#### **Resonant atomic gases**



#### Leo Radzihovsky

for details see: *Gurarie*, *L.R.*, *Annals of Physics*, 322, 2-119 (2007) *Sheehy*, *L.R.*, *Annals of Physics*, 322, 1790 (2007)

**\$: NSF** 

Giorgini, et al., RMP, 80, 885 (2008) Ketterle and Zwierlein, Varenna lectures (2006)

Mysore, India, Dec 2010



# Lecture 4: Imbalanced s-wave resonant Fermi gases

- experiments
- two-channel model
- phase diagram
- Fulde-Ferrel-Larkin-Ovchinikov (FFLO)
- Goldstone modes, fluctuations and stability of FFLO

500 B field [Gauss] 1000

- topological defects and fractionalization in LO
- experimental predictions

# Imbalanced ("magnetized") BEC-BCS

• motivation: superconductivity in B field, quarks-gluon plasma,...

• natural realization in cold atoms:  $H_h = H - h(N_f - N_f)$ 

$$\mathcal{H} = \psi_{\sigma}^{\dagger} (\frac{p^{2}}{2m} - \mu_{\sigma}) \psi_{\sigma} + \lambda \psi_{\uparrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\downarrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\downarrow} \psi_{\uparrow}$$

$$n = \psi_{\uparrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\uparrow} + \psi_{\downarrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\downarrow}, \quad \Delta n = \psi_{\uparrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\uparrow} - \psi_{\downarrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\downarrow}$$

$$\Delta N = N_{\uparrow} - N_{\downarrow}$$

$$?$$

$$2\epsilon_{F} \qquad \omega_{0}$$

$$BEC \qquad BEC + BCS \qquad BCS$$

#### **Imbalanced BEC-BCS experiments**

• Ketterle's experiments (vortices, phase separation)





*Science* (2006)

• Hulet's experiments (phase separation, surface tension) *Science (2006)* 



#### **Imbalanced BEC-BCS experiments**

• Salomon's experiments (phase separation, oscillations)



- $N = 10^4$ , axial trap with 20:1 anisotropy (cf Rice)
- superfluid core disappears at  $P_{c2}=0.76$  (cf MIT)
- LDA works (cf MIT)
- no visible surface tension effects (cf MIT)

• scattering T-matrix relates  $\lambda$  to a:



$$\begin{split} b_{q} &= B_{Q} \, \delta_{q,Q} \quad \underbrace{\text{Mean-field theory}}_{H_{\mu,h}} (valid for \ \gamma \sim g^{2}/\epsilon_{F}^{1/2} \ll 1 \ ) \\ H_{\mu,h} &= H - \mu N - h \Delta N \qquad \qquad N = N_{a\uparrow} + N_{a\downarrow} + 2 \, N_{b} \\ \bullet \text{ ground state: } |gs\rangle &= \Pi'_{\mathbf{k}} \big( u_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{Q}} + v_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{Q}} a^{\dagger}_{-\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{Q}/2,\downarrow} a^{\dagger}_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{Q}/2,\uparrow} \big) |0\rangle \qquad \qquad \Delta N = N_{a\uparrow} - N_{a\downarrow} \end{split}$$

• ground state energy:  

$$E_{gs} = \left(\frac{Q^{2}}{4m} + \delta - 2\mu\right)B_{Q}^{2} - \sum_{\mathbf{k}}(E_{k} - \varepsilon_{k}) + \sum_{\mathbf{k}}\left[E_{\mathbf{k},\uparrow}\theta(-E_{\mathbf{k},\uparrow}) + E_{\mathbf{k},\downarrow}\theta(-E_{\mathbf{k},\downarrow})\right]$$

$$E_{k} = (\varepsilon_{k}^{2} + g^{2}B_{Q}^{2})^{1/2}, \quad \varepsilon_{k} = \frac{k^{2}}{2m} - \mu + \frac{Q^{2}}{8m}$$
• excitation spectrum:  

