Classifying two-dimensional superfluids: why there is more to cuprate superconductivity than the condensation of charge \(-2e\) Cooper pairs

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Experiments on the cuprate superconductors show:

• Proximity to insulating ground states with density wave order at carrier density $\delta=1/8$

• Vortex/anti-vortex fluctuations for a wide temperature range in the normal state
The cuprate superconductor \( \text{Ca}_{2-x}\text{Na}_x\text{CuO}_2\text{Cl}_2 \)

Multiple order parameters: superfluidity and density wave.

Phases: Superconductors, Mott insulators, and/or supersolids

Distinct experimental characteristics of underdoped cuprates at $T > T_c$

Measurements of Nernst effect are well explained by a model of a liquid of vortices and anti-vortices


Distinct experimental characteristics of underdoped cuprates at $T > T_c$

STM measurements observe “density” modulations with a period of $\approx 4$ lattice spacings

LDOS of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$ at 100 K.
Experiments on the cuprate superconductors show:

- Proximity to insulating ground states with density wave order at carrier density \( \delta = 1/8 \)

- Vortex/anti-vortex fluctuations for a wide temperature range in the normal state

Needed: A quantum theory of transitions between superfluid/supersolid/insulating phases at fractional filling, and a deeper understanding of the role of vortices
Superfluids near Mott insulators

The Mott insulator has average Cooper pair density, \( f = p/q \) per site, while the density of the superfluid is close (but need not be identical) to this value.

- Vortices with flux \( h/(2e) \) come in multiple (usually \( q \)) “flavors”
- The lattice space group acts in a projective representation on the vortex flavor space.
- These flavor quantum numbers provide a distinction between superfluids: they constitute a “quantum order”
- Any pinned vortex must choose an orientation in flavor space. This necessarily leads to modulations in the local density of states over the spatial region where the vortex executes its quantum zero point motion.
Vortex-induced LDOS of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$ integrated from 1meV to 12meV at 4K

Vortices have halos with LDOS modulations at a period $\approx 4$ lattice spacings


Superfluids near Mott insulators

Using as input:
- The superfluid density
- The size of the LDOS modulation halo
- The vortex lattice spacing

We obtain
- A preliminary estimate of the inertial mass of a point vortex $\approx 3 \, m_e$
Outline

A. Superfluid-insulator transitions of bosons on the square lattice at filling fraction $f$
   - Quantum mechanics of vortices in a superfluid proximate to a commensurate Mott insulator

B. Extension to electronic models for the cuprate superconductors
   - Dual vortex theories of the doped
     1. Quantum dimer model
     2. “Staggered flux” spin liquid
A. Superfluid-insulator transitions of bosons on the square lattice at filling fraction $f$

*Quantum mechanics of vortices in a superfluid proximate to a commensurate Mott insulator*
Bosons at density $f = 1$

Weak interactions: superfluidity

Strong interactions: Mott insulator which preserves all lattice symmetries

Approaching the transition from the insulator \((f=1)\)

Excitations of the insulator:

Particles \(\sim \psi^\dagger\)

Holes \(\sim \psi\)

Density of particles = density of holes \(\Rightarrow\)

“relativistic” field theory for \(\psi\):

\[
S = \int d^2 r d\tau \left[ |\partial_\tau \psi|^2 + |\nabla_r \psi|^2 + s|\psi|^2 + \frac{u}{2}|\psi|^4 \right]
\]

Insulator \(\Leftrightarrow \langle \psi \rangle = 0\)

Superfluid \(\Leftrightarrow \langle \psi \rangle \neq 0\)
Approaching the transition from the superfluid ($f=1$)

Excitations of the superfluid: (A) **Superflow (“spin waves”)**

With $\psi \sim e^{i\theta}$, the action for fluctuations of the superfluid velocity $\sim \nabla \theta$ is

$$S_{sw} = \frac{\rho_s}{2} \int d^3x (\partial_\mu \theta)^2$$

**Dual form:** After a Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation, write

$$S_{sw} = \int d^3x \left[ \frac{1}{2\rho_s} J_\mu^2 + i J_\mu \partial_\mu \theta \right]$$

Integrating over $\theta$ yields $\partial_\mu J_\mu = 0$. Solve, by writing

$$J_\mu = \frac{1}{2\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda$$

leading to

$$S_{sw} = \int d^3x \left[ \frac{1}{8\pi^2 \rho_s} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]$$

Phase (“spin wave”) fluctuations are dual to a U(1) gauge theory in 2+1 dimensions
Approaching the transition from the superfluid ($f=1$)

Excitations of the superfluid: (B) Vortices

A vortex is a point-like object. We can therefore define a local field operator, $\varphi$, which annihilates a vortex.
Approaching the transition from the superfluid \((f=1)\)

Excitations of the superfluid: (B) Vortices

A vortex is a point-like object. We can therefore define a local field operator, \(\varphi\), which annihilates a vortex.

