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Competition between superconductivity and nematic order: anisotropy of superconducting coherence length

Eun-Gook Moon^{1,2} and Subir Sachdev¹

¹*Department of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge MA 02138*

²*Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106*

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Abstract

We study the interplay between nematic order and superconductivity, motivated by a recent experiment on FeSe observing strongly distorted vortex shapes (Song *et al.*, Science **332**, 1410 (2011)). We show that the nematic order strongly enhances the anisotropy in the superconducting coherence length, beyond that expected from considerations of the Ginzburg-Landau theory. We obtain universal functions describing the coupling between the nematic order and superconductivity, and discuss connections of our results to the experiments.

I. INTRODUCTION

The presence of multiple order parameters is one of the most interesting features of strongly correlated systems. For example, a number of order parameters appear in both the copper and iron based high temperature superconductors, including superconductivity and spin density wave order (SDW). Among them, the electronic nematic order parameter, measuring spontaneous symmetry breaking of lattice rotation symmetry via electron correlations, has been of particular interest in a series of remarkable experiments.²⁻⁶ In the cuprates, nematic order is signaled by the anisotropy of resistivity and bond ordered density²⁻⁴. In the pnictides, orthorhombic structure distortion is ubiquitous, and is confirmed by various tools such as neutron scattering⁷, STM⁸, transport⁹⁻¹¹, and ARPES¹². A natural question associated with nematic ordering is its interaction with other order parameters. In superconducting materials, we are interested in whether the SC and nematic orders compete or attract. In the pnictides, and especially in $\text{Ba}_1[\text{Fe}_{2-x}\text{Co}_x]\text{As}_2$ materials, it was shown that the nematic order parameter and SC compete with each other, by observing the suppression of structural anisotropy along the onset of SC, the so-called “back-bending”^{5,6,13} of the phase boundary.

Recently, Song *et al.*¹ reported another interesting experiment in the FeSe pnictides material showing striking interplay between nematic order and SC. By observing scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) data of the zero bias resonance peak of the electronic density of states, Song *et al.* found that shape of vortex cores was strongly distorted. Even though the material has a orthorhombic structure, its structural anisotropy is much smaller than the anisotropy of vortices: the reported structural anisotropy is 0.5 percent of the lattice constants, but the vortex shape anisotropy is order unity. Song *et al.* suggested other candidates, such as orbital ordering, to explain the large vortex anisotropy. Also, the experiments showed that the anisotropy is suppressed in strongly SC regions by observing essentially isotropic gap functions far from vortices. Thus, it is clear that nematic order and SC compete each other. Near the vortex core, SC order parameter is suppressed, so nematic order is enhanced distorting vortex shapes significantly.

This paper will present a general theory of competition between the SC and nematic orders, as concomitant instabilities of an underlying Fermi liquid. We will not address microscopic questions, such as the role of orbital physics in nematic ordering¹⁴, but focus

on general results on the interplay between the two orders that follow from the symmetries of the order parameter and the presence of a Fermi surface. We will show that the Fermi surface induces strong competition, which is especially important in the vortex core, and which can greatly enhance the anisotropy in the vortex shape. Non-analyticities associated with the Fermi surface will be shown to induce a large coupling between the spatial gradients of the SC order and the nematic order parameter. The influence of such a coupling on the vortex shape was studied recently¹⁵ in the context of a Ginzburg-Landau theory, and our results here offer a rationale for its enhancement.

Before introducing electrons and their Fermi surface, let us consider a simpler version of competing order parameter theory, so-called Ginzburg-Landau theory.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{F} = & \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 + \frac{r}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{u}{24}\phi^4 \\
& + |\partial\psi|^2 + s|\psi|^2 + \frac{t}{4}(|\psi|^2)^2 \\
& + \lambda|\psi|^2\phi^2 + g_{GL}\phi\psi^*(-\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2)\psi \\
& + \dots
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

The first and second lines are for the nematic and superconducting order parameters. The third line describes the coupling between the two order parameters. The coupling constant λ characterizes how the two order parameters interact with each other : positive (negative) sign means competition (attraction). One of the easiest ways to see the interplay is to observe the shift of the nematic order quantum critical point (QCP) shift due to the presence of superconductivity:

$$s_c(|\Delta|) = s_c(0) - \lambda|\Delta|^2. \tag{2}$$

Here, it is clear that the sign of λ determines characteristics of interplay physics. In the presence of the nematic ordering, the SC coherence length becomes anisotropic between the x and y directions

$$\xi_x = |s|^{-1/2}(1 - g_{GL}\phi/2) \quad \xi_y = |s|^{-1/2}(1 + g_{GL}\phi/2) \tag{3}$$

