

Title: From Supersolidity to Giant Plasticity: Defects in Quantum Crystals

Date: Oct 09, 2013 02:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/13100065>

Abstract: In 2004, Kim and Chan reported torsional oscillator experiments on  $^4\text{He}$  crystals which showed evidence of “non-classical rotational inertia”, the mass decoupling expected for a long-sought “supersolid” state. It soon became clear that this behavior is not a property of perfect crystals “defects are involved. In 2007, we made elastic measurements which showed, to our surprise, that the shear modulus of solid  $^4\text{He}$  increases dramatically below 0.2 K, with the same dependence on temperature, amplitude and  $^3\text{He}$  impurity concentration as the torsional oscillator anomaly. These shear modulus changes are due to dislocations and their interactions with impurities and vacancies. Our experiments raised an obvious question “could the torsional oscillator behavior be an artifact of the elastic changes, rather than evidence of supersolidity? During the past two years it has become clear that the answer is “yes” and interest has focused on the properties of dislocations in a quantum solid like  $^4\text{He}$ . By growing high quality single crystals in optical cells, we have now been able to explore the behavior of dislocations in  $^4\text{He}$  in unprecedented detail. In some crystals the dislocations reduce the shear modulus by more than 80%, an extraordinary effect we describe as “giant plasticity”. Solid helium has proved to be an ideal system in which to do materials science, as well as to address fundamental questions about quantum solids.

# From Supersolidity to Giant Plasticity: Defects in a Quantum Crystal



**James  
Day**



**Alex  
Syshchenko**

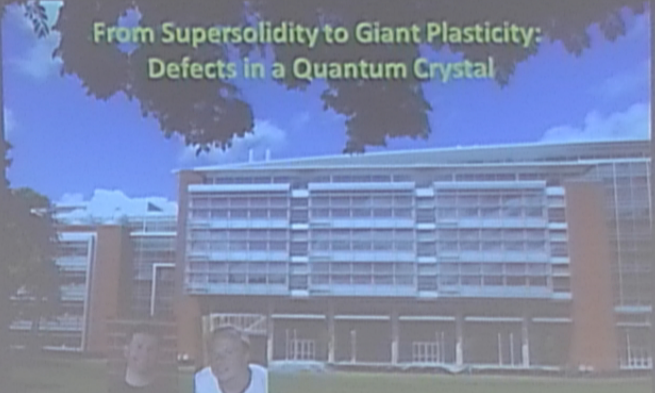


**John Beamish**



**Perimeter Institute October 9, 2013**



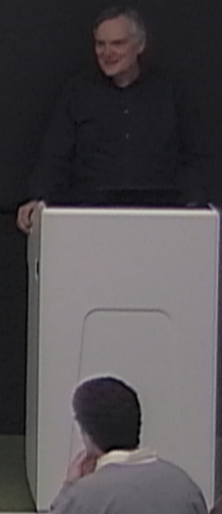
From Supersolidity to Giant Plasticity:  
Defects in a Quantum Crystal



James Day      Alex Syshchenko

**John Beamish**      Perimeter Institute October 9, 2013







**A Haziot, A Fefferman, X Rojas  
S Balibar (LPS ENS)**

nature

January 2004

Probable observation of a  
supersolid helium phase

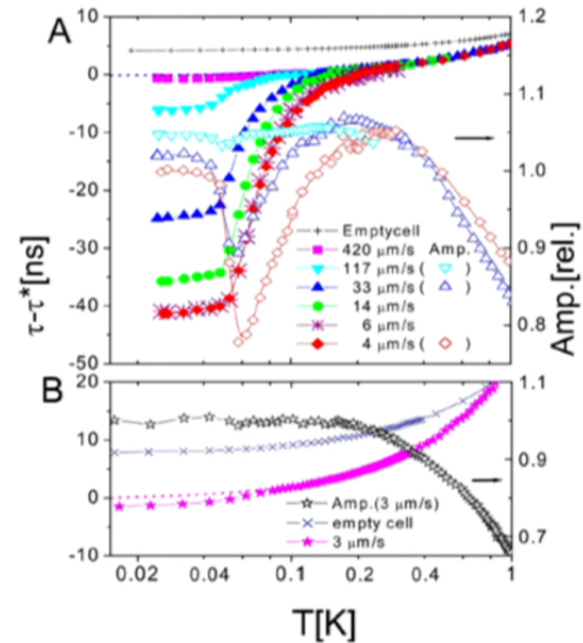
E. Kim & M. H. W. Chan

Science

September 2004

Observation of Superflow in Solid Helium

E. Kim and M. H. W. Chan\*



“So, in conclusion, the data show that at temperatures approaching absolute zero, the moment of inertia changes, and the solid becomes a super-solid, which clearly appears to be a previously unknown state of matter.”





2005:



## Signs of a Second Flowing Solid Deepen a Quantum Mystery

CONDENSED-MATTER PHYSICS

2006:

## Free-Flowing Supersolid Confirmed, But Origins Remain Murky

CONDENSED-MATTER PHYSICS

### Defects and perfect flows

Henry R. Glyde

PHYSICS

2007:

## Cracking the Supersolid

Philip Phillips and Alexander V. Balatsky

## Experimenters Agree: You Can Cross Off Flowing Crystals

2008:

## Squeeze Play Makes Solid Helium Flow

PHYSICS

2009:

## A Glassy State of Supersolid Helium

John Saunders

## Helium is the most quantum liquid or solid

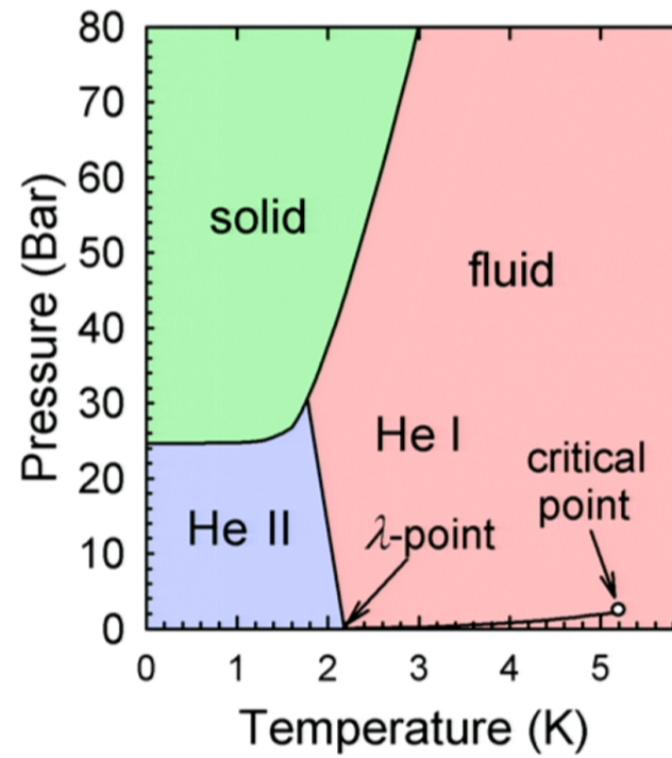
- small mass, weak forces  $\Rightarrow$  remains liquid to  $T=0$
- low  $T$ , high density  $N/V$   $\Rightarrow$  “quantum fluid”
- $^4\text{He}$  is a **boson**  $\Rightarrow$  “BEC” and **superfluidity**
- $^3\text{He}$  is a fermion  $\Rightarrow$  no superfluidity w/o pairing
- exchange, vacancies  $\Rightarrow$  helium is a “quantum solid”

## Helium is the most quantum liquid or solid

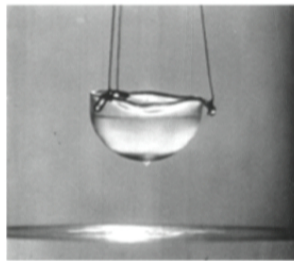
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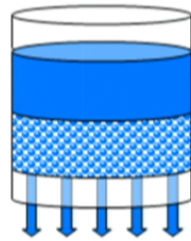
## Superfluid phase below 2.17 K



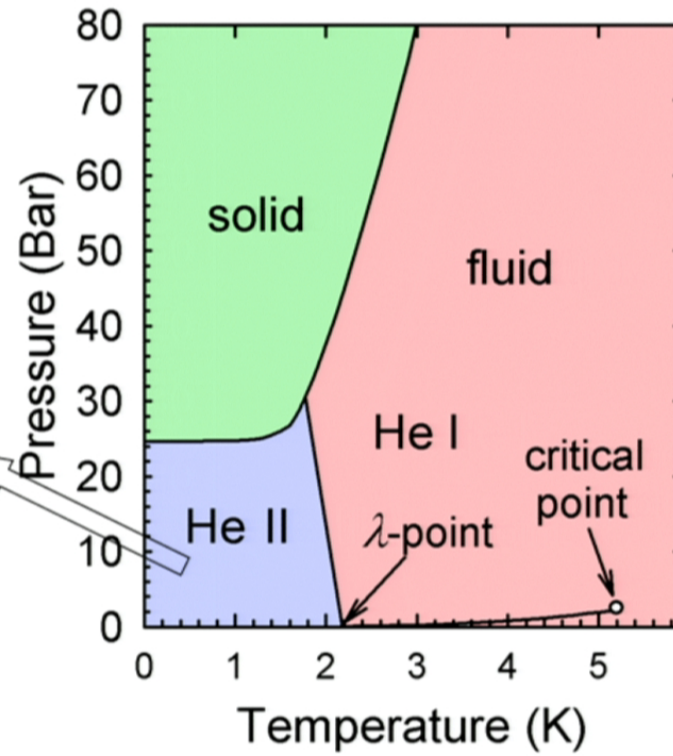
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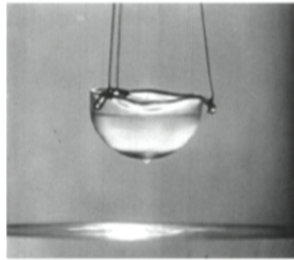
“superleak”



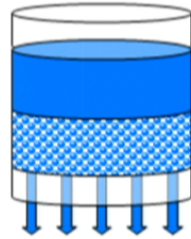
“persistent current”



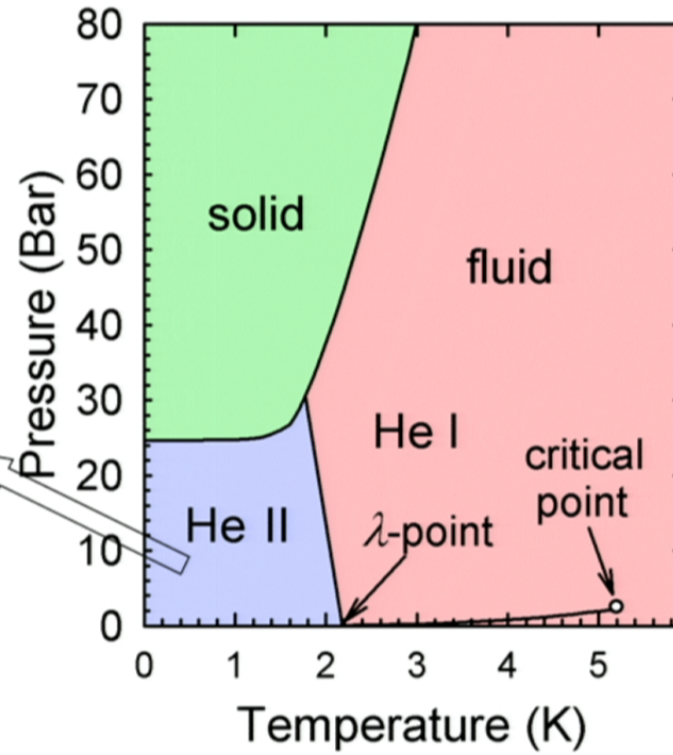
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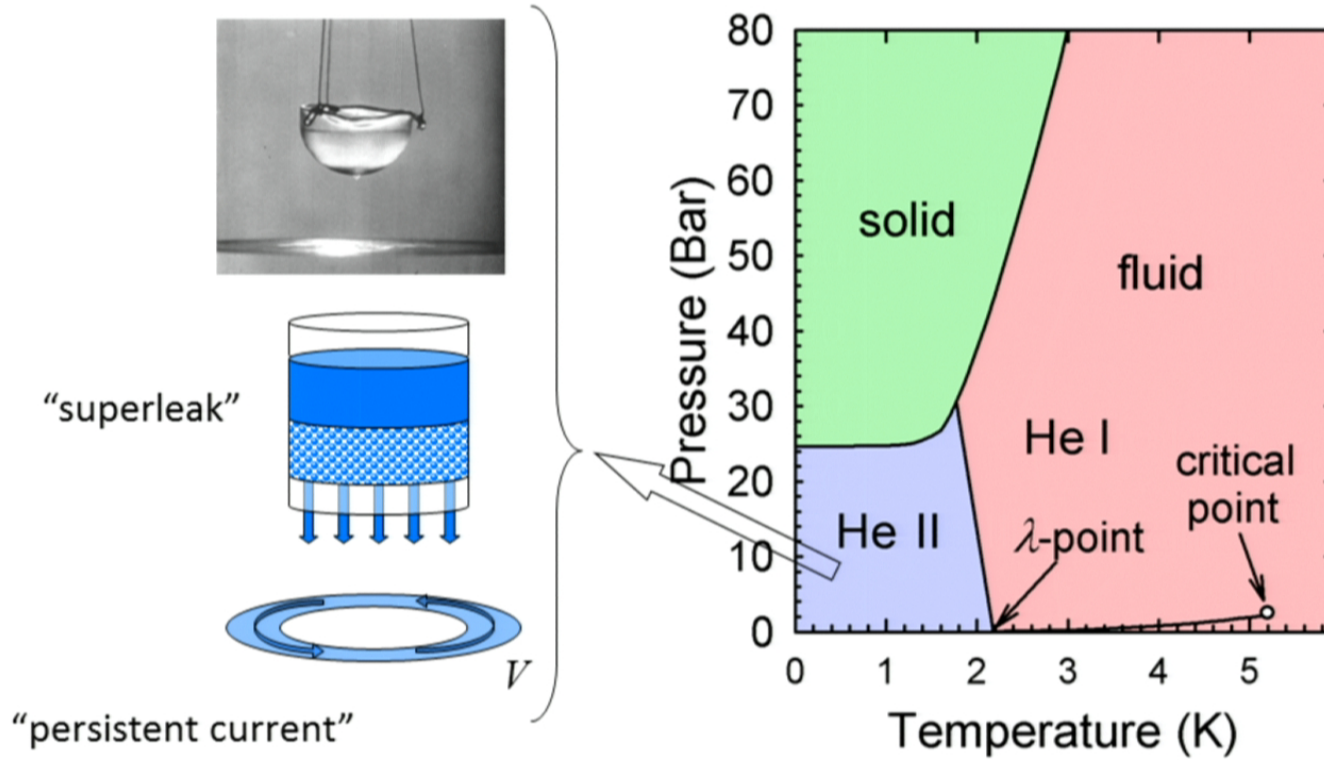


