase separation

effective vacancy-vacancy attraction





Vacancy -vacancy correlation function

How to localize vacancies/What are vacancies?

- separation in energy scale :
 - zero point fluctuation : Debye frequency 25 K⁻¹
 - vacancy exchange rate : $\approx I K^{-1}$
- Renormalization procedure :

using partially averaged positions of atoms

























All vacancies found!



Phase separation



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Elimination of the Supersolid State Through Crystal Annealing

Ann Sophie C. Rittner and John D. Reppy^{*} Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics and the Cornell Center for Materials Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-2501 (Dated: April 22, 2006)

AnnSophie C. Rittner and J.D.Reppy, Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 165301 (2006).



Experimental vacancy concentration

condensate fraction

$$n_0 = (0.08 \pm 0.78)\%$$
 $T = 120 \text{mK}$
 $n_0 = (-0.10 \pm 1.20)\%$ $T = 80 \text{mK}$
S. O. Diallo et al., cond-mat/0702347

X-ray diffraction

 $p \sim T^4$

max. 1% (interpretation in terms of thermal vacancies criticized by Anderson-Brinkman-Huse) B.A. Fraass, P. R. Granfors, and R. O. Simmons, Phys. Rev. B **39**, 124 (1989)

Measurement of the melting curve

I.A.Todoshchenko et al., cond-mat/0703743



non-equilibrium scenarios : the Roadmap

Superfluidity of Grain Boundaries and Supersolid Behavior S. Sasaki,^{1*} R. Ishiguro,^{1†} F. Caupin,¹ H. J. Maris,^{1,2} S. Balibar^{1*}

Science **313**, no. 5790, p 1098. (2006)

- superglass M. Boninsegni, N.V. Prokof'ev, B.V. Svistunov, Phys. Rev. Lett. **96**, 105301 (2006).
- Migration of vacancies to grain boundaries / ridges, formation of dislocation loops
- 'ideal' domain walls, grain boundaries and dislocations
- 'rough' domain walls, grain boundaries, dislocations,...

Screw dislocation



Screw dislocation





edge dislocation



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h(t)



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- also signal above (IK) (cracks ? wetting?)
- vs. how can signal disappear for clean samples???
- liquid film caused by grain boundaries at the interface?

mechanical stability of grain boundaries

experimental conditions of phase coexistence : true superfluid grain boundaries or cracks filled with liquid?



grain boundaries are stable...



N = 13660, T = 0.8K



condensate map; map of

the condensate wave function (spatial positions of the worm ends when they are sufficiently far away from each other)

...and generically superfluid...



projection on xy plane of upper cuboid

...but not in all cases


It happened also with the cuboids



density matrix



Glassy interfaces



Glassy interfaces



Stacking fault







Grain boundaries : condensate maps



Each of the 8 cubes is a randomly oriented crystallite



- perfect crystal is *insulating*
- phase separation of vacancies
- superfluid screw dislocations and Shevchenko state
- 'homeopathic' role of ³He
- superfluid grain boundaries exist
- do supersolids exist for systems in continuous space (2D, 3D) with one type of particles interacting through a pair potential?