So the g_{GL} term describes the anisotropy of the SC coherence lengths, and its functional behavior is linear. Thus, a small nematic order parameter implies small difference of co-

herence lengths in the GL theory. Thus in this theory the structural orthorhombicity and nematic ordering cannot explain the strongly distorted vortex shape observed by Song *et al.*

We will discuss here the modifications of the above GL theory due to the presence of electrons and a Fermi surface. We will show below that the theory with electrons determines sign of the phenomenological constant λ , which turns out to describe competition between the two order parameters. Also, we show that the coupling g_{GL} corresponding to anisotropic coherence length is significantly enhanced by the Fermi surface. Quite generally, such effects can be described by the one-particle irreducible vertex function between two SC and one nematic order,

$$\Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi} = \mathcal{F}_{\phi\psi^*\psi} \left(\frac{p}{\Delta} \right) \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2}, \quad (4)$$

rather than the g_{GL} term in the GL theory. In the present terms, the GL theory clearly has

$$\mathcal{F}_{\phi\psi^*\psi}^{GL} \sim p^2 \quad , \quad \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}^{GL} \sim p_x^2 - p_y^2, \quad (5)$$

as follows directly from Eq. (1). Our main result of this paper is that the vertex function of the theory with electrons has a very different behavior

$$\mathcal{F}_{\phi\psi^*\psi} \rightarrow const. \quad , \quad \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi} \sim \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2}. \quad (6)$$

in the $p/|\Delta| \rightarrow \infty$ limit, which is relevant the near the vortex core region due to SC suppression. Therefore, anisotropy is much stronger in long wavelength physics once we consider electron degrees of freedom.

The non-analytic term above looks somewhat exotic, but it can be easily understood by extensions of the BCS theory in the presence of multiple order parameters. One way to understand this is to consider pairing susceptibility with infinitesimal SC pairing. Then, pairing susceptibility shows the famous ‘‘BCS log’’

$$\chi_{\text{pairing}} = \langle \psi^\dagger(p)\psi(p) \rangle \sim \log(p^2), \quad (7)$$

$\psi^\dagger(x) = c_\uparrow^\dagger(x)c_\downarrow^\dagger(x)$ is the pairing operator of electrons c_σ . In the presence of nematic order

ϕ , it is clear that there can be a correction to the pairing susceptibility of the form

$$\chi_{\text{pairing}}(\phi) = \langle \psi^\dagger(p)\psi(p) \rangle_\phi \sim \log(p^2 + \phi(p_x^2 - p_y^2)) \quad (8)$$

The vertex function is readily obtained by differentiation with the nematic order parameter,

$$\Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi} \sim \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2}, \quad (9)$$

which is the result above. Below, we will calculate the full functional dependence of the vertex function with two parameters, the momentum and gap magnitudes.

The main implication of the above considerations is that the linear dependence of the SC coherence length on the nematic order obtained in the GL theory is not correct. Even small nematic order parameter can show strong enhancement due to its non-analytic influence. Thus, we argue that such enhanced competition between SC and nematic order in the anisotropic coherence length channel contributes to experimentally observed vortex shape.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In Sec. II, we set up our model Hamiltonian with fermions. We describe how the nematic and the superconducting order parameters couple to fermions and introduce our strategy to study the competition effect. For completeness, we reproduce the quantum critical point shift of the nematic order parameter with fermions under superconductivity¹³ in Sec. III. It is shown that the shift is not significant, in the sense that it is of the same order as predicted by the GL theory. Thus, for the QCP shift only, the fermions do not play an important role, and the GL theory is enough to describe the competition physics. But we show that fermions do play an important role in the anisotropic coherence length of the SC order parameter in Sec. IV. In Sec. V, we discuss implication of our results. A modified GL theory for application to a vortex problem is discussed in the Appendix.

II. MODEL HAMILTONIAN AND STRATEGY

In two spatial dimensions, Ising nematic order on the square lattice breaks the four-fold rotational symmetry down to two-fold rotation. The Ising nematic order, could be realized microscopically by many routes, such as an orbital ordering which may be the case in the pnictides. Instead of using orbital ordering however, we focus on a here simpler way to study

the nematic order parameter- anisotropic hopping.