Each vortex is the source of an ‘electric field’ \(\vec{E}\) associated with the U(1) gauge field \(A_\mu\).

Consequently, \(\varphi\) carries \(+1\) U(1) gauge charge.
Approaching the transition from the superfluid ($f=1$)

Excitations of the superfluid: **Superflow and vortices**

$\varphi$: vortex annihilation operator.

$\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda$: boson current $\sim i\psi^* \partial_\mu \psi - i\partial_\mu \psi^* \psi$.

Density of vortices = density of antivortices $\Rightarrow$

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"relativistic" field theory for $\varphi$:
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$$
S_{\text{dual}} = \int d^3x \left[ \left| (\partial_\mu - iA_\mu) \varphi \right|^2 + \tilde{s} |\varphi|^2 + \frac{\tilde{u}}{2} |\varphi|^4 
+ \frac{1}{8\pi^2 \rho_s} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]
$$

Superfluid $\Leftrightarrow \langle \varphi \rangle = 0$

Insulator $\Leftrightarrow \langle \varphi \rangle \neq 0$
Dual theories of the superfluid-insulator transition ($f=1$)

Using the boson quasiparticle excitations, $\sim \psi$, of the insulator

$$S = \int d^2r d\tau \left[ |\partial_r \psi|^2 + |\nabla_r \psi|^2 + s|\psi|^2 + \frac{u}{2}|\psi|^4 \right]$$

Insulator $\Leftrightarrow \langle \psi \rangle = 0$
Superfluid $\Leftrightarrow \langle \psi \rangle \neq 0$

is dual to

Using the vortex quasiparticle, $\sim \varphi$, and superfluid velocity, $\sim \epsilon_{\mu\nu,\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda$, excitations of the superfluid

$$S_{\text{dual}} = \int d^3x \left[ |(\partial_\mu - iA_\mu)\varphi|^2 + \tilde{s}|\varphi|^2 + \frac{\tilde{u}}{2}|\varphi|^4 + \frac{1}{8\pi^2 \rho_s} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu,\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]$$

Superfluid $\Leftrightarrow \langle \varphi \rangle = 0$
Insulator $\Leftrightarrow \langle \varphi \rangle \neq 0$

A vortex in the vortex field is the original boson

The wavefunction of a vortex acquires a phase of $2\pi$ each time the vortex encircles a boson
Bosons at density $f = 1/2$ (equivalent to $S=1/2$ AFMs)

Weak interactions: superfluidity

$\langle \psi \rangle \neq 0$

Strong interactions: Candidate insulating states

All insulating phases have density-wave order $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \rho_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$ with $\langle \rho_{\mathbf{q}} \rangle \neq 0$

Boson-vortex duality

The wavefunction of a vortex acquires a phase of $2\pi$ each time the vortex encircles a boson.

Strength of “magnetic” field on vortex field $\varphi$

$\varphi = \text{density of bosons} = f \text{ flux quanta per plaquette}$

Boson-vortex duality

Quantum mechanics of the vortex “particle” $\varphi$ is invariant under the square lattice space group:

$T_x, T_y$: Translations by a lattice spacing in the $x,y$ directions

$R$: Rotation by 90 degrees.

**Magnetic space group:**

\[
T_x T_y = e^{2\pi i f} T_y T_x \ ; \\
R^{-1} T_y R = T_x \ ; \ R^{-1} T_x R = T_y^{-1} \ ; \ R^4 = 1
\]

Strength of “magnetic” field on vortex field $\varphi$

= density of bosons = $f$ flux quanta per plaquette
Boson-vortex duality
Hofstadter spectrum of the quantum vortex “particle” $\varphi$

At density $f = p/q$ ($p, q$ relatively prime integers) there are $q$ species of vortices, $\varphi_\ell$ (with $\ell = 1 \ldots q$), associated with $q$ gauge-equivalent regions of the Brillouin zone.