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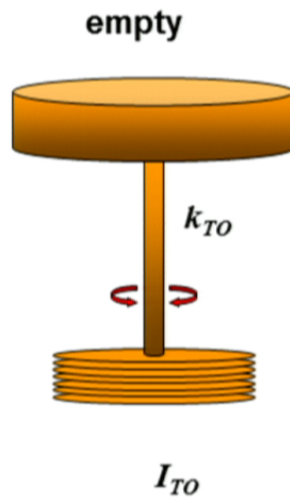


# Superfluid phase below 2.17 K



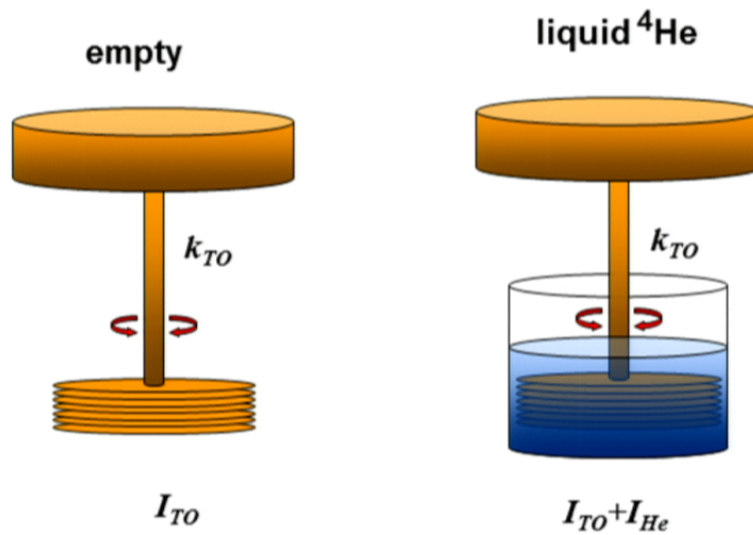
“**superflow**” below the  $\lambda$  point (2.17 K)  
(at speeds below a “critical velocity”)

## Torsional oscillator as a probe of superfluidity (Andronikashvili experiment / 2 fluid model)



$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k_{TO}}{I_{TO}}}$$

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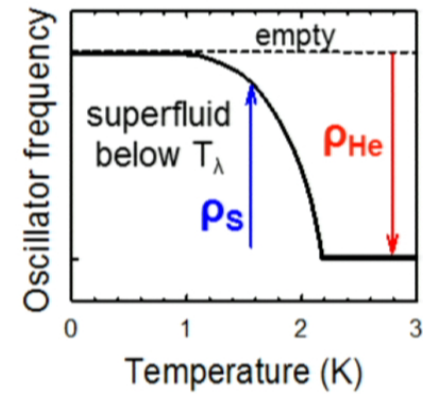
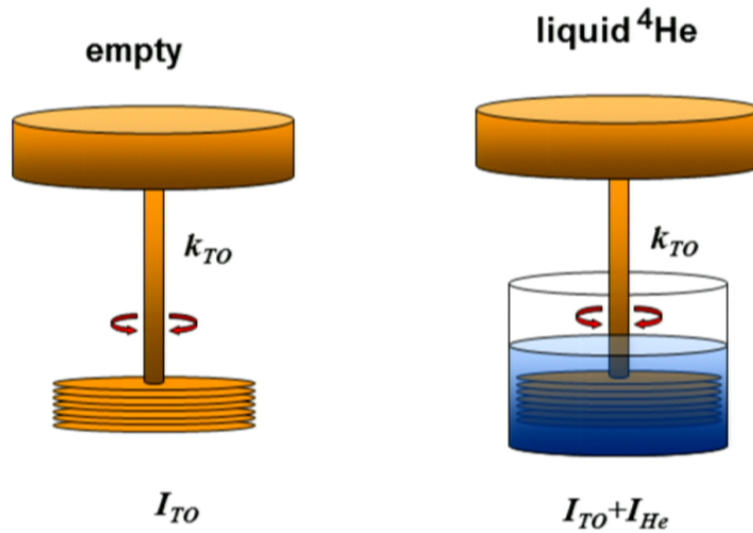
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$$T > T_\lambda \Rightarrow f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k_{TO}}{I_{TO} + I_{He}}}$$

$$T < T_\lambda \Rightarrow f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k_{TO}}{I_{TO} + I_{He} - I_{SF}}}$$



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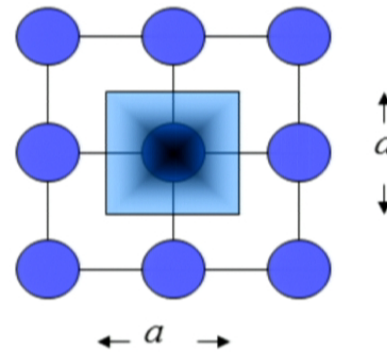
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$$\rho_{He} = \rho_n + \rho_s$$

$\rho_s$  decouples

# “Quantum solids” (zero point motion)



Uncertainty principle

$$\Delta x \Delta p_x \approx a \Delta p_x \approx \hbar$$

Zero point energy (ZPE)

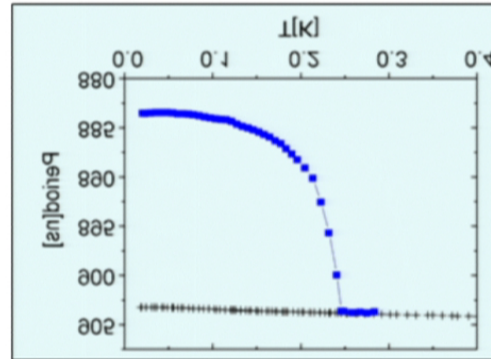
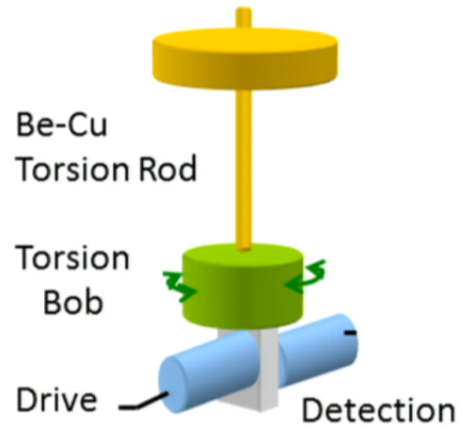
$$\frac{(\Delta p_x)^2 + (\Delta p_y)^2 + (\Delta p_z)^2}{2m} \approx \frac{3\hbar^2}{2ma^2}$$

De Boer parameter

$$\Lambda^2 = \frac{h^2}{ma^2 \varepsilon} \approx \left( \frac{ZPE}{PE} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \approx 0.03 \quad \text{Ar} \\ \approx 7 \quad \text{4He} \end{array}$$

# Solid $^4\text{He}$ decoupling from a torsional oscillator

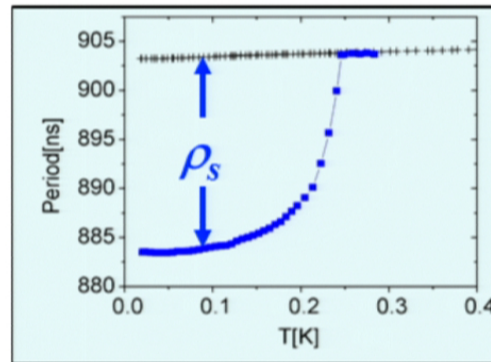
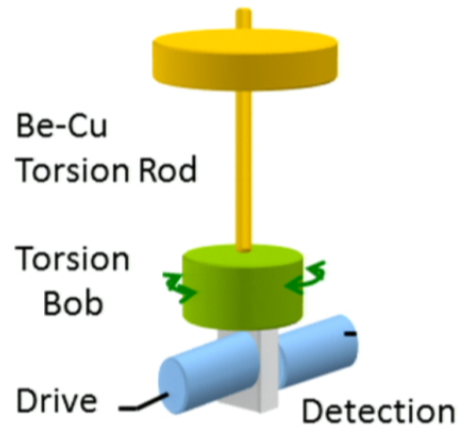
E. Kim & M.H.W. Chan, Nature 427, 225 (2004)



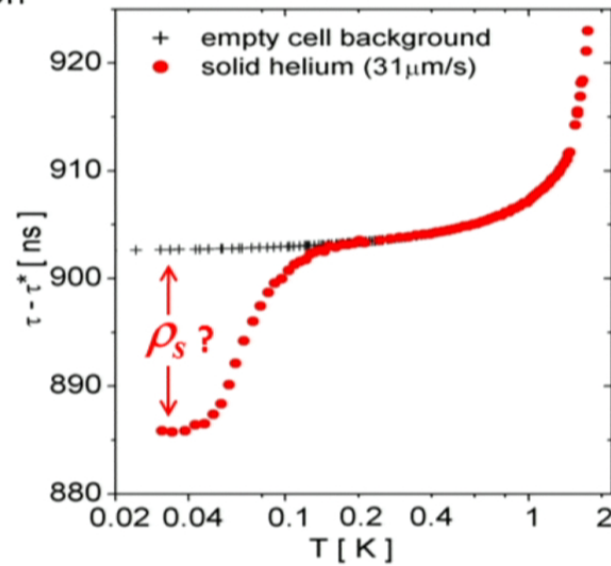
Superfluid film  
on vycor

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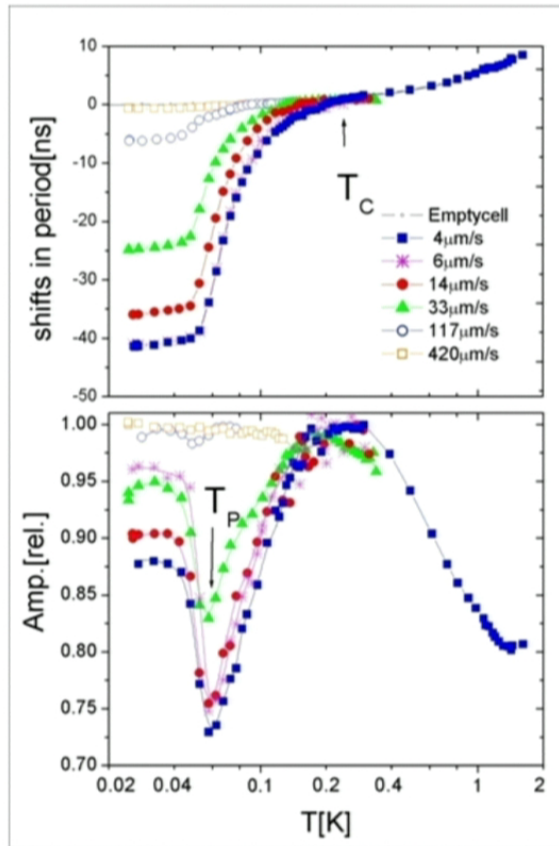


