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International Centre for Theoretical Physics*



1859-25

**Summer School on Novel Quantum Phases and Non-Equilibrium
Phenomena in Cold Atomic Gases**

27 August - 7 September, 2007

Dissipationless Higgs Boson in Fermionic condensates

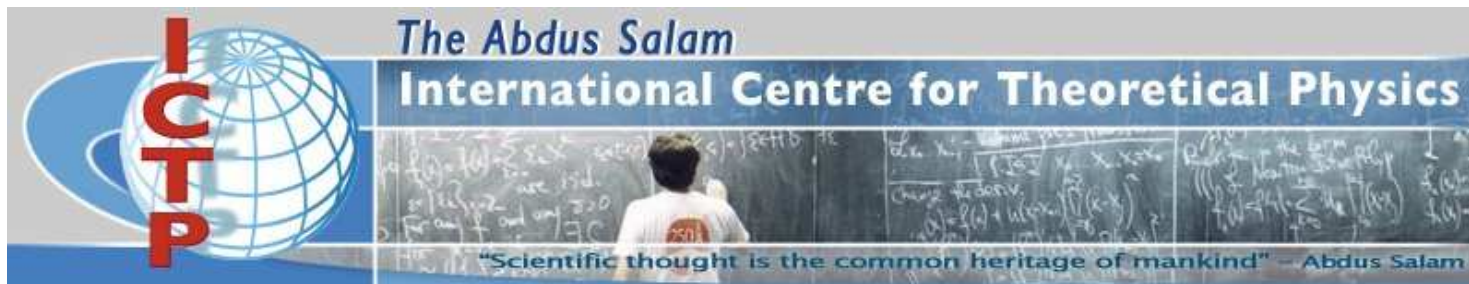
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Dissipationless Higgs Boson in Fermionic Condensates

7 Sept. 2007



Outline

-  Collective modes in Bose and Fermi superfluids
-  Amplitude mode (Higgs boson): different approaches
-  Dynamical regimes of pairing: role of initial states
-  The dissipationless Higgs mode
-  Relevance to experiments
-  Open questions and future directions
-  Conclusion

Collective modes in superfluids $T = 0$

complex order parameter $\Psi = |\Psi| \exp(i\varphi)$

Landau-Ginzburg free energy $F = F[\Psi]$

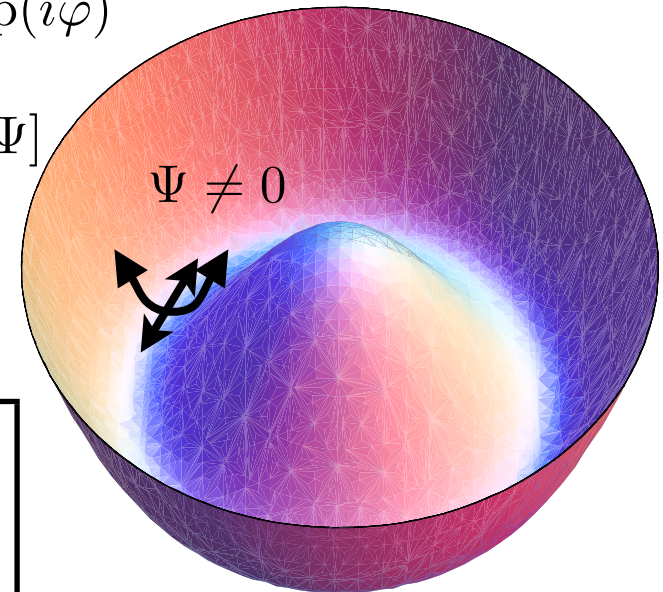
Ground state breaks $U(1)$ symmetry

Phase and amplitude modes

	Gapless Goldstone mode	Massive Higgs mode
Bosons	Sound	no
Fermions	Sound (Bogoliubov-Anderson mode)	Amplitude mode

Charged systems: sound is gapped (plasmon)

$$\Psi = \sqrt{n_s} \exp(i\varphi) \quad \Psi = \langle \hat{\psi}_\uparrow(r) \hat{\psi}_\downarrow(r) \rangle = |\Delta| \exp(i\varphi)$$



φ azimuthal angle

Phase is conjugate to the number of particles

Higgs Boson

Probing excitation spectrum of Fermi superfluids

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}\mathbf{d}} a_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{d}/2\uparrow}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{d}/2\downarrow}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{d}/2\downarrow} a_{\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{d}/2\uparrow}$$
$$\xi_{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} - \mu \quad \Delta(t) = \lambda \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \langle a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}(t) a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}(t) \rangle$$



Single-particle excitations, by RF spectroscopy



Collective modes



Bogoliubov-Anderson mode, by perturbation of the density $\delta\mu(t)$






Amplitude mode (no experiments so far), by changing the coupling at Feshbach resonance

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_s \theta(-t) + \lambda_f \theta(t)$$

Formulation of the problem

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}\mathbf{d}} a_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{d}/2\uparrow}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{d}/2\downarrow}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{d}/2\downarrow} a_{\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{d}/2\uparrow}$$
$$\xi_{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{p}^2/2m - \mu$$

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_s \theta(-t) + \lambda_f \theta(t)$$

-  Initial condition: BCS or normal state
-  Dynamics induced by non-adiabatic switching of attractive interactions
-  **Goal: Time-dependence of the pairing amplitude**

$$\Delta(t) = \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \langle a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}(t) a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}(t) \rangle$$

Formulation of the problem (cont.)

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}\mathbf{d}} a_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{d}/2\uparrow}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{d}/2\downarrow}^{\dagger} a_{-\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{d}/2\downarrow} a_{\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{d}/2\uparrow}$$
$$\xi_{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{p}^2/2m - \mu$$



Time-dependent Ginzburg-Landau approach

Applicability: $T_c - T \ll T_c$
 $\tau_{\epsilon} \ll \tau_{\Delta}$

e.g. gapless superconductors

Abrahams, Tsuneto 1966,
Gor'kov, Eliashberg 1968

Quasiparticles are always in equilibrium, i.e. follow the pairing amplitude



Kinetic equation approach

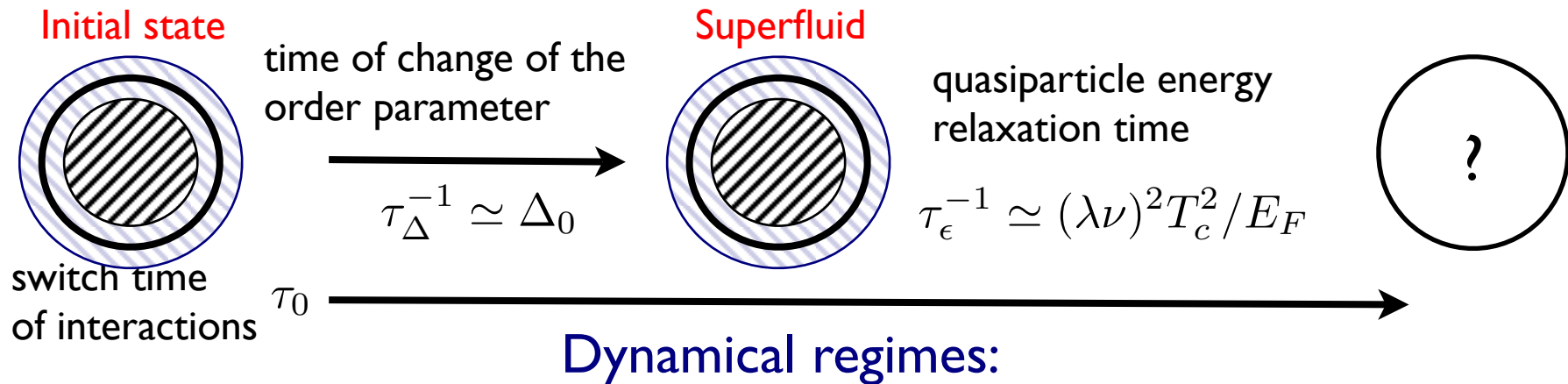
Applicability: $\hbar\omega \ll \Delta^2/T_c$ $\hbar\omega \ll \Delta$, $q\xi \ll 1$

Aronov, Galperin, Gurevich, Kozub 1981

Pairing amplitude follows the quasi-particles

Both approaches fail in our case

Time scales in the problem



Adiabatic regime (equilibrium with the instantaneous Hamiltonian) $\tau_{\Delta}, \tau_{\epsilon} \ll \tau_0$

Tuning the initial state (non-equilibrium) $\tau_{\Delta} \ll \tau_0 \ll \tau_{\epsilon}$

TDGL regime $\tau_{\epsilon} \ll \tau_{\Delta}$

NEW regime possible in atomic gases

$$\tau_0 \ll \tau_{\Delta} \ll \tau_{\epsilon}$$

Dissipationless dynamics

Bogoliubov-de Gennes equations

Reduced BCS Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{q}\downarrow} a_{\mathbf{q}\uparrow}$$

zero-momentum pairs - spatially uniform dynamics

Truncated Hilbert space: BCS wave function

$$|\Phi(t)\rangle = \prod_{\mathbf{p}} \left(u_{\mathbf{p}}(t) + v_{\mathbf{p}}(t) a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}^\dagger \right) |0\rangle$$

$$i\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} u_{\mathbf{p}} \\ v_{\mathbf{p}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} & \Delta \\ \Delta^* & -\xi_{\mathbf{p}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_{\mathbf{p}} \\ v_{\mathbf{p}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Self-consistency
condition

$$\Delta(t) = \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}} u_{\mathbf{p}}(t) v_{\mathbf{p}}^*(t)$$

↓

$$\tau_0 \ll t \ll \tau_\epsilon$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \Delta = 0$$

Dissipationless, spatially uniform and non-linear dynamics

Pseudospin representation of BCS problem

P.W.Anderson, 1958

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{\mathbf{p}} 2\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} s_{\mathbf{p}}^z - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} s_{\mathbf{p}}^- s_{\mathbf{q}}^+$$

Mean-field $\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}} = 2\langle s_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle$ unit vector

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}} = (r_1, r_2, r_3)_{\mathbf{p}} \quad r_1 + ir_2 = 2u_{\mathbf{p}}v_{\mathbf{p}}^* \quad r_3 = |u_{\mathbf{p}}|^2 - |v_{\mathbf{p}}|^2$$

Mean-field dynamics (Bogoliubov - De Gennes equations)

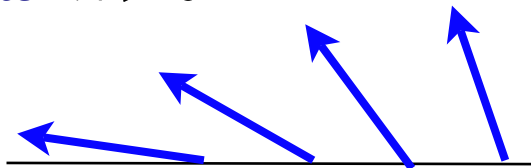
Bloch equations: $\frac{d\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}}}{dt} = 2\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{p}} \times \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}}$

Effective 'magnetic field' $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{p}} = -(\Delta', \Delta'', \xi_{\mathbf{p}})$ $\Delta = \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (r_1 + ir_2)_{\mathbf{p}}$

Normal state $\lambda = 0$

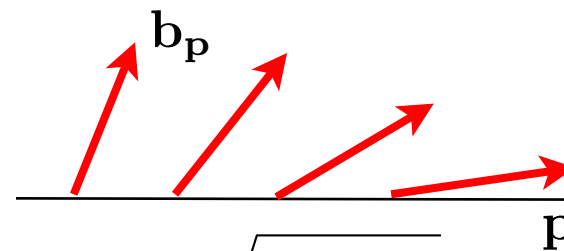


Superfluid state $\lambda > 0$



Excited pair states - spin flip

Fermi energy



$$E_{\mathbf{p}} = 2\sqrt{\Delta_0^2 + \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}}^2}$$

