

SUPERFLUID AND QUANTUM TURBULENCE IN POROUS MEDIA

A tribute to Michel Quintard

April 15-16, 2019 - Bordeaux

Cyprien Soulaine, Hervé Allain, Michel Quintard, Marc Prat, Bertrand Baudouy, Rob Van Weelderen

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Background





- The LHC's magnets are made by repeatedly winding a superconducting cable into long coils.
- Superconducting magnets of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) operate at 1.9K,
- These coils are encased inside a superfluid helium cryogenic system to keep the magnet at the operating temperature.
- Superfluid helium is a very efficient coolant
- The coils seen as porous materials, we are looking for a theory of helium superfluid in porous media to predict heat tranfer.

Helium phase diagram and superfluid transition



3

Helium phase diagram and superfluid transition





Alfred Leitner - Liquid Helium II the Superfluid (www.alfredleitner.com or on youtube)

- Bottom of the beaker made of a porous membrane with pore-throat smaller than 1 micron,
- Above 2.17K, liquid helium (He I) is viscous and does not flow through the membrane,
- Below 2.17K, He II pours out. The flow rate is even faster at lower temperature.

- He II can be thought as two interpenetrating fluids that are fully miscible and have temperature dependent densities¹,
 - The normal fluid component with a density $\rho_{_n}$ and a velocity $v_{_n},$
 - The superfluid component with a density ρ_s and a velocity v_s ,





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- The heat is carried by the normal component only,





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- The heat is carried by the normal component only,
- The two components flow at countercurrent when a temperature gradient is applied,
- Above a critical velocity, quantum turbulence arises.





$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\rho}}{\partial t} + \nabla \boldsymbol{.} \left(\boldsymbol{\rho}_n \mathbf{v}_n + \boldsymbol{\rho}_s \mathbf{v}_s \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\rho}}{\partial t} + \nabla \boldsymbol{.} \left(\boldsymbol{\rho}_n \mathbf{v}_n + \boldsymbol{\rho}_s \mathbf{v}_s \right) = 0$$

Momentum equation for the normal component

$$\frac{\partial \rho_n \mathbf{v}_n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_n \mathbf{v}_n \mathbf{v}_n) = -\frac{\rho_n}{\rho} \nabla p - \rho_s s \nabla T + \nabla \cdot (\mu_n \nabla \mathbf{v}_n)$$

Thermo-mechanical force

• Momentum equation for the superfluid component

$$\frac{\partial \rho_s \mathbf{v}_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_s \mathbf{v}_s \mathbf{v}_s) = -\frac{\rho_s}{\rho} \nabla p + \rho_s s \nabla T$$

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Entropy equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho s \mathbf{v}_n) = \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{k_n}{T} \nabla T\right)$$

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• Slip conditions at walls for superfluid particles. No-slip for normal particles.

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Thermo-mechanical force

Gorter-Mellink mutual friction term^{2,3}

Momentum equation for the superfluid component

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Entropy equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho s \mathbf{v}_n) = \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{k_n}{T} \nabla T\right) + \frac{A \rho_n \rho_s |\mathbf{v}_n - \mathbf{v}_s|^4}{T}$$

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Upscaling superfluid helium flow in porous media

 Upscaling of superfluid helium flow in porous media in the Laudau regime¹

International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer 53 (2010) 4852–4864



Upscaling of superfluid helium flow in porous media

ABSTRACT

H. Allain ^{a,b}, M. Quintard ^{b,c}, M. Prat ^{b,c}, B. Baudouy ^{a,*} ^a CBA, BRU, SAM, GJ⁻sur-Yvette F-91191, Prance ^b Université de Toulous, INT, UPS, IMT, Avenue Camille Soula F-31400, Prance ^c ONS, MIT, F-31400, France

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Keywords: Superfluid helium Two fluid model Porous media Upscaling Although the Large Hairon Collider, the particle accelerator at CERN Geneva, did not reach full power, studies have begin for extending its performances. For that matter an increase of the lurinosity of the beam by a factor of ten is desired. Achieving such luminosity implies the use of more powerful superconducting magnets experiencing higher heat load. Since the thermal resistance due to the electrical insulations of the super-onducting cables is the main thermal resistance for cooling, new types of insulation, based on porous ceramic materials, are developed. In this context, studies of heat transfer in porous media saturated with superfluid helium are of great interest. We present the upscaling of the generalized two-fluid model describing the flow of superfluid helium in the Landau regime using the method of volume averaging. We show that a macro-scale model can be developed for some limiting cases. In particular, we obtain an upscaled version of the superfluid equations in the Landau regime provmeability and the classical intrinsis: permeability. This puts the pemeability concept previously introduced heuristically by some authors in this context to a much firmer basis. The results are validated against direct numerical simulations of the superfluid helium flow at the pore-scale as well as with comparisons with experimental data.

