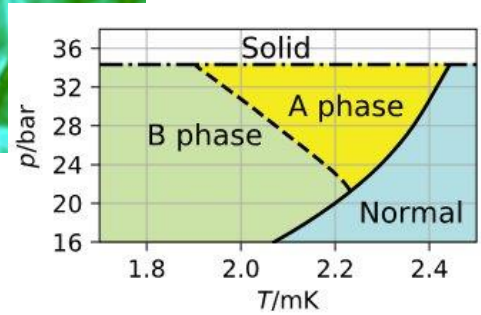
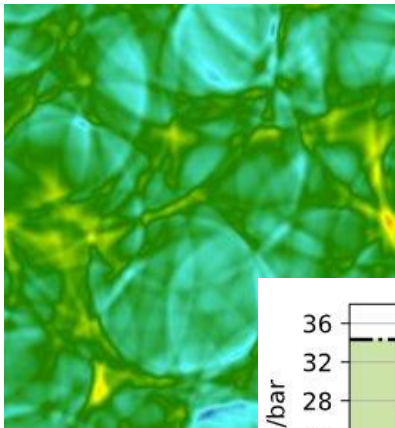
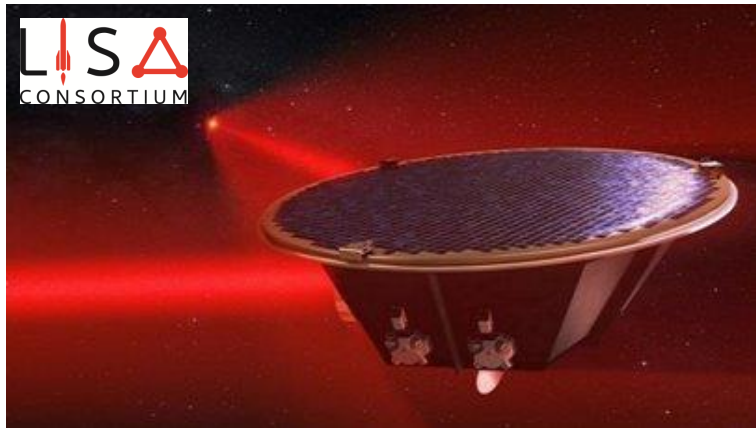


# Cosmology and the AB phase transition in superfluid $^3\text{He}$



Samuli Autti



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Science and Technology Facilities Council



# Quantum Enhanced Superfluid Technologies for Dark Matter and Cosmology, QUEST –DMC



- WP1: Detection of sub-GeV dark matter with a quantum-amplified superfluid  $^3\text{He}$  calorimeter
- WP2: Phase transitions in extreme matter

# Core Team

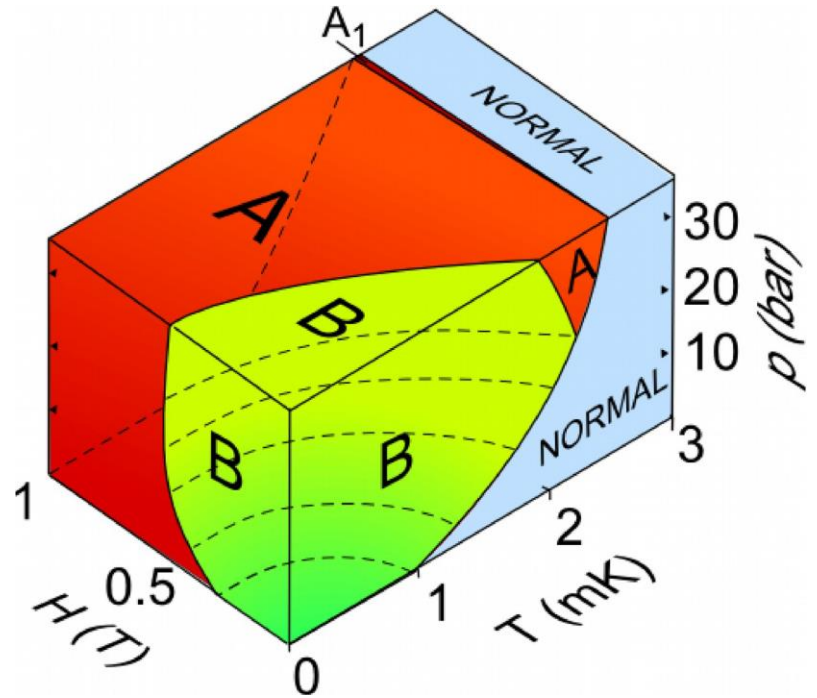


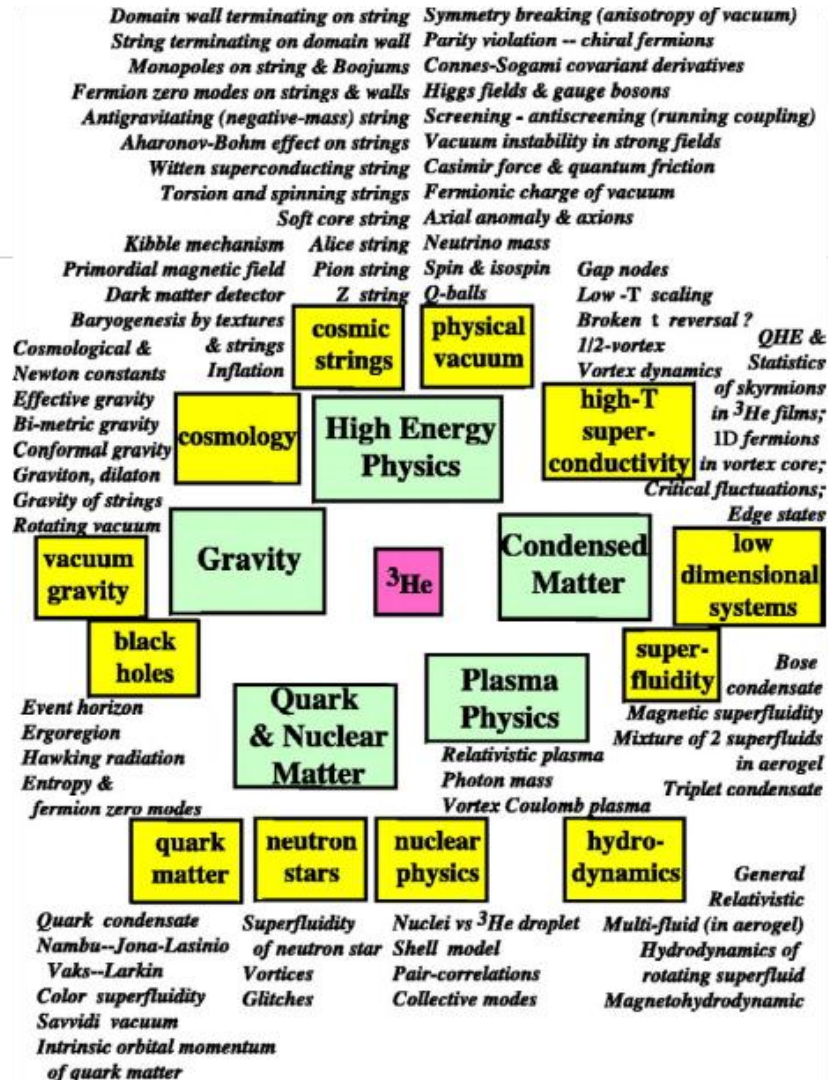
EXPERIMENTAL	Robert Smith
<a href="#">Dr. Samuli Autti</a>	Dr. Michael Thompson
<a href="#">Dr. Andrew Casey</a>	Dr. Viktor Tsepelin
<a href="#">Dr. Paolo Franchini</a>	<a href="#">Dr. Dmitry Zmeev</a>
<a href="#">Prof. Richard Haley</a>	Dr. Vladislav Zavyalov
<a href="#">Dr. Petri Heikkinen</a>	Tineke Salmon
Dr. Sergey Kafanov	Luke Whitehead
<a href="#">Dr. Elizabeth Leason</a>	THEORY
<a href="#">Dr. Lev Levitin</a>	<a href="#">Prof. Mark Hindmarsh (Leading WP2)</a>
<a href="#">Prof. Jocelyn Monroe (Leading WP1)</a>	<a href="#">Prof. Stephan Huber</a>
<a href="#">Dr. Jonathan Prance</a>	<a href="#">Prof. John March-Russell</a>
<a href="#">Dr. Xavier Rojas</a>	<a href="#">Dr. Stephen West</a>
<a href="#">Prof. John Saunders</a>	<a href="#">Dr. Quang Zhang</a>



# Superfluid $^3\text{He}$

1. Fermions, so no BEC  
--> Cooper pairs as in superconductors?
  1. Hard core repulsion
  2. P-wave pairing,  $S=1$  and  $L=1$
  3. Order parameter describing  $S, L, \Delta, \varphi$
- > First-order phase transition





