

## Understanding of superfluid density in the inner crust of neutron stars — competition between two "gaps"

GW & C. J. Pethick, PRL **119**, 062701 (2017). Y. Minami & GW, PRR **4**, 033141 (2022).



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## Neutron superfluid in NS crusts

In neutron-star (inner) crusts:

Dripped neutrons form a superfluid (by *s*-wave pairing).



Origin of pairing int.:

Attractive component of nuclear force.

## Low density neutron matter

Dripped neutron gas in inner crusts:

Neutron matter at low densities  $(\rho << \rho_0)$ 

Great advantages over symmetric nuclear matter:

- Only 2 spin-isospin DOFs
- Non-self bound
- Pauli principle **>** 3-body force suppressed.





Pandharipande, Pethick, etc.

# Similarity btwn. n-matter & cold atoms

#### Recent progress

Similarity btwn. low density n-matter in NS crusts & cold gases of fermionic atoms

- Theory
  - Improved many-body calc.
    - QMC calc. for neutron matter & cold atomic gases

e.g., Gandolfi, Gezerlis & Carlson, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 65, 303 (2015)

- Experiment
  - Realization of unitary Fermi gases

e.g., Horikoshi et al., PRX 7, 041004 (2017)

#### Quantum simulation of NS matter

#### Simulating neutron star matter using cold atoms.



## Superfluid neutrons in a lattice

#### In NS inner crusts

Dripped neutrons btwn. nuclei ≈ s.f. unitary Fermi gas

Lattice of nuclei (normal phase) ≈ periodic pot. for s.f. neutrons

Simulating superfluid neutrons in NS crusts using superfluid Fermi gases in a periodic potential.

e.g., GW, Orso, Dalfovo, Pitaevski & Stringari, PRA **78**, 063619 (2008) GW, Yoon & Dalfovo, PRL **107**, 270404 (2011)



## Consequences of superfluidity

1. Pulsar glitches

Review:

Haskell & Melatos, Int. J. Mod. Phys. D 24, 1530008 (2015).

#### 2. Neutron star cooling

**Review:** 

Yakovlev & Pethick, Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. **42**, 169 (2004).

# Pulsar glitches





Julian Date - 2440000.5

Radhakrishnan & Manchester, Nature (1969)

Magnetic dipole model



$$\frac{d\Omega}{dt} \propto -\mu^2 \sin^2 \alpha \ \Omega^3 / I$$

 $\mu$ : magnetic mom.  $\alpha$ : angle btwn. **B** &  $\Omega$ I: mom. of inertia

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Glitches: Sudden (but small) increase of pulsar spinning rate. Followed by a gradual relaxation of the spinning rate.

# Glitch model based on n-superfluidity

#### 2 fluids in NS crust

Normal fluid: lattice of nuclei, charged

Coupled to an EM field.

Decelerated by pulsar emission.

Superfluid: dripped neutrons

No deceleration.

Works as an ang. mom. reservoir.

Relative velocity btwn n-superfluid & lattice of nuclei increases.  $\Omega_s$   $\Omega_n$ 

When the relative vel. goes beyond  $\Omega_s - \Omega_n \sim 10 \text{ rad/s}$ 

Sudden ang. mom. transfer from super to normal fluid.

Pulsar glitch!



How much fraction of neutrons contribute to the superflow is crucial!

Superfluid density  $n^{S}$ 

	Chamel, PRC 85, 035801 (2012)
	GW & Pethick, PRL <b>119</b> , 062701 (2017)
sf-hydrodyn.:	Martin & Urban, PRC 94, 065801 (2016)
For slab phase:	Kashiwaba & Nakatsukasa, PRC <b>100</b> , 035804 (2019) Sekizawa, Kobayashi & Matsuo, PRC <b>105</b> , 045807 (2022)
Disorder effect:	Sauls, Chamel & Alpar, arXiv:2001.09959 (2020) Zhang & Pethick, PRC <b>105</b> , 055807 (2022)
Approx. dep.:	Minami & GW, PRR <b>4</b> , 033141 (2022)

# Superfluid density

Superfluid density  $n^s$ : Density which contributes to SF flow.

Response of current by the phase twist of the pairing field  $\Delta$ . (Increase of the flow kinetic energy by giving a SF velocity.)