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1. Introduction

For the next generation of high field magnets cooled with superfluid helium (He II), like magnets for the upgrade of Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the particle accelerator at CERN Geneva, engineers are considering the use of Nb₃Sn superconductors to increase the luminosity by a factor of ten. Achieving such luminosity implies the use of superconducting magnets producing magnetic field around 15 T [1,2] and located closer to the particles interaction region. In this environment, these superconducting magnets will then experience much higher heat losses than in current particle accelerators. For these superconducting magnets, the thermal resistance due to the electrical insulations of the superconducting cables is the main thermal resistance against cooling [3]. In the framework of the development of the LHC NbTi magnets during the last decade, some groups worked on the thermal characterization of the electrical insulation made of polyimide wrappings [4-7]. This type of insulation consists of polyimide tapes wrapped around the conductor to create helium paths and voids and the required electrical insulation. The approach used to study such systems was heuristic and led to a purely macroscopic

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +33 1 69 08 42 07; fax: +33 1 69 08 69 29. E-mail address: bertrand.baudouy@cea.fr (B. Baudouy).

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1D model without considering them explicitly as porous media. Recently, the upgrade of LHC initiated new studies focused on the heat transfer within magnets [8,9] and once more the development of electrical insulation for the new magnets. Since heat loads will be substantially more important, around five times higher, the electrical insulation thermal characteristics must be improved. Nb₃Sn superconducting magnets must undergo a heat treatment at 700 °C for several hours to actually create the Nb₃Sn compound. New type of insulations, based on ceramic materials, is under development [10,11]. These ceramic materials have the advantage of surviving the heat treatment and creating porosity. Consequently, these materials are porous media with a given porosity and average pore diameter. In order to understand the cooling capacity and the thermal stability of the magnets whose superconducting cables would be electrically insulated with such materials, it is necessary to investigate the fundamentals of heat transfer through porous media filled with He II.

Because of He II peculiar properties, i.e., almost no viscosity and a high effective thermai conductivity, the flow of superfluid helium through a porous medium can be expected to be quite different from the classical viscous flow of a Newtonian fluid. Several authors have worked on the subject and focused mainly on the thermomechanical pump, which is a device used in aerospace industries to transfer superfluid helium in cooling systems of

Upscaling superfluid helium flow in porous media

- Upscaling of superfluid helium flow in porous media in the Laudau regime¹
- In presence of quantum turbulence (i.e. in most of the operating situations), the mutual friction terms have to be average and closed...

$$\left\langle A\rho_{n}\rho_{s}\left|\mathbf{v}_{n}-\mathbf{v}_{s}\right|^{2}\left(\mathbf{v}_{n}-\mathbf{v}_{s}\right)\right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \frac{A\rho_n\rho_s \left|\mathbf{v}_n - \mathbf{v}_s\right|^4}{T} \right\rangle$$



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$$\left\langle \frac{A\rho_n\rho_s \left|\mathbf{v}_n - \mathbf{v}_s\right|^4}{T} \right\rangle$$

• Solve the physics at the pore-scale to get new insights into the quantum turbulence patterns.



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HellFOAM: superfluid helium flow simulator

HellFOAM = Superfluid Helium (He II) modeling with OpenFOAM®



- Segregated approach for the Temperature-Pressure-Velocities coupling using the Super-PISO algorithm*.
- The pressure equation is formed by combining the momentum equations and the mass balance equation.
- The physical properties are function of the temperature.
- The heater is modeled by a volumic source term in the energy equation.
- Benefit of all the OpenFOAM features (3D, unstructured meshes, parallel simulations...)
- Public release of the code :

https://github.com/csoulain/HellFOAM

Superfluid helium flow in a capillary tube



Superfluid helium flow in a capillary tube



Superfluid helium flow in a capillary tube



Objective: Investigate the superfluid flow in porous media in the Gorter-Mellink regime



Objective: Investigate the superfluid flow in porous media* in the Gorter-Mellink regime



Temperature profile at steady-state











Flow past a cylinder: Zhang's experiment¹



• PIV measurement of the flow of normal particles past a cylinder,

Flow past a cylinder: Zhang's experiment¹





q = 11.2 kW m⁻² at T = 2.03 K corresponding to Re_D = 21,000

- PIV measurement of the flow of normal particles past a cylinder,
- Unexpected eddies upstream the cylinder (results confirmed by other experiments),

Flow past a cylinder: Zhang's experiment¹





 $q = 11.2 \text{ kW m}^{-2}$ at T = 2.03 K corresponding to $\text{Re}_{\text{D}} = 21,000$



q = 4 kW m⁻² at T = 1.6 K corresponding to Re_D = 41,000

- PIV measurement of the flow of normal particles past a cylinder,
- Unexpected eddies upstream the cylinder (results confirmed by other experiments),
- The Reynolds number is not adequate to quantify the downstream vortices as in classic fluid dynamics.