# The Universe in a Helium Droplet

GRIGORY E. VOLOVIK

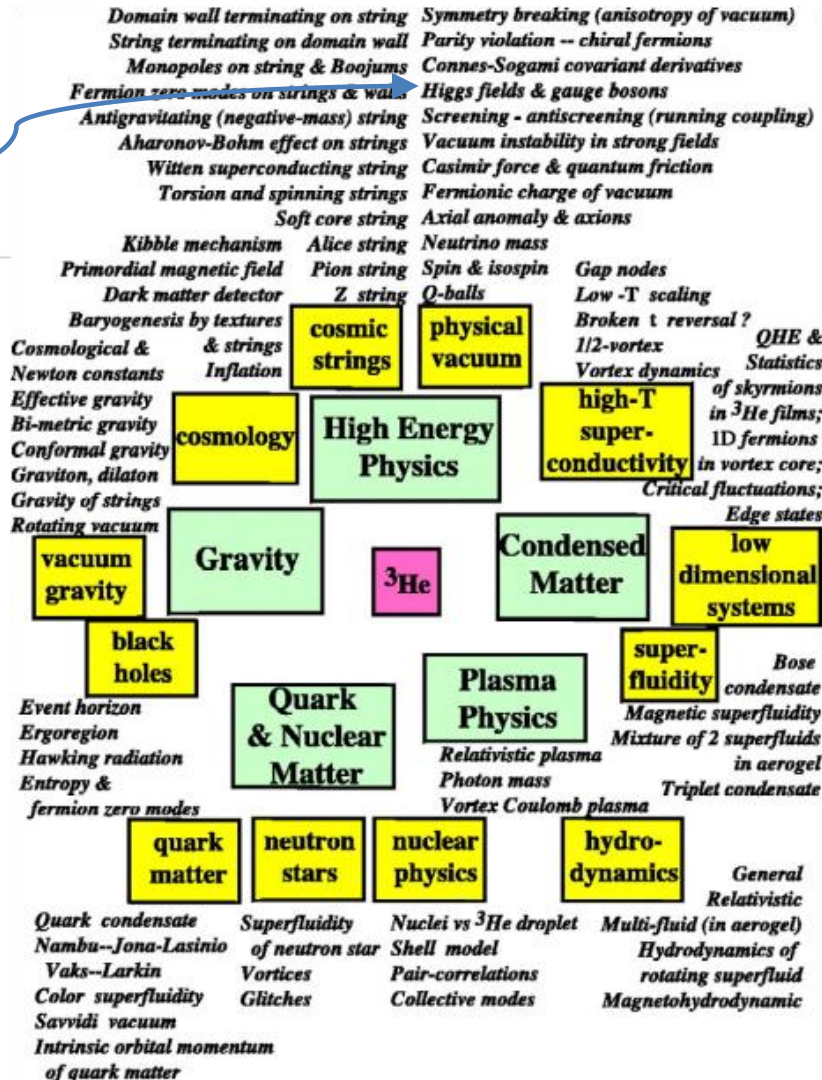


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2013 Nobel:  
Higgs & Englert



# The Universe in a Helium Droplet

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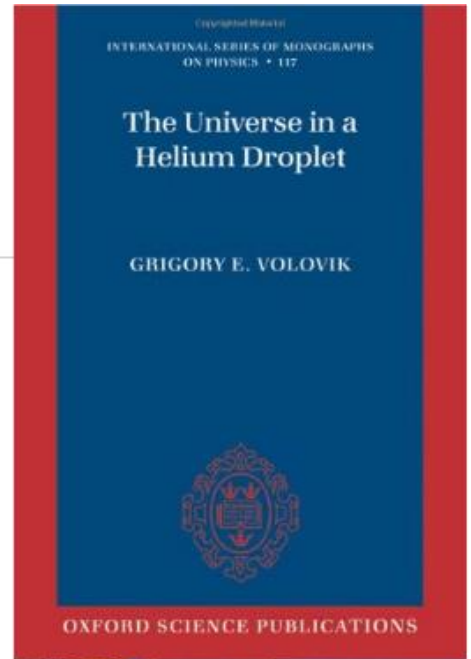
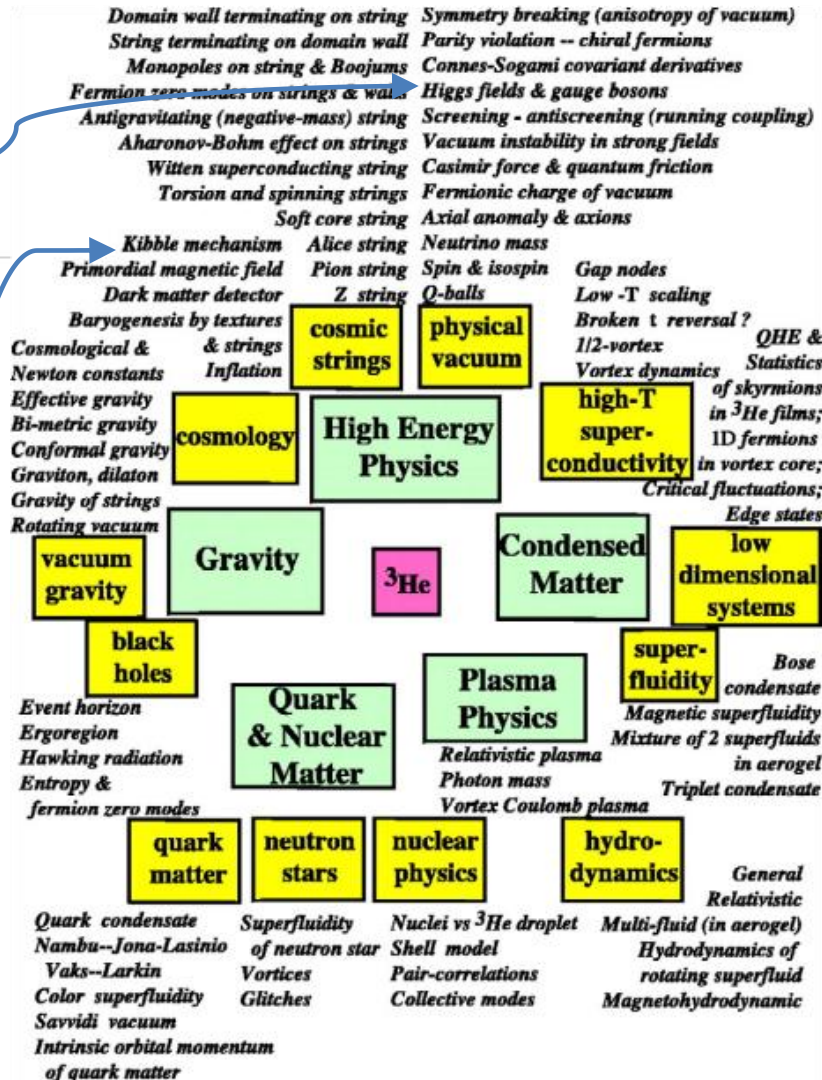




2013 Nobel:  
Higgs & Englert



Kibble-Zurek  
mechanism



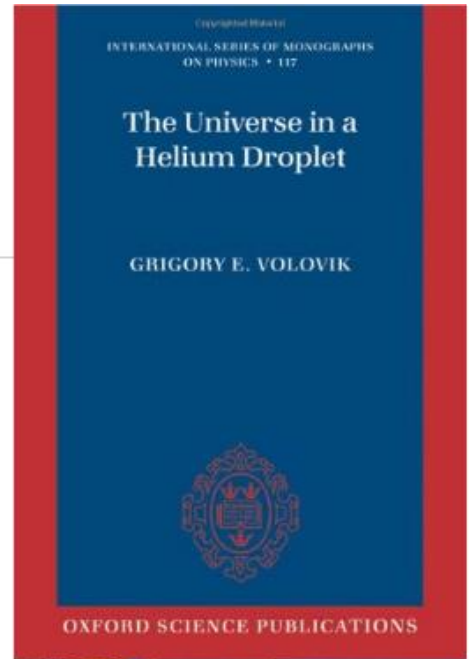
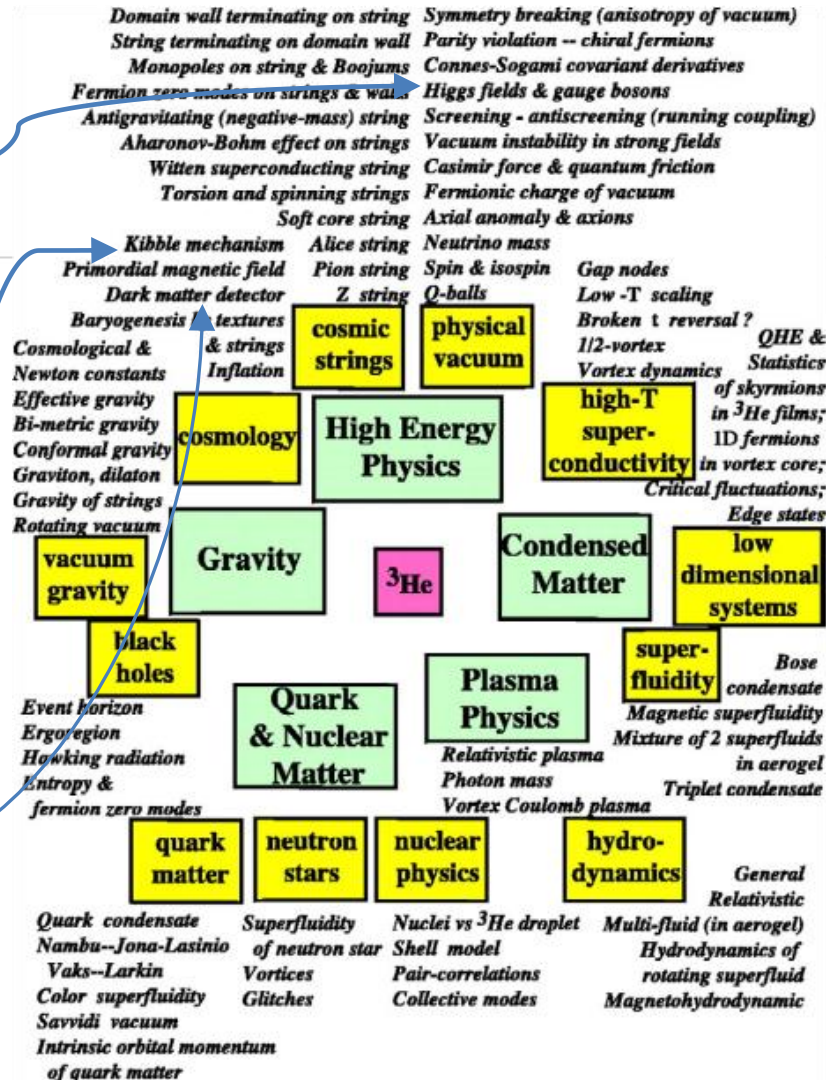