Let us build a model Hamiltonian step by step. A non-interacting Hamiltonian on a square lattice is

$$H_0 = \sum_{i,j} -t_{ij} c_i^\dagger c_j, \quad (10)$$

where t_{ij} respects the fourfold rotational symmetry. Because a nematic order parameter is coupled to an anisotropic hopping, the Hamiltonian with the nematic order parameter becomes

$$H_1 = \sum_{i,j} -t_{ij} c_i^\dagger c_j + \phi(c_i^\dagger c_{i\pm x} - c_i^\dagger c_{i\pm y}) + H_{nem} \quad (11)$$

The second term describes an anisotropic hopping, and by condensing the nematic order parameter, ϕ , the four-fold rotational symmetry(or x, y exchange symmetry) is broken down to two-fold. In momentum space, it is nothing but order parameter will distort the Fermi surface. The third term, H_{nem} , represents the nematic order parameter dynamics.

If we had used an orbital ordering model, the Fermi surface would contain orbital information, so that each momentum point is tied to the orbital direction⁷. This would modify matrix elements on the nematic order parameter in a momentum-dependent way, but not crucially modify the Fermi surface physics we are interested in here.

Next, let us consider the superconducting order parameter. In this paper, we mainly focus on the s -wave paired pnictides materials. It is straightforward to generalize our results to other cases like d -wave pairing. After a Fourier transform, the total Hamiltonian is

$$H_{tot} = \int_k (\epsilon(k) + \phi(\cos(k_x a) - \cos(k_y a))c(k) + (\psi(p)c^\dagger(k+p)c^\dagger(-k) + h.c.) + H_{nem} + H_{SC}, \quad (12)$$

where the spin index is suppressed. The H_{SC} is the effective Hamiltonian for the superconducting order parameter. Note that, in the continuum limit, the nematic order parameter coupling becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\cos(k_x a) - \cos(k_y a))c^\dagger(k)c(k) &\rightarrow \gamma(k) \phi c^\dagger(k)c(k) \\ \gamma(k) &= \frac{1}{2}a^2(k_x^2 - k_y^2). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The total action is

$$\mathcal{S}_{tot} = \int \left[\mathcal{L}_\phi + \mathcal{L}_\psi + c_k^\dagger (\partial_\tau + \epsilon(k)) c_k + \phi \gamma(k) c_k^\dagger c_k + (\psi_p c_{k+p}^\dagger c_{-k}^\dagger + h.c.) \right] \quad (14)$$

The first two terms are for the order parameter dynamics, and one can understand these terms as usual φ^4 field theories with one and two components. The remaining terms describe the fermion spectrum and its coupling to the two order parameters. Here we absorb coupling constants of the Yukawa-type vertices into the order parameters. As expected, the two order parameters are coupled to each other by mediating electrons. Below, we study the total Lagrangian and how this theory describes the competition between the nematic order and the superconductivity.

To see this, let us introduce some notations. Schematically, the effective action is expressed as follows.

$$Z = \text{tr}(e^{-H/T}) = \int_{\phi, \psi} e^{-\Gamma_{eff}}$$

$$\Gamma_{eff} = \int \Gamma_{\psi^* \psi} \psi^* \psi + \Gamma_{\phi^* \phi} \phi^* \phi + \Gamma_{\phi \psi^* \psi} \phi \psi^* \psi + \dots \quad (15)$$

In the previous works^{13,16}, the competition between SC and other order parameters was described by focusing on terms such as the first two terms in Eqn. 15. There, it was concluded that the SC and nematic order do not compete significantly, just as in GL theory, compared the competition between SC and spin density wave order (SDW). In this paper, we focus on the third term ($\Gamma_{\phi \psi^* \psi}$) of the above equation, which basically describes anisotropy of coherence lengths.

In this setup, one might argue that one can forget about the fermions in the low energy theory, expecting that the SC order parameter induces an energy gap near the Fermi surface. Then it seems the Ginzburg-Landau theory of SC and nematic order, Eqn. 1, would be enough to describe the system. However, it turns out that such expectation is too naive because we are focusing on physics at non-zero momentum. So we need to keep the fermions to see the interplay physics between the order parameters, as shown below.

III. NEMATIC QUANTUM CRITICAL POINT SHIFT

In this section, we consider the nematic QCP shift under the SC. The analysis is almost the same as in the previous work,¹³ and the main difference is that we are consider whole Fermi surface, instead of hot-spots. The critical point shift is mainly determined by fermion susceptibility of the nematic order with and without SC. It is easy to obtain the susceptibility with SC,

$$\chi_{nem} = \int_k \gamma(k)^2 \frac{|\psi|^2}{(\epsilon(k)^2 + |\psi|^2)^{3/2}}. \quad (16)$$

This integration looks proportional to magnitude of the SC order parameter, $|\psi|$. However the integral is non-zero as $\psi \rightarrow 0$, because of the finite density of states at the Fermi level.

