

Vortex lattices throughout the BCS-BEC crossover

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Program INT-11-1 on:
“Fermions from Cold Atoms to Neutron Stars:
Benchmarking the Many-Body Problem”
Institute for Nuclear Theory, Seattle (U.S.A.),
March 14-May 20, 2011.

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- [4] Develop a **LAPA version**, more accurate for phase (**P**) than for amplitude (**A**) of local gap
- [5] Rotation activates an “**Orbital Breached-Pair Phase**” on the BCS side of unitarity.

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- ♣ Still **in progress** (unpublished)
- ♣ Possibly **amenable to extensions** and useful for diverse physical problems.

The MIT experimental paper (2005):

Vol 435:23 June 2005 | doi:10.1038/nature03858

nature

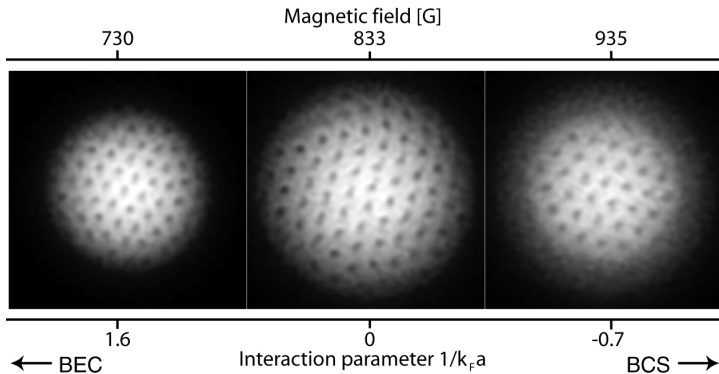
ARTICLES

Vortices and superfluidity in a strongly interacting Fermi gas

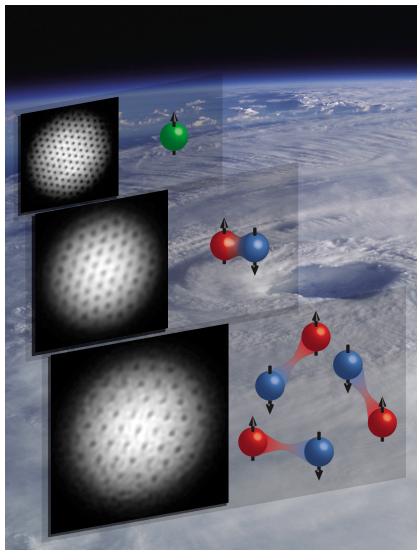
M. W. Zwierlein¹, J. R. Abo-Shaer¹†, A. Schirotzek¹, C. H. Schunck¹ & W. Ketterle¹

Quantum degenerate Fermi gases provide a remarkable opportunity to study strongly interacting fermions. In contrast to other Fermi systems, such as superconductors, neutron stars or the quark-gluon plasma of the early Universe, these gases have low densities and their interactions can be precisely controlled over an enormous range. Previous experiments with Fermi gases have revealed condensation of fermion pairs. Although these and other studies were consistent with predictions assuming superfluidity, proof of superfluid behaviour has been elusive. Here we report observations of vortex lattices in a strongly interacting, rotating Fermi gas that provide definitive evidence for superfluidity. The interaction and therefore the pairing strength between two ${}^6\text{Li}$ fermions near a Feshbach resonance can be controlled by an external magnetic field. This allows us to explore the crossover from a Bose-Einstein condensate of molecules to a Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer superfluid of loosely bound pairs. The crossover is associated with a new form of superfluidity that may provide insights into high-transition-temperature superconductors.