2013 Nobel:  
Higgs & Englert



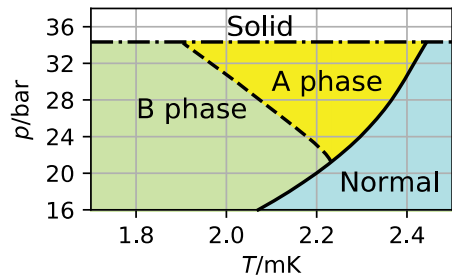
Kibble-Zurek  
mechanism

WP1: Dark  
matter detector

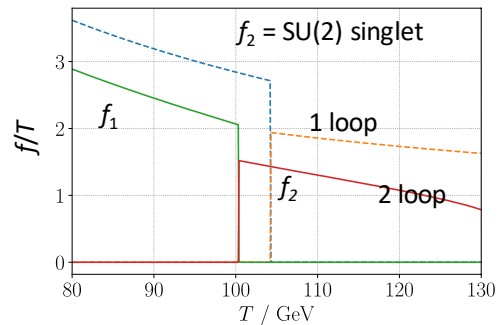




# $^3\text{He}$ & Cosmology



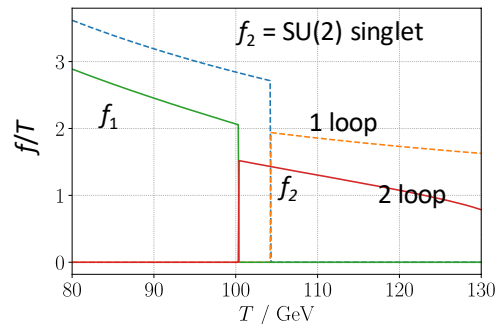
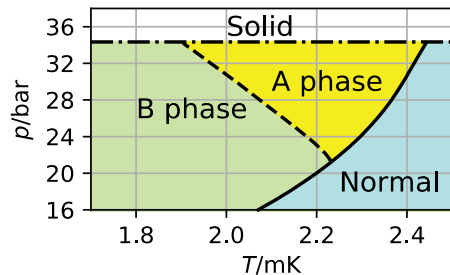
$^3\text{He}$



Standard Model (& beyond)

Niemi,  
Schicho,  
Tenkanen 21

# $^3\text{He}$ & Cosmology



Niemi,  
Schicho,  
Tenkanen 21

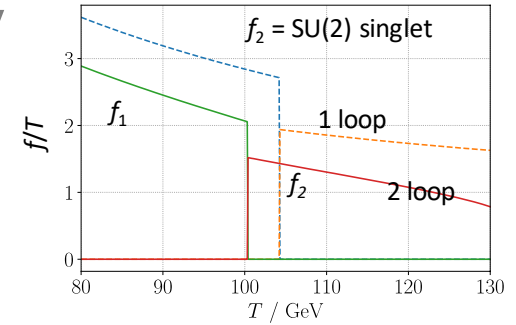
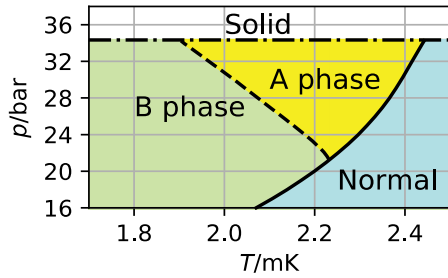
## $^3\text{He}$

- Fermionic quasiparticles
- Triplet pairing interaction
- Order parameter  $A$ 
  - $3 \times 3$  complex, spin x ang. mom.
- Ginzburg-Landau theory
  - Bulk free energy density  $f_b(A)$

## Standard Model (& beyond)

- Quarks & leptons
- --- (technicolour etc.)
- Fundamental (?) Higgs field(s)  $f$  ( $f_2, \dots$ )
  - Irreps of  $SU(2)_W \times U(1)_Y$  ( $G_{\text{GUT}}$ )
- High  $T$  effective action
  - Effective potential  $V_T(f)$

# $^3\text{He}$ & Cosmology



Niemi,  
Schicho,  
Tenkanen 21

## $^3\text{He}$

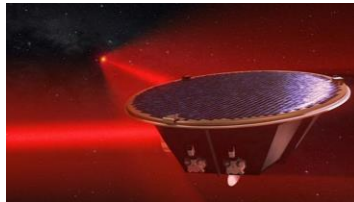
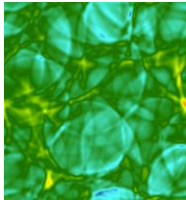
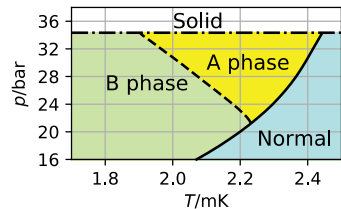
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- Order parameter  $A$ 
  - $3 \times 3$  complex, spin x ang. mom.
- Ginzburg-Landau theory
  - Bulk free energy density  $f_b(A)$
- Vortices and other topological defects
- Multiple superfluid phases  $T < O(\text{mK})$
- 1st order phase transition A/B

## Standard Model (& beyond)

- Quarks & leptons
- --- (technicolour etc.)
- Fundamental (?) Higgs field(s)  $f$  ( $f_2, \dots$ )
  - Irreps of  $\text{SU}(2)_W \times \text{U}(1)_Y$  ( $G_{\text{GUT}}$ )
- High  $T$  effective action
  - Effective potential  $V_T(f)$
- (cosmic strings and other defects)
- 1 (multiple) Higgs phase(s)  $T < O(10^{16} \text{ K})$
- (1<sup>st</sup> order PTs normal-SF & between Higgs phases)

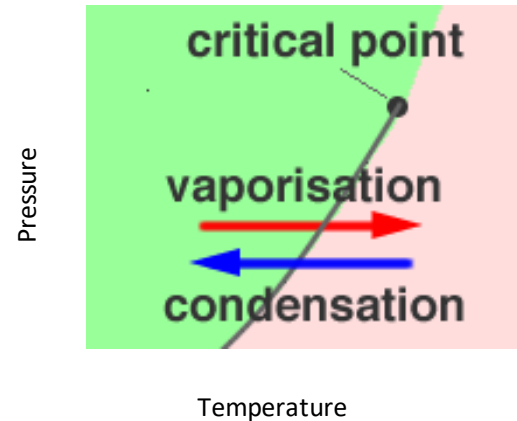
# Outline

- Future space-based gravitational wave detectors (e.g. LISA) will probe the early Universe at  $T \sim 100$  GeV and  $t \sim 10$  ps.
- Theories extending the Standard Model to account for dark matter and the baryon asymmetry often have 1st order phase transitions, leading to GW production.
- Calculations of the GW power spectrum depend on homogeneous nucleation theory
- Superfluid  $^3\text{He}$  A/B transition is the only homogeneous 1st order transition in the laboratory, but it does not follow the homogeneous theory
- QUEST-DMC is addressing the nucleation puzzle with confinement, magnetic fields, & HPC tools from cosmology



# Phase transitions in the early Universe

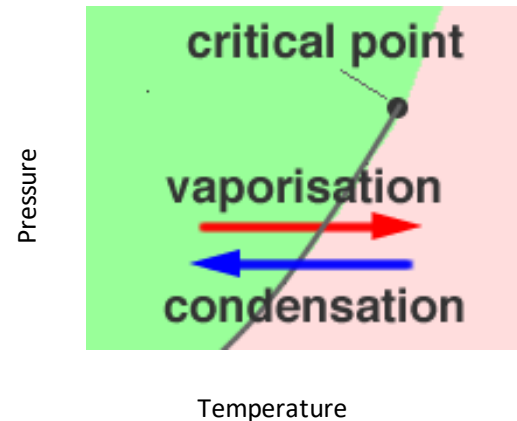
- At very high temperatures and pressures, the state of matter in the Universe changes
  - $T_c \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$  (1 ms) QCD (quark-hadron)
  - $T_c \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$  (10 ps) Electroweak (mass generation)
  - $T_c \gg 100 \text{ GeV}$  new symmetries, interactions?