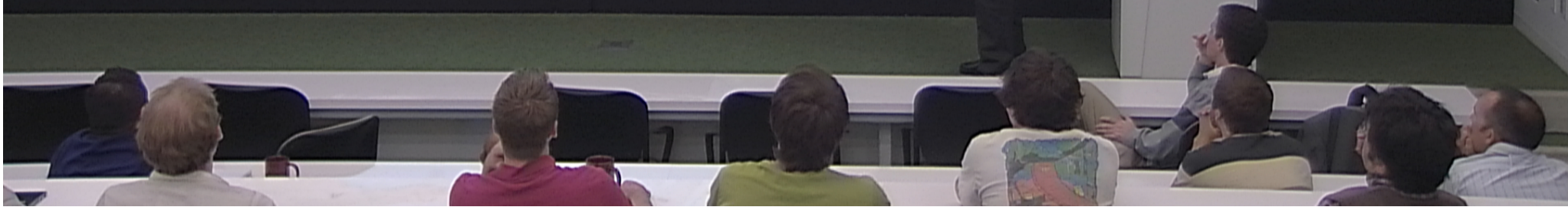
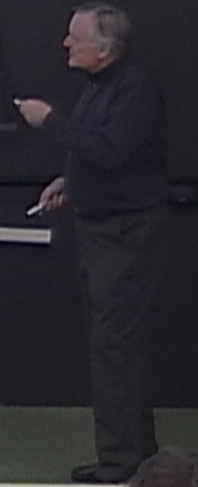
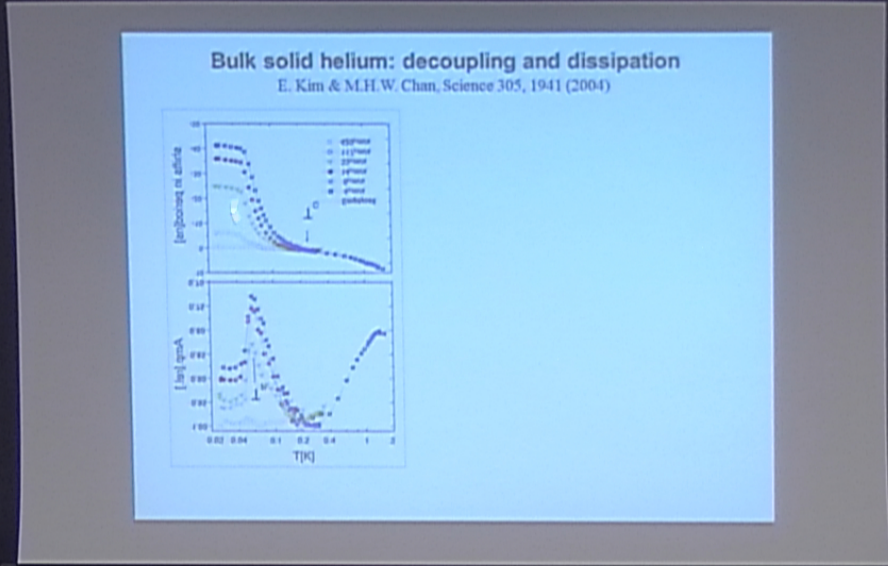
Solid  $^4\text{He}$   
in vycor



# Bulk solid helium: decoupling and dissipation

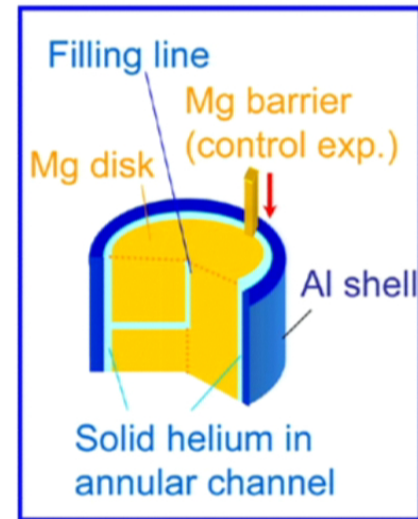
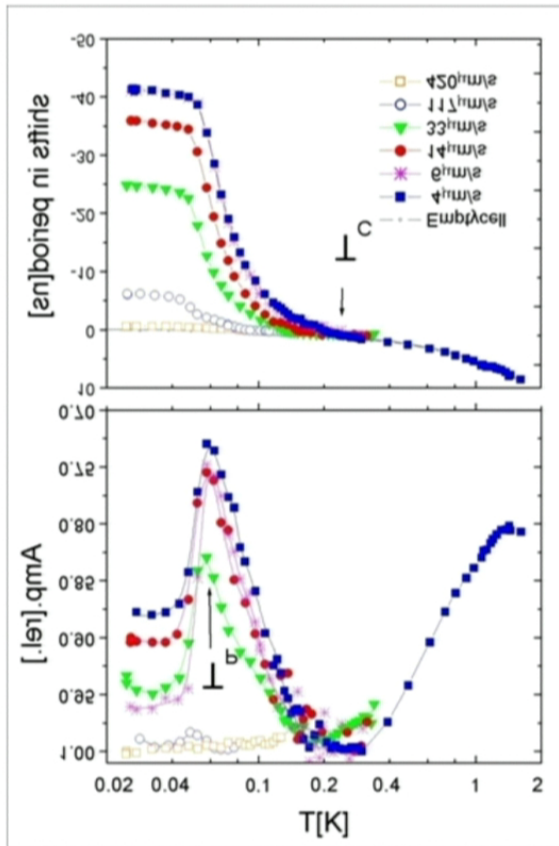
E. Kim & M.H.W. Chan, Science 305, 1941 (2004)





# Bulk solid helium: decoupling and dissipation

E. Kim & M.H.W. Chan, Science 305, 1941 (2004)



**blocking path** eliminates effect  
i.e. long range coherent flow?

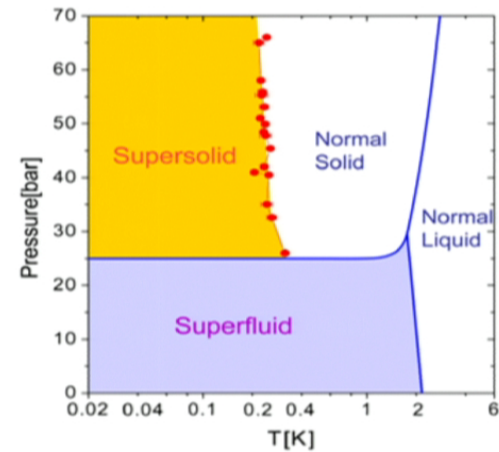
## Torsional oscillator measurements

MHW Chan group (Penn State)

and at least 10 other places:

-  Cornell (Reppy, Davis)
-  Keio University (Shirahama)
-  ISSP (Kubota)
-  Rutgers (Kojima)
-  KAIST & RIKEN (Kim/Kono)
-  Royal Holloway (Cowan/Saunders)
-  Manchester (Golov)
-  ENS (Balibar/Chan)

“supersolid phase diagram”



NCRI: ~0.015% to ~16%  
(in different cells)

$T_C$  : ~ same in different cells  
~ independent of pressure



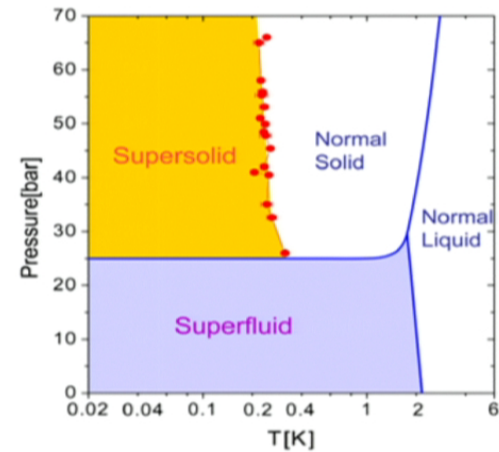
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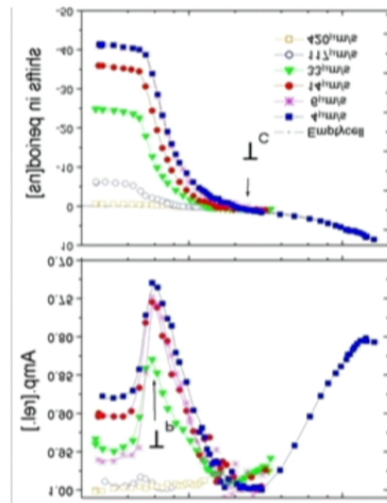
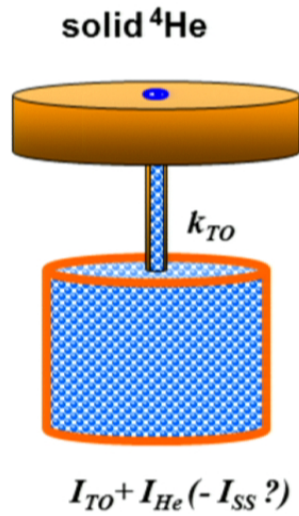


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# Torsional oscillator as a probe of solid helium

E. Kim & M.H.W. Chan, Science 305, 1941 (2004)

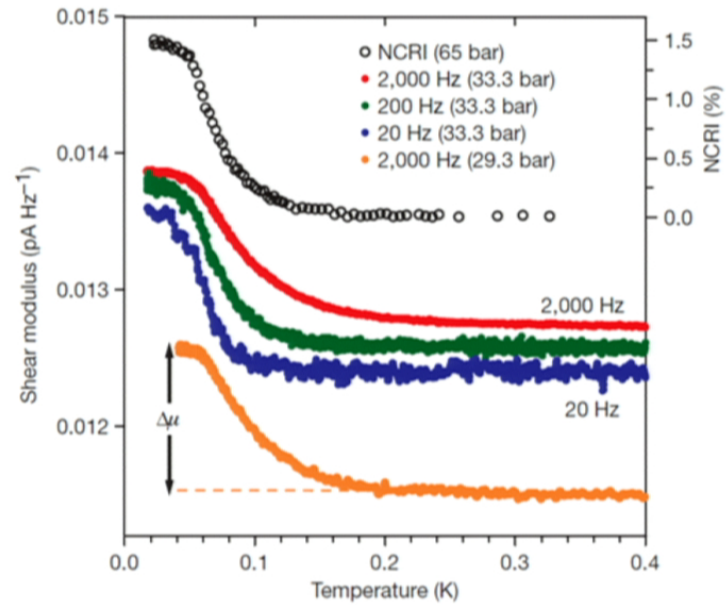


frequency increase  
(decoupling - "NCRI" ~ 1% ?)

amplitude dependence  
(critical velocity ~ 10 μm/s ?)

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k_{TO}}{I_{TO} + I_{He} - I_{SS}}}$$

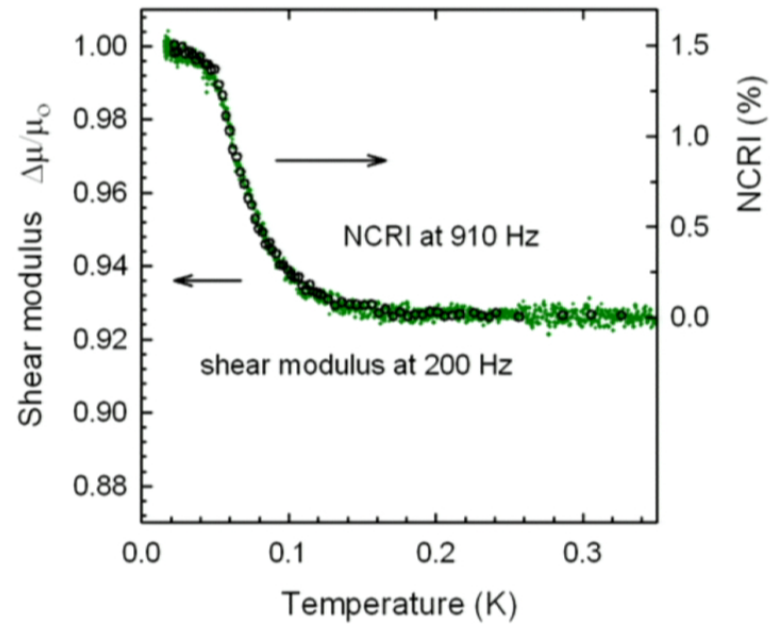
## Modulus change vs. NCRI



Torsional oscillator  
Kim and Chan (2004)

Shear modulus  
Day and Beamish (2007)

## Modulus change vs. NCRI



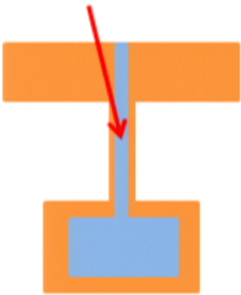
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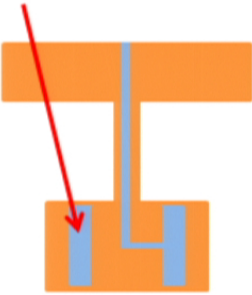


# Elastic effects in torsional oscillators

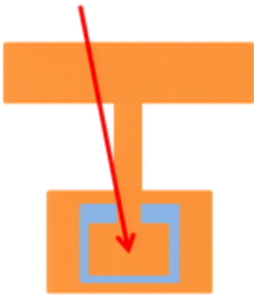
Torsion rod hole



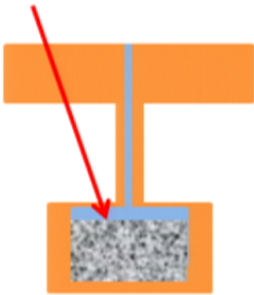
Elastic overshoot



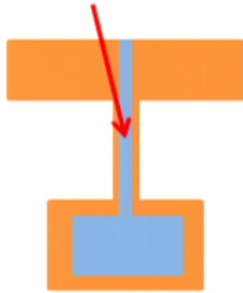
Floppy mass, "glue"