#### Entrainment

"Entrainment":

Neutron superfluid is dragged by the lattice of plasma [normal neutron+proton mixture] (and vice versa).

$$oldsymbol{p}_n = 
ho_{nn}oldsymbol{v}_n + 
ho_{np}oldsymbol{v}_p$$
 $oldsymbol{p}_p = 
ho_{np}oldsymbol{v}_n + 
ho_{pp}oldsymbol{v}_p$ 
 $ho_{ij}$ : entrainment tensor

Entrainment effect means that  $\rho_{np} \neq 0$ 

Usually, entrainment effect reduces the superfluid density of n.

# Crisis of the glitch models

#### Chamel, PRC 85, 035801 (2012)

Band calculation without pairing.

(HF with nuclear interaction of Skyrme type)

 $(n^{S} / n \text{ for small but nonzero } \Delta) \approx (m / m^{*} \text{ for } \Delta = 0)$ 



Insufficient superfluid density to explain glitches! Mom. of inertial of n-superfluid is too small.

Andersson et al., PRL (2012); Chamel, PRL (2013); Delsate et al., PRD (2016).

#### Band calculation by Chamel



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#### Band calculation by Chamel



# Chamel's updated results by HF+BCS

#### Chamel (2018; unpublished)

New calculation including pairing gap within HF+BCS

$\Delta$ (MeV)	$\Delta/\varepsilon_{\rm F}$	$n_{n}^{s}/n_{n}^{t}$ (%)
3.09	0.169	7.87
2.16	0.118	7.74
1.51	0.0826	7.63
1.06	0.0578	7.56
0.741	0.0405	7.55
0.519	0.0283	7.57
0.363	0.0198	7.61
0.254	0.0139	7.66
0.178	0.00972	7.77
0.125	0.00680	7.76
0	0	7.84

Chamel, INT Workshop (2018)

Superfluid density is still low!

# Difficulty of the problem



 $\xi_{\rm BCS} \sim R$  (nuclear radius)

Hydrodyn. theory is invalid.

Need to look at the band structure in detail.

# of neutrons / nucleus >> 1
neutrons occupy ~500 bands



Both "gaps" are important!

(band gap) vs (pairing gap)

- Pairing gap and band gap should be treated on equal-footing!
- Pairing drastically reduces the effects of band gap when

 $|\Delta| \gtrsim$  (band gap) ~ (inter-band coupling)

 $|\Delta|/(\text{band gap})$ 

matters even though  $|\Delta|/E_F \ll 1$ 

Superfluid density may be large enough to account for glitches.
 New life for glitch models!

GW & Pethick, PRL **119**, 062701 (2017). Minami & GW, PRR **4**, 033141 (2022).



# Start of the project

Our old result on superfluid Fermi gases in an optical lattice

GW et al. PRA 78, 063619 (2008)



Effective mass is not so big at higher densities... Pairing suppresses the effects of band gap...?



## Poor man's analysis

Scattering of quasiparticles by spin-indep. pot.:

$$H_{\text{int}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \sigma} V(|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'|) a_{\mathbf{k}, \sigma}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{k}', \sigma}$$

$$a_{\mathbf{k}, \sigma}^{\dagger} = u_{k} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}, \sigma}^{\dagger} + \sigma v_{k} \alpha_{-\mathbf{k}, -\sigma}$$
fermion
quasiparticle
$$\langle \mathbf{k}' \sigma | H_{\text{int}} | \mathbf{k} \sigma \rangle = (u_{k} u_{k'} - v_{k} v_{k'}) V(|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'|)$$

$$|\mathbf{k} \sigma \rangle = \alpha_{\mathbf{k}, \sigma}^{\dagger} | 0 \rangle$$

On the Fermi surface ( $k = [2m\mu]^{1/2}$ ),  $u_k = v_k = 1/\sqrt{2}$  $\langle \mathbf{k}' \sigma | H_{int} | \mathbf{k} \sigma \rangle = 0$ 

No net scattering on Fermi surface.

·· Potential for particles and holes are opposite in sign.



Potential "mountain" for particles is potential "valley" for holes.

#### Pairing — Superposition of particle & hole.

Quasi-particles are insensitive to the potential on average.

Pairing suppresses the effect of the band gap.

## Bogoliubov-de Gennes approach



# Effects of the pairing gap

Suppression of band gap effect by pairing



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# Application to NS crusts

#### Obstacles:

- Lattice pot. in NS crusts has many Fourier components.
- 3D anisotropic lattice: Average over the orientation of lattice is needed.
- Neutrons occupy ~ 500 bands.



Take a shortcut!

Use the results for cold atom system.

# Application to NS crusts

#### Shortcuts:

Lattice pot. in NS crusts has many Fourier components.