Non-equilibrium initial state without dynamics

$$\tau_{\Delta} \ll \tau_0 \ll \tau_{\epsilon}$$

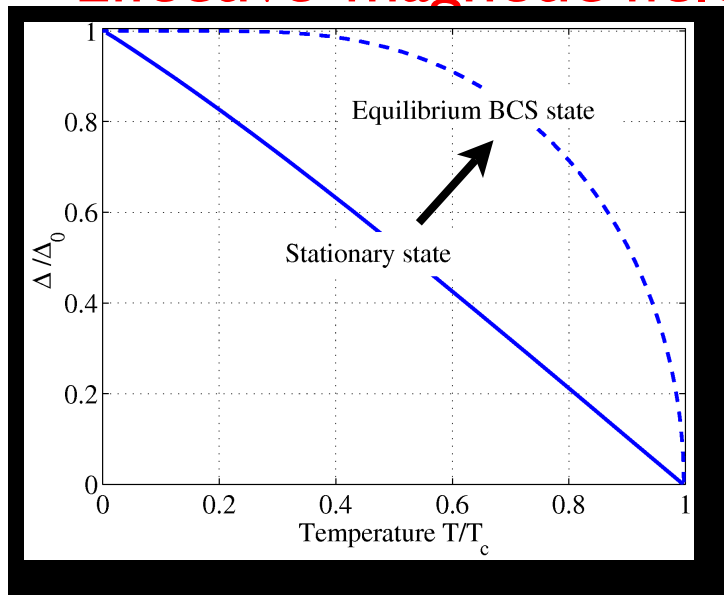
Bloch equations:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}}}{dt} = 2\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{p}} \times \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{0}$$

Effective 'magnetic field'

$$\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{p}} = -(\Delta', \Delta'', \xi_{\mathbf{p}})$$

$$\Delta = \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (r_1 + ir_2)_{\mathbf{p}}$$



$$(r_1 + ir_2)_{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{\Delta}{\sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{p}}^2 + |\Delta|^2}}$$

$$r_{3\mathbf{p}} = \frac{\xi_{\mathbf{p}}}{\sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{p}}^2 + |\Delta|^2}}$$

$$1 = \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \frac{\tanh(\beta|\xi_{\mathbf{p}}|/2)}{\sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{p}}^2 + |\Delta|^2}}$$

Dissipative dynamics between the stationary and the equilibrium state

System out of equilibrium

-  Initial BCS state + small variation of interaction

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0 \pm \delta\lambda \theta(t)$$

-  Initial normal state + turning on the interaction

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda\theta(t)$$

-  Initial BCS state + switching off the interaction

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda\theta(-t)$$

Our problem:

Parametric range of all initial BCS-like states

step-like interaction $\lambda(t) = \lambda_s\theta(-t) + \lambda_f\theta(t)$

Excitation by small variation of interaction

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0 \pm \delta\lambda \theta(t)$$

Volkov, Kogan 1974; Yuzbashyan, Tsypliyatyev, Altshuler, 2006

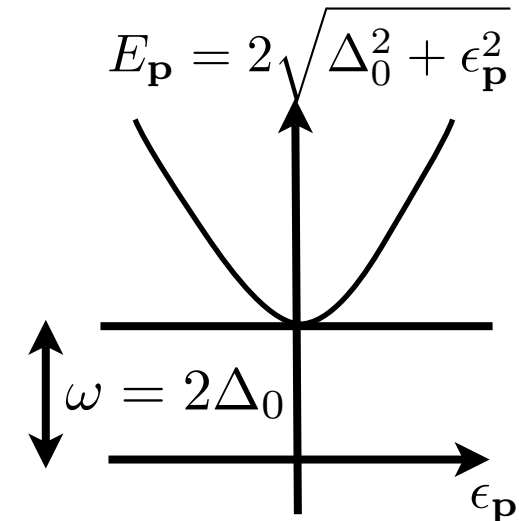
$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{q}\downarrow} a_{\mathbf{q}\uparrow}$$

$$\Delta(t) = \lambda \sum_{\mathbf{p}} r_{\mathbf{p}}^+(t)$$

Linear analysis of the Bloch (BdG) equations

$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_a + A(t) \sin(2\Delta_a t + \alpha), \quad A(t) \propto t^{-1/2}.$$

collisionless “Landau damping”



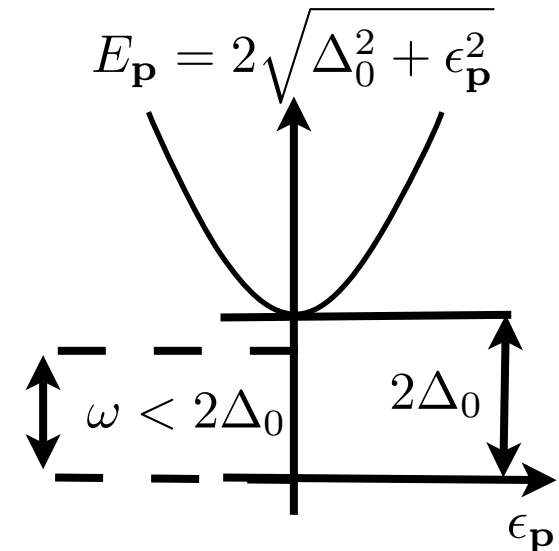
**Higgs mode decays algebraically
due to coupling to the continuum
of excited pair states**

How to make Higgs non-decaying?

 Energy dependence of the interaction

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{\mathbf{p}} 2\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} s_{\mathbf{p}}^z - \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}} \lambda_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}}(t) s_{\mathbf{p}}^- s_{\mathbf{q}}^+$$

Amplitude mode enters the gap



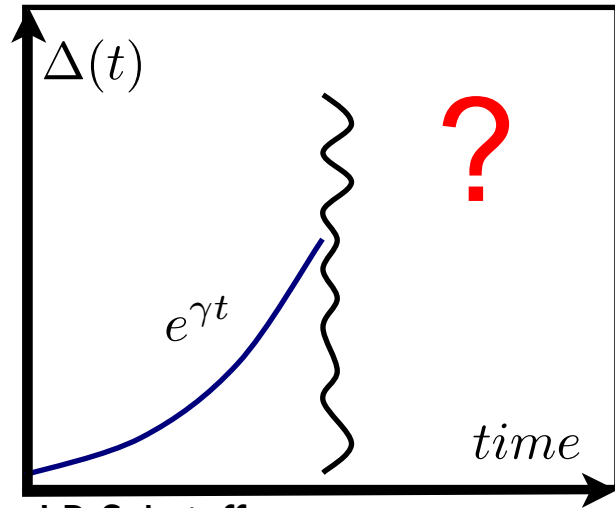
 Large perturbation

Synchronization of paired states may stabilize Higgs mode

“constructive interference”

$$\Delta(t) = \lambda \sum_{\mathbf{p}} r_{\mathbf{p}}^+(t)$$

Linear dynamics of pairing (initial state close to normal)



J.R.Schrieffer,
Theory of Superconductivity

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} \xi_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda(t) \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{q}\downarrow} a_{\mathbf{q}\uparrow}$$

$$|\Phi(t)\rangle = \prod_{\mathbf{p}} \left(u_{\mathbf{p}}(t) + v_{\mathbf{p}}(t) a_{\mathbf{p}\uparrow}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{p}\downarrow}^\dagger \right) |0\rangle$$

Linear analysis of the Bloch equations:

Eigen-modes

$$1 = \lambda \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \frac{1 - 2n_{\mathbf{p}}}{2\xi_{\mathbf{p}} - \zeta}$$

Complex roots indicate instability $\zeta = \omega + i\gamma$

Exponential growth $\Delta(t) \propto e^{\gamma t - i\omega t}$

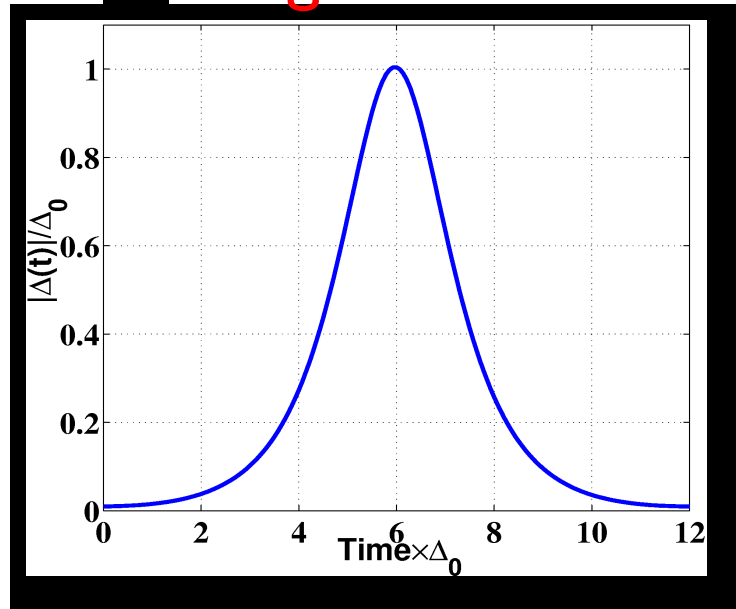
Time scale $\tau_{\Delta} = \gamma^{-1} \simeq \Delta_0^{-1} \quad \omega = 0 \quad (\mathbf{p}\text{-h symmetry})$

Dynamics at long times (synchronized)

RB, Levitov, Spivak 2004, 2006



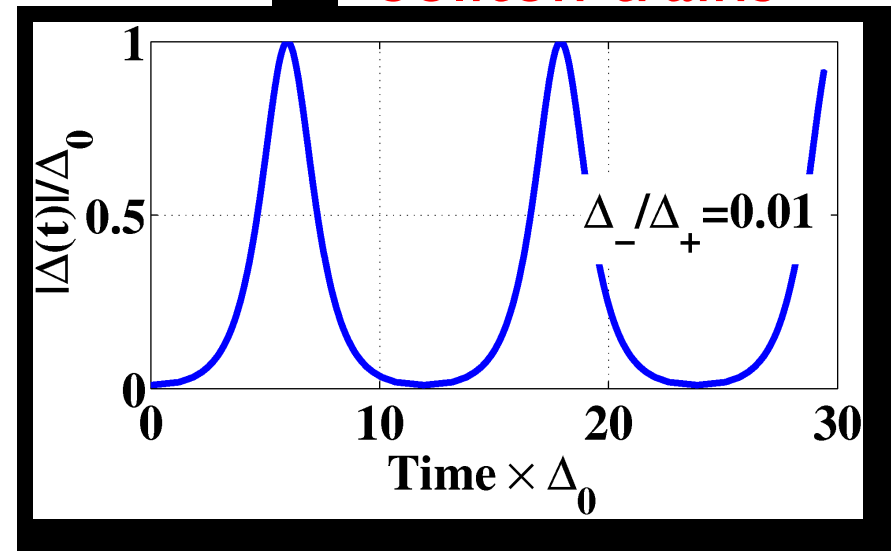
Single soliton



$$\Delta(t) = \frac{\Delta_+}{\cosh(\Delta_+ t)}$$



Soliton trains



$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_+ \operatorname{dn}[\Delta_+(t - t_0), k]$$

$$k^2 = 1 - \Delta_-^2 / \Delta_+^2$$

Indication of synchronization
of energy states

$$\Delta = \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (r_1 + ir_2)_{\mathbf{p}}$$