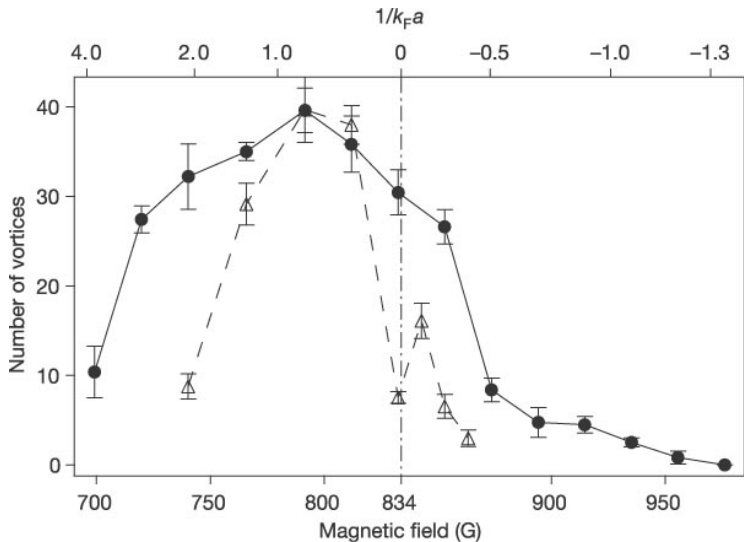
Selection of experimental vortices:



... and its fancy version:



Main experimental results:



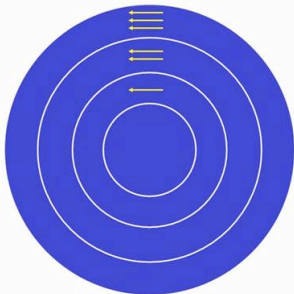
Normal vs superfluid vortices:

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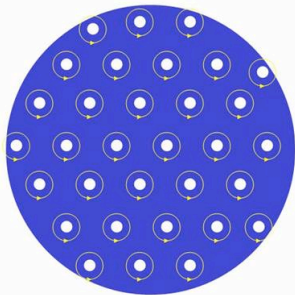


normal vortex

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superfluid vortices

Theoretical approach: The BdG equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{r}) & \Delta(\mathbf{r}) \\ \Delta(\mathbf{r})^* & -\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{r})^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_\nu(\mathbf{r}) \\ v_\nu(\mathbf{r}) \end{pmatrix} = \epsilon_\nu \begin{pmatrix} u_\nu(\mathbf{r}) \\ v_\nu(\mathbf{r}) \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{r}) = -\nabla^2/(2m) + i\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \nabla/m + V(\mathbf{r}) - \mu$$

$V(\mathbf{r})$ = trapping potential

$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = m\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r} =$ “vector potential” (rotat. frame)

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$\Delta(\mathbf{r})$ = local gap function, determined by

$$\Delta(\mathbf{r}) = g \sum_{\nu} u_\nu(\mathbf{r}) v_\nu(\mathbf{r})^* [1 - 2f_F(\epsilon_\nu)]$$

$f_F(\epsilon) = (e^{\epsilon/(k_B T)} + 1)^{-1} =$ Fermi function ($T \rightarrow 0^+$)

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- Thus for many vortices an alternative procedure is strongly needed !

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where $\omega_n = (2n + 1)\pi/\beta$ (n integer) and

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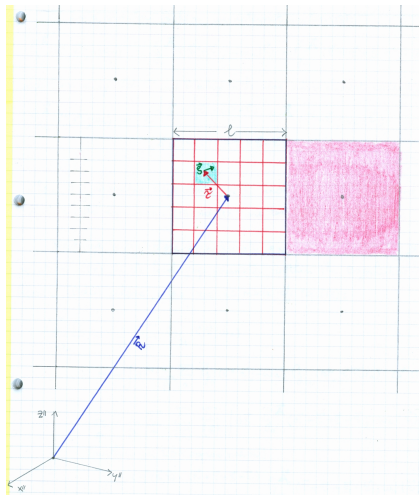
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$$\xi(\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q}) = \frac{\mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - \mu + \frac{\mathbf{q}^2}{2m} - \frac{\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{q}}{m}, \quad E(\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q}) = \sqrt{\xi(\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q})^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{q})|^2}$$

$$E_{\pm}(\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q}) = E(\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q}) \pm \frac{\mathbf{k}}{m} \cdot (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{A}), \quad E_-(\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q}) = E_+(-\mathbf{k} | \mathbf{q})$$