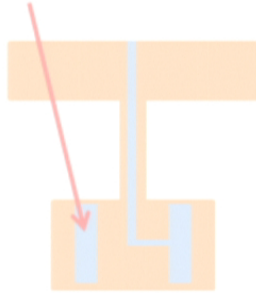
Thin "lid" and/or gap



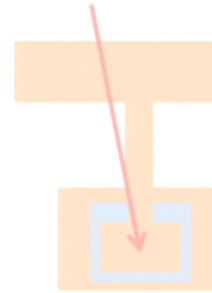
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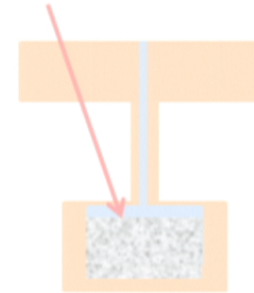
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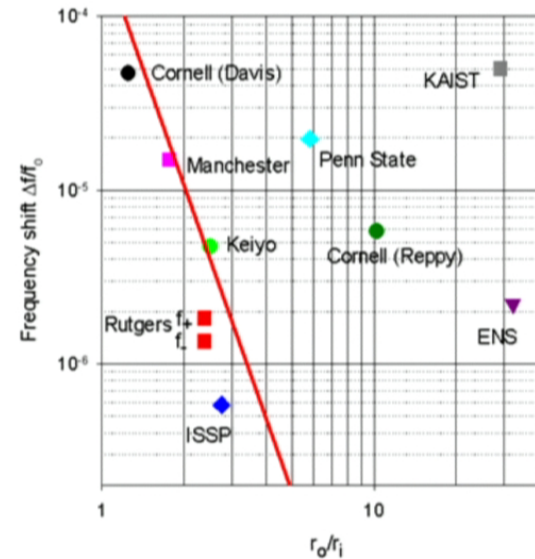
Thin "lid" and/or gap



$$\frac{\Delta f_{\text{elastic}}}{f_0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_{\text{He}}}{\mu_{\text{rod}}} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{r_o}{r_i}\right)^4 - 1}$$

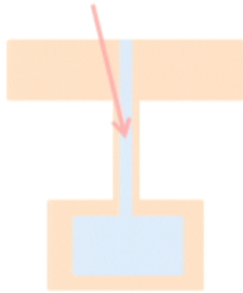
$$\frac{\mu_{\text{He}}}{\mu_{\text{BeCu}}} \approx 5 \times 10^{-4} \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta f_{\text{elastic}}}{f_0} \approx 10^{-10} - 5 \times 10^{-4}$$

i.e. small (but so are the measured changes)

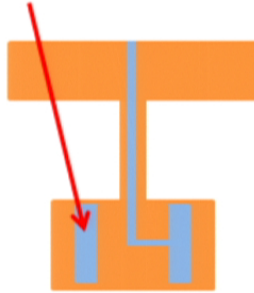


J. R. Beamish, A. D. Fefferman, A. Haziot, X. Rojas, and S. Balibar  
 PHYSICAL REVIEW B 85, 180501(R) (2012)

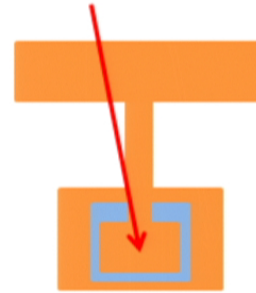
Torsion rod hole



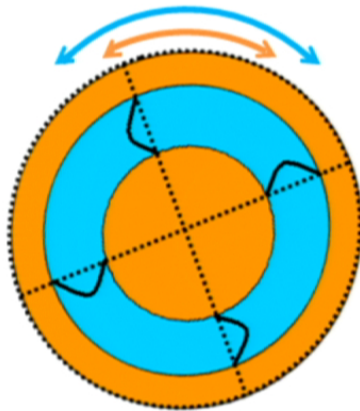
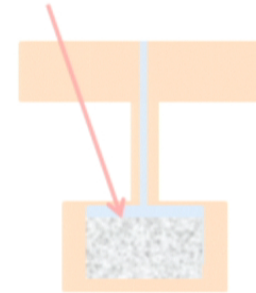
Elastic overshoot



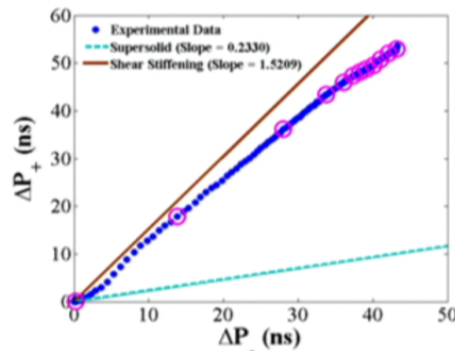
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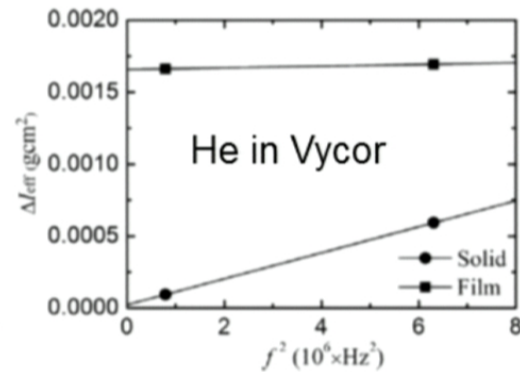
Thin "lid" and/or gap



proportional to  $\omega^2$   
 $\Rightarrow$  can distinguish  
 from NCRI

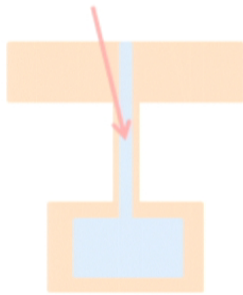


Xiao Mi, Erich J. Mueller, and John D. Reppy  
 Journal of Physics: Conference Series **400** (2012) 012047

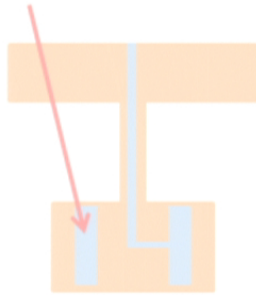


Xiao Mi and John D. Reppy  
 PRL **108**, 225305 (2012)

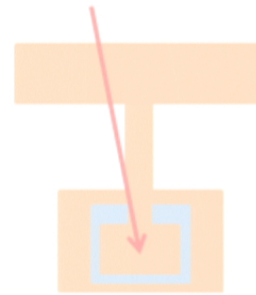
Torsion rod hole



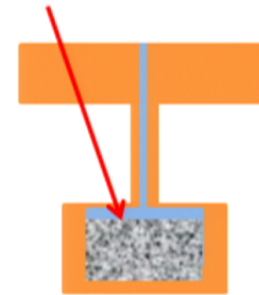
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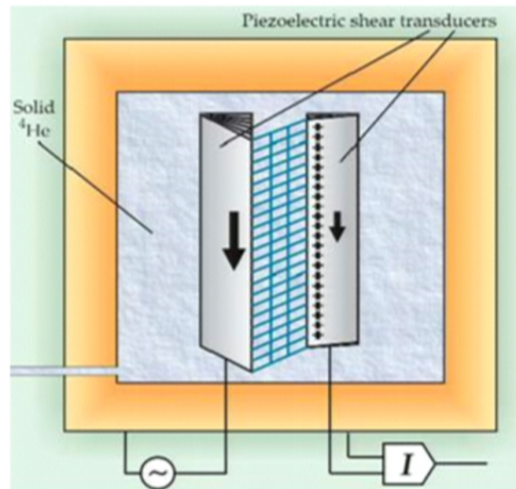


Humphrey J. Maris

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 86, 020502(R) (2012)



## Measuring shear modulus and dissipation



strain  $\varepsilon \sim$  drive voltage  $V$

stress  $\sigma \sim$  charge  $q \sim i/f$

$$\mu = \sigma/\varepsilon \sim i/fV$$

stress lags strain by angle  $\phi$

$$1/Q = \phi$$

frequencies: 0.2 Hz to 20 kHz

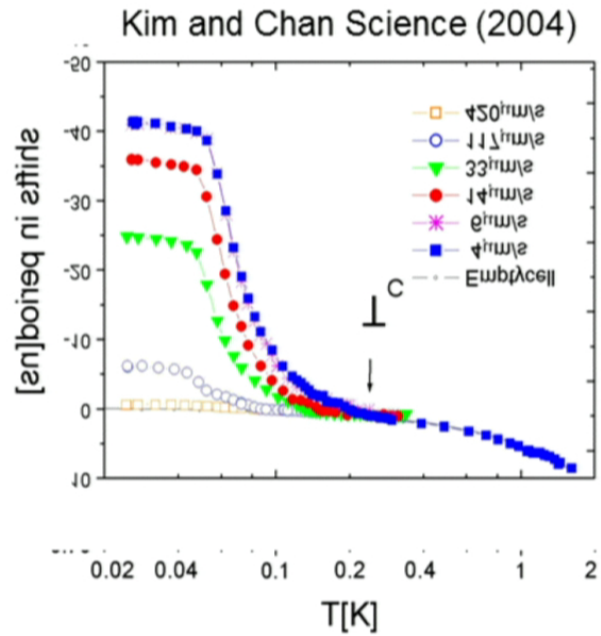
strain:  $10^{-10}$  -  $10^{-3}$

stress: 0.001 -  $10^4$  Pa

**apply shear deformation  $\varepsilon$**

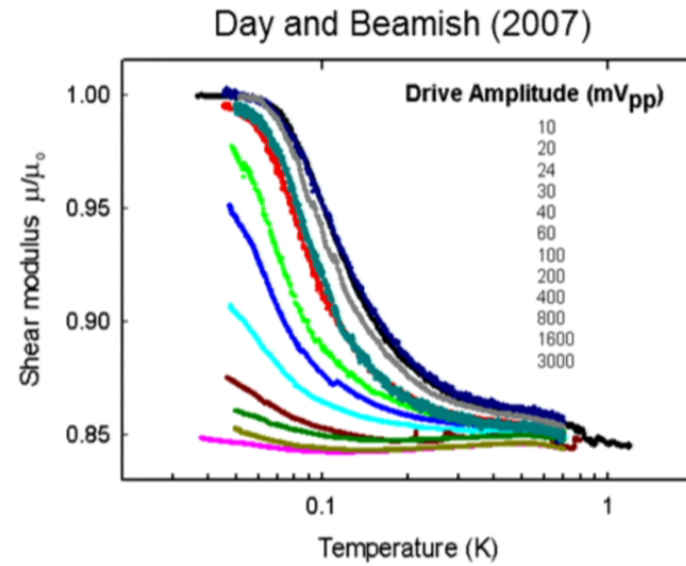
**measure stress  $\sigma$   
in narrow gap  $D$**

# Amplitude dependence



critical velocity

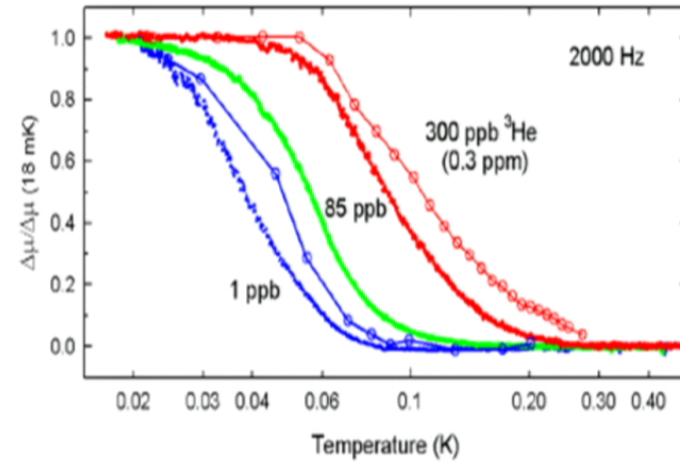
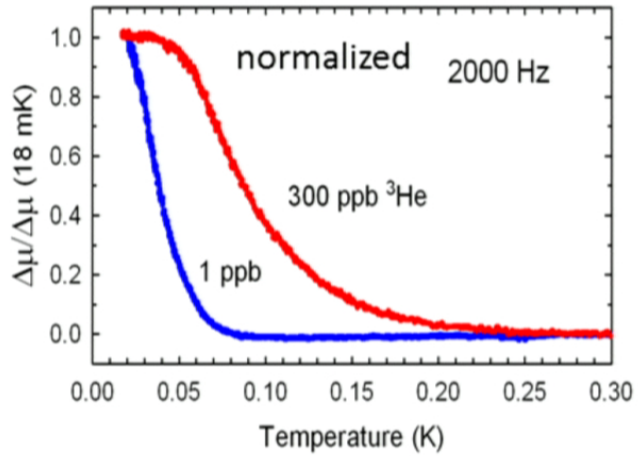
$$v_c \sim 10 \mu\text{m/s}$$



critical strain/stress

$$\epsilon_c \sim 4 \times 10^{-8} \quad \sigma_c \sim 1 \text{ Pa}$$

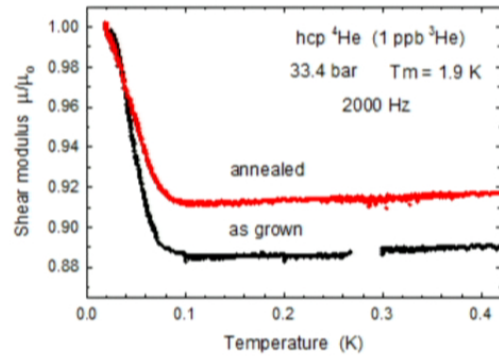
## Effect of $^3\text{He}$ impurities on $\mu$