Not simple sinusoidal



Form factor

(from MF pot. used in Chamel's calc.)

[Pearson et al., PRC 91, 018801 (2015)]

3D bcc lattice

Superfluid density tensor



Average over the orientation of lattice.

K-dep. & Δ-dep.: BdG results for the simplified sys.
 Effects of the two "gaps".

### Superfluid density in NS crusts

Assumption: pairs of RLVs  $\{\mathbf{K}_i, -\mathbf{K}_i\}$  contribute to  $n^s$  independently.



#### Superfluid density in NS crusts

Focus on the case where the reduction of  $n^{S}$  is largest.

In Chamel (2012): Avr. density  $n = 0.03 \text{ fm}^{-3}$ neutron Fermi energy  $E_F^{\ o} = 16.4 \text{ MeV}$  $\Delta \approx 1 - 1.5 \text{ MeV}$ 

No pairing limit ( $\Delta = 0$ ):  $n^s/n_n^o \simeq 0.20$  (cf. Chamel's result ~ 0.1)

 $\Delta = 1 \text{MeV:} \quad n^s / n_n^o \simeq 0.64$ 

 $\Delta$  = 1.5MeV:  $n^s/n_n^o \simeq 0.71$  Only 29% reduction!

Superfluid density is large enough.

Glitch models based on superfluidity are still tenable!

## Comparison

• GW & Pethick, PRL (2017)

BdG equation for 1D lattice in 3D space Band gap & paring gap: included on equal-footing

• Chamel, PRC (2012); unpublished (2018)

HF (no pairing) for 3D lattice (2012)

HF-BCS for 3D lattice (2018) Include band gap  $\rightarrow$  paring gap

We focus on the dependence of approximation scheme. Minami & GW, PRR **4**, 033141 (2022)



1D periodic potential

$$V_{\rm ext}(x) = V\left(e^{iKx} + e^{-iKx}\right)$$

Bloch states with 3 bands

$$u_k(x) = \sum_{n=0,\pm 1} \tilde{u}_{k+nK} e^{i(k+nK)x}$$

BdG eqs. in 1D space  

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{H}'(k,Q) & \tilde{\Delta} \\ \tilde{\Delta} & -\tilde{H}'(k,-Q) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u} \\ \tilde{v} \end{pmatrix} = \epsilon \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u} \\ \tilde{v} \end{pmatrix}$$

### Three approximation schemes

(1) Directly solve BdG eqs. and calculate superfluid density:  $n_{BdG}^s$  $V \& \Delta$  are on equal footing.

(2) First include V for normal state, and then include  $\Delta$ :  $n_{V\Delta}^s$  (Corresponding to HF-BCS approx.)

irst, diagonalize  

$$\tilde{H}'(k,Q) = \begin{pmatrix} \xi(k+K,Q) & V & 0 \\ V & \xi(k,Q) & V \\ 0 & V & \xi(k-K,Q) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \xi(k,Q) = \frac{1}{2m}(k+Q)^2 - \mu(Q)$$

Then, include p-h mixing for  $\tilde{H}'(k,Q)$  basis.

(3) First include  $\Delta$  for homogeneous sys., and then include V:  $n^s_{\Delta V}$ 

First, solve BCS for homogeneous sys.

Then, include band mixing by V.

#### Superfluid densities by the 3 methods

Even at  $\Delta \ll E_F$ ,  $n^S$  differs significantly when  $V \sim \Delta$ .



#### Ratio to the BdG result

<u>For  $\Delta/E_F = 0.01$ </u>

Minimum:  $n_{V\Delta}^s/n_{\rm BdG}^s\sim 0.3$ 

#### **HF-BCS** like

Maximum:  $n_{\Delta V}^s/n_{\rm BdG}^s\sim 8$ 

*V* and  $\Delta$  should be treated on equal footing in the region of  $\Delta \sim V$  even if  $\Delta \ll E_F$ .

#### Discussions

• HF-BCS approx. can considerably underestimate  $n^{S}$  in NS crusts where  $\Delta \geq V$ .

$$\Delta \sim 1-2 \text{ MeV} \geq V$$
 in inner crusts

• Nested in 1D: Most "conservative" case.

Reduction of  $n^{S}$  by V is most prominent.

At  $\Delta = V$ :  $n^{S}_{BdG} / n = 0.27$  ( $n^{S}_{V\Delta} / n = 0.089$ )

 $n^{s}$  in NS crusts (bcc lattice in 3D) would be larger.

# Summary & conclusion

 $n^{S}$  is determined by subtle balance btwn. the two gaps!