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- Occupation number:

$$\begin{aligned} n(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q}) &= u(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q})^2 f_F(E_+(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q})) \\ &+ v(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q})^2 [1 - f_F(E_-(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q}))] \end{aligned}$$

$$\implies n(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q}) = 1 \quad \text{if} \quad E_+(\mathbf{k}|\mathbf{q}) < 0 \quad !$$

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RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 78, 011601(R) (2008)

Pair breaking in rotating Fermi gases

Michael Urban¹ and Peter Schuck^{1,2}

¹*Institut de Physique Nucléaire, CNRS-IN2P3 and Université Paris-Sud, 91406 Orsay Cedex, France*

²*Laboratoire de Physique et Modélisation des Milieux Condensés, CNRS and Université Joseph Fourier, Maison des Magistères, Boîte Postale 166, 38042 Grenoble Cedex, France*

(Received 17 April 2008; published 9 July 2008)

We study the pair-breaking effect of rotation on a cold Fermi gas in the BCS-BEC crossover region. In the framework of BCS theory, which is supposed to be qualitatively correct at zero temperature, we find that in a trap rotating around a symmetry axis, three regions have to be distinguished: (A) a region near the rotational axis where the superfluid stays at rest and where no pairs are broken, (B) a region where the pairs are progressively broken with increasing distance from the rotational axis, resulting in an increasing rotational current, and (C) a normal-fluid region where all pairs are broken and which rotates like a rigid body. Due to region B, density and current do not exhibit any discontinuities.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevA.78.011601

PACS number(s): 03.75.Kk, 03.75.Ss, 67.85.De, 67.85.Lm

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- **But**, does **not** extend to the BEC side and **misses** the breached-pair phase on the BCS side (it treats the vector potential as a perturbation)
- Yet, we can compare with and recover his (formal) results for the extended GL equations.

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... we end up with a **generalized Gross-Pitaevskii equation** for the local gap function $\Delta(\mathbf{r})$ throughout the **BCS-BEC crossover**, under some **(moderate)** local “**phase & amplitude**” assumptions:

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$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{m}{4\pi a_F} \Delta(\mathbf{r}) &= \mathcal{I}_0[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}] \Delta(\mathbf{r}) + \mathcal{I}_1[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}] \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} \Delta(\mathbf{r}) \\ &\quad - \mathcal{I}_1[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}] \frac{\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})}{m} \cdot \nabla \Delta(\mathbf{r}) \end{aligned}$$

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... we end up with a **generalized Gross-Pitaevskii equation** for the local gap function $\Delta(\mathbf{r})$ throughout the BCS-BEC crossover, under some (moderate) local “phase & amplitude” assumptions:

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where $\mathcal{I}_0[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}]$ and $\mathcal{I}_1[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}]$ are local functionals of $\Delta(\mathbf{r})$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{I}_0[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}] &= \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{4\pi^2} \left[\frac{k^2}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2}} - 2m \right] \\
 &- \int_{k_1(\mathbf{q}=0)}^{k_2(\mathbf{q}=0)} \frac{dk}{4\pi^2} \left[\frac{k^2}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2}} - \frac{mk}{|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})|} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

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 \mathcal{I}_1[\Delta(\mathbf{r})|\mathbf{r}] &= \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{8\pi^2} \frac{k^2 \left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)}{\left[\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2\right]^{3/2}} \\
 &- \int_{k_1(\mathbf{q}=0)}^{k_2(\mathbf{q}=0)} \frac{dk}{8\pi^2} \left[\frac{k^2 \left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)}{\left[\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2\right]^{3/2}} - \frac{m^2 k}{|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})|^3} \right]
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$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m_B} \Phi(\mathbf{r}) + i \frac{2\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})}{m_B} \cdot \nabla \Phi(\mathbf{r}) + 2V(\mathbf{r}) \Phi(\mathbf{r}) \\ & + \frac{4\pi a_B}{m_B} |\Phi(\mathbf{r})|^2 \Phi(\mathbf{r}) = \mu_B \Phi(\mathbf{r}) \end{aligned}$$

Additional local quantities :