Synchronized regime (analytics)

Initial normal state: turning on the interaction

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda\theta(t)$$

Trivial solution $\Delta(t) = 0$ **is unstable!**

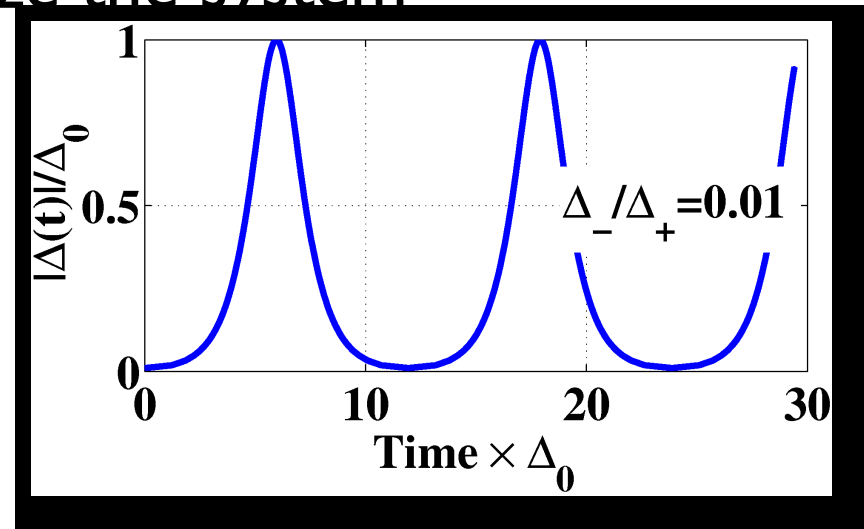
Fluctuations destabilize the system

$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_+ \operatorname{dn} [\Delta_+(t - t_0), k]$$

$$k^2 = 1 - \Delta_-^2 / \Delta_+^2$$

Limiting solution

$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_0 / \cosh[\Delta_0(t - t_0)]$$

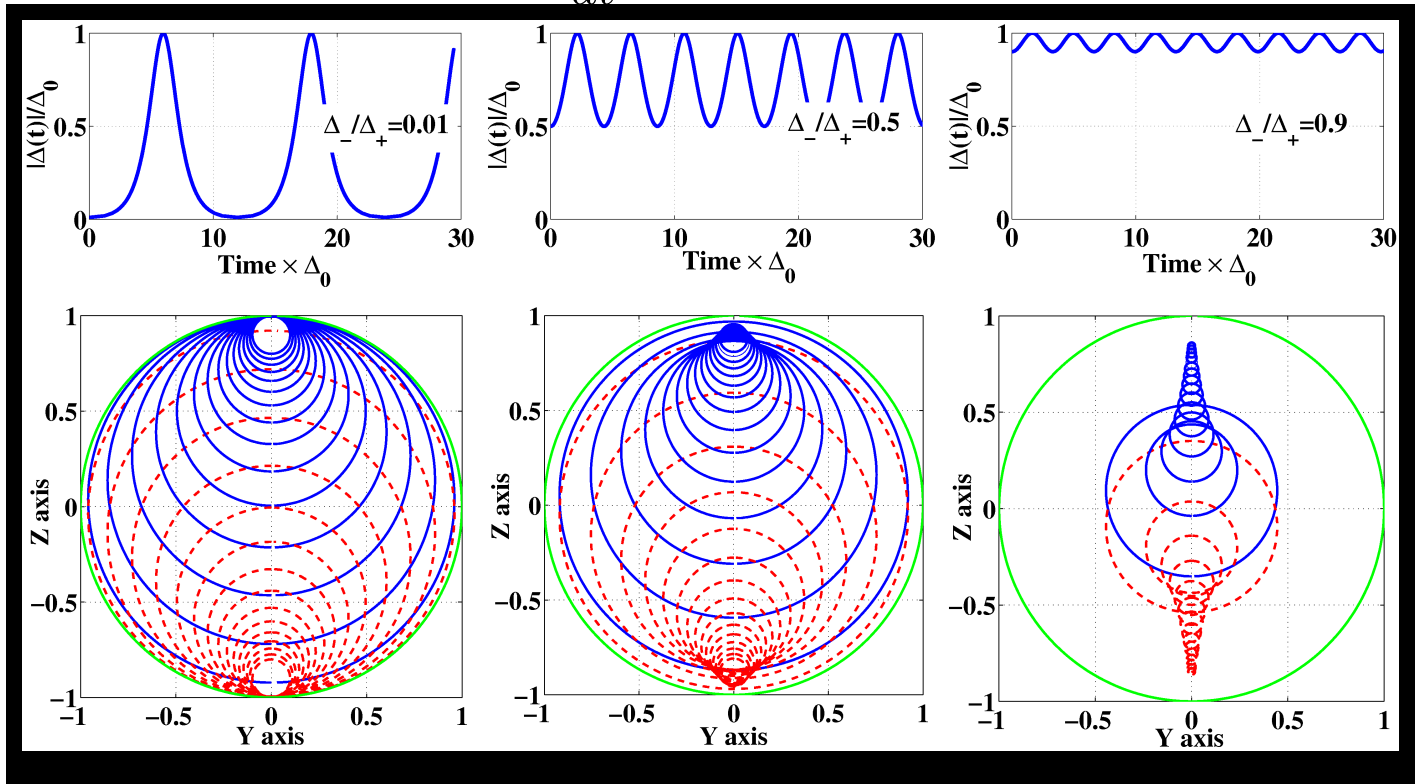


Physical solution depends on the strength of fluctuations, e. g. through temperature

It corresponds to soliton trains

Pseudospin dynamics (ansatz)

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}_p}{dt} = 2\mathbf{b}_p \times \mathbf{r}_p$$



Synchronization of energy states

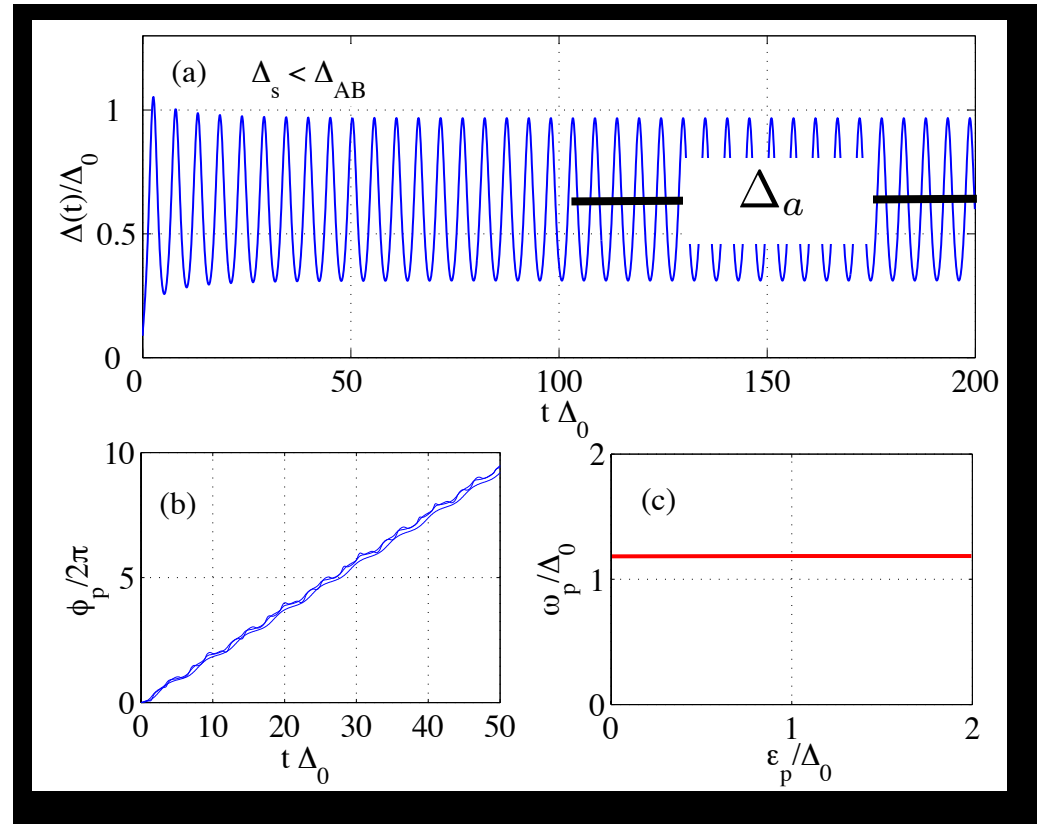
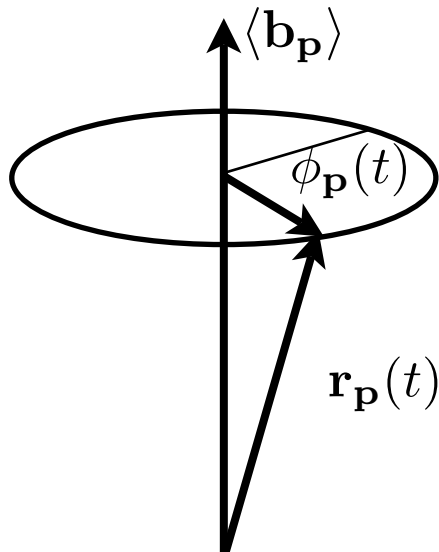
Synchronized regime (numerics)

RB, Levitov, 2006

Time dependence of individual states: rotation around local magnetic field

$$\langle \mathbf{b}_p \rangle = -(\Delta_a, 0, \xi_p)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (r_1 + ir_2)_p$$



Average frequency

$$\omega_p = \langle d\phi_p/dt \rangle = (\phi_p(\tau) - \phi_p(0))/\tau$$

No energy dispersion!