Both pairing gap and band gap are important.

 $|\Delta|/(\text{band gap})$  matters rather than  $|\Delta|/E_F$ 

• Approximation scheme matters when  $\Delta \sim V$  even if  $\Delta \ll E_F$ .

 $\varDelta$  and V should be treated on equal footing for NS crusts!

 $\simeq 0.7$ 

Effects of the band gap is suppressed in NS crusts.

$$n^s/n_n^o \sim 0.1$$

No pairing

Pairing included

Pulsar glitch models get new life!

GW & Pethick, PRL **119**, 062701 (2017). Minami & GW, PRR **4**, 033141 (2022).





#### Comparison btwn n-matter & cold atomic gases

		Neutron matter in NS crust ( $\rho \lesssim \rho_0$ )	Cold Fermi gas at unitarity
Particle separation	$r_s \sim k_F^{-1}$	~ 1 fm	~ 100 nm
Scattering length	$a_s$	-18.9 fm	∞
	$k_F a_s $	~ 19 >> 1 very large!	$\infty$
Temperature	T	~ 100 keV	~ 100 nK
Degeneracy temp.	$T_F$	~ 100 MeV	~ 1 µK
	$T/T_F$	<b>~</b> 10 <sup>−3</sup>	~ 0.1

## QMC results for T=0

Quantum Monte-Carlo by Gezerlis & Carlson (2008)



Good agreement btwn n-matter & cold atoms.

# Glitch model based on n-superfluidity



## Simple analysis by 2-band model





- p: quasimom. of a quasiparticle (in units of  $p_F$ )
- K: reciprocal lattice vector (in units of  $p_F$ )
- V: strength of the lattice pot. (in units of  $2E_F$ )
- $\Delta$ : pairing gap (in units of  $2E_F$ )

Nested case: K = 2

Eigenvalues @  $p=p_F$ :  $\pm \sqrt{\Delta^2 + V^2}$  (doubly degenerate)

 $|\Delta|/|V| \gtrsim 1$   $\implies$  Pairing effect is important even if  $|\Delta|/E_F \ll 1$ 

$$E = \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( 2 \sum_i |\nabla v_i(\mathbf{r})|^2 \right) + V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) n(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{g} |\Delta(\mathbf{r})|^2 \right].$$

**Standard regularization** 

Take contact potential:  $g\delta(\mathbf{r})$ 

Replace g by the low energy limit of T-matrix.

$$\frac{1}{g} = \frac{m}{4\pi\hbar^2 a_s} - \sum_{k < k_c} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_k}$$
$$\epsilon_k \equiv \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$$

## Effects of the pairing gap (1)



Reduction of *n<sup>s</sup>* due to band gap is suppressed by paring gap.

### K and $V_K$ dependence in normal limit

#### Normal limit: $\Delta = 0$



Approximate fit:  $1 - n_{zz}^s(K, V_K, \Delta = 0)/n = \left(1 + 3.5 \frac{K}{2k_F}\right) \frac{|V_K|}{E_F}$ 

#### Form factor of lattice pot. in NS crusts

Fourier transform of MF pot. in Chamel's calculation.

[Pearson et al., PRC 91, 018801 (2015)]



Reciprocal lattice vectors (RLVs) bcc lattice  $\rightarrow$  fcc in reciprocal space Min:  $\mathbf{K} = \frac{4\pi}{d}(\pm 1, \pm 1, 0)$  etc. (12 RLVs)  $K_{\min}/2k_n \simeq 0.12$ 2nd:  $\mathbf{K} = \frac{4\pi}{d}(\pm 2, 0, 0)$  etc. (6 RLVs)  $K = \sqrt{2}K_{\min}$ 3rd:  $\mathbf{K} = \frac{4\pi}{d}(\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 2)$  etc. (24 RLVs)  $K = \sqrt{3}K_{\min}$ 

 $|V_{K}|$  decreases rapidly with K.  $K/2k_{n} \gtrsim 0.15 \implies |V_{K}| \lesssim \Delta$  $K/2k_{n} \gtrsim 0.25 \implies |V_{K}| \ll \Delta$ 

## Superfluid density in NS crusts (1)

Assumption: pairs of RLVs  $\{\mathbf{K}_i, -\mathbf{K}_i\}$  contribute to  $n^s$  independently.



#### Ratio to the BdG result

**HF-BCS** like



$$n_{V\Delta}^s/n_{
m BdG}^s\sim 0.3$$

Maximum:  $n_{\Delta V}^s/n_{
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