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- The density:

$$n(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{4\pi^2} k^2 \left[1 - \frac{\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2}} \right] \\ + \int_{k_1(\mathbf{q}=0)}^{k_2(\mathbf{q}=0)} \frac{dk}{2\pi^2} k^2 \left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right) \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu(\mathbf{r})\right)^2 + |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2}} - \frac{m}{k|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})|} \right]$$

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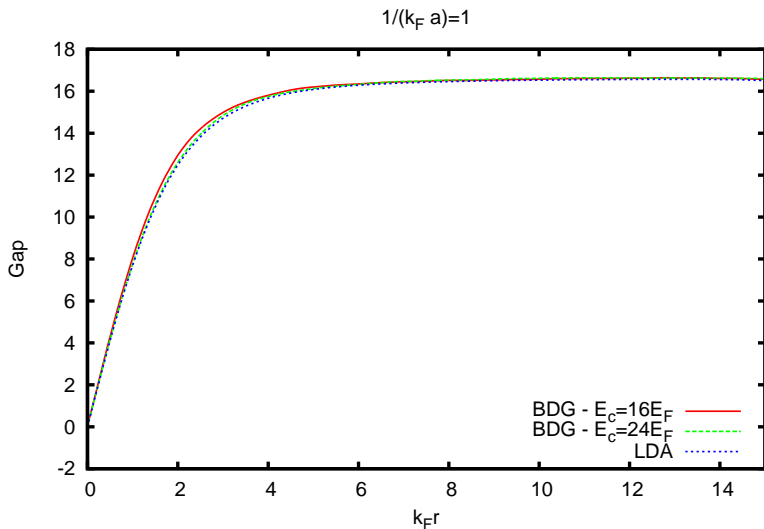
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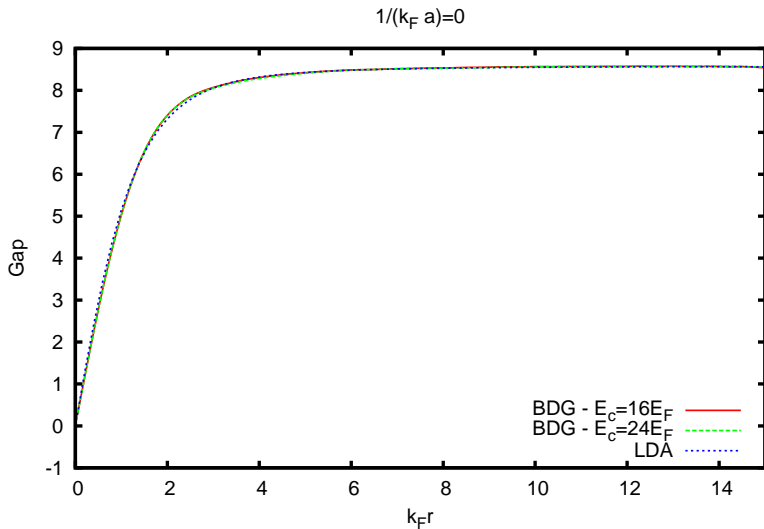
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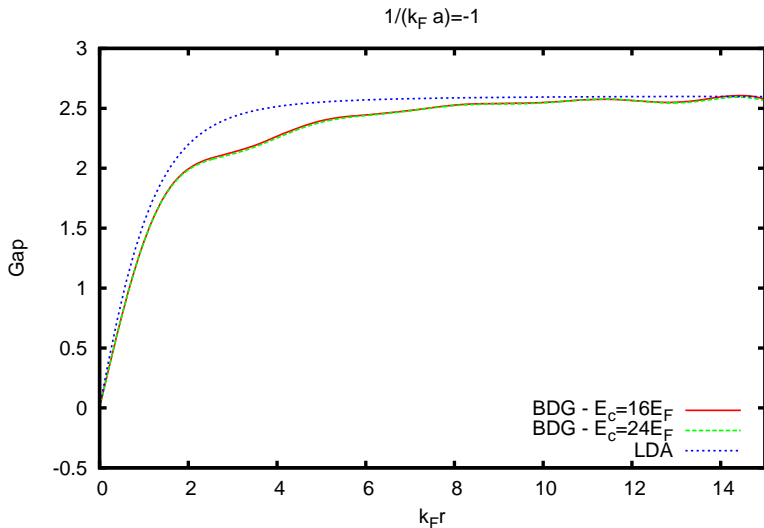
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good results in **the BEC limit** !