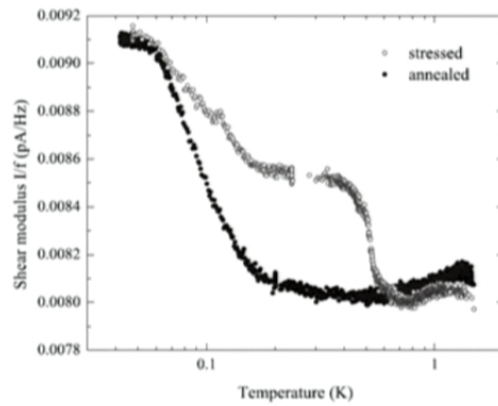
**Extremely sensitive to minute amounts (ppb) of  $^3\text{He}$**

# Effects of annealing and stressing

## annealing

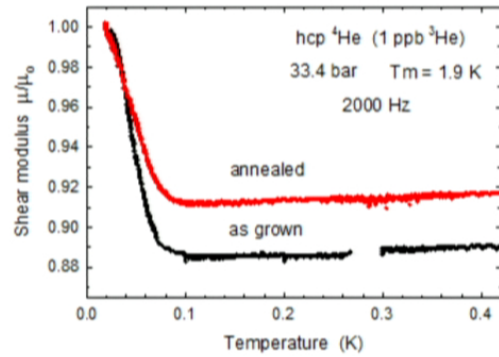


## stressing

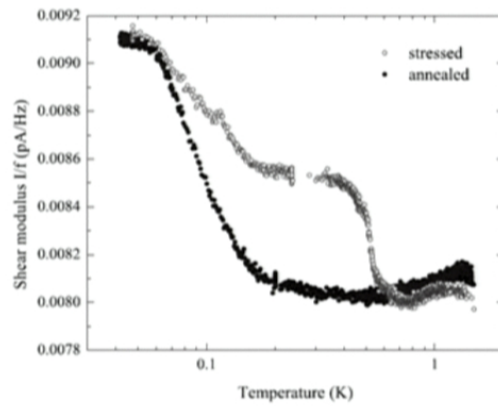


# Effects of annealing and stressing

## annealing



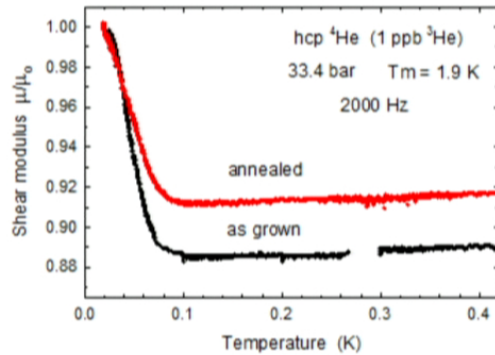
## stressing



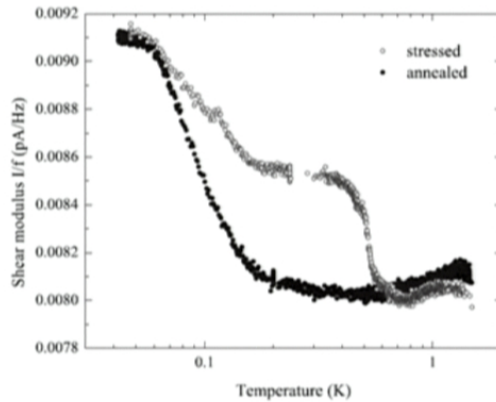


# Effects of annealing and stressing

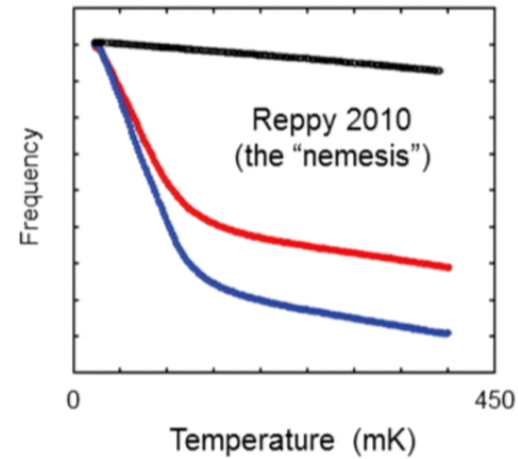
annealing



stressing



plastic deformation  
in a torsional oscillator



**intrinsic** modulus  
(and TO frequency) at **low T**

⇒ crystals **soften** at **high** temperature  
(instead of stiffening or decoupling at low T)

## Origin of modulus changes?

**Large** changes (softening) of shear modulus (up to 86%)

**Variation** in size of modulus changes (~ 5% to 86%)

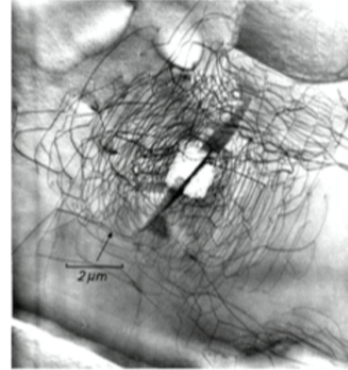
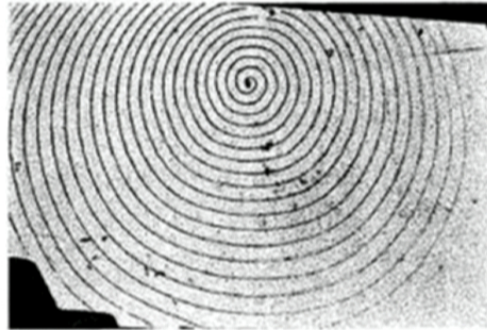
Extremely **sensitive to impurities** ( $^3\text{He}$  at < ppm level)

Shear modulus at high T depends on **annealing** and **plastic deformation**

⇒ **defects (dislocations) must be involved**

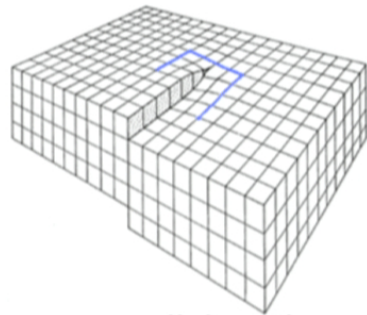
## Dislocation basics

- almost all solids have dislocations (from growth or deformation)

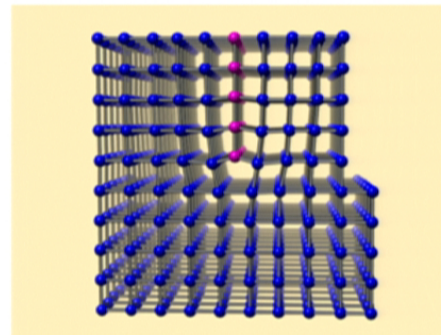


## Dislocation basics

- almost all solids have dislocations (from growth or deformation)
- dislocations “glide” under shear stress (larger than the “Peierls stress”)



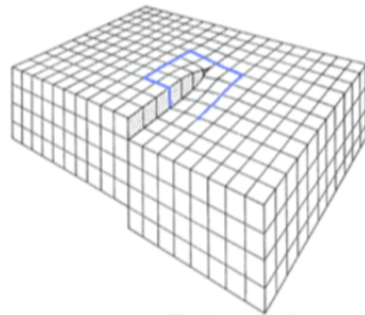
screw dislocations  
(crystal growth)



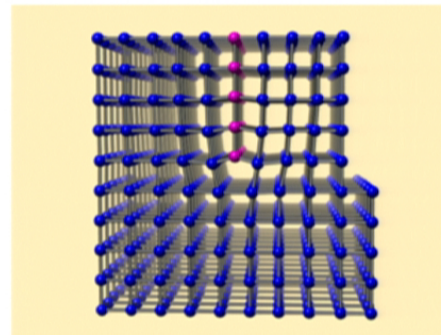
edge dislocations  
glide in basal plane

## Dislocation basics

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screw dislocations  
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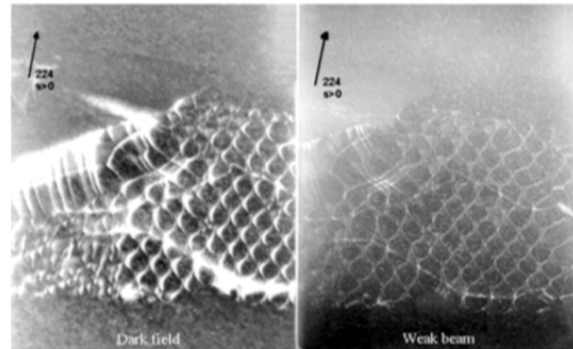


edge dislocations  
glide in basal plane

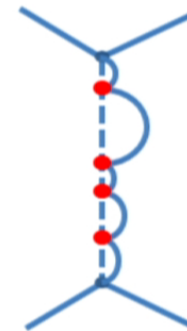


## Dislocation basics

- almost all solids have dislocations (from growth or deformation)
- dislocations “glide” under shear stress (larger than the “Peierls stress”)
- they are strongly pinned where they intersect and weakly pinned by impurities



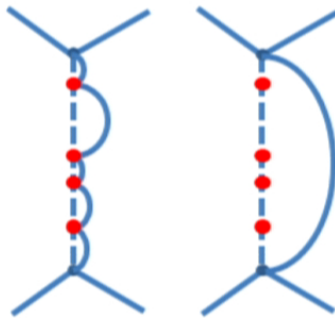
Frank network in annealed metals



$^3\text{He}$  binding  $\sim 0.3 - 0.7$  K

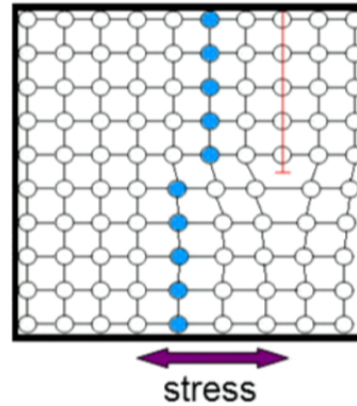
## Dislocation basics

- almost all solids have dislocations (from growth or deformation)
- dislocations “glide” under shear stress (larger than the “Peierls stress”)
- they are strongly pinned where they intersect and weakly pinned by impurities
- stress tears them away from immobile impurities



## Effect of dislocations on shear modulus

- dislocations move in response to shear stress
- moving a dislocation through the crystal deforms it
- the added strain reduces  $\mu$

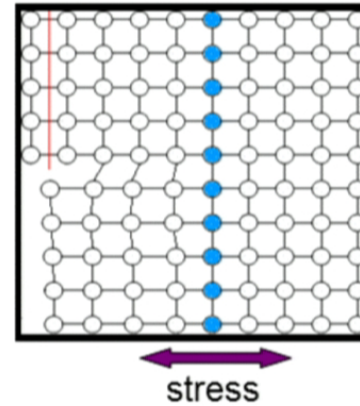


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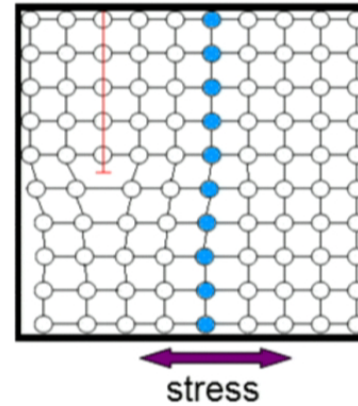


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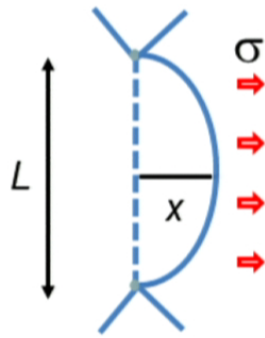


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dislocations move in response to shear stress

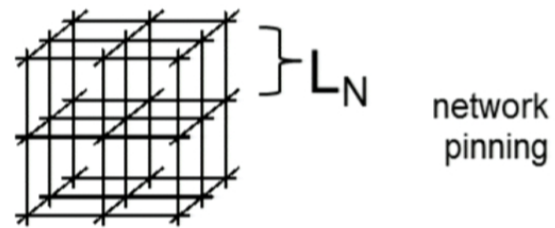
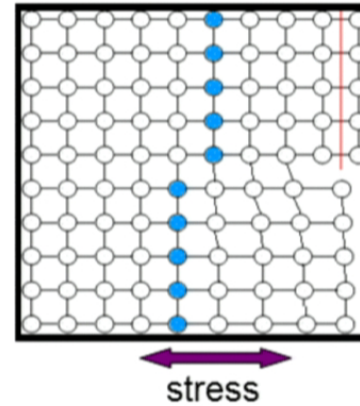
moving a dislocation through the crystal deforms it

the added strain reduces  $\mu$



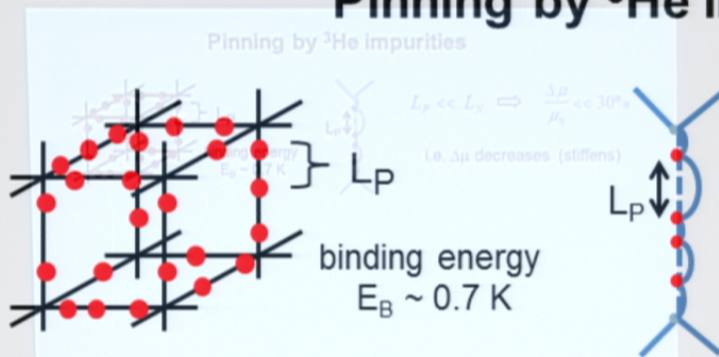
$$x \propto \sigma L^2 \Rightarrow \varepsilon_d \propto x \Lambda \propto \sigma \Lambda L^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta \mu}{\mu_0} \approx 0.5 R \Lambda L^2$$



$$\Lambda L^2 = 3 \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta \mu}{\mu_0} \approx 30\%$$