Dephased regime (analytics)

Volkov, Kogan 1974; Yuzbashyan, Tsypliyatyev, Altshuler, 2006



Small variation of interaction

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0 \pm \delta\lambda \theta(t)$$

$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_a + A(t) \sin(2\Delta_a t + \alpha), \quad A(t) \propto t^{-1/2}.$$

collisionless “Landau damping”



Switching off the interaction - initial BCS state

RB, Levitov, 2006; Yuzbashyan, Dzero, 2006

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda\theta(-t)$$

$$\Delta(t \gg \Delta_s^{-1}) \propto (\Delta_s t)^{-1/2} e^{-2\Delta_s t}.$$

“over-heating” the system

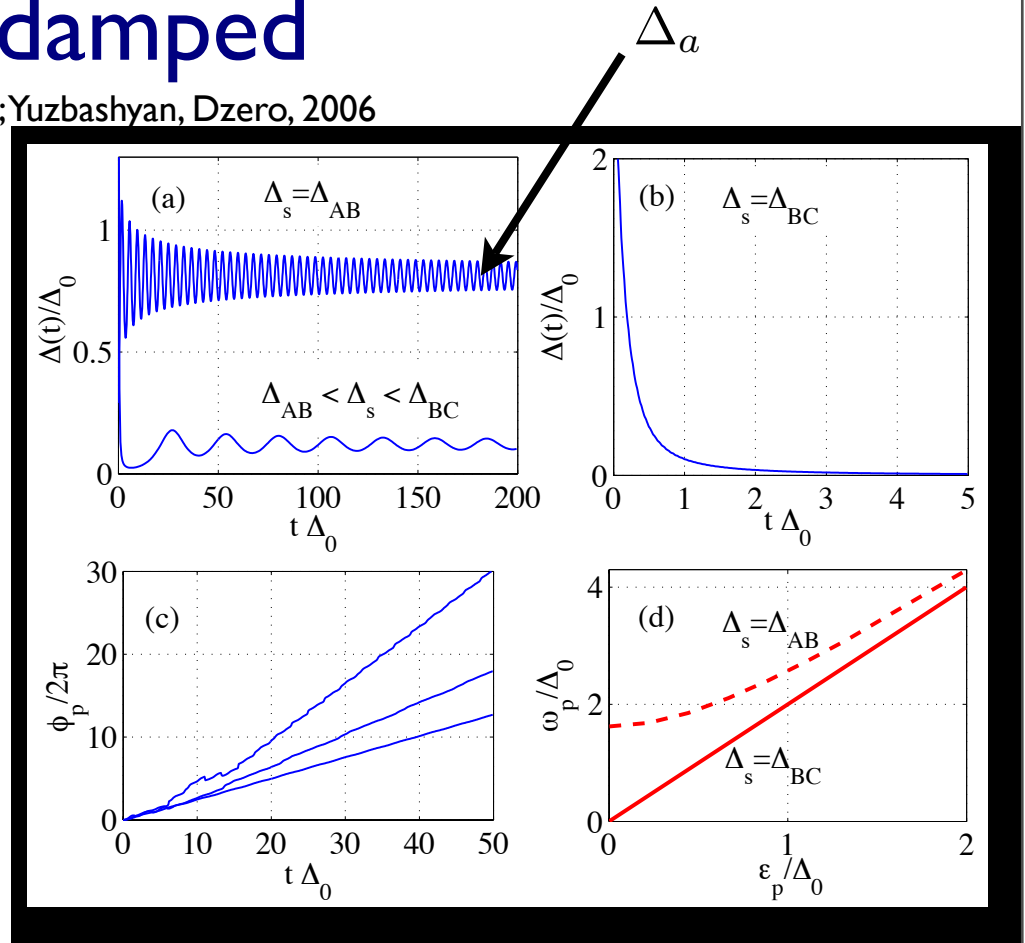
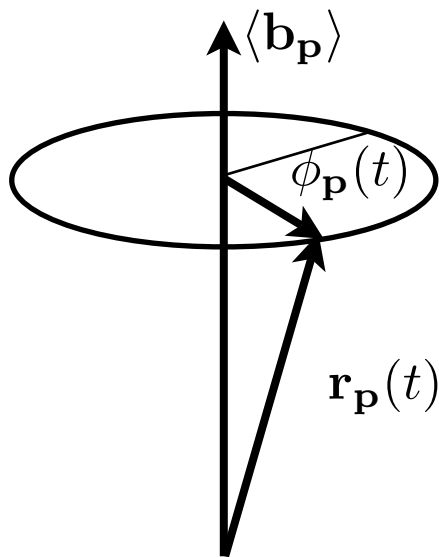
Dephased regime: damped and overdamped

RB, Levitov, 2006; Yuzbashyan, Dzero, 2006

Rotation around local magnetic field

$$\langle \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle = -(\Delta_a, 0, \xi_{\mathbf{p}})$$

$$\Delta = \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (r_1 + ir_2)_{\mathbf{p}}$$



$$\omega_{\mathbf{p}} = \langle d\phi_{\mathbf{p}}/dt \rangle = (\phi_{\mathbf{p}}(\tau) - \phi_{\mathbf{p}}(0))/\tau \quad \omega_{\mathbf{p}} = 2(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}}^2 + \Delta_a^2)^{1/2}$$

Energy dispersion - Bogoliubov spectrum of excited pairs

Asymptotic diagram from numerics

RB, Levitov, 2006

Extract asymptotics:



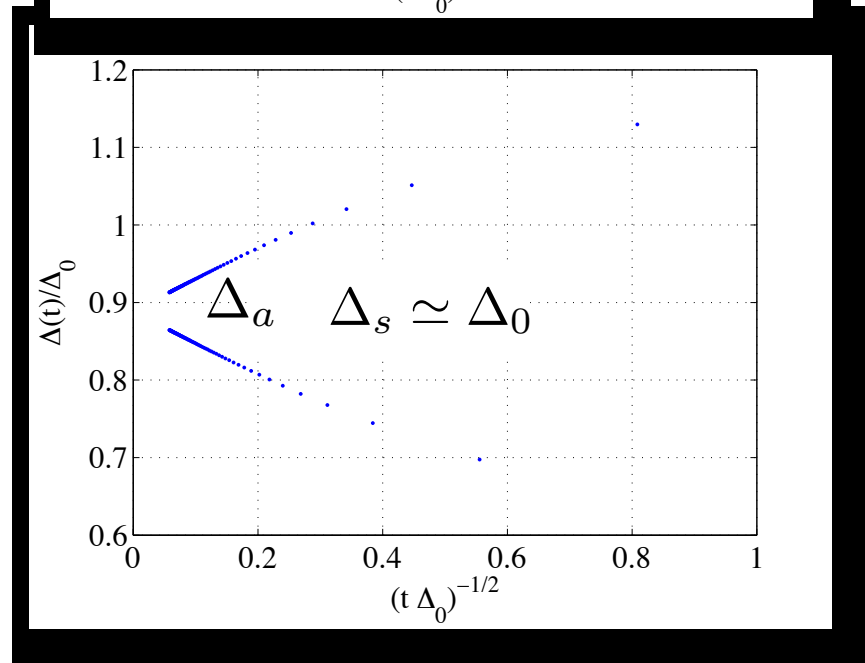
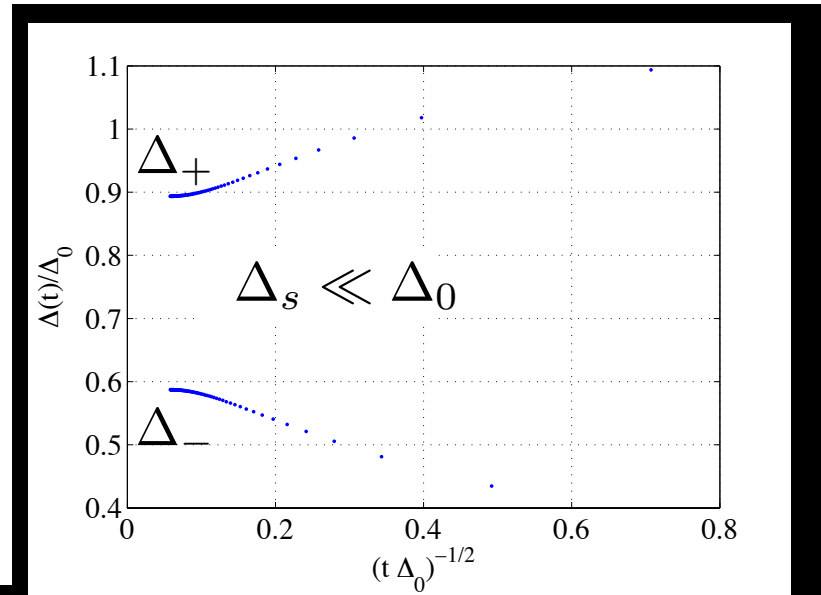
Synchronized regime:

two values Δ_+ and Δ_-



Dephased regime: Δ_a

one value (lines intersect)



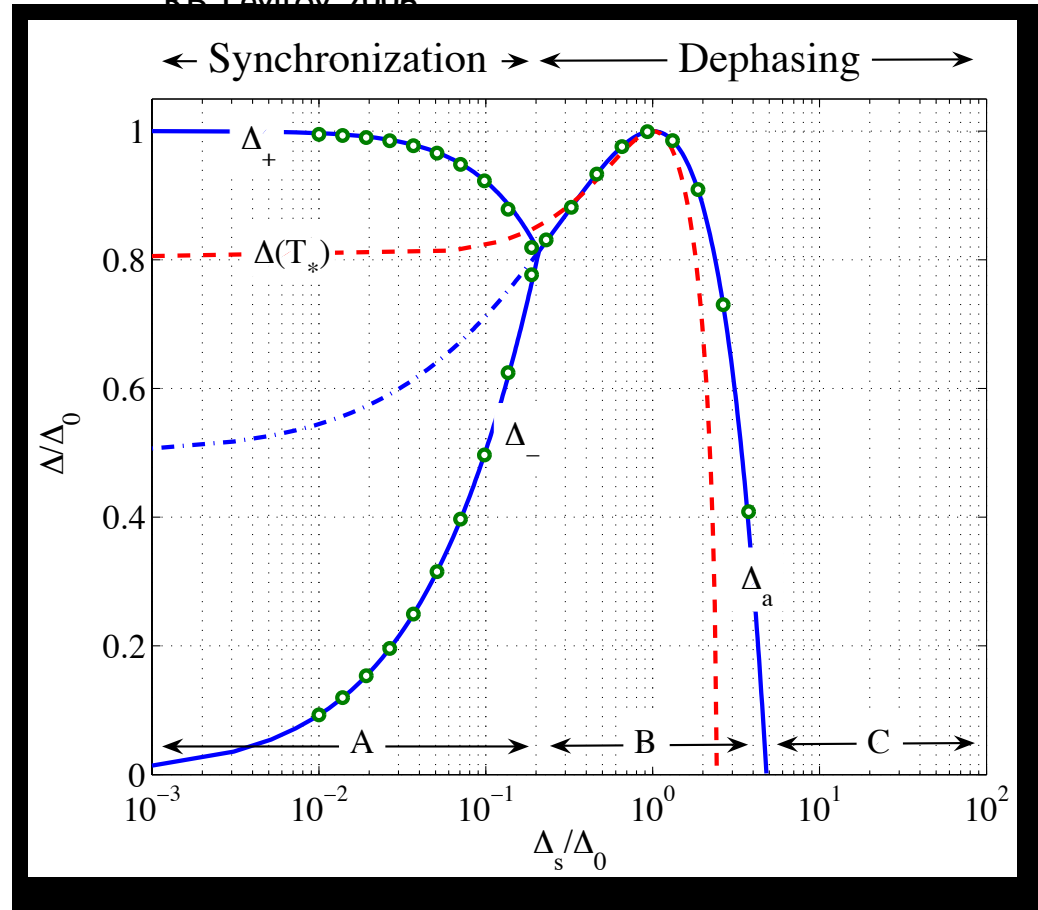
Different regimes of pairing: synchronized and dephased

RB Levitov 2006

Phase
boundaries
(numerics)

AB $\Delta_s \approx 0.21\Delta_0$

BC $\Delta_s \approx 4.8\Delta_0$



$$D_A = \Delta_+ - \Delta_- \quad D_B = \Delta_a$$

Two order parameters vanishing at
critical points

Regimes of pairing: analytics

RB, Levitov, 2006 based on work by Yuzbashyan, Tsypliyatyev, Altshuler, 2006

Integrals of motion and Lax vector

Richardson, Sherman 1964;
Cambiaggio, Rivas, Saraceno, 1997;
Yuzbashyan, Altshuler, Kuznetsov,
Enolskii, 2005

$$R_p = L_p S_p$$

$$L_p = \hat{z} + \lambda \sum_{p' \neq p} \frac{S_{p'}}{\epsilon_p - \epsilon_{p'}}$$