# Phase transitions in the early Universe

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  - $T_c \gg 100 \text{ GeV}$  new symmetries, interactions?
- First order phase transition? Kirzhnits, Linde (1972)  
Steinhardt (1982)
  - Departures from equilibrium and homogeneity:
  - -> Baryon asymmetry of the Universe
    - Sakharov 68; Kuzmin, Rubakov, Shaposhnikov (1985)
  - -> Gravitational wave production

Witten (1984), Hogan (1986)



# First order phase transition?

- Transition by nucleation of bubbles of low- $T$  phase

Langer 1969, Coleman 1974, Linde 1983

- Nucleation rate/volume rapidly increases below  $T_c$
- Relativistic condensation/combustion: “fizz”
- Expanding bubbles generate pressure waves

Steinhardt (1982); Hogan (1983); Gyulassy et al (1984)

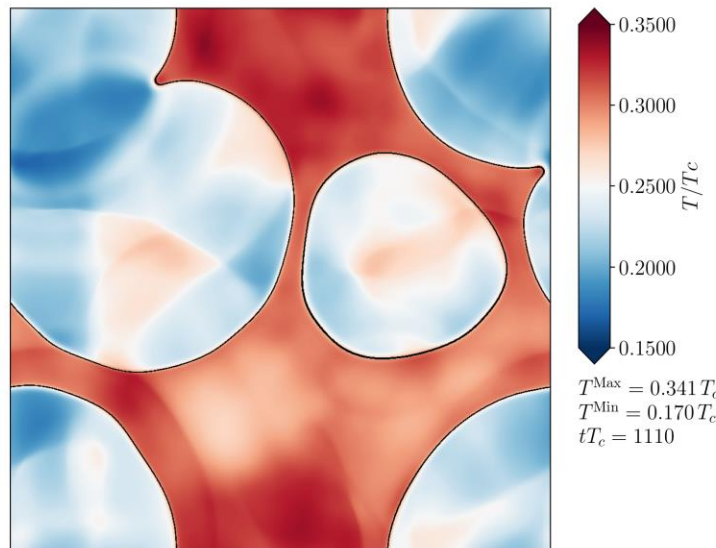
- Gravitational wave production

Witten (1984); Hogan (1986)

- GWs have information about the phase transition

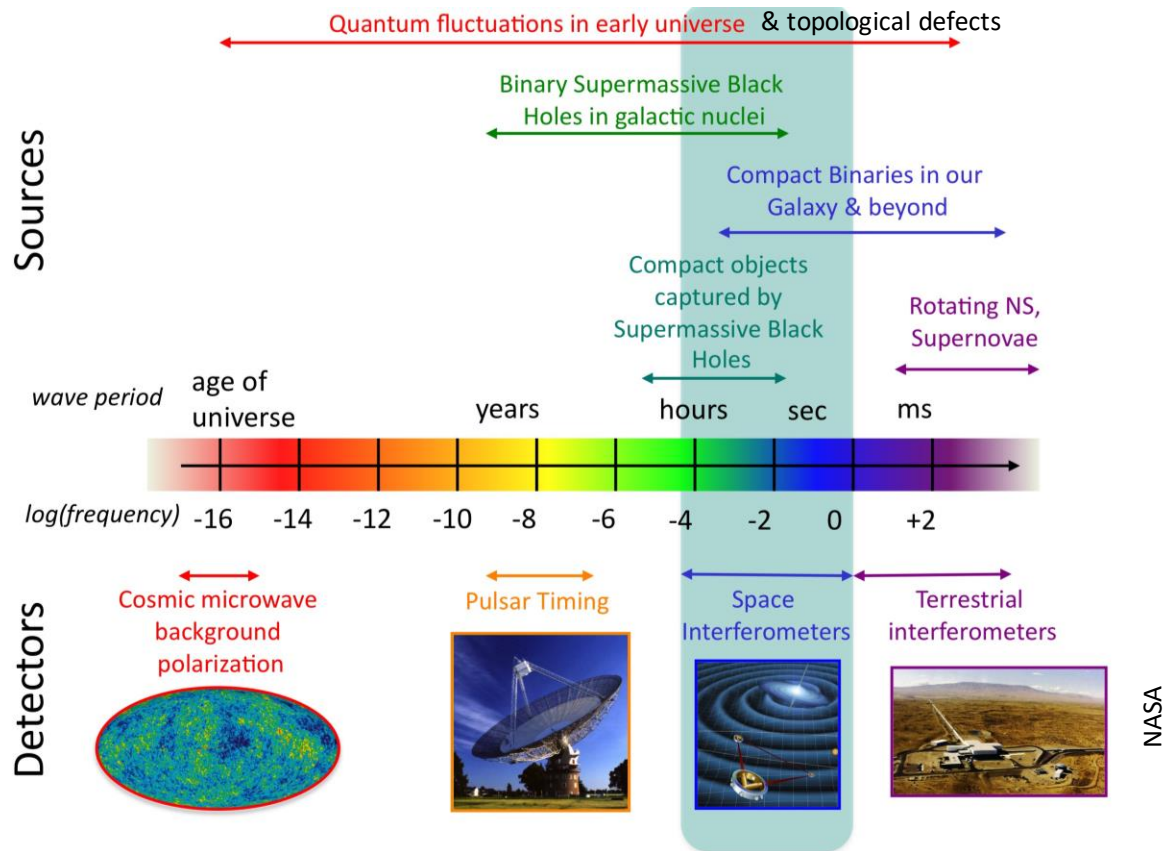
MH, Huber, Rummukainen, Weir (2013,5,7); Hindmarsh(2017); Hidnmarsh & Hijazi (2019); Cutting, MH, Weir (2019)

Fluid temperature



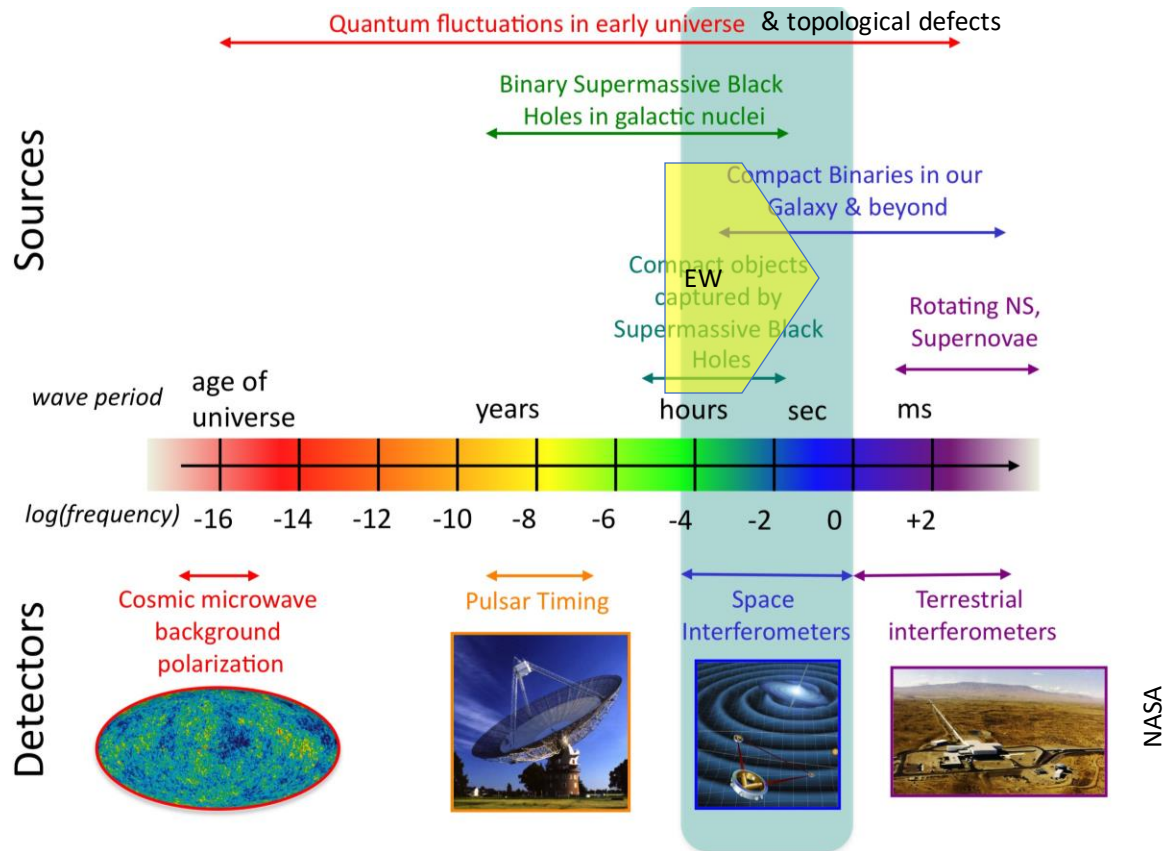
Hindmarsh, Huber, Rummukainen, Weir (2013,5,7)  
Cutting, Hindmarsh, Weir (2019)