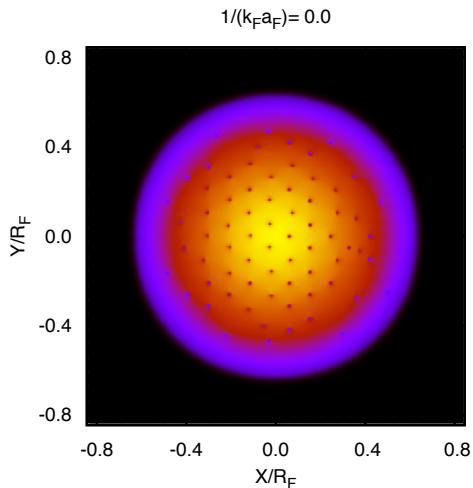


good results also at unitarity !

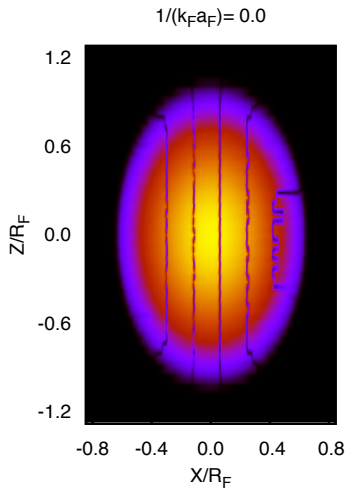


miss the Friedel oscillations **on the BCS side** !

G-GPE: Results for vortex patterns - 1

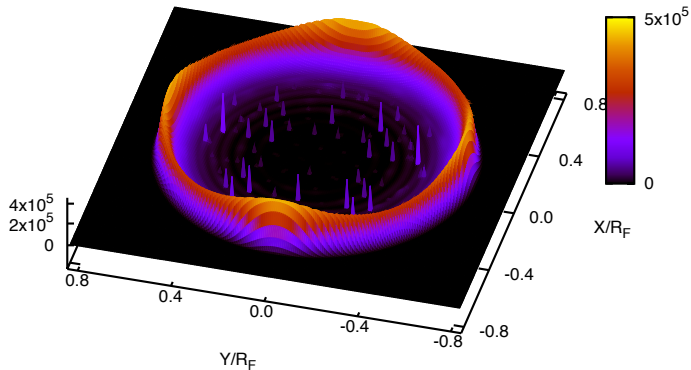


G-GPE: Results for vortex patterns - 2

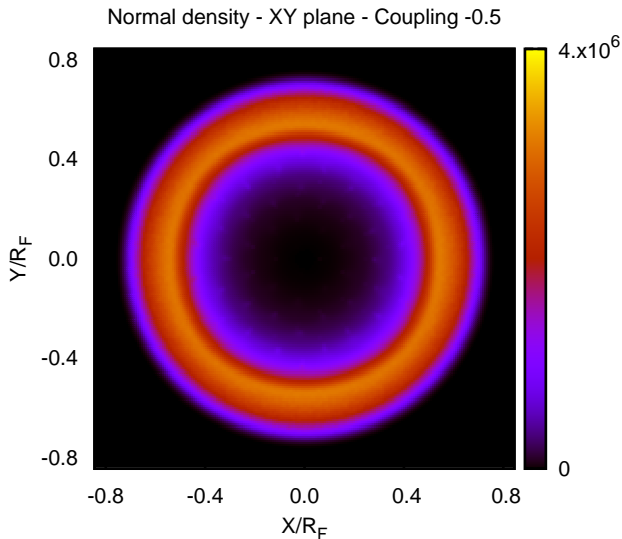


G-GPE: Results for vortex patterns - 3

Normal density - $1/(k_F a_F) = 0.0$



G-GPE: Results for vortex patterns - 4



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- Solve this system with Newton's method, using as "initial condition" the *ansatz*:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_j^{(0)} &= \Delta_{TF}(\mu - V(x_j, y_j, z_j); a_F) \\ &\times \prod_{v=1}^{N_v} \frac{[(x_j - X_v) + i(y_j - Y_v)]}{\sqrt{r_v^2 + (x_j - X_v)^2 + (y_j - Y_v)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

where

$\Delta_{TF}(\mu - V(x_j, y_j, z_j); a_F)$ is the Thomas-Fermi result;