$$H_{ex} = \sum_{\mathbf{k},\sigma}' E_{\mathbf{k},\sigma}^{(a)} \alpha_{\mathbf{k},\sigma}^{\dagger} + \sum_{\mathbf{k},\sigma}' E_{\mathbf{k},\sigma}^{(b)} \beta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \beta_{\mathbf{k}}$$

$$E_{\mathbf{k},\sigma}^{(a)} = E_{k} \mp (h + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{Q}/2m), \quad E_{k}^{(b)} = \sqrt{\epsilon_{k}^{2} + V_{0}\epsilon_{k}} \quad \text{(for } Q = 0)$$

$$(gapped and gapless k's) \quad (gapless k's collective; also phonons Q \neq 0))$$

• determine  $B_Q$ ,  $N_b$ ,  $N_{a\uparrow}$ ,  $N_{a\downarrow}$  ( $\Delta N_a$ ), Q by:

 $\rightarrow_k$ 

gapless

energy minimization 
$$\implies \frac{\partial E_{gs}}{\partial B_Q} = 0$$
 (gap equation),  $\frac{\partial E_{gs}}{\partial Q} = 0$  ( $P_{total} = 0$ )

gapless

**>** k

gapless





#### N, h fixed

**<u>BEC regime</u>** (δ < 0)

![](_page_10_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Figure_5.jpeg)

)

 $h_{cl}$ 

• <u>Normal</u>  $B_0 = 0$ ,  $B_Q = 0$ ,  $\Delta N \neq 0$  (Pauli "paramagnet"):  $h > h_{c2}(\delta) \approx 2^{3/2} \epsilon_F - \delta/2$ 

![](_page_10_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

# **FFLO state**

- pair "density" wave:  $\Delta = \sum_{\mathbf{Q}} \Delta_{\mathbf{Q}} e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$
- motivation:
  - \* stabilized in lower dimensions (Huse, et al)
  - \* negative surface tension for  $\pm \Delta$  domain wall (Matsuo, et al.; Yoshida+Yip)
  - $* \implies SF \rightarrow LO: C-I transition of domain-wall proliferation?$

![](_page_14_Figure_6.jpeg)

- excess fermions sit on domain walls (cf. polyacetylene of Schrieffer, Su, Heeger)
- microphase separation (cf.  $H_{c1}$  transition to vortex state in type II sc's)

![](_page_14_Figure_9.jpeg)

#### **Evidence in 1d and 2d**

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Experimental realization in quasi-1d**

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Experimental realization in quasi-1d**

![](_page_17_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Microscopics to Ginzburg-Landau**

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Broken symmetries in LO/FF states**

LR, Vishwanath PRL, 2009

• Fulde-Ferrell:  $\Delta_{FF}(\mathbf{x}) = \Delta_{\mathbf{Q}} e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$ 

Q

- OV

- <u>broken</u>: *time reversal, orientational, off-diagonal* **orientationally-ordered superfluid**
- Larkin-Ovchinnikov:  $\Delta_{LO}(\mathbf{x}) = \Delta_{\mathbf{Q}} \cos \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{x}$

![](_page_19_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_6.jpeg)

# Low-energy excitations in LO/FF states

- order parameter:  $\Delta_{LO}(\mathbf{x}) = \Delta_0 e^{i\theta_+} e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + \Delta_0 e^{i\theta_-} e^{-i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$ =  $2\Delta_0 e^{i\theta} \cos[\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x} - Qu]$
- superfluid phase and phonon:  $\theta = \frac{1}{2}(\theta_- + \theta_+)$   $u = \frac{1}{2Q}(\theta_- \theta_+)$
- coupled incommensurate smectics  $u_+$ ,  $u_-$ :

![](_page_20_Figure_4.jpeg)