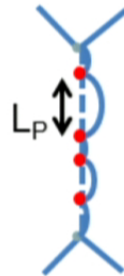
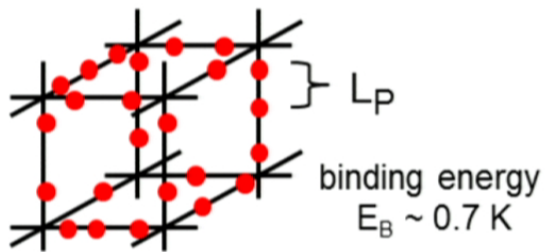
## Pinning by $^3\text{He}$ impurities



$$L_P \ll L_N \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_0} \ll 30\%$$

i.e.  $\Delta\mu$  decreases (stiffens)

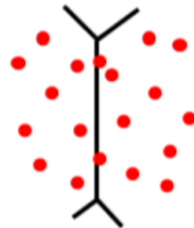
## Pinning by $^3\text{He}$ impurities



$$L_P \ll L_N \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_0} \ll 30\%$$

i.e.  $\Delta\mu$  decreases (stiffens)

T dependence:



decreasing temperature



**stiff at low T**

## Dislocations and the shear modulus of polycrystals

A mobile dislocation network reduces (softens) shear modulus  $\mu$   
(by  $\sim 10\%$  in polycrystals)

$^3\text{He}$  impurities bind to dislocations ( $E_B \sim 0.3 - 0.7 \text{ K}$ ) and pin them  
 $\Rightarrow$  intrinsic  $\mu$ : “stiff” at low temperature

Impurities thermally unbind from dislocations, letting them move  
 $\Rightarrow$   $\mu$  decreases: “soft” at high temperatures

Large stresses unpin dislocations (“breakaway”)  
 $\Rightarrow$   $\mu$  decreases: “soft” at high amplitude

How to get precise information on dislocations in helium?

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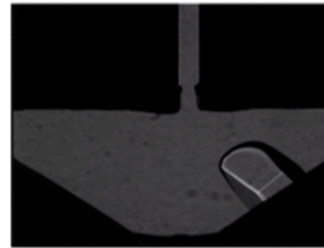
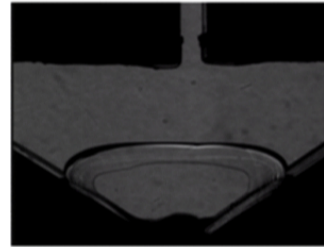
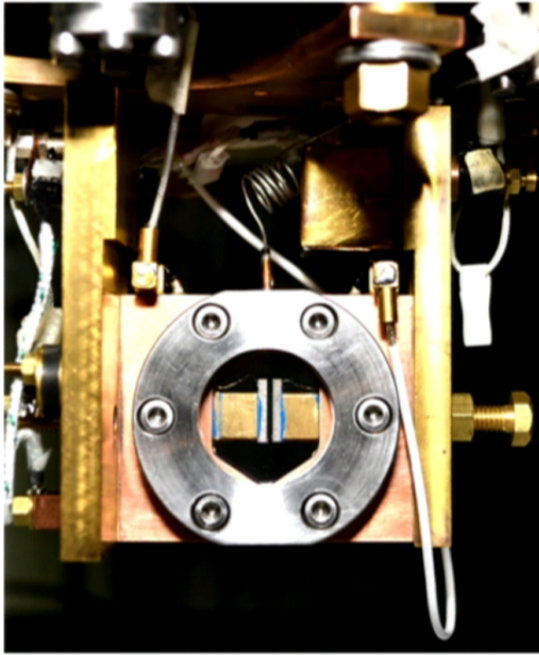
Large stresses unpin dislocations (“breakaway”)  
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How to get precise information on dislocations in helium?

**“Material science”: control/measure sample quality**

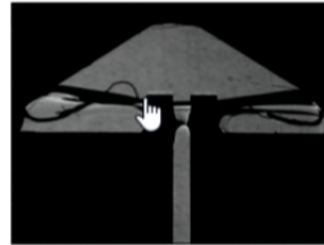
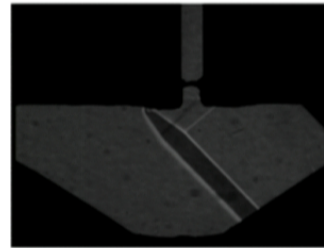
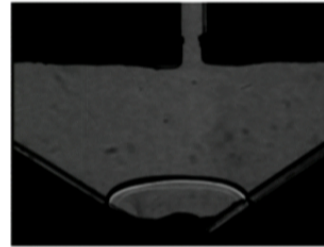
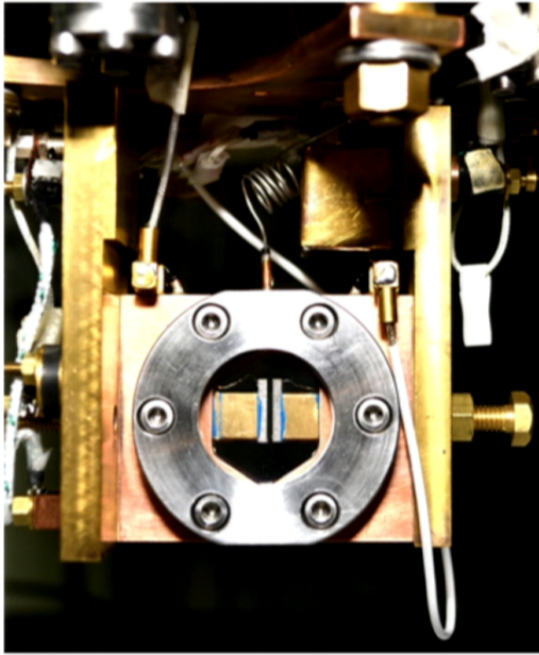


## Growth of **single crystals** from superfluid



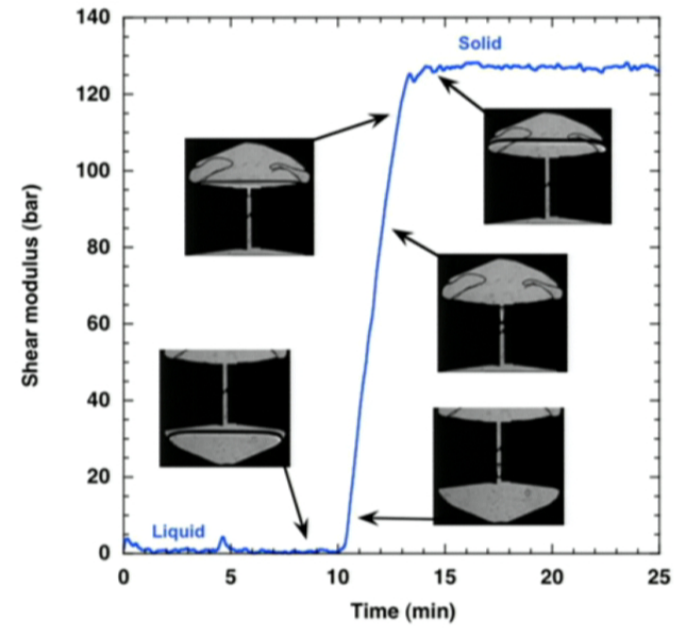
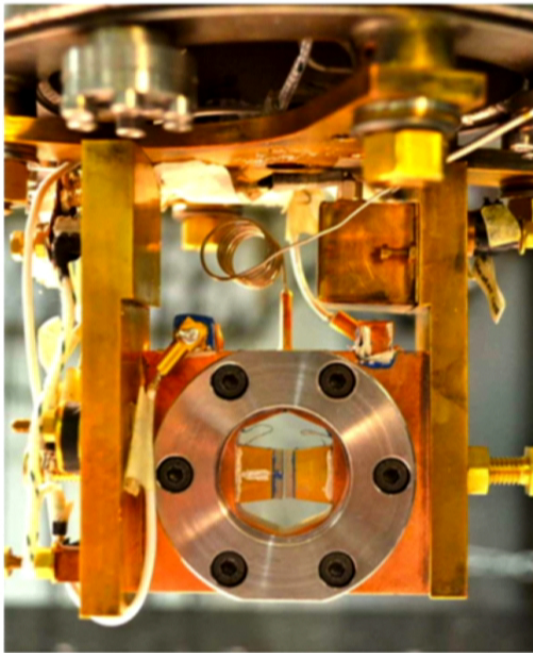
single crystal growth at 20 mK

## Growth of **single crystals** from superfluid



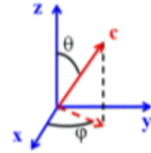
single crystal growth at 20 mK

## Growth of **single crystals** from superfluid



## Anisotropy in single crystals: which $C_{ij}$ changes?

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & c_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_{12} & c_{11} & c_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_{13} & c_{13} & c_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{66} \end{pmatrix}$$



$$C' = M_z(-\phi)M_y(-\theta)CM_y^T(-\theta)M_z^T(-\phi)$$

$$\mu = c'_{44} = \frac{1}{4}(c_{11} - 2c_{13} + c_{33})\sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \phi + c_{44}(\cos^2 \theta \cos^2 \phi + \cos^2 2\theta \sin^2 \phi) + c_{66} \cos^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta$$

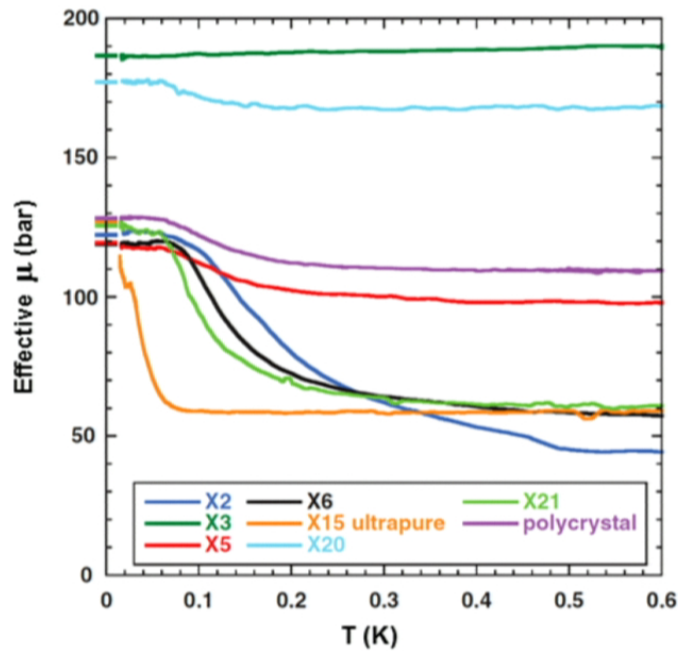
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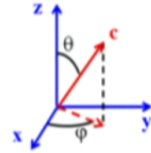
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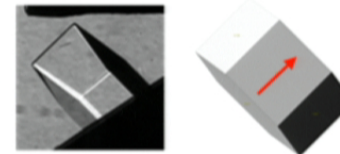
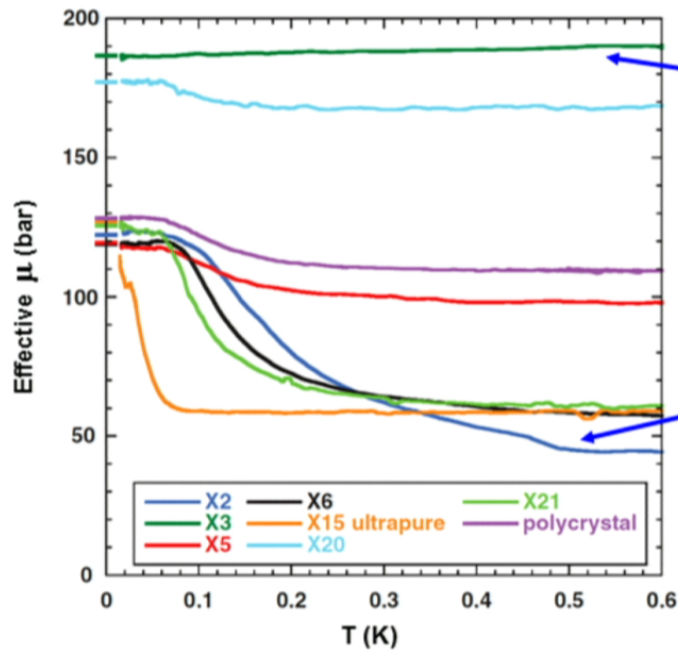
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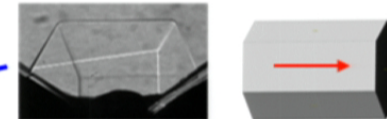
$$C' = M_z(-\phi)M_y(-\theta)CM_y^T(-\theta)M_z^T(-\phi)$$