$\{\mathbf{X}_v, \mathbf{Y}_v\}$ are the initial positions of the vortices in the $x - y$ plane (use a triangular mesh with size given by the **Feynman's theorem**);

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- About one hour is enough to obtain $\Delta(\mathbf{r})$ and related quantities for given coupling (recall that the corresponding estimated time with the full BdG equations was $\approx 10^6$ hours !!!).

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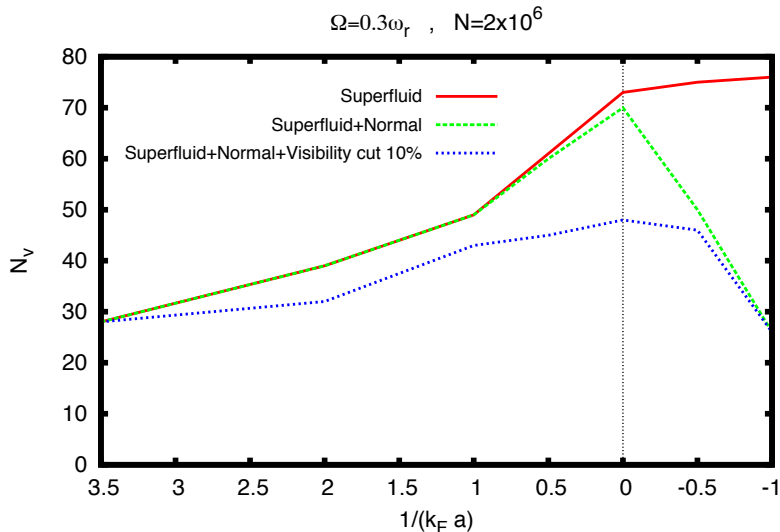
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- To compare with experiment, introduce in addition a “visibility filter” in the density profile (typically, a sharp cut is applied at the edge of the cloud where the density is reduced, say, to 10% of the trap center).