## Low-energy excitations in LO/FF states

- order parameter:  $\Delta_{LO}(\mathbf{x}) = \Delta_0 e^{i\theta_+} e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + \Delta_0 e^{i\theta_-} e^{-i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$ =  $2\Delta_0 e^{i\theta} \cos[\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x} - Qu]$
- superfluid phase and phonon:  $\theta = \frac{1}{2}(\theta_- + \theta_+)$   $u = \frac{1}{2Q}(\theta_- \theta_+)$
- coupled incommensurate smectics  $u_+$ ,  $u_-$ :

$$\mathcal{H}_{LO} = \sum_{\alpha=\pm} \left[ \frac{K}{4} (\nabla^2 u_{\alpha})^2 + \frac{B}{4} (\partial_z u_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla u_{\alpha})^2)^2 \right]$$

rotational invariance of smectic liquid crystal

![](_page_21_Figure_6.jpeg)

 $E[u^{0}_{\pm}(\mathbf{x})] = 0 \text{ for } u^{0}_{\pm}(\mathbf{x}) = z(\cos \phi - 1) + x \sin \phi$ 

# Low-energy excitations in LO/FF states

- order parameter:  $\Delta_{LO}(\mathbf{x}) = \Delta_0 e^{i\theta_+} e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + \Delta_0 e^{i\theta_-} e^{-i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$ =  $2\Delta_0 e^{i\theta} \cos[\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{x} - Qu]$
- superfluid phase and phonon:  $\theta = \frac{1}{2}(\theta_- + \theta_+)$   $u = \frac{1}{2Q}(\theta_- \theta_+)$
- coupled incommensurate smectics  $u_+$ ,  $u_-$ :

$$\mathcal{H}_{LO} = \sum_{\alpha=\pm} \left[ \frac{K}{2} (\nabla^2 u_\alpha)^2 + \frac{B}{2} \left( \partial_z u_\alpha + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla u_\alpha)^2 \right)^2 \right] + \frac{\gamma}{2} \left( \nabla u_+ - \nabla u_- \right)^2$$

rotational invariance of smectic liquid crystal  $j = j_{+} + j_{-} = 0$ 

![](_page_22_Figure_7.jpeg)

 $E[u_{\pm}^{0}(\mathbf{x})] = 0 \text{ for } u_{\pm}^{0}(\mathbf{x}) = z(\cos \phi - 1) + x \sin \phi$ 

### "Infinitely" anisotropic superfluid

• supercurrents:

![](_page_23_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

• Goldstone modes "elastic" theory:

$$\mathcal{H}_{LO} = \sum_{\alpha=\pm} \left[ \frac{K}{4} (\nabla^2 u_{\alpha})^2 + \frac{B}{4} \left( \partial_z u_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla u_{\alpha})^2 \right)^2 \right] + \frac{\gamma}{2} (\nabla u_+ - \nabla u_-)^2$$

$$\approx \underbrace{\frac{K}{2} (\nabla^2_\perp u)^2 + \frac{B}{2} (\partial_z u)^2 + \frac{\rho_s^i}{2} (\nabla_i \theta)^2}_{smectic \ elasticity} \underbrace{superfluid \ stiffness}_{superfluid \ stiffness}$$

• superfluid stiffness *anisotropy*:

$$\frac{\rho_s^{\perp}}{\rho_s^{\parallel}} = \left(\frac{\Delta_Q}{\Delta_{BCS}}\right)^2 \approx \ln\left(\frac{h_{c2}}{h}\right) \ll 1$$

# • fluctuations at T=0: $\mathcal{L}_{LO} = \frac{\chi}{2} (\partial_{\mu} \theta)^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} (\partial_t u)^2 + \frac{B}{2} (\partial_z u)^2 + \frac{K}{2} (\nabla^2 u)^2$

>  $\langle \theta^2 \rangle$ ,  $\langle u^2 \rangle \sim$  finite for  $d > 1 \Rightarrow LO$  <u>stable</u> to quantum fluctuations