Magnetic space group:

$$T_x T_y = e^{2\pi i f} T_y T_x;$$

$$R^{-1} T_y R = T_x; \quad R^{-1} T_x R = T_y^{-1}; \quad R^4 = 1$$
At density $f = p / q$ ($p, q$ relatively prime integers) there are $q$ species of vortices, $\varphi_\ell$ (with $\ell = 1 \ldots q$), associated with $q$ gauge-equivalent regions of the Brillouin zone.

The $q$ vortices form a projective representation of the space group

\[
T_x : \varphi_\ell \rightarrow \varphi_{\ell+1} ; \quad T_y : \varphi_\ell \rightarrow e^{2\pi i \ell f} \varphi_\ell \\
R : \varphi_\ell \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{q}} \sum_{m=1}^{q} \varphi_m e^{2\pi i \ell mf}
\]

Boson-vortex duality

The $q \varphi_\ell$ vortices characterize both superconducting and density wave orders

Superconductor/insulator: $\langle \varphi_\ell \rangle = 0 / \langle \varphi_\ell \rangle \neq 0$
Boson-vortex duality

The $q \varphi_\ell$ vortices characterize both superconducting and density wave orders

Density wave order:

Status of space group symmetry determined by density operators $\rho_Q$ at wavevectors $Q_{mn} = \frac{2\pi p}{q}(m,n)$

$$\rho_{mn} = e^{i\pi mnl} \sum_{\ell=1}^{q} \varphi_\ell^* \varphi_{\ell+n} e^{2\pi i\ell mf}$$

$T_x : \rho_Q \rightarrow \rho_Q e^{iQ \cdot \hat{x}}$ ; $T_y : \rho_Q \rightarrow \rho_Q e^{iQ \cdot \hat{y}}$

$R : \rho(Q) \rightarrow \rho(RQ)$
Field theory with projective symmetry

Degrees of freedom:

- $q$ complex $\varphi_\ell$ vortex fields
- 1 non-compact U(1) gauge field $A_\mu$

\[
S = \int d^2x d\tau \left[ \sum_\ell \left\{ |(\partial_\mu - iA_\mu)\varphi_\ell|^2 + s|\varphi_\ell|^2 \right\} 
+ \frac{1}{8\pi^2 \rho_s} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 + \sum_{\ell mn} \gamma_{mn} \varphi_\ell^* \varphi_{\ell+m}^* \varphi_{\ell+n} \varphi_{\ell+m-n} \right]
\]

The projective symmetries constrain the couplings $\gamma_{mn}$ to obey

\[
\gamma_{mn} = \gamma_{-m,-n} \ ; \ \gamma_{mn} = \gamma_{m,m-n} \ ; \ \gamma_{mn} = \gamma_{m-2n,-n}
\]

\[
\gamma_{\bar{m}\bar{n}} = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{mn} \gamma_{mn} e^{-2\pi i f[n(\bar{m}-\bar{n})+\bar{n}(m-n)]}
\]
Field theory with projective symmetry

Spatial structure of insulators for $q=2$ ($f=1/2$)

All insulating phases have density-wave order $\rho(r) = \sum_Q \rho_Q e^{iQ \cdot r}$ with $\langle \rho_Q \rangle \neq 0$
Field theory with projective symmetry
Spatial structure of insulators for $q=4$ ($f=1/4$ or $3/4$)

$a \times b$ unit cells; $q/a$, $q/b$, $ab/q$, all integers
Field theory with projective symmetry

Density operators $\rho_q$ at wavevectors $Q_{mn} = \frac{2\pi p}{q}(m, n)$

$$\rho_{mn} = e^{i\pi mn f} \sum_{\ell=1}^{q} \phi_\ell^* \phi_{\ell+n} e^{2\pi i \ell mf}$$

Each pinned vortex in the superfluid has a halo of density wave order over a length scale $\approx$ the zero-point quantum motion of the vortex. This scale diverges upon approaching the insulator.
Vortex-induced LDOS of Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CaCu$_2$O$_{8+\delta}$ integrated from 1meV to 12meV at 4K

Vortices have halos with LDOS modulations at a period $\approx 4$ lattice spacings


B. Extension to electronic models for the cuprate superconductors

*Dual vortex theories of the doped*

1. *Quantum dimer model*
2. "*Staggered flux*" spin liquid
\( g \) = parameter controlling strength of quantum fluctuations in a semiclassical theory of the destruction of Neel order.
(B.1) Phase diagram of doped antiferromagnets