# Gravitational wave spectrum





# Gravitational wave spectrum



# Electroweak transition: 100 GeV, 10 ps

- But: in the Standard Model, transition is a cross-over

*Kajantie, Laine, Rummukainen, Shaposhnikov (1995,6)*

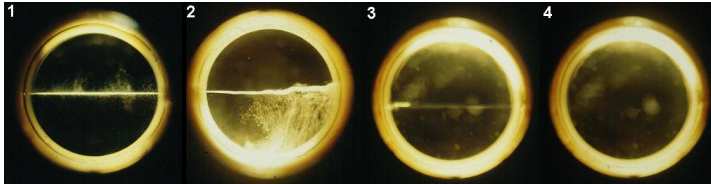
- Susceptibility peak at  $T \sim 160$  GeV

*D'Onofrio, Rummukainen (2015)*

- Same universality class as liquid-vapour in water

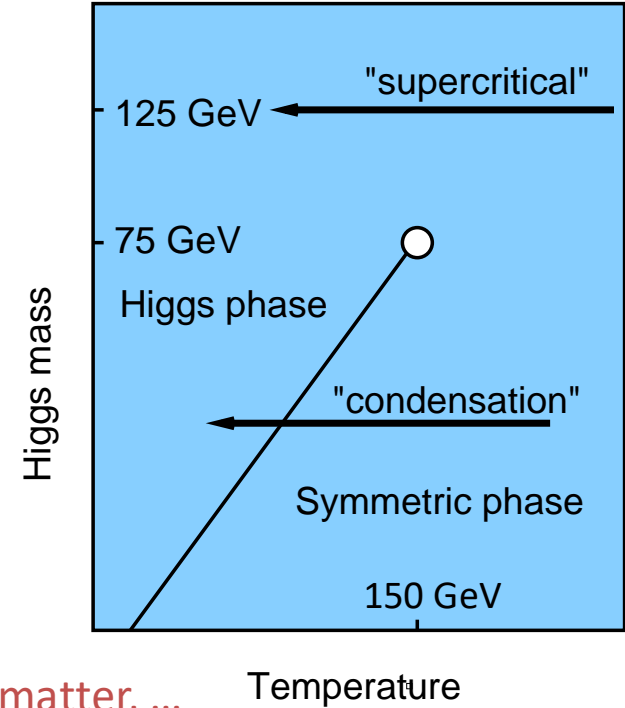
*Rummukainen et al (1995)*

- SM transition like a supercritical fluid



- SM stays close to equilibrium, no GWs

- New physics required for baryon asymmetry, dark matter, ...



# 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transitions

## Beyond the Standard Model 1: extra Higgs

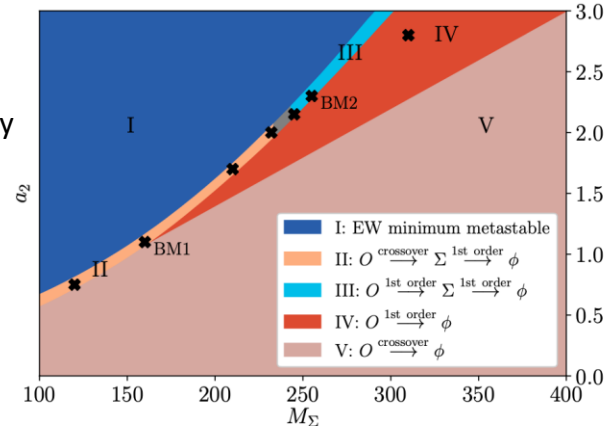
### Departure from equilibrium

Kuzmin, Rubakov, Shaposhnikov (2009)

### Baryogenesis

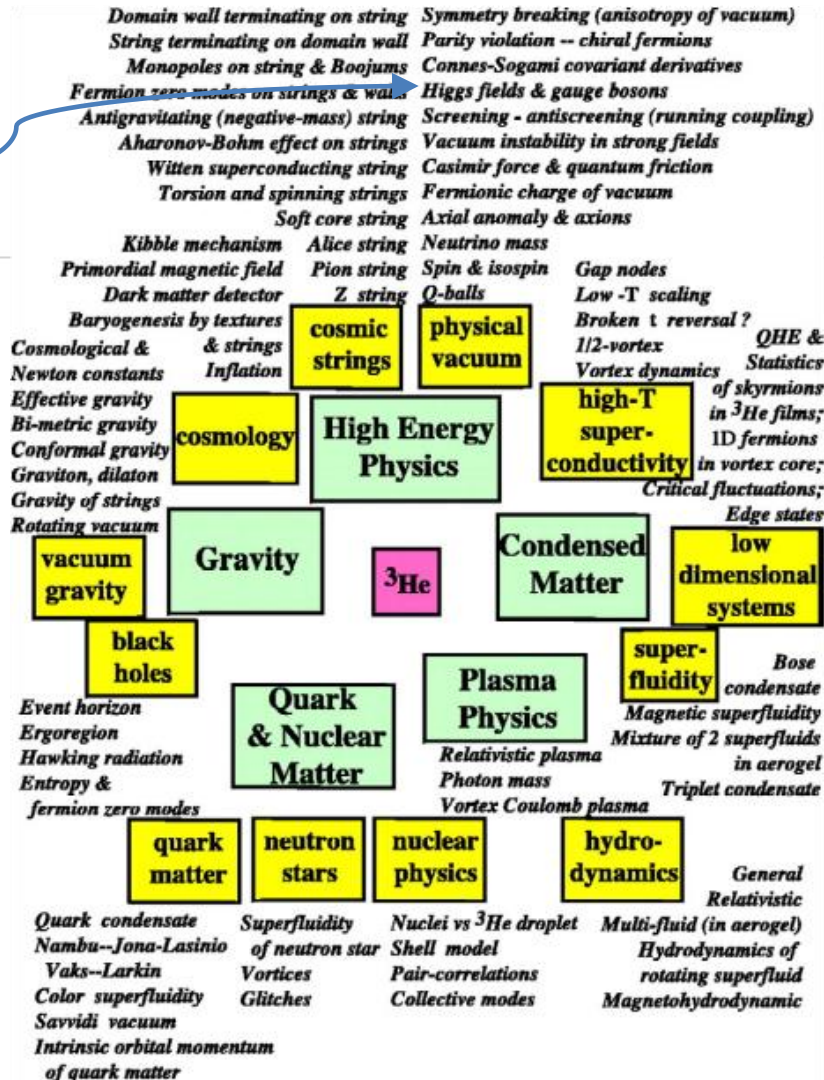
- SM + singlet
  - Strong 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transitions possible
    - Espinosa, Konstandin, Riva (2012)
    - Cline, Kainulainen (2013)
    - Kozaczuk (2015)
    - Kotwal et al (2016)
  - Even without LHC traces
    - Ashoorioon and Konstandin (2009)
    - Curtin, Meade, Yu (2011)
  - Zh signal at future e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>
    - Curtin, Meade, Yu (2011)
    - Cao, Huang, Xie, Zhang (2017)

- SM + doublet (“2HDM”)
  - Baryogenesis and B physics
    - Cline, Kainulainen (2011)
  - Heavy  $A^0 \leftarrow$  strong 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition ( $v(T_d)/T_c > 1$ )
    - Dorsch, Huber, No (2014)
  - Signal:  $A^0 \rightarrow H^0 Z$ 
    - Dorsch, Huber, Mimasu, No (2016); Andersen et al (2017)
- SM + triplet
  - +2 parameters only
    - Niemi et al (2020)





2013 Nobel:  
Higgs & Englert



# The Universe in a Helium Droplet

GRIGORY E. VOLOVIK



OXFORD SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS





ARTICLE

Received 4 May 2015 | Accepted 26 Nov 2015 | Published 8 Jan 2016

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms10294

OPEN

## Light Higgs channel of the resonant decay of magnon condensate in superfluid $^3\text{He-B}$

V.V. Zavjalov<sup>1</sup>, S. Autti<sup>1</sup>, V.B. Eltsov<sup>1</sup>, P.J. Heikkinen<sup>1</sup> & G.E. Volovik<sup>1,2</sup>

In superfluids the order parameter, which describes spontaneous symmetry breaking, is an analogue of the Higgs field in the Standard Model of particle physics. Oscillations of the field amplitude are massive Higgs bosons, while oscillations of the orientation are massless Nambu-Goldstone bosons. The 125 GeV Higgs boson, discovered at Large Hadron Collider, is light compared with electroweak energy scale. Here, we show that such light Higgs exists in

"..the light Higgs mode has parallel with the 125-GeV Higgs boson. However, in addition, the  $^3\text{He-B}$  has the high-energy sector with 14 heavy Higgs modes. This suggests that in the same manner, **the 125-GeV Higgs boson belongs to the low-energy sector** of particle physics, and if so, one may expect the existence of the **heavy Higgs bosons at TeV scale.**"



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arXiv:2209.10910:

"The largest excess in the resonant search is observed at a **resonance mass of 1 TeV**, with a local (global) significance of  **$3.1\sigma$  ( $2.0\sigma$ )**."