$$\mu = c'_{44} = \frac{1}{4}(c_{11} - 2c_{13} + c_{33})\sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \phi + c_{44}(\cos^2 \theta \cos^2 \phi + \cos^2 2\theta \sin^2 \phi) + c_{66} \cos^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta$$



$$\theta = 45^\circ \text{ and } \phi = 85^\circ$$

$$0.25(c_{11} - 2c_{13} + c_{33}) + 0.004c_{44} + 0.004c_{66}$$

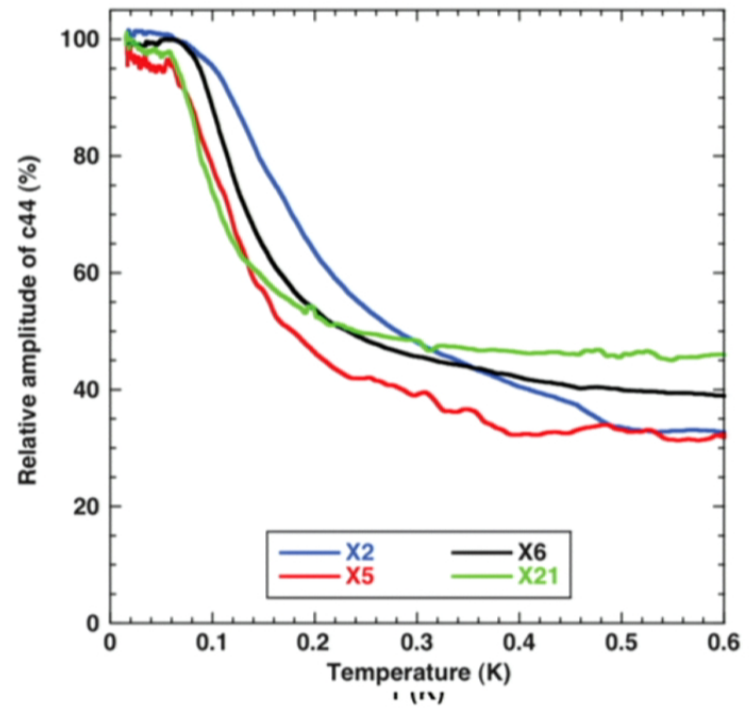


$$\theta = 89.5^\circ \text{ and } \phi = 85^\circ$$

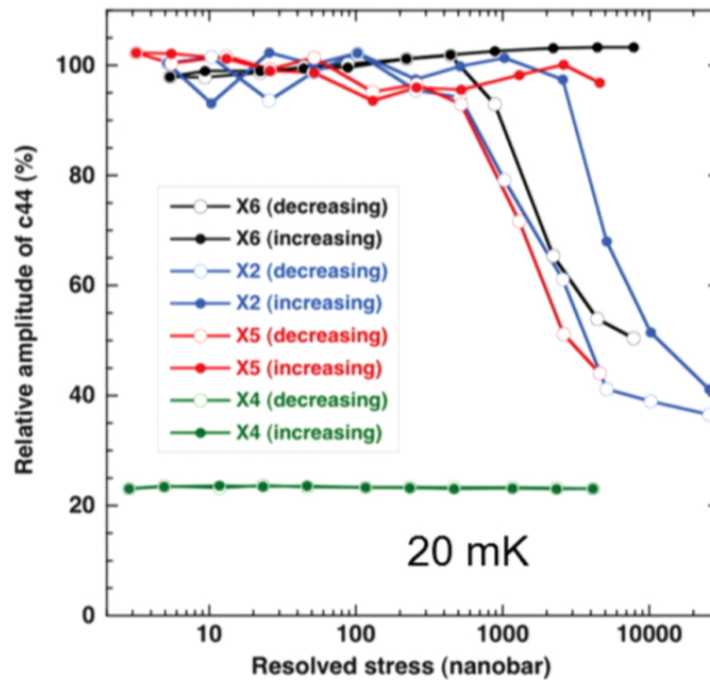
$$\mu = 0.0001(c_{11} - 2c_{13} + c_{33}) + 0.933c_{44} + 0.067c_{66}$$



## Variation of $C_{44}$ in $^4\text{He}$ single crystals



## What if there is no $^3\text{He}$ to pin the dislocations?

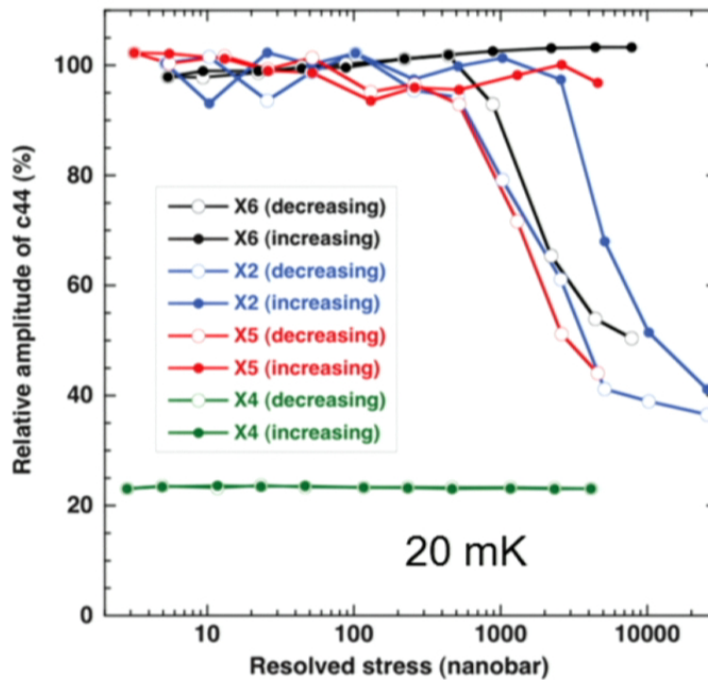


$^3\text{He}$  breakaway stress  $\sim \mu\text{bar}$

no  $^3\text{He}$   $\Rightarrow$  soft even at nanobar stresses

zero Peierls stress for dislocation (or kink) motion?

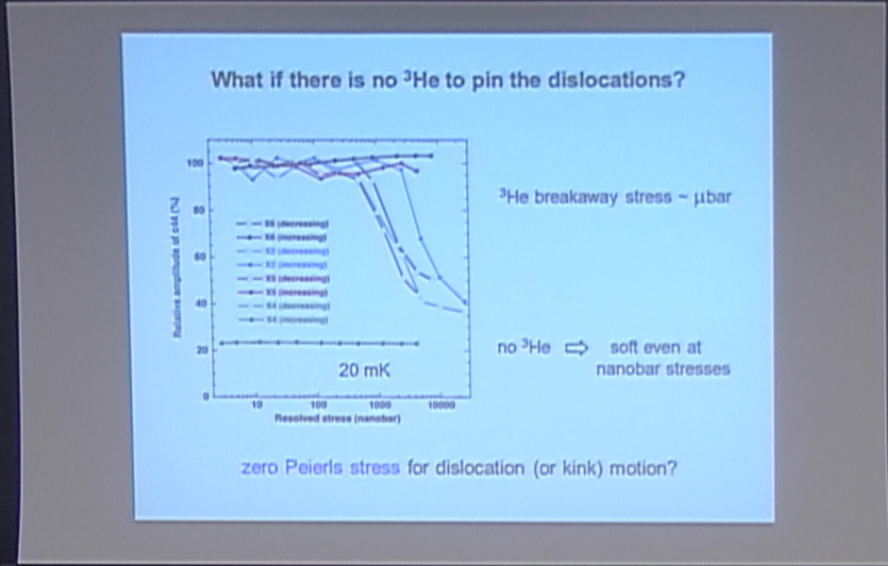
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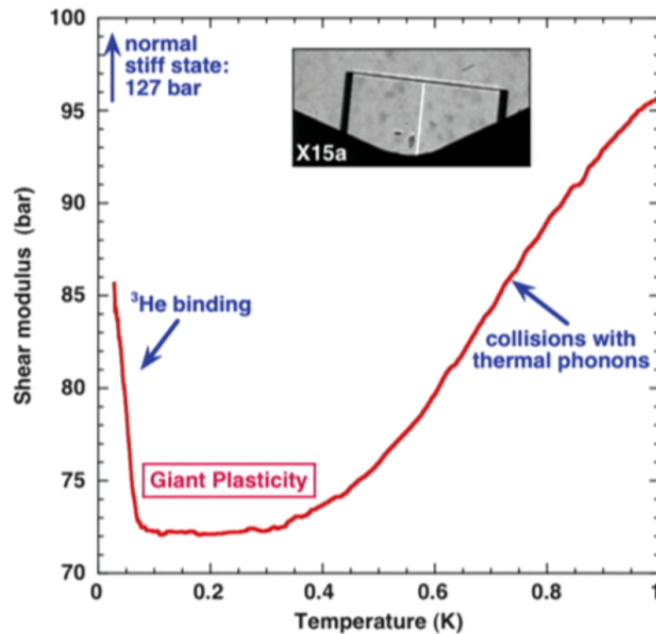
$^3\text{He}$  breakaway stress  $\sim \mu\text{bar}$

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## Giant Plasticity: the dislocation network in helium

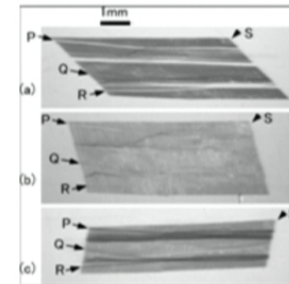


low frequency limit:

$$\frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_{el}} = \frac{\mu_{el} - \mu}{\mu_{el}} = \frac{R\Sigma\Lambda L^2}{1 + R\Sigma\Lambda L^2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_0} \approx 70\% \Rightarrow \Lambda L^2 > 50$$

⇒ dislocations aligned in some way which avoids intersections (subboundaries?)



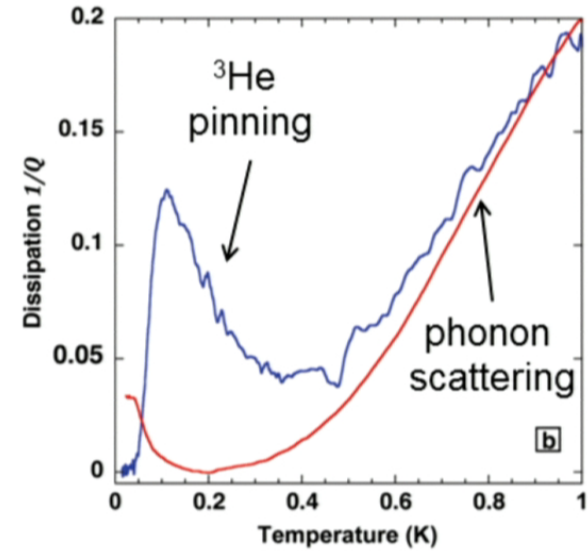
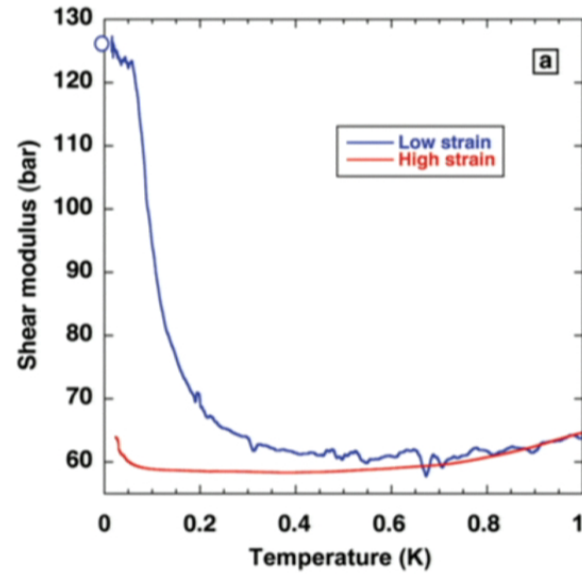
Can we measure dislocation density  $\Lambda$  and length  $L_N$  separately?