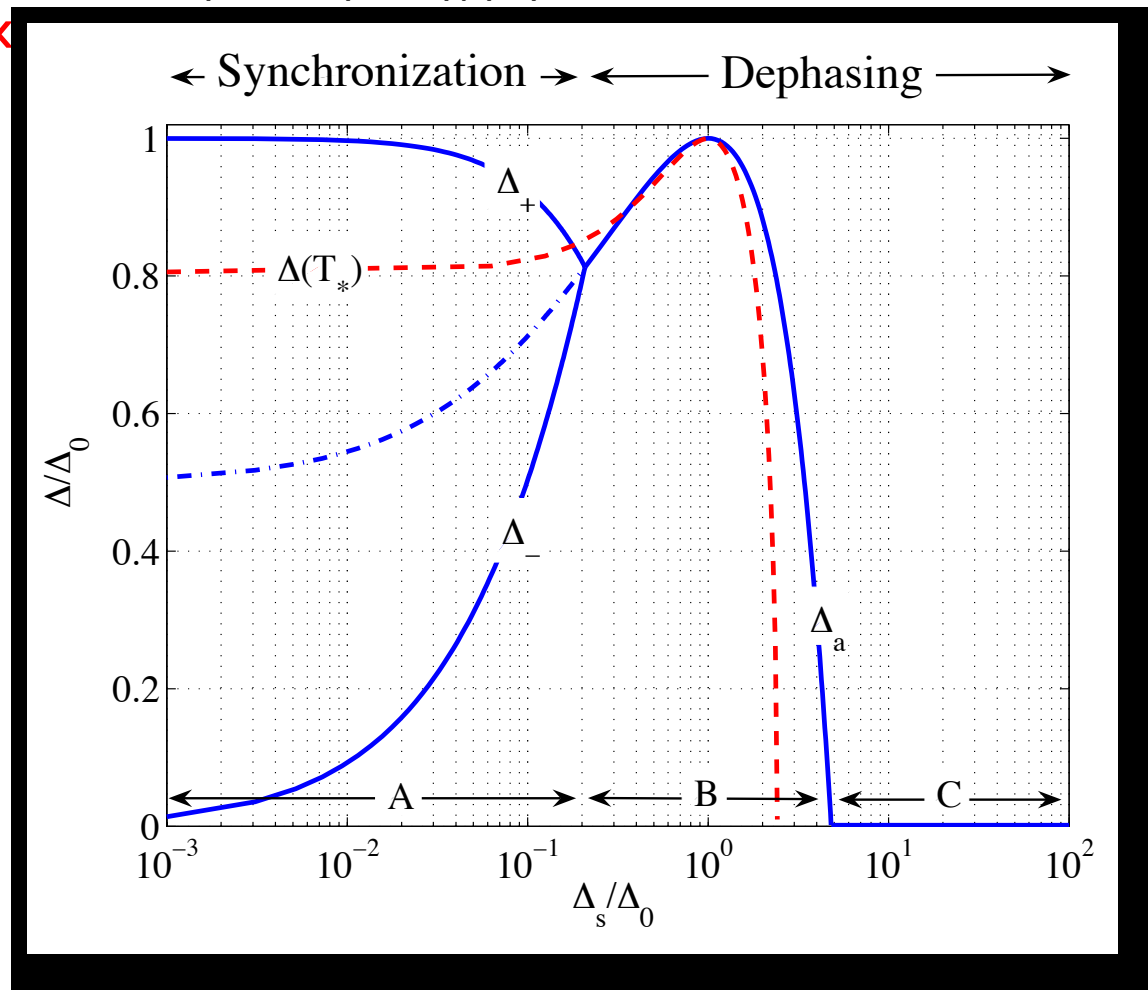
$$L^2(\epsilon_p) = 0$$

Number of complex roots defines classes of solutions

Yuzbashyan, Tsypliyatyev, Altshuler, 2006

Synchronized: Δ_+
two zeros (A) Δ_-

Dephased:
one (B) and zero (C) Δ_a



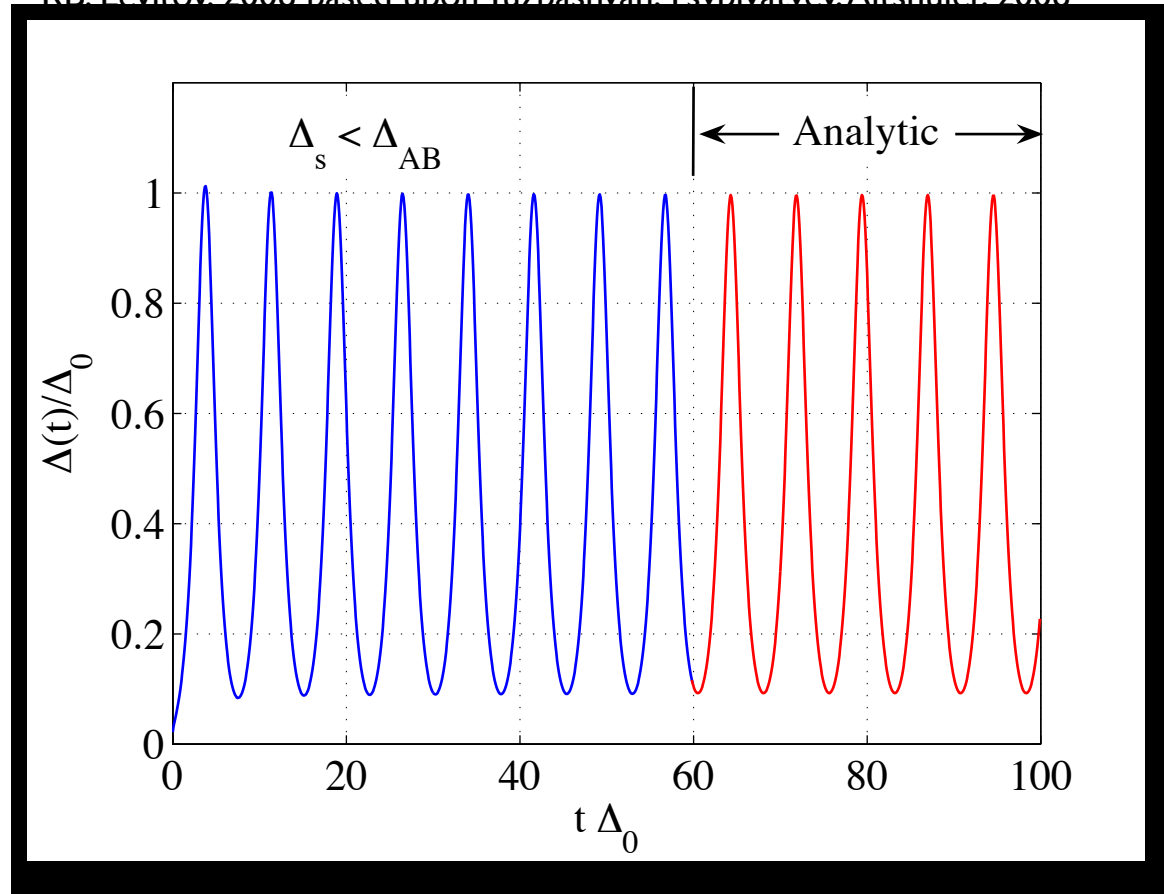
RB, Levitov, 2006; Yuzbashyan, Dzero, 2006

$$\Delta_{AB} = e^{-\pi/2} \Delta_0 \quad \Delta_{BC} = e^{\pi/2} \Delta_0$$

$$D_{A,B} = \Delta_a \propto \ln \left(\frac{\Delta_s}{\Delta_0} \right) \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Asymptotic dynamics (synchronized)

RB Levitov, 2006 based upon Yuzbashyan, Tsvilyatvey, Altshuler, 2006



$$\Delta(t) = \Delta_+ \operatorname{dn}(\Delta_+(t - \tau_0), k), \quad k = 1 - \Delta_- / \Delta_+$$

All parameters are defined analytically from exact solution

Long-time equilibrium states

RB, Levitov, 2006

Energy is conserved

$$E_{t \gg \tau_{el}}(T_*) = E_0$$

$$E_0 = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \tilde{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{p}}) + \frac{\Delta_s^2}{\lambda_s} \left(2 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_s} \right)$$

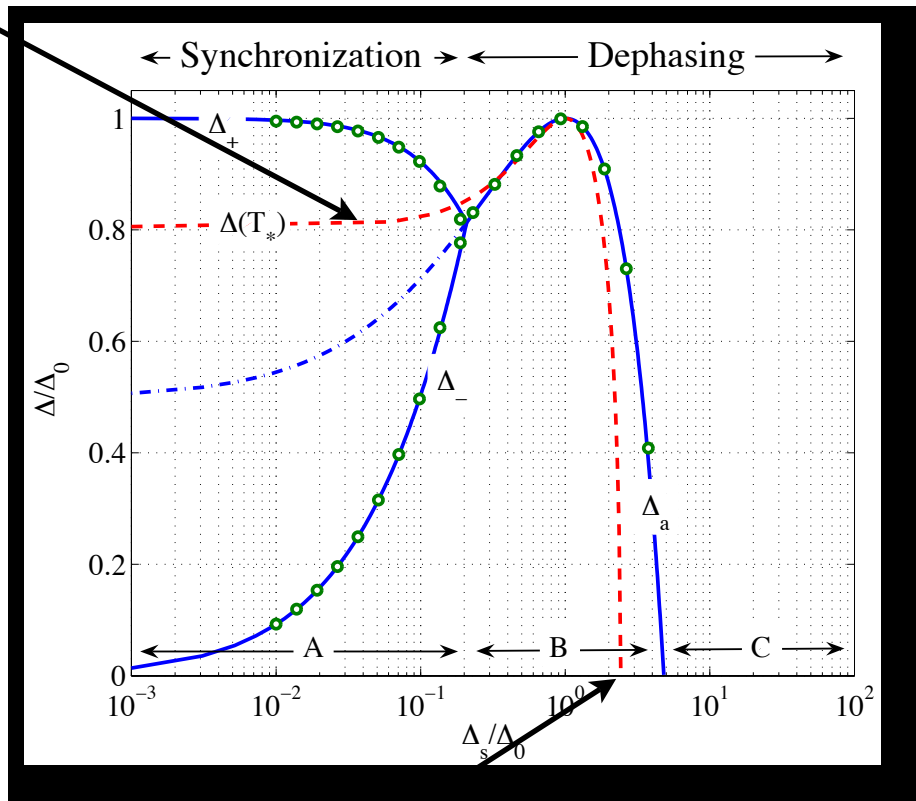
$$n_{\mathbf{p}} = 1 / \left(1 + e^{\tilde{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{p}}(\Delta_*)/T_*} \right)$$

$$E_{t \gg \tau_{el}}(T_*) = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} (\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - (1 - 2n_{\mathbf{p}}) \tilde{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{p}}(\Delta_*)) + \frac{\Delta_*}{\lambda}$$