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# 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transitions

## Beyond the Standard Model 2

- SUSY with 1<sup>st</sup> order PT
  - NMSSM
  - nMSSM
  - GNMSSM ~
    - Pietroni (1993)
    - Davis, Froggatt, Moorhouse (1996)
    - Cline, Kainulainen (1996)
    - Huber, Schmidt (1999,2001)
    - Panagiotakopoulos, Tamvakis (1999)
    - Menon, Morrissey, Wagner (2004)
    - Huang et al (2014)
    - Kozaczuk et al (2015)
- TeV-scale strong dynamics
  - Minimal walking technicolor
    - Järvinen, Kouvaris, Sannino (2010)
  - Holographic models
    - Bea et al 2019
    - Ares, Henrikson, MH, Hoyos, Jokela 2022
- SM + dilaton (nearly-conformal models)
  - Creminelli, Nicolis, Rattazzi 2001
  - Nardini, Quiros, Wulzer 2007
  - Konstandin, Servant 2011
- SM + dim 6
  - $$V_{\text{eff}}(H) = -\frac{\mu^2}{2}H^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4}H^4 + \frac{1}{8M^2}H^6$$
  - Tree level 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition for  $\lambda < 0$ 
    - Zhang (1993)
    - Grojean, Servant, Wells (2004)
    - Ham, Oh (2004)
    - Bodeker et al (2004)
    - Cao, Huang, Xie, Zhang (2017)
- String landscape
  - Garcia, Krippendorff, March-Russell 2015

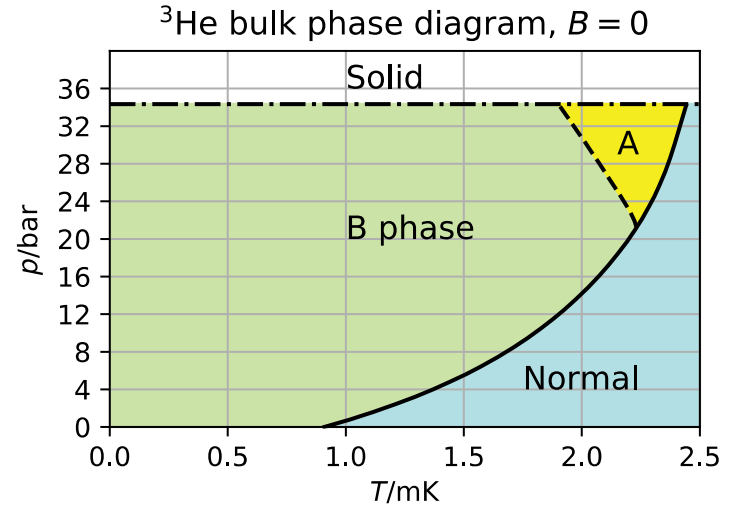
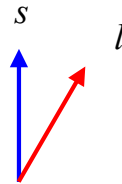
# Bulk phases of superfluid $^3\text{He}$

- Superfluid below  $T_c \sim 2$  mK
- Symmetry group of free energy:
  - $\text{SO}(3)_S \times \text{SO}(3)_L \times \text{U}(1)_N$
- B phase:  $\text{SO}(3)_J$  Balian, Werthamer (1964)

$$A_B = \frac{\Delta_B}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ isotropic}$$

- A phase:  $\text{U}(1)_{S_z} \times \text{U}(1)_{L_z+N}$  Anderson, Morel (1961)  
Anderson, Brinkman (1973)

$$A_A = \frac{\Delta_A}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ anisotropic}$$





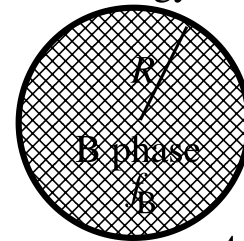
# Why do we ever get the B phase?

- $^3\text{He}$  AB transition rate puzzle Kaul, Kleinert 1980; Bailin, Love 1980
- Homogeneous nucleation theory
  - nucleation rate per unit volume Langer 1969, Linde 1983

$$p(T) \sim \omega \xi_{\text{GL}}^{-3} \exp(-E_c/T)$$

- $E_c(T)$  – energy of critical droplet/bubble
- $E_c/T \sim 10^6$  in  $^3\text{He}$  A/B GL theory

A phase  
free energy density  $f_A$



AB interface  
surface energy  
 $\sigma_{AB}$

$$E(R) = 4\pi R^2 \sigma_{AB} - \frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 (f_A - f_B)$$

Critical bubble:

$$\left. \frac{dE}{dR} \right|_{R_c} = 0, \quad E_c = \frac{16\pi}{3} \frac{\sigma_{AB}^3}{|f_A - f_B|^2}$$

# Why do we ever get the B phase?

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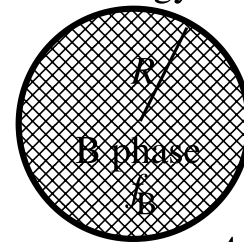
- $E_c(T)$  – energy of critical droplet/bubble
- $E_c/T \sim 10^6$  in  $^3\text{He}$  A/B GL theory

- Prediction: supercooled A lasts a *long* time

- But AB transition is observed Kleinberg et al 1974; Hakonen et al 1985; Fukuyama et al 1987; Swift, Buchanan 1987; Schiffer et al 1992; O'Keefe, Barker, Osheroff 1996 ...

- Ionising radiation? (“baked Alaska”, Kibble-Zurek) Leggett 1984, Bunkov, Timofeevskaya 1998
- Boundary effects? (e.g. “lobster pots”) Leggett & Yip 1990
- Non-topological solitons? Hong 1988
- Resonant tunnelling? Tye Wohns 2011

A phase  
free energy density  $f_A$



AB interface  
surface energy  
 $\sigma_{\text{AB}}$

$$E(R) = 4\pi R^2 \sigma_{\text{AB}} - \frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 (f_A - f_B)$$

Critical bubble:

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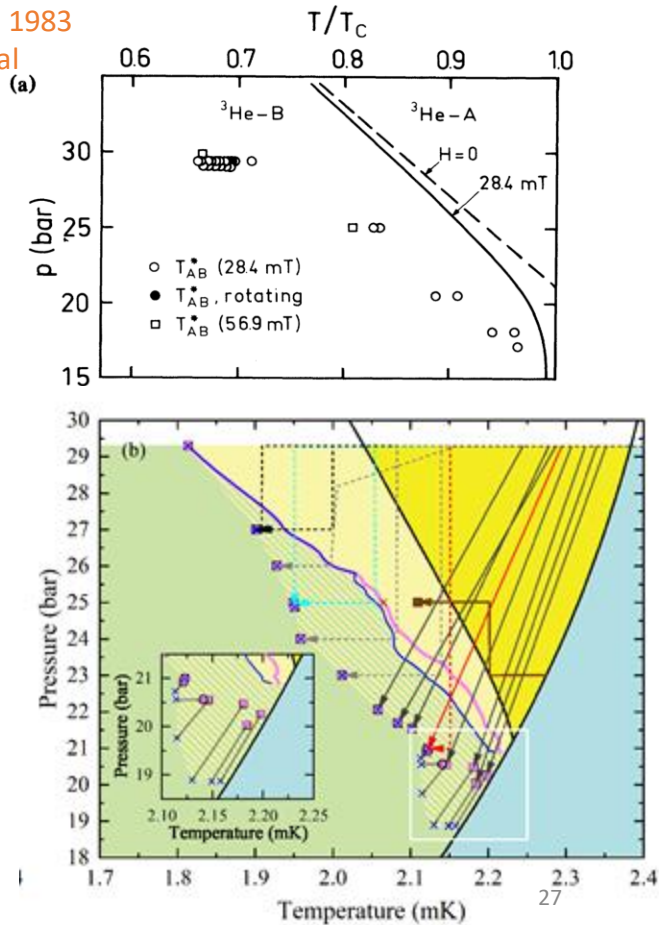
# Boundary effects in AB transition

- Nucleation with rough surfaces
  - Spontaneous, AB “catastrophe line”
  - Can be induced by mechanical shock

O’Keefe, Barker, Osheroff 1996; Bartkowiak et al 2000

Hakonen et al 1983

Fukuyama et al 1987



# Boundary effects in AB transition

Hakonen et al 1983

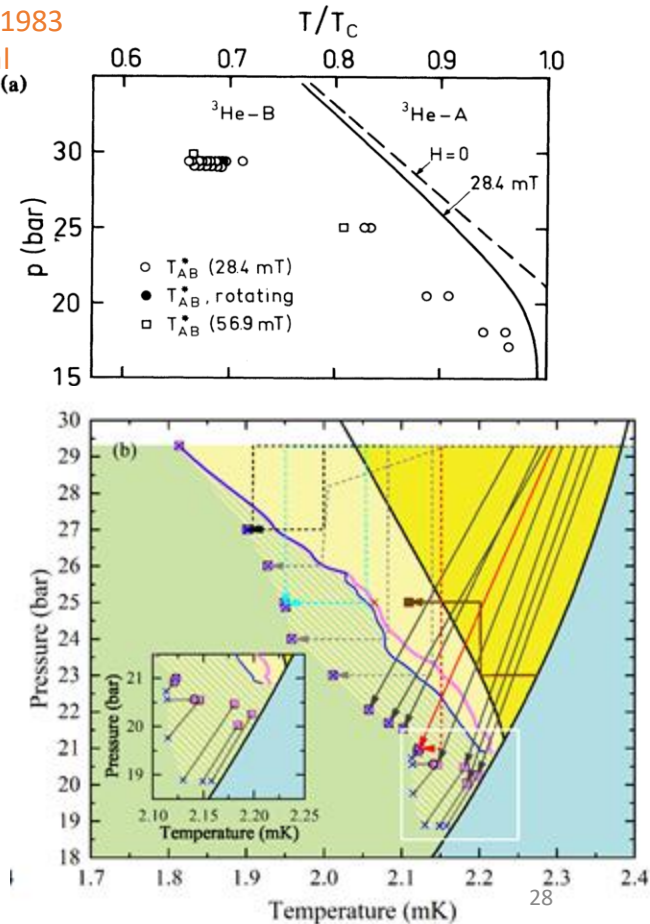
Fukuyama et al 1987

- Nucleation with rough surfaces
  - Spontaneous, AB “catastrophe line”
  - Can be induced by mechanical shock

O’Keefe, Barker, Osheroff 1996; Bartkowiak et al 2000

- Path-dependent nucleation, rough surfaces

- “Catastrophe line” depends on  $P_{\max}$  in A phase
- Model: B-phase “seeds” in  $O(\mu\text{m})$  cavities
  - Heat exchanger?
- Seeds are complex order parameter configurations at curved boundaries?
- Stable or metastable?



# Eliminating boundaries with magnetic fields?

- Magnetic field favours A phase
  - A has spins aligned
  - No B-phase for  $H > 0.3$  T

$$f_H = g_H H_\alpha (AA^\dagger)_{\alpha\beta} H_\beta$$

$$(AA^\dagger)^B \propto 1,$$

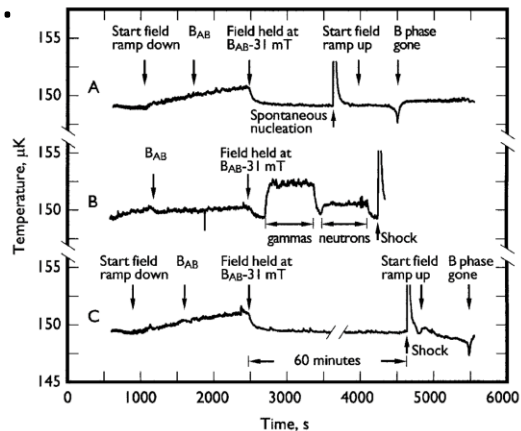
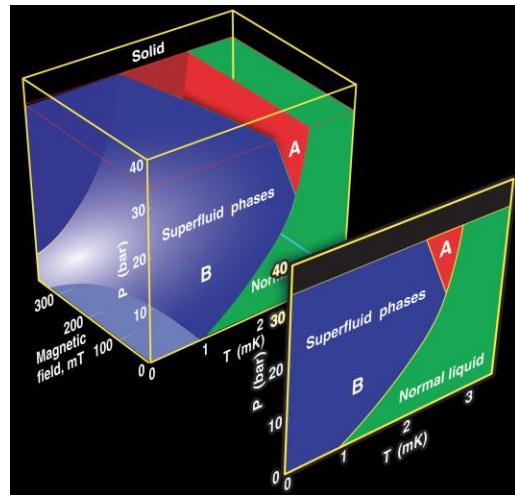
$$(AA^\dagger)^A \propto \text{diag}(0, 0, 1)$$

- Create a region of low field, phase boundary stabilised by the field gradient

- Observations from rudimentary attempts:

- Changing H can induce transition
- Undermagnetisation of A phase, not just overmagnetisation of B phase
- Mechanical shock can induce transition

--> Full isolation from walls etc is essential!



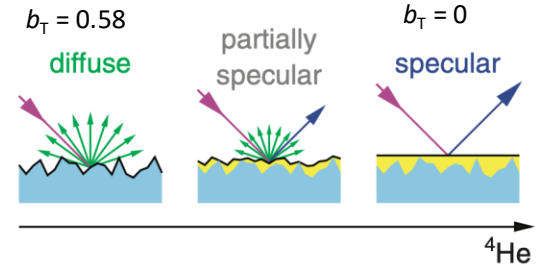
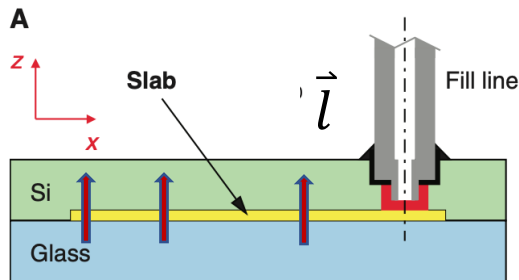
# Controlling boundaries with confinement?

Ambegaokar, de Gennes, Rainer 1973

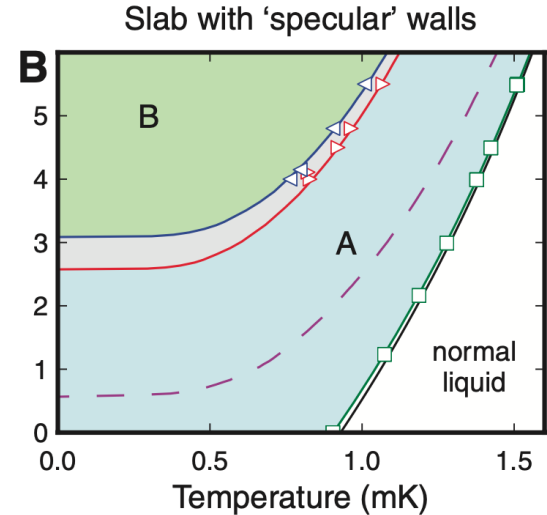
- Boundaries break Cooper pairs & suppress order parameter

$$A_{\alpha i} n_i = 0, \quad (b_T + \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla) A_{\alpha i}^{\parallel} = 0$$

- Control  $b_T$  with  $^4\text{He}$  coating
- Angular momentum of Cooper pairs normal to boundaries
- Thin slab favours A phase



Levitin et al 2013



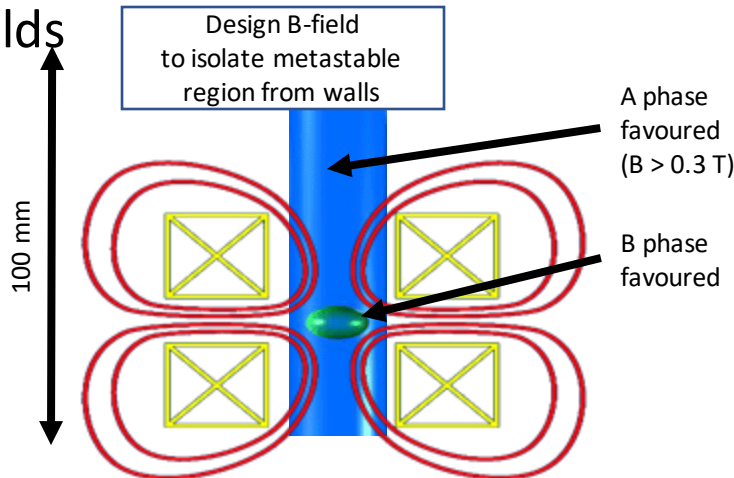
# QUEST-DMC: solving the nucleation puzzle

Quantum-Enhanced Superfluid Technologies for Dark Matter and Cosmology

## PTs with magnetic fields

In Lancaster

- Eliminate boundary effects
- Transition in shaped magnetic fields



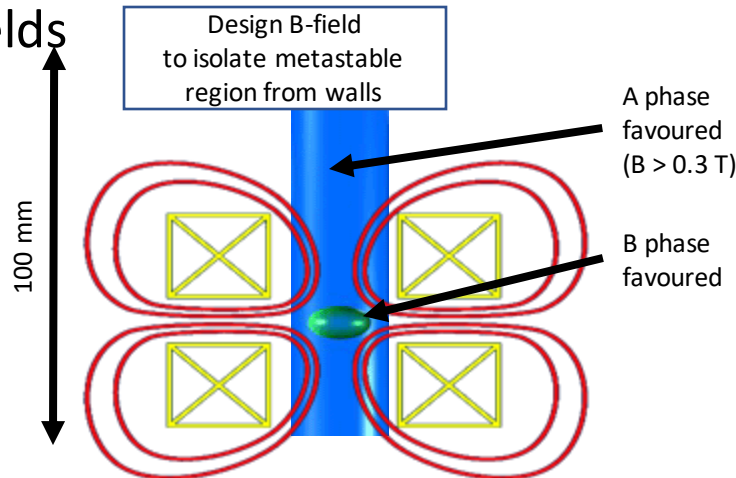
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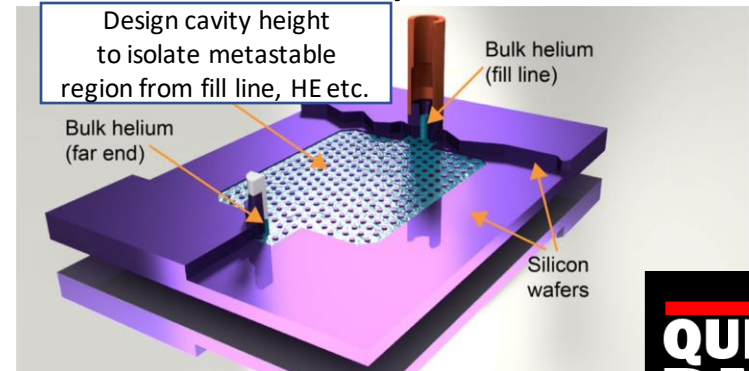
- Eliminate boundary effects
- Transition in shaped magnetic fields



## PTs under confinement

At Royal Holloway

- Control boundary effects
- Transition under confinement with atomically smooth walls





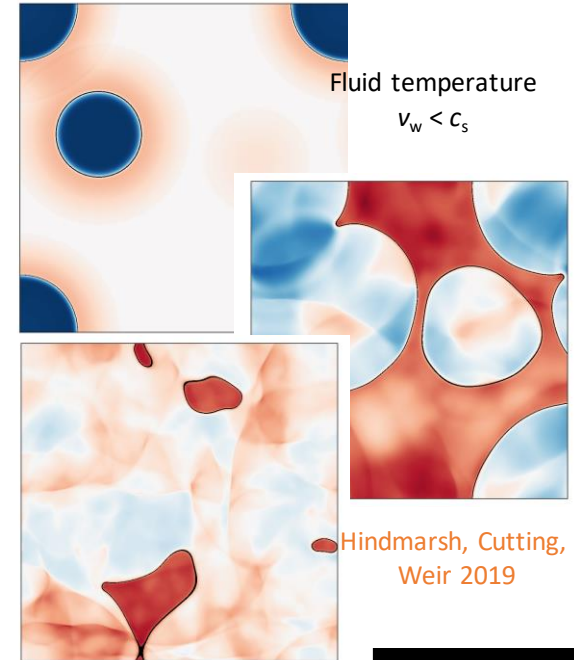
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Quantum-Enhanced Superfluid Technologies for Dark Matter and Cosmology

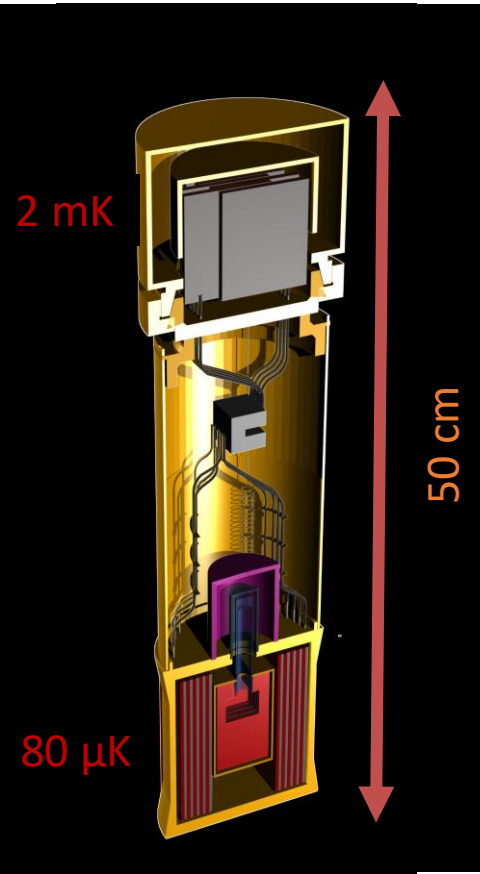
## Applying computation methods from cosmology

University of Sussex, University of Helsinki

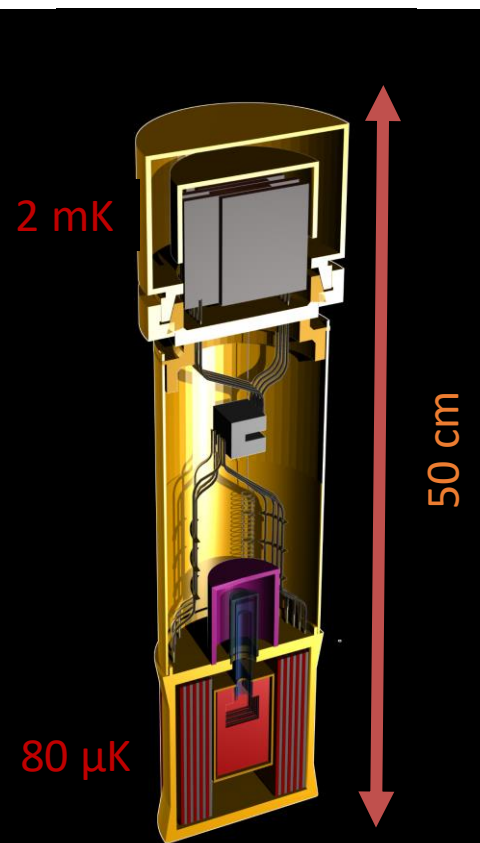
- Cosmological simulations of phase transitions use [TD]GL analogue on large grids (up to  $10000^3$ )
  - Compute critical bubbles, static & dynamic
  - Compute phase transition dynamics
- Aim: compute equilibrium order parameter configurations in experimental geometries
  - Metastability & barriers
- Future: compute AB boundary dynamics
  - Quasiparticle distribution functions?



# $^3\text{He}$ experiments



# $^3\text{He}$ experiments



$^4\text{He}$  bath:  
4.2K

$^4\text{He}$  evaporation  
stage: 1.4K

Distillation  
chamber:  
0.6K

Mixing  
chamber:  
few mK

Nuclear  
stage:  
<100 $\mu\text{K}$





$^4\text{He}$  bath:

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Distillation

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Mixing

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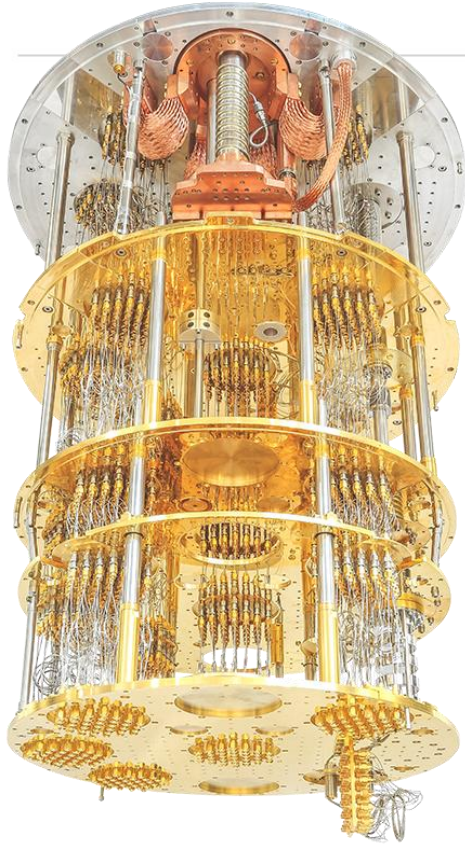
few mK

Nuclear

stage:

$<100\mu\text{K}$





$^4\text{He}$  bath:  
4.2K

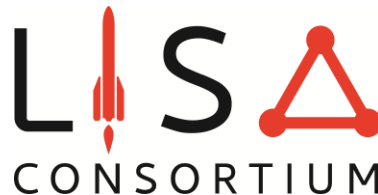
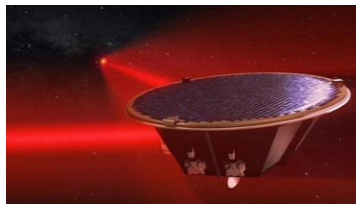
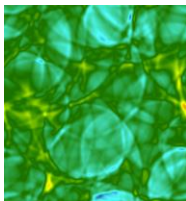
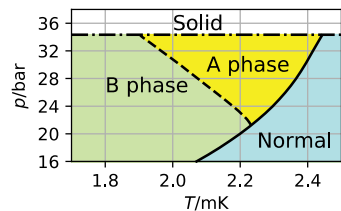
$^4\text{He}$  evaporation  
stage: 1.4K

clear  
stage:  
<100 $\mu\text{K}$



# Summary

- Future space-based gravitational wave detectors (e.g. LISA) will probe the early Universe at  $T \sim 100$  GeV and  $t \sim 10$  ps.
- Theories extending the Standard Model to account for dark matter and the baryon asymmetry often have 1st order phase transitions, leading to GW production.
- Calculations of the GW power spectrum depend on homogeneous nucleation theory
- Superfluid  $^3\text{He}$  A/B transition is the only homogeneous 1st order transition in the laboratory, but it does not follow the homogeneous theory
- QUEST-DMC is addressing the nucleation puzzle with confinement, magnetic fields, & HPC tools from cosmology





Thank you

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

**QUEST  
DMC**

**EMP** European Microkelvin Platform