Here we expand the anisotropy term around the Fermi surface, and take the lowest term, ($\gamma(k) \sim \frac{g}{2} \cos(2\theta_k)$) for simplicity. Higher term corrections are subdominant, once we take the BCS limit ($\Delta/E_F \ll 1$). Then we obtain

$$\chi_{nem} = \frac{g^2 \mathcal{N}(0)}{2} (1 - \alpha_2 |\psi|^2), \quad (17)$$

where $\mathcal{N}(0)$ is a density of states at the Fermi energy, and α_2 is a cutoff-dependent positive constant. Therefore, the presence of SC suppresses the nematic order susceptibility, which indicates competition between the two order parameters. The α_2 term corresponds to the λ term in the GL theory in Eqn. 1. This calculation shows that a non-analytic term does not appear in the nematic order QCP shift, and the competition effect is relatively weak compared to the linear QCP shift as in spin density wave(SDW).¹³ In other words, the competition basically follows the GL theory, so it is not necessary to keep fermions to understand the QCP shift of the nematic order parameter under SC.

In the next section, we show that a non-trivial coupling appears in a finite momentum coupling corresponding to anisotropic SC coherence lengths by Fermi surface contributions, and the coupling is much stronger than usual GL couplings in the low momentum limit.

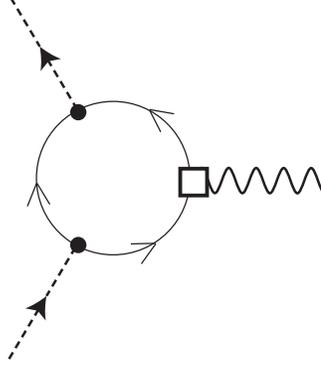


FIG. 1. Feynman diagram for the anisotropic coherence length vertex. The wavy line is for the nematic order parameter and the dashed lines are for the SC. The plain lines of the loop is for electrons's propagators with pairing. Note that directions of the fermion propagator is determined by the normal component of propagator.

IV. ENHANCED ANISOTROPY OF SC COHERENCE LENGTHS

To incorporate the fermion contribution to anisotropic SC coherence lengths, we need to evaluate one Feynman diagram for the vertex term($\Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}$) as in Fig. 1. The electron propagator contains anomalous terms from SC pairing. The uniform SC order parameter is represented by $|\Delta|$, and we consider the non-zero momentum component of SC modes. Also, in this paper, we only consider uniform nematic order parameter. In this case, it is easy to show that the vertex evaluation is equal to derivatives of the pairing susceptibility.

Without loss of generality, we can assume that SC order parameter can be adjusted as a real number by choosing a proper gauge. In the SC phase, the pairing susceptibility depends on its direction.

$$\begin{aligned}\chi_{xx}(2p) &= \int_k \frac{1}{E_{k+p} + E_{k-p}} \left(1 + \frac{\varepsilon_{k+p}\varepsilon_{k-p} - \Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p}E_{k-p}}\right) \\ \chi_{yy}(2p) &= \int_k \frac{1}{E_{k+p} + E_{k-p}} \left(1 + \frac{\varepsilon_{k+p}\varepsilon_{k-p} + \Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p}E_{k-p}}\right)\end{aligned}\quad (18)$$

We define relations $\chi_{xx} = \chi_0 - \delta\chi$ and $\chi_{yy} = \chi_0 + \delta\chi$ so that

$$S_{eff}^{pairing} = \int \chi_0 |\psi|^2 + \delta\chi (\psi\psi + \psi^*\psi^*) + \dots \quad (19)$$

If we assume that the band structure $\varepsilon(k)$ contains the nematic order parameter contribution, then it is easy to obtain the SC coherence anisotropy vertex by differentiating the pairing susceptibilities with nematic order parameter. Assuming $\varepsilon(k)$ is isotropic, the nematic

order parameter just renormalizes a dispersion relation as follows.

$$\varepsilon(k) \rightarrow \varepsilon(k) + \phi\gamma(k^2) \cos(2\theta_k), \quad (20)$$

where $\gamma(k^2)$ is for an isotropic magnitude dependent part. Then,

$$S_{eff}^{pairing} = \int \cdots + \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi} \phi |\psi|^2 + \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi} \phi (\psi\psi + \psi^*\psi^*) + \cdots \quad (21)$$