Final state turns
normal

$$\Delta_s \geq f(g)\Delta_0$$

$$f(g) = 2.2 + 0.86g + O(g^2)$$



Finite temperature phase diagram

RB, Levitov, unpublished

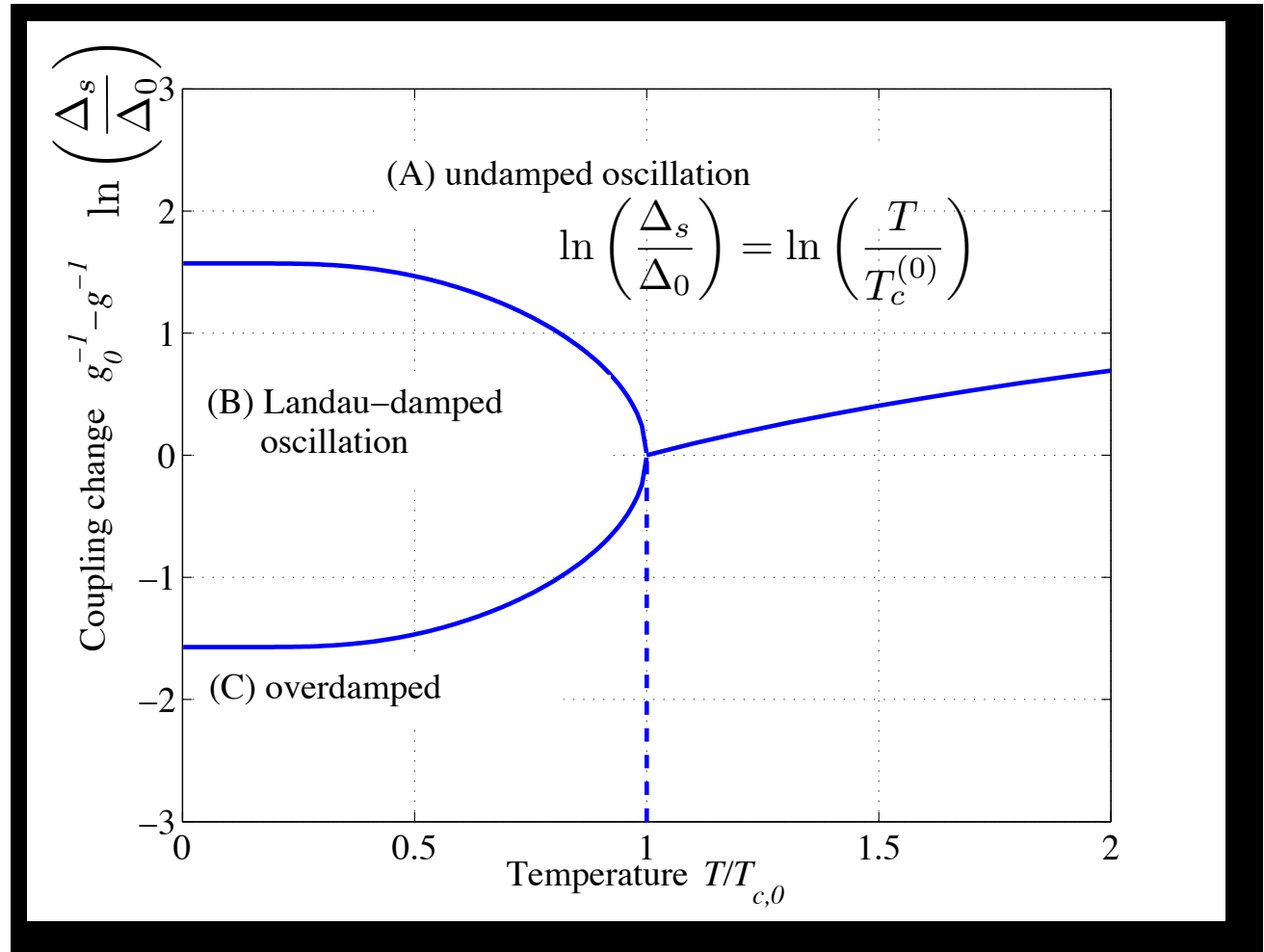
BCS gap
(weak interactions)

$$\Delta = 0.49 E_F e^{-1/g}$$

$$g = \frac{2}{\pi} k_F |a|$$

Variation of
the scattering
length

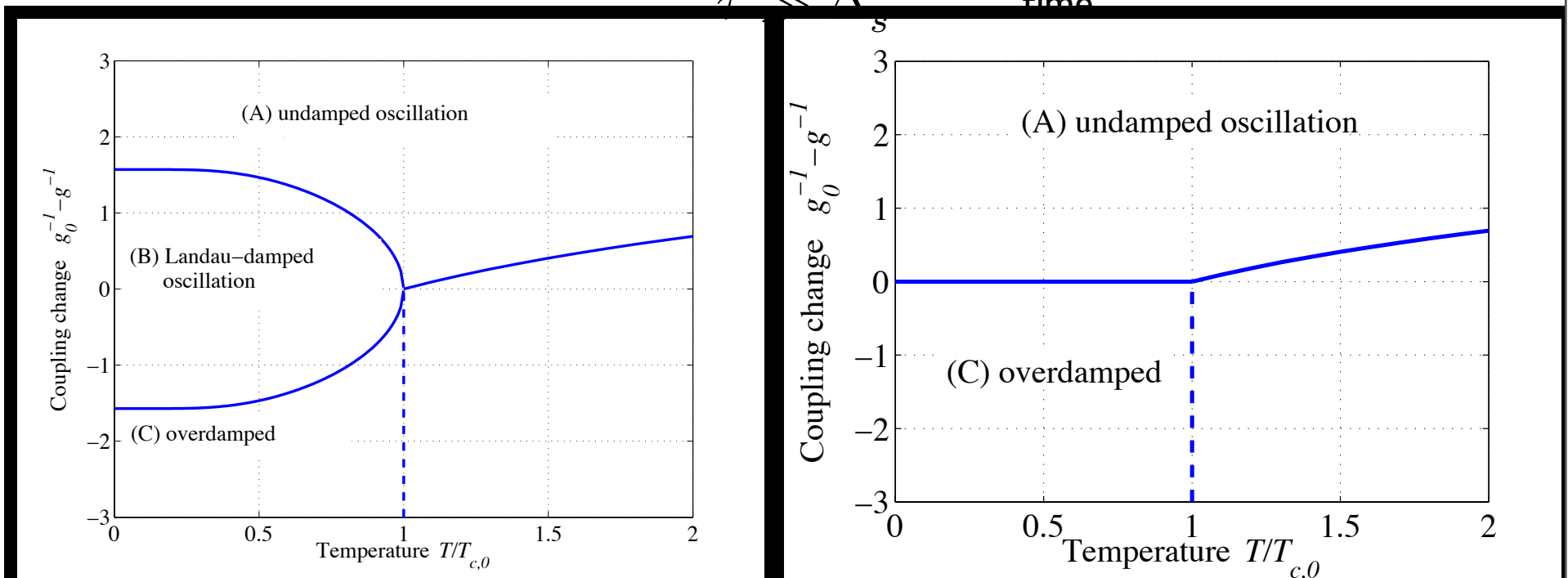
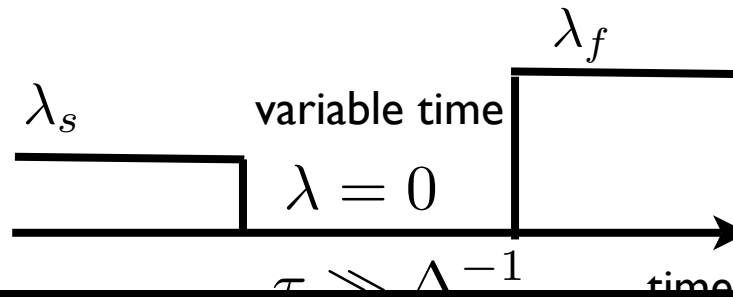
$$\delta a/a \approx \pm k_F a$$



$$\ln \left(\frac{\Delta_s}{\Delta_0} \right) = \pm \frac{\pi}{2} \tanh \left(\frac{\Delta(T)}{2T} \right)$$

Playing with the phases: eliminating Landau damping

RB, Levitov, unpublished



Dephasing in the intermediate state eliminates Landau-damping

Role of energy-dependent interaction

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{\mathbf{p}} 2\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} s_{\mathbf{p}}^z - \sum_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}} \lambda_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}}(t) s_{\mathbf{p}}^- s_{\mathbf{q}}^+$$

$$\lambda_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}}(t) = \lambda(t) (a_1 + a_2 v_{\mathbf{p}} v_{\mathbf{q}}) \quad v_{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{\gamma^2 + \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}}^2}}$$

Two limits:



constant interaction $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 0$

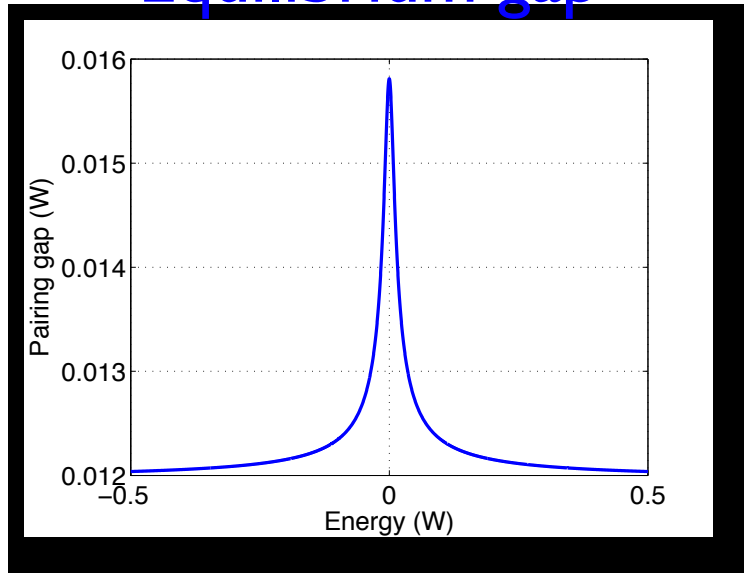


separable interaction $a_1 = 0, a_2 = 1$

Role of integrability in the pairing dynamics

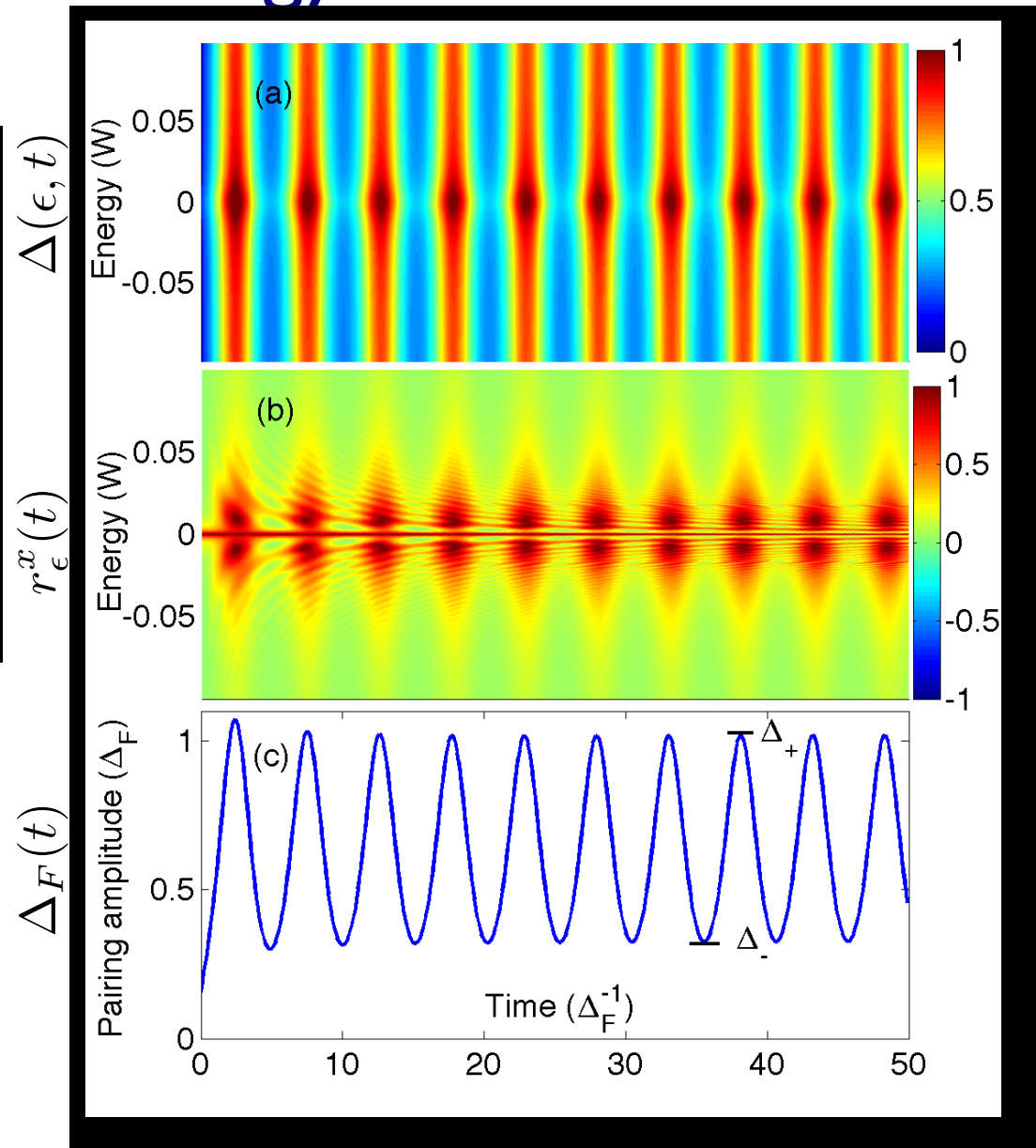
Individual energy states

Equilibrium gap



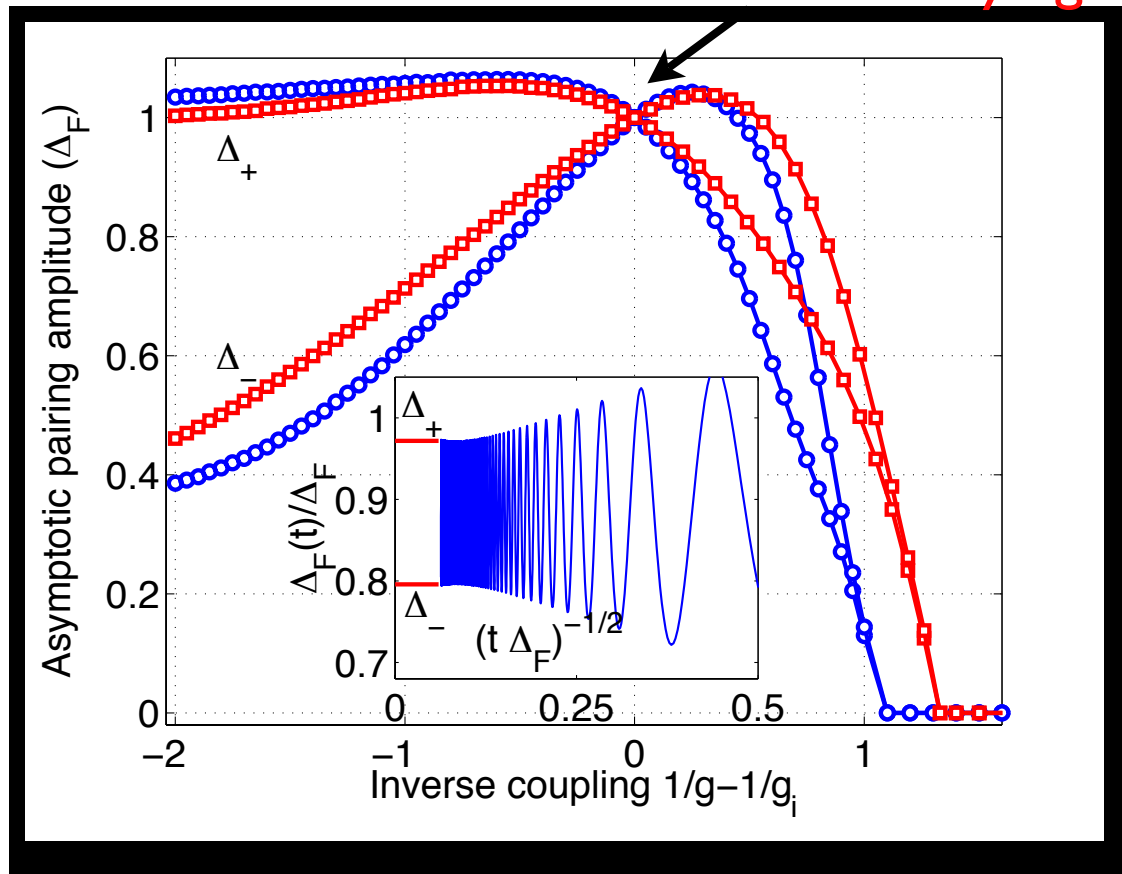
$$a_1 = a_2 = 0.5, \gamma/W = 0.01$$

**Synchronized
phase is robust**



Asymptotic diagram

Non-decaying Higgs mode

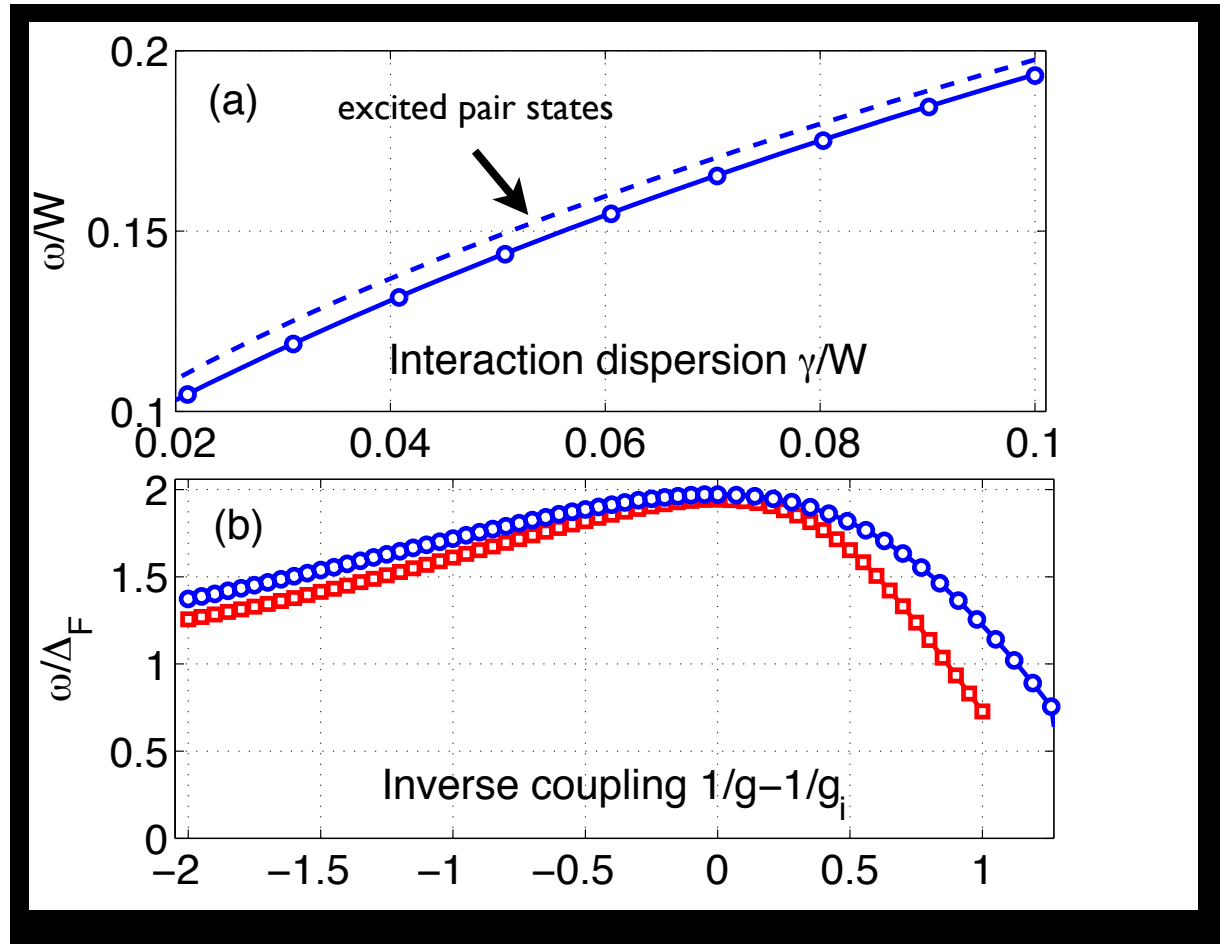


Circles (non-separable interaction) $a_1 = a_2 = 0.5, \gamma/W = 0.01$

Squares (separable) $a_1 = 0, a_2 = 1, \gamma/W = 0.01$

The dissipationless Higgs mode

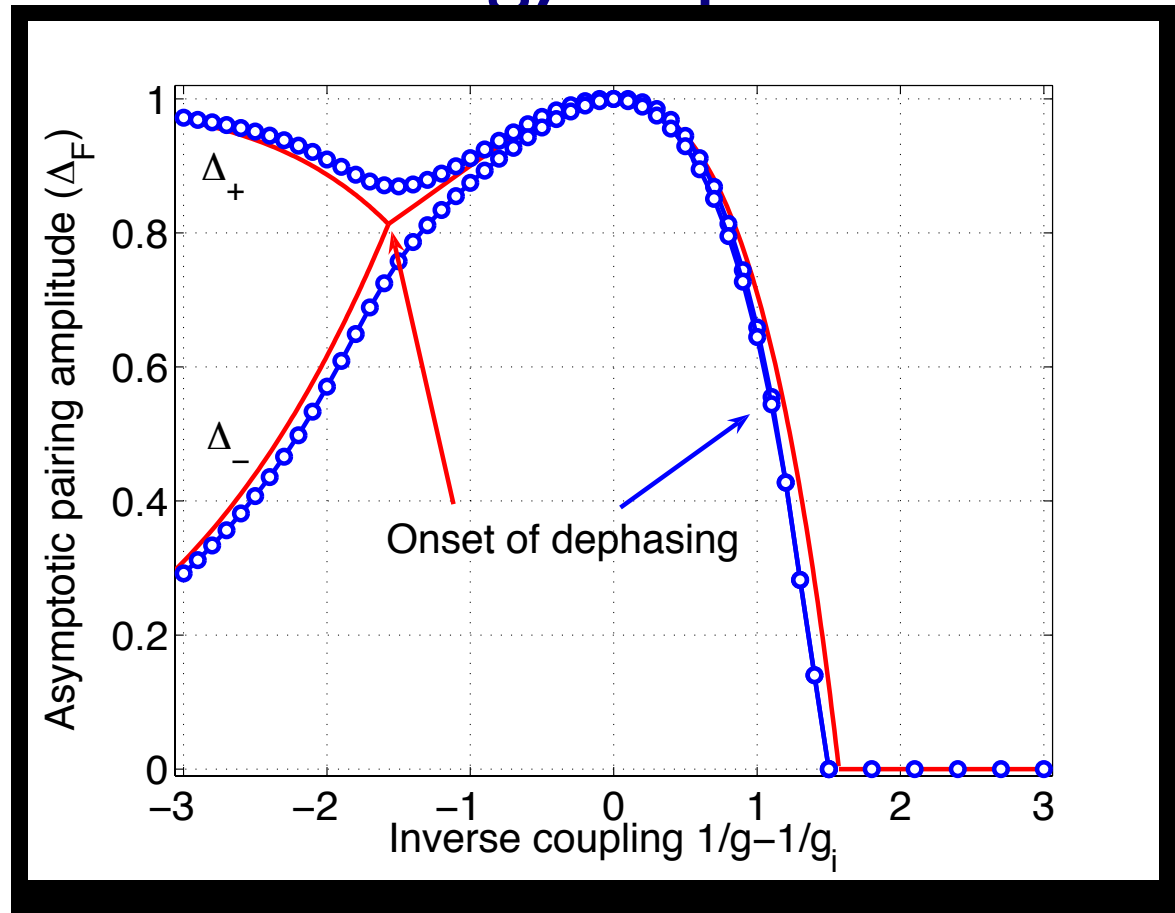
Collective mode frequency



Eigen-equation for the collective mode

$$\delta\Delta_{\mathbf{p}\omega}^x = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{q}} \delta\Delta_{\mathbf{q}\omega}^x}{\sqrt{\epsilon_{\mathbf{q}}^2 + \Delta_{\mathbf{q}}^2}} \frac{\epsilon_{\mathbf{q}}^2}{\epsilon_{\mathbf{q}}^2 + \Delta_{\mathbf{q}}^2 - \omega^2/4}$$

Smooth energy dependence



Circles $a_1 = a_2 = 0.5, \gamma/W = 0.1$

Red line $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 0$

Where to observe? Feshbach resonance

Atomic scattering length near FR

Dynamical control of interactions

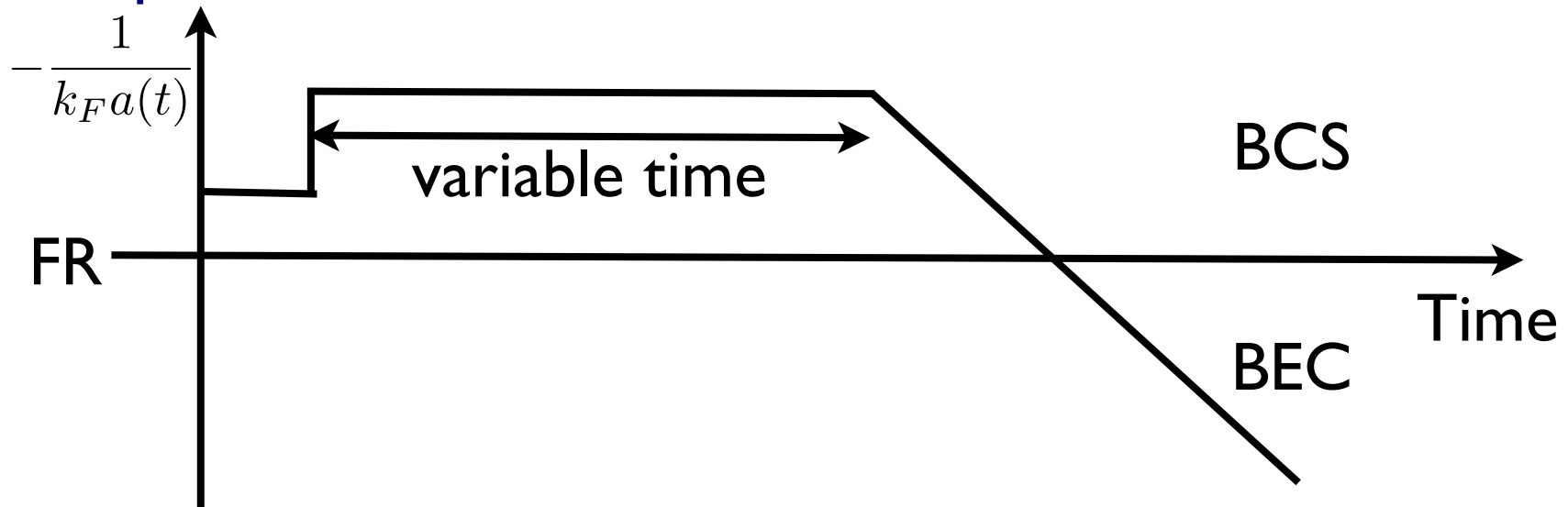
How to observe?

Fast projection: probe of pairing correlations

proposed and realized by JILA and MIT groups (2004)

Condensate fraction of molecules - pairing correlations

Proposed method: $\delta a/a \approx \pm k_F a$ ← Phase boundaries



Physical parameters ${}^6\text{Li}$ $B_{FR} \approx 850 \text{ G}$



Typical sample: Particle density $n \approx 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
Fermi energy $E_F \approx 0.5 \mu\text{K}$



Interaction: Scattering length of atoms $|a| \gtrsim 100 \text{ nm}$

At lower densities marginally weak BCS (?)

Weak coupling BCS $g = \nu\lambda = \frac{2}{\pi}k_F|a| \approx 0.3$
(strong in experiments!) $T_c \approx 0.3E_F e^{-1/\lambda} \approx 0.01E_F$