Numerical Investigation of Thermal Counterflow of He-II Past Cylinders



- Simulation of the thermal counterflow of superfluid helium past a cylinder including quantum turbulence with HellFOAM¹,
- At the early times, the streamlines (normal particles) follows the solid obstacles,
- Frictions at the walls (cylinder and channel) between the superfluid and normal particles that flow at countercurrent trigger recirculations both upstream and downstream,
- In agreement with experimental evidences, we obtain two large and very stable vortices upstream the cylinder and two vortices downstream,
- Downstream vortices are subject to fluctuations.
- All simulation reach a quasi-steady-state at about 3-4 seconds.

Quantification of the quantum vortices

- Density ratio
 - $a = (\rho_s^0 / \rho_n^0)$
- Reynolds number

 $\Re = (\rho_n^0 v_n^0 d / \mu_n^0)$

 Dimensionless number that quantifies the mutual friction over inertia

$$\gamma = A^0 \mu_n^0 \frac{(1+a)^3}{a^2} \Re$$



FIG. 3. Streamlines of the normal fluid component. (a) $T_b = 2.0 \text{ K}$, $\dot{q} = 25 \text{ kW/m}^2$, $\gamma = 620$, a = 0.68; (b) $T_b = 1.8 \text{ K}$, $\dot{q} = 25 \text{ kW/m}^2$, $\gamma = 300$, a = 1.88; (c) $T_b = 1.9 \text{ K}$, $\dot{q} = 37 \text{ kW/m}^2$, $\gamma = 633$, a = 0.97; (d) $T_b = 1.6 \text{ K}$, $\dot{q} = 25 \text{ kW/m}^2$, $\gamma = 288$, a = 3.1.

- Multiple simulations are run to cover a large parameters space (bath temperature and heat flux).
- The size of the upstream eddies increases with increasing γ .
- The downstream eddies persist only if a < 1 (normal fluid density > superfluid density)

Pore-scale simulation of superfluid helium counterflow



- $6x17 \text{ mm}^2$ porous medium with 30% porosity and K=10⁻⁹ m²,
- Heater on the left-hand side. Right-hand side connected to a He II bath at 1.6K. Initially filled with He II at 1.6K.
- In absence of quantum turbulence (Landau regime, a), the streamlines are similar to classic fluids. Allain et al. demonstrated that Darcy's law can be used for the normal component².

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- In absence of quantum turbulence (Landau regime, a), the streamlines are similar to classic fluids. Allain et al. demonstrated that Darcy's law can be used for the normal component².
- In presence of quantum turbulence (b), numerous eddies in the pores.

- We are looking for a theory of superfluid flow in porous media,
- We adopt a bottom-up strategy starting at the pore-scale,
- We have developed and validated *HellFOAM*, a superfluid helium simulator with OpenFOAM® based on the *Super-PISO* algorithm,
- Investigation of the thermal counterflow of He II in a micro-tube and past a cylinder,
- The numerical simulations match analytical solutions in both the Landau and Gorter-Mellink regime,
- The numerical model captures the complex flow patterns past a cylinder,
- Illustration of the complexity to build a comprehensive theory of superfluid flow in porous media including quantum turbulence.

Thank you for your attention Questions?



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Nondimensionalization of superfluid equations

- Density ratio
 - $a = (\rho_s^0 / \rho_n^0)$
- Reynolds number

 $\Re = (\rho_n^0 v_n^0 d / \mu_n^0)$

 Dimensionless number that quantifies the mutual friction

$$\gamma = A^0 \mu_n^0 \frac{(1+a)^3}{a^2} \Re$$



FIG. 1. Variation of the dimensionless numbers with heat flux and bath temperature, (a) densities ratio a, (b) Reynolds number \Re , (c) mutual friction over the advection of the normal component γ , and (d) mutual friction over the advection of the superfluid component $a\gamma$.

Dimensionless superfluid equations

$$\left(\frac{\partial \rho_n' \mathbf{v}_n'}{\partial t'} + \nabla' \cdot \left(\rho_n' \mathbf{v}_n' \mathbf{v}_n'\right)\right) = -\frac{1}{a} \frac{\rho_n'}{\rho'} \nabla' p' - \rho_s' s' \nabla' T' + \frac{1}{\Re} \nabla' \cdot \left(\mu_n' \nabla' \mathbf{v}_n'\right) - \gamma A' \rho_n' \rho_s' \left|\mathbf{v}_n' - \mathbf{v}_s'\right|^2 \left(\mathbf{v}_n' - \mathbf{v}_s'\right) + \frac{1}{\Re} \left(14\right)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial \rho_s' \mathbf{v}_s'}{\partial t'} + \nabla' \cdot \left(\rho_s' \mathbf{v}_s' \mathbf{v}_s'\right)\right) = \frac{\rho_s'}{\rho'} \nabla' p' + a \rho_s' s' \nabla' T' + a \gamma A' \rho_n' \rho_s' \left|\mathbf{v}_n' - \mathbf{v}_s'\right|^2 \left(\mathbf{v}_n' - \mathbf{v}_s'\right), \quad (15)$$