Full expressions for the vertex functions are

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi} &= \frac{\partial\chi_0}{\partial\phi}(p)|_{\phi=0} = 2 \int_k \frac{-1}{(E_{k+p} + E_k)^2} \left(1 + \frac{\varepsilon_{k+p}\varepsilon_k}{E_{k+p}E_k}\right) \left(\frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_k} \frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi}\right) + \frac{\Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p} + E_k} \left(\frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi} \frac{\varepsilon_{k+p}}{E_{k+p}E_k^3}\right) \\ \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi} &= \frac{\partial\delta\chi}{\partial\phi}(p)|_{\phi=0} = 2 \int_k \frac{-1}{(E_{k+p} + E_k)^2} \frac{\Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p}E_k} \left(\frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_k} \frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi}\right) + \frac{-\Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p} + E_k} \left(\frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi} \frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_{k+p}E_k^3}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Here, we only focus on the BCS limit ($\Delta_0/E_F \rightarrow 0$).

So far, our setup is very general. But to extract more information, let us introduce three parameters (C_1, C_2, C_3) for the electronic density of states, effective mass, and the nematic coupling. With a general band structure, we can assume that momentum shifted dispersion relation is

$$\varepsilon_{k+p} = \varepsilon_k + v_F p \cos(\theta_k - \theta_p) + C_2 \frac{p^2}{E_F}, \quad (23)$$

where C_2 is a non-universal number determining the effective mass. The Fermi velocity is v_F , and we assume it is isotropic and set to unity in this paper. Also, we assume that the density of states at the Fermi surface is constant

$$\mathcal{N}(E_F) = C_1 E_F, \quad (24)$$

where C_1 is a band structure related constant.

Then, the above vertex functions are

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &= 2C_1 E_F \int \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \int d\varepsilon \frac{-1}{(E_{k+p} + E_k)^2} \left(1 + \frac{\varepsilon_{k+p}\varepsilon_k}{E_{k+p}E_k}\right) \left(\frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_k} \frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi}\right) + \frac{\Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p} + E_k} \left(\frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi} \frac{\varepsilon_{k+p}}{E_{k+p}E_k^3}\right) \\ \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &= 2C_1 E_F \int \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \int d\varepsilon \frac{-1}{(E_{k+p} + E_k)^2} \frac{\Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p}E_k} \left(\frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_k} \frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi}\right) + \frac{-\Delta_0^2}{E_{k+p} + E_k} \left(\frac{\partial\varepsilon_k}{\partial\phi} \frac{\varepsilon_k}{E_{k+p}E_k^3}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

The energy integration requires a cut-off, Λ , and we assume it is much bigger than SC

pairing. For the nematic coupling, we write

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon_k}{\partial \phi} = g\gamma(k^2) \cos(2\theta_k), \quad (26)$$

where our third parameter appears in $\gamma(k^2)$

$$\gamma(k^2) = 1 + C_3 \frac{\epsilon_k}{E_F}. \quad (27)$$

For fermions with a circular Fermi surface ($\varepsilon(k) = k^2/(2m) - E_F$), the introduced constants are

$$C_1 = \frac{1}{\pi} \quad C_2 = \frac{1}{4} \quad C_3 = 1. \quad (28)$$

At the BCS limit, the gap function becomes negligible, but we cannot set it to be zero in the integration, because it determines quasiparticles' pole, so careful evaluation is required.

Note that we do not place any constraints on p/Δ . By evaluating the vertex functions at the lowest powers of Δ/E_F , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &= 2C_1 \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2} (C_2 \mathcal{G}_1(p/\Delta) + C_3 \mathcal{G}_2(p/\Delta)) \\ \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &= 2C_1 \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2} (C_2 \mathcal{G}_3(p/\Delta) + C_3 \mathcal{G}_4(p/\Delta)). \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

It is not easy to get analytical forms for the vertex functions, so we illustrate the \mathcal{G}_i functions in Fig. 2. By performing asymptotic expansions, we obtain two limiting cases. The first limit is a metallic limit, $p/\Delta \rightarrow \infty$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &\rightarrow \text{const} \\ \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

The other limit is a deep SC limit, $p/\Delta \rightarrow 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &\sim p^2/\Delta^2 \\ \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &\sim p^2/\Delta^2. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Several remarks are in order. First of all, the Fermi energy scale from density of states in