Time scales: period $\tau_\Delta \simeq \hbar/\Delta_0 \approx 2 \text{ ms}$
quasi-particle relaxation time $\tau_{\xi \simeq \Delta} \simeq \hbar E_F / \Delta_0^2 \approx 200 \text{ ms}$

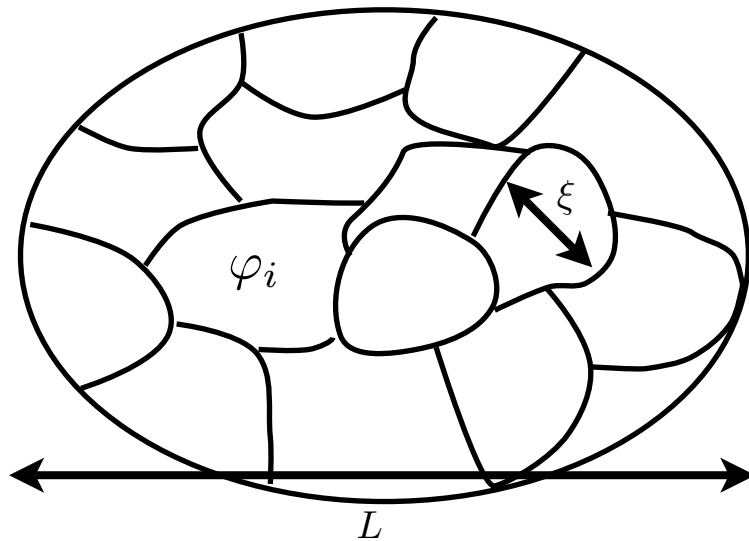


Spatial scales: Correlation length $\xi = \hbar^2 k_F / m \Delta_0 \simeq 24 \mu\text{m}$
Sample size $L \simeq 20 \mu\text{m}$

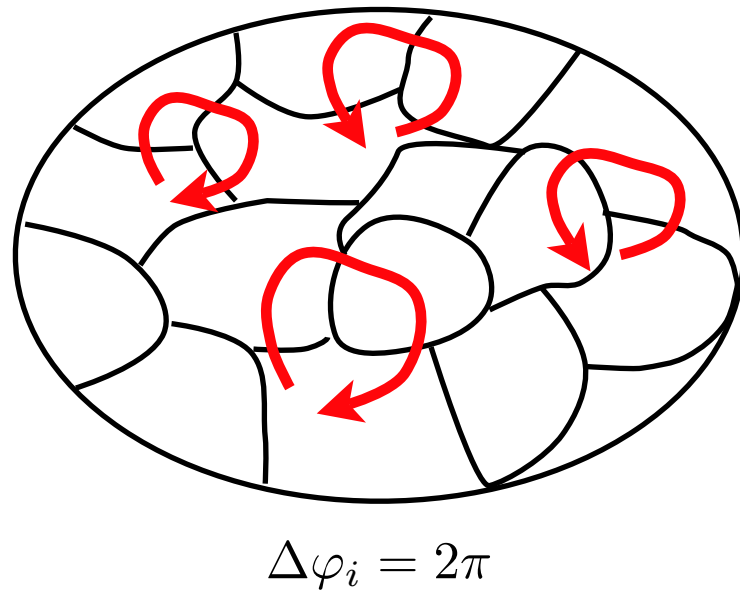
It may be possible to observe the pairing dynamics

Long-time dynamics in space

Patches of size $\simeq \xi$ develop different phases



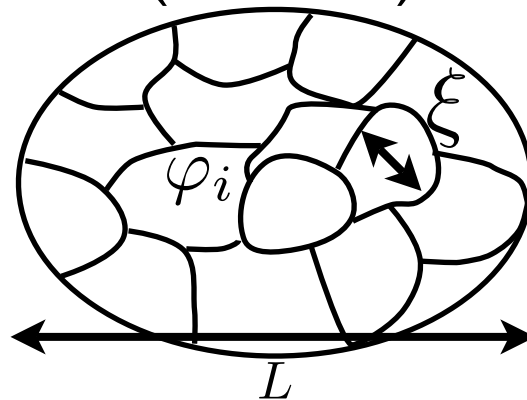
Vortices



Possible sources of dissipation

Uniform geometry:

- Small correlation length at unitarity, $\Delta \simeq E_F$
and thus inhomogeneous dynamics $\xi \simeq k_F^{-1}$
- Quasiparticle relaxation and Higgs frequency are
close ($\simeq \hbar/E_F$) at unitarity



- At unitarity sound and Higgs mode couple
and also in trapped geometry:
- Spatial inhomogeneity of the order parameter

Conclusions:

- The pairing amplitude mode (Higgs boson) is characteristic for Fermi superfluids - no analog of this mode in Bose systems
- Excitation of the Higgs boson in fermionic superfluids:
 - Nonlinear excitation induced by changing the interaction strength
 - Dephased and synchronized regime
 - Two dynamical transitions between underdamped, damped and overdamped dynamics
 - The dynamics is robust with respect to the energy dependent interaction
 - Small perturbation (linear) at the FR
 - Higgs mode is Landau-damped (algebraic decay) for constant interaction
 - Higgs mode may become non-decaying for the energy-dependent interaction

Open questions and future directions

Uniform dynamics:

 Formation of a superfluid “seed” (quantum fluctuations.)

 Role of integrability in the dynamics

 Dynamics in the regime of strong interactions for realistic models

Spatial dynamics:

 Formation of a paired state in space (topological defects, Kibble-Zurek mechanism)

 Dissipation

 Response to non-linear external drive

Experiments: cold atoms