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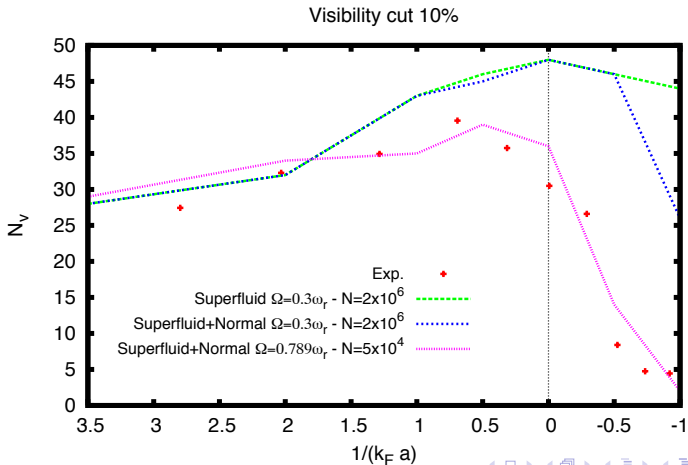
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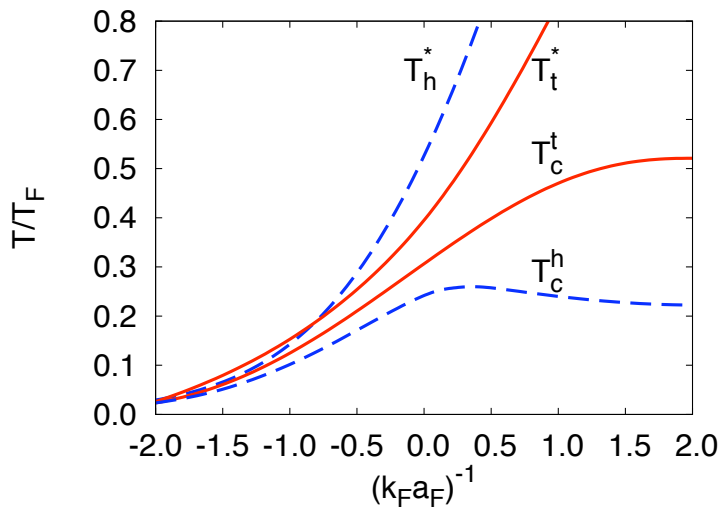
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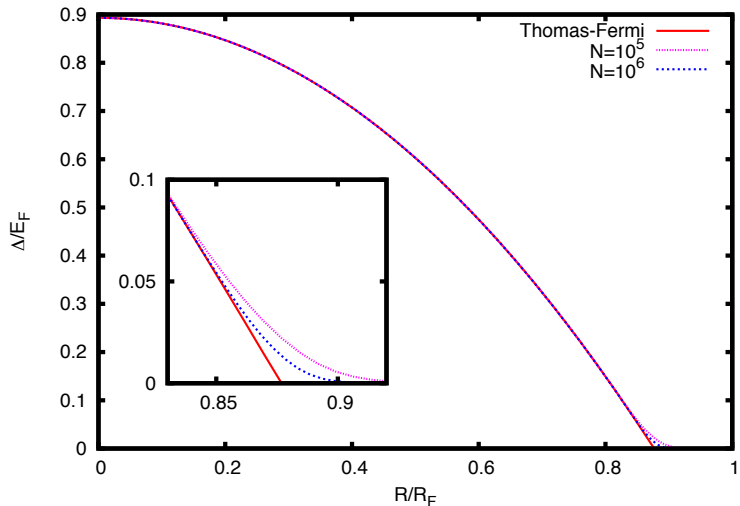
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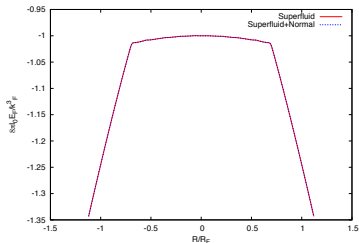
Where G-GPE works in the phase diagram:



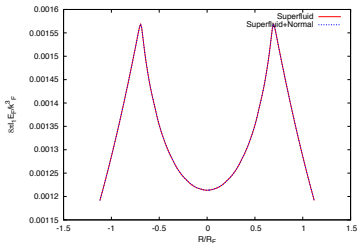
Thomas-Fermi vs Generalized GPE ($\Omega = 0$, unitarity limit):



“Coefficients” \mathcal{I}_0 and \mathcal{I}_1 of the G-GPE:

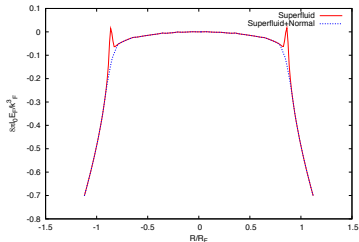


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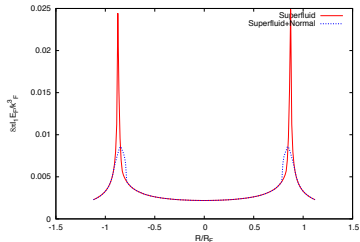


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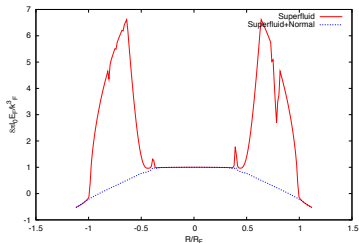


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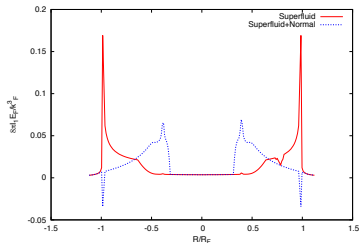


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