## Dislocation damping, densities and lengths

$$\frac{\mu_{el}}{\mu} = \frac{\epsilon_{el} + \epsilon_{dis}}{\epsilon_{el}} = 1 + R\Sigma\Lambda L^2 \frac{1 - i\omega\tau}{1 + (\omega\tau)^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{Q} = \frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_{el}}\omega\tau = \frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_{el}}\omega \frac{BL^2}{\pi^2 C}$$

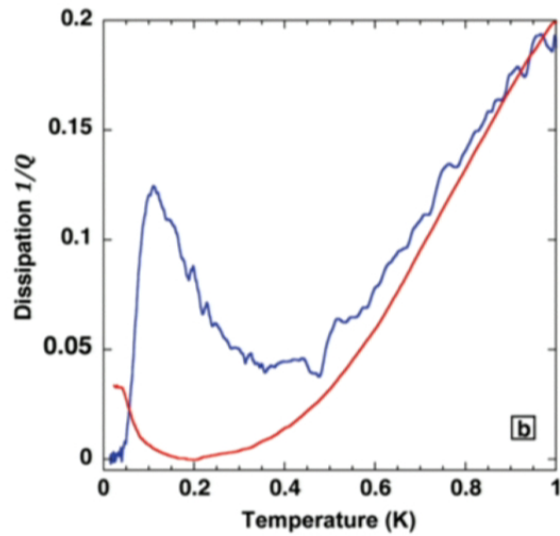


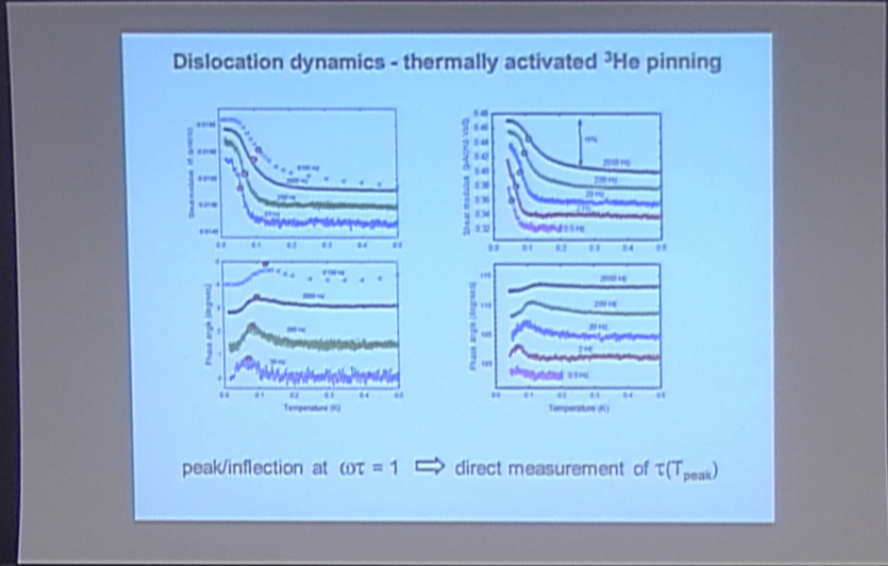


## Phonon damping, dislocation densities and lengths

$$\frac{1}{Q} = \frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_{el}} \omega\tau = \frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu_{el}} \omega \frac{BL^2}{\pi^2 C}$$

phonon "fluttering"  $\Rightarrow B = \frac{14.4k_B^3}{\pi^2\hbar^2c^3} T^3$

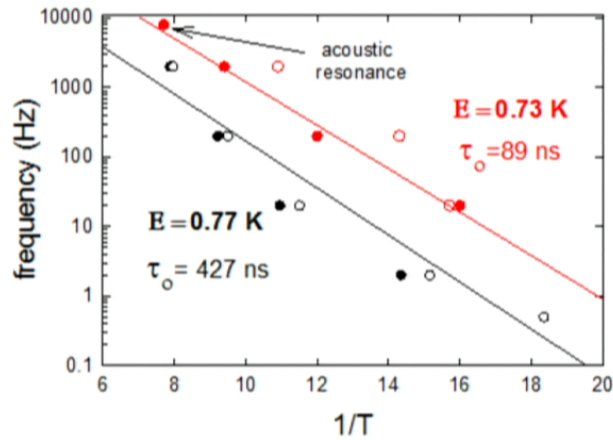




A lecturer in a dark suit is standing on the right side of the stage, facing the audience and the projection screen. He is holding a small object, possibly a remote or a pointer, in his right hand.

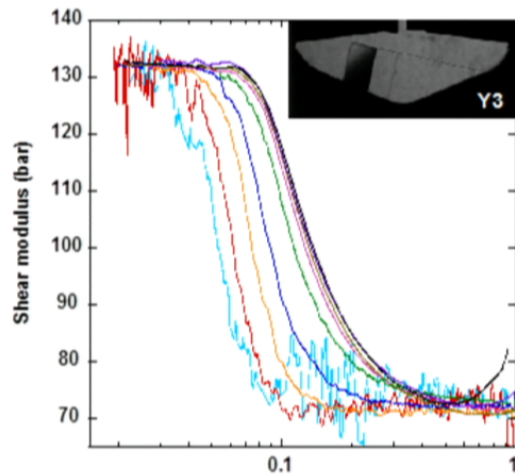


## Thermal activation energy for $^3\text{He}$ binding

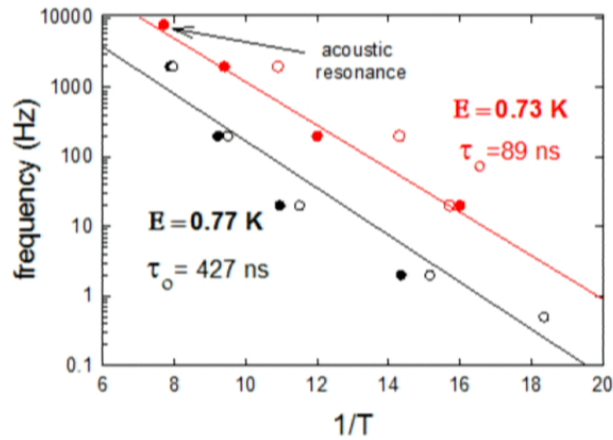


$$\omega\tau = (2\pi f) \left( \tau_0 e^{\frac{E}{T}} \right) = 1$$

activation energy  $E \sim 0.7 \text{ K}$

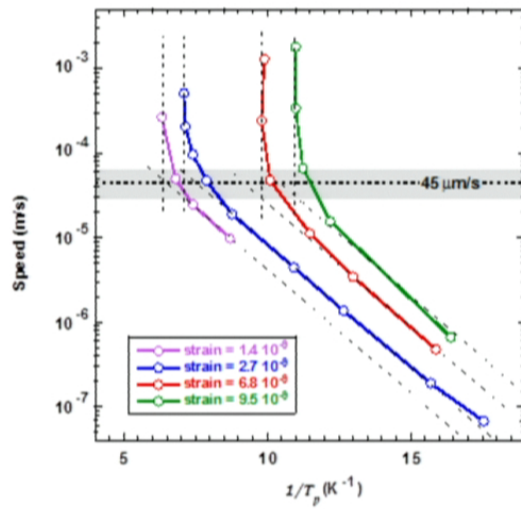


# Thermal activation energy for $^3\text{He}$ binding

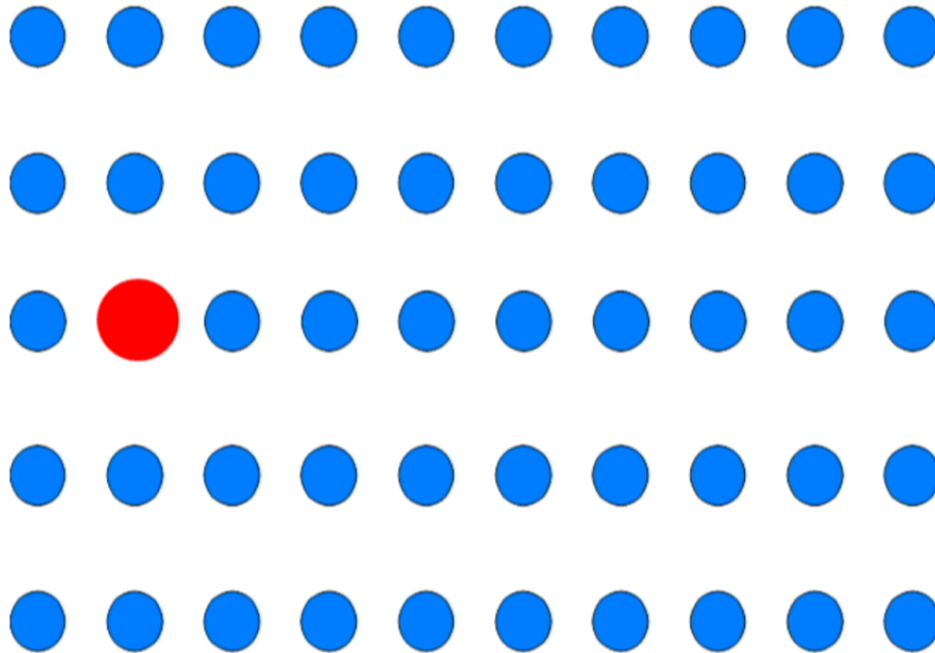


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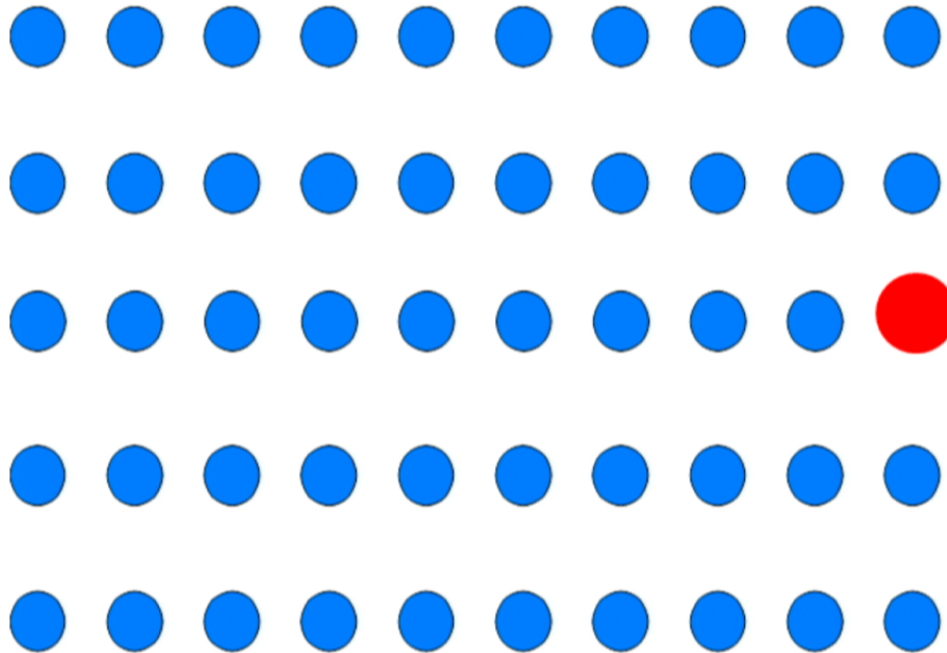
activation energy  $E \sim 0.7 \text{ K}$



## Tunneling of $^3\text{He}$ impurities in $^4\text{He}$

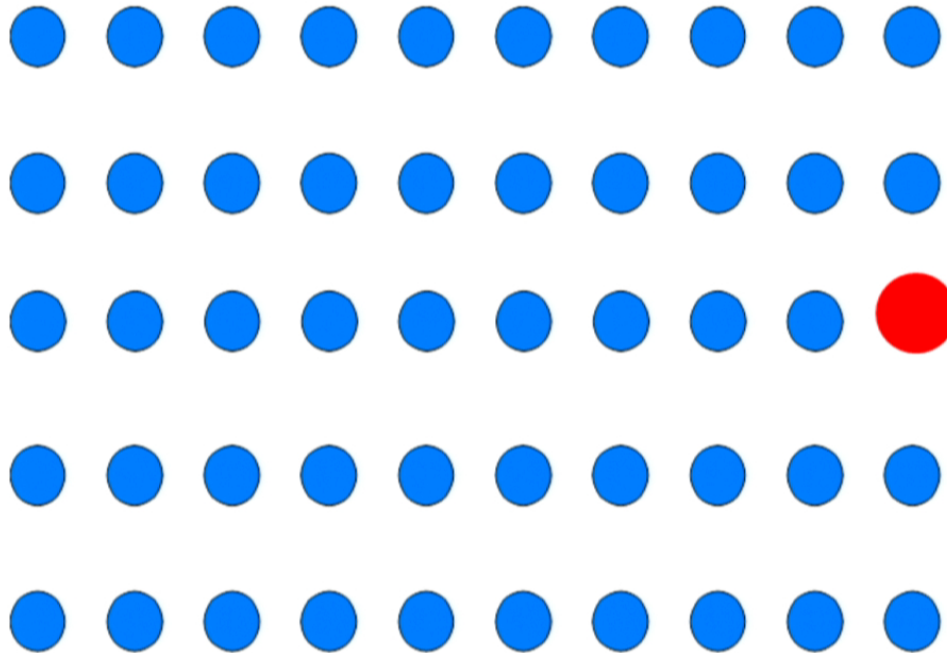


## Tunneling of $^3\text{He}$ impurities in $^4\text{He}$





## Tunneling of $^3\text{He}$ impurities in $^4\text{He}$



ballistic propagation of narrow band “**impuritons**”

$$J_{34} \sim 10^{-4} \text{ K} \sim \text{MHz} \quad \Rightarrow \quad V \sim \text{mm/s}$$

$$^3\text{He}\text{-}^3\text{He} \text{ scattering} \quad \Rightarrow \quad D_3 \sim 1/x_3$$

## Summary, current work, questions

The relevant dislocations glide in the basal plane of hcp  $^4\text{He}$  (only  $C_{44}$  changes)

At low T they move without dissipation (if there is no  $^3\text{He}$  to pin them)

They are mobile at extremely low stresses ( $10^{-4}$  Pa) and strains ( $10^{-10}$ )  
- zero Peierls barrier?

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Dislocations have a distribution of lengths, are aligned to minimize intersections

They can move over large distances (microns) at macroscopic speeds (cm/s)

$^3\text{He}$  impurities damp the dislocations at low speeds, pin them at high speeds

Can we grow a perfect crystal (no impurities, no dislocations)?

Are dislocations mobile in solid  $^3\text{He}$ ?

Do quantum effects lead to unusual “quantum plasticity” in solid helium?  
delocalized kinks? “superclimb”?? ductile at  $T=0$ ?

Thank you