- fluctuations at  $T \neq 0$ :
  - >  $\langle \theta^2 \rangle \sim \text{finite for } d > 2 \implies SF \text{ order } \underline{stable to } k_B T \text{ fluctuations}$
  - →  $\langle u^2 \rangle$  ~ diverges for d ≤ 3 ⇒ *positional order <u>unstable</u>*
- → LO = superfluid smectic (SF<sub>sm</sub>) with: > quasi-Bragg peaks (3d), Lorentzian (2d)
  - > anomalous elasticity (Grinstein and Pelcovits)
  - > transitions to superfluid nematic  $(SF_N)$

![](_page_24_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

- » destroy LO order ("charge"-2 SF <u>and</u> full smectic periodicity)
- ▶ retain "charge"  $\geq 4$  homogeneous SF ( $\Delta^2$ )

• integer vortices in 
$$\theta$$
:  $\oint \nabla \theta \cdot d\mathbf{x} = 2\pi n_v$ 

#### $(n_{v}, n_{b}) = (1, 0)$

- > destroy LO order (full SF <u>and</u> Q smectic periodi
- > retain wavevector  $\geq 2Q$  smectic periodicity  $(|\Delta|^2)$

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

» restore full translational invariance and atom "conservation"

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

• integer  $2\pi$ -vortex in  $\theta$  (composite):  $E_{(2\pi, 0)} \approx \rho_s L \log L$ 

• <u> $\pi$ -vortex – a/2-dislocation (elementary)</u>:  $E_{(\pm \pi, a)} \approx \frac{1}{4} \rho_s L \log L + \frac{1}{4} K L$ 

Composite defects (a-dislocation) unbind  $1^{st} \rightarrow$  <u>"fractionalized" phases</u>

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Structure function and time of flight** 

quasi-long-range order in 3d for T > 0

![](_page_31_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Fluctuations and stability in a trap

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Fermionic sector of LO state

• ground state: 
$$|LO_{\mathbf{Q}}\rangle = \prod_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{Q}_{i}\in E_{\mathbf{k}\sigma\mathbf{Q}_{i}}<0} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}\sigma\mathbf{Q}_{i}}^{\dagger}|BCS_{\mathbf{Q}}\rangle,$$
  
$$= \prod_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{Q}_{i}\in\mathbf{k}_{3}} c_{\mathbf{k}+\frac{\mathbf{Q}_{i}}{2}\downarrow}^{\dagger} \prod_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{Q}_{i}\in\mathbf{k}_{2}} c_{-\mathbf{k}+\frac{\mathbf{Q}_{i}}{2}\uparrow}^{\dagger} \prod_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{Q}_{i}\in\mathbf{k}_{1}} (u_{\mathbf{k}}+v_{\mathbf{k}}c_{\mathbf{k}+\frac{\mathbf{Q}_{i}}{2}\downarrow}^{\dagger}c_{-\mathbf{k}+\frac{\mathbf{Q}_{i}}{2}\uparrow}^{\dagger})|0\rangle$$

ectrum: 
$$E_{\mathbf{k}\uparrow/\downarrow\mathbf{Q}_i} = (\varepsilon_k^2 + \Delta_Q^2)^{1/2} \mp (h + \frac{\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{Q}_i}{2m})$$

• excitation spectrum (gapped and gapless k's)

• gapless fermionic excitations band of Andreev states:

![](_page_35_Figure_5.jpeg)

#### Fermion-Goldstone modes coupling in LO state

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

- How do these affect Goldstone modes and fermions?
  - (weak) Landau damping, finite corrections to  $q_0$ ,  $\rho_s$ , K, B, ...
  - fermions retain their anisotropic pocket Fermi surface

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Summary and directions

Normal

Phase

SFM

separated

- Larkin-Ovchinnikov state ⇔ superfluid smectic
- critical phase at finite T with universal properties
- half-integer vortex and dislocation defects
- transitions to  $N\text{-}Sm_{2Q}$  and  $SF_4\text{-}Nm$  ("charge"-4 SF nematic) phases

#### ...many remaining questions:

- effects of Fermi pockets Goldstone modes interactions?
- better microscopic support for the energetics?
- connection to experimental knobs: detuning and imbalance?
- explore further experimental consequences, detection signals?
- charge-4e SC? ...

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)