La$_2$CuO$_4$

VBS order or Neel order

(B.1) Phase diagram of doped antiferromagnets

Dual vortex theory of doped dimer model for interplay between VBS order and $d$-wave superconductivity
\[ H_{\text{dqd}} = J \sum (| \uparrow \uparrow \rangle \langle \uparrow \downarrow | + | \uparrow \downarrow \rangle \langle \uparrow \uparrow |) - t \sum (| \uparrow \circ \rangle \langle \downarrow \downarrow | + | \downarrow \circ \rangle \langle \uparrow \circ |) - \cdots \]

Density of holes = \( \delta \)

Duality mapping of doped quantum dimer model shows:

Vortices in the superconducting state obey the magnetic translation algebra

\[ T_x T_y = e^{2\pi i f} T_y T_x \]

with \( f = \frac{p}{q} = \frac{1 - \delta_{MI}}{2} \)

where \( \delta_{MI} \) is the density of holes in the proximate Mott insulator (for \( \delta_{MI} = 1/8, f = 7/16 \Rightarrow q = 16 \))

Note: \( f = \) density of Cooper pairs

Most results of Part A on bosons can be applied unchanged with \( q \) as determined above
Phase diagram of doped antiferromagnets

- VBS order
- Neel order
- $\delta = \frac{1}{32}$
- $La_2CuO_4$
(B.1) Phase diagram of doped antiferromagnets

- VBS order
- Neel order
- \( \delta = \frac{1}{16} \)
- \( \La_2\CuO_4 \)
**Phase diagram of doped antiferromagnets**

- **VBS order**
- **Neel order**
- **La$_2$CuO$_4$**
- **Hole density $\delta$**
- **$\delta = \frac{1}{8}$**
(B.1) Phase diagram of doped antiferromagnets

- VBS order
- Neel order
- La$_2$CuO$_4$
- Hole density $\delta$
- $g$
- d-wave superconductivity above a critical $\delta$
(B.2) Dual vortex theory of doped “staggered flux” spin liquid

We consider a $d$-wave superconductor described as a doped “staggered flux” spin liquid in the SU(2) gauge theory formulation. We wish to describe quantum fluctuations in such a superconductor near a transition to a Mott insulator. The Mott insulator has hole density $\delta_{MI}$, with

$$\frac{\delta_{MI}}{2} = \frac{p}{q},$$

with $p, q$ relatively prime integers.

The dual theory shows that there are a pair of $q$ complex vortex fields $\varphi_{1\ell}$ and $\varphi_{2\ell}$, which are dual to the two species of bosons, $b_1, b_2$ of the SU(2) gauge theory. These are coupled to 2 non-compact U(1) gauge fields: $A_\mu$ (whose flux represents the superflow), and $B_\mu$ (whose Chern-Simons dual is coupled to the nodal fermions).
(B.2) Dual vortex theory of doped “staggered flux” spin liquid

The effective action for the theory is:

\[ S_{sf} = S_v + S_A \]

\[ S_v = \int d^2r d\tau \sum_{\ell=0}^{q-1} h_s(-1) \left\{ \varphi_{1,\ell+q/2}^* \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - iA_\tau - iB_\tau \right) \varphi_{1\ell} \right. \]
\[ - \left. \varphi_{2,\ell+q/2}^* \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - iA_\tau + iB_\tau \right) \varphi_{2\ell} \right\} + |(\partial_i - iA_i - iB_i)\varphi_{1\ell}|^2 + s|\varphi_{1\ell}|^2 + |(\partial_i - iA_i + iB_i)\varphi_{2\ell}|^2 + s|\varphi_{2\ell}|^2 \]

\[ S_A = \int d^2r d\tau \left[ \frac{1}{8\pi^2 \rho_s} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 + \frac{i}{\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} B_\mu \partial_\nu C_\lambda + \bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu (\partial_\mu - iC_\mu) \psi \right] \]

There are also additional “monopole” terms which are not shown.
Main (preliminary) results:

- Presence of the staggered flux makes the vortices “non-relativistic” and allows a theory of a dilute gas of vortices and anti-vortices.

- As the superfluid approaches the Mott insulator, the vortices and anti-vortices form “excitonic” bound states which condense first.

- This implies that a *supersolid* intervenes between the superfluid and the insulator.
Superfluids near Mott insulators

The Mott insulator has average Cooper pair density, \( f = p/q \) per site, while the density of the superfluid is close (but need not be identical) to this value.

- Vortices with flux \( \hbar/(2e) \) come in multiple (usually \( q \)) “flavors”

- The lattice space group acts in a projective representation on the vortex flavor space.

- These flavor quantum numbers provide a distinction between superfluids: they constitute a “quantum order”

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