and

$$\left(\frac{\partial \rho' s'}{\partial t'} + \nabla \left(\rho' s' \mathbf{v}_n'\right)\right) = \gamma \frac{A' \rho_n' \rho_s' \left|\mathbf{v}_n' - \mathbf{v}_s'\right|^4}{T'}.$$
(16)

$$a = (\rho_s^0 / \rho_n^0) \qquad \gamma = A^0 \rho_s^0 \left(1 + \frac{\rho_n^0}{\rho_s^0} \right)^3 v_n^0 d = A^0 \mu_n^0 \frac{(1+a)^3}{a^2} \mathfrak{R}^0$$

Heat transfer in superfluid helium flow in porous media

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Investigation of suitability of the method of volume averaging for the study of heat transfer in superconducting accelerator magnet cooled by superfluid helium

Hervé Allain^{a,*}, Rob Van Weelderen^a, Bertrand Baudouy^b, Michel Quintard^{cd}, Marc Prat^{cd}, Cyprien Soulaine^c

^aCERN, TE-CRG, 1211, Geneva 23, Switzerland ^b CAR, IRU, SAOM, F-91191 GJ²-sur-Yvette, France ^cUniversite de Toulouse, NIPT, UPS, IMFT, Avenue Camille Soula, F-31400 Toulouse, France ⁴ OKS, MIFT, F-31400 Toulouse, France

ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

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Keywords: Superconducting accelerator magnet Liquid helium Porous media Method of volume averaging In the field of applied superconductivity, there is a growing need to better understand heat transfers in superconducting accelerator magnets. Depending on the engineering point of view looked at, either 0-D, 1-D, 2D or 3D modeling may be needed. Because of the size of these magnets, alone or coupled together, it is yet, impossible to study this numerically for computational reasons alone without simplification in the description of the geometry and the physics. The main idea of this study is to consider the interior of a superconducting accelerator magnet as a porous medium and to apply methods used in the field of porous media physics to obtain the equations that model heat transfers of a superconducting accelerator magnet in different configurations (steady-state, beam losses, quench, etc.) with minimal compromises to the physics and geometry. Since the interior of a superconducting magnet is made of coils, collars and yoke filled with liquid helium, creating channels that interconnect the helium inside the magnet, an upscaling method provides models that describe heat transfers of a supple of application for superconducting accelerator magnet cooled by superfluid helium in the steady-state regime in considering the thermal point of view.

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1. Introduction

CERN, with the support from the European community and the international high energy particle accelerator community, currently researches and develops next generation (very) high field magnets based on Nb₃Sn and/or HTS superconductors, necessary for the LHC collimation upgrades and HL-LHC (High Luminosity LHC). These magnets will be at the forefront of technology and shall operate in a thermally very challenging environment where they will be subject to high doses of high-energy particle-showers. Analysis of steady state and transient heat flow and temperature and pressure distributions in these new magnet designs are a necessary ingredient for the success of these R&D efforts. These magnets will function either in sub-cooled, pressurized superfluid helium, in supercritical helium or in saturated normal helium. Due to the size of these magnets, it is yet, impossible to study this directly numerically for computational reasons alone with reasonable computing time and without simplification in the description of the geometry and the physics, especially if we consider several

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +41 22 767 41 78; fax: +41 22 767 88 85. E-mail address: herve allain@cern.ch (H. Allain).

0011-2275/\$ - see front matter © 2012 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cryogenics.2012.07.001 coupled magnets. For that reason a mathematical description, suitable for numerical modeling, which preserves as much as possible the geometrical information and the physics, is needed. In this framework, the development, and later-on application, of a generic method to numerically simulate the behavior of aforementioned complex systems is required.

In the field of porous media, it is also often impossible to simulate directly all the physical phenomena that arise in the microstructure and researchers currently use upscaling methods to model the physical behavior of porous media in some average sense. These techniques (method of volume averaging [1], homogenization [2] for instance) consider the physical problem at the pore scale and apply mathematical techniques to derive the equations that model the porous medium behavior at the porous media scale, for some Representative Elementary Volume (REV). The main idea of this study is to consider the interior of a superconducting magnet as a porous medium and to apply the method of volume averaging in order to get the equations that model the behavior of the magnet at the magnet scale; i.e. suitable for numerical simulation. Since the interior of a superconducting accelerator magnet is made of coils, collars and voke filled with liquid helium creating channels that interconnect the helium inside the magnet, the magnet can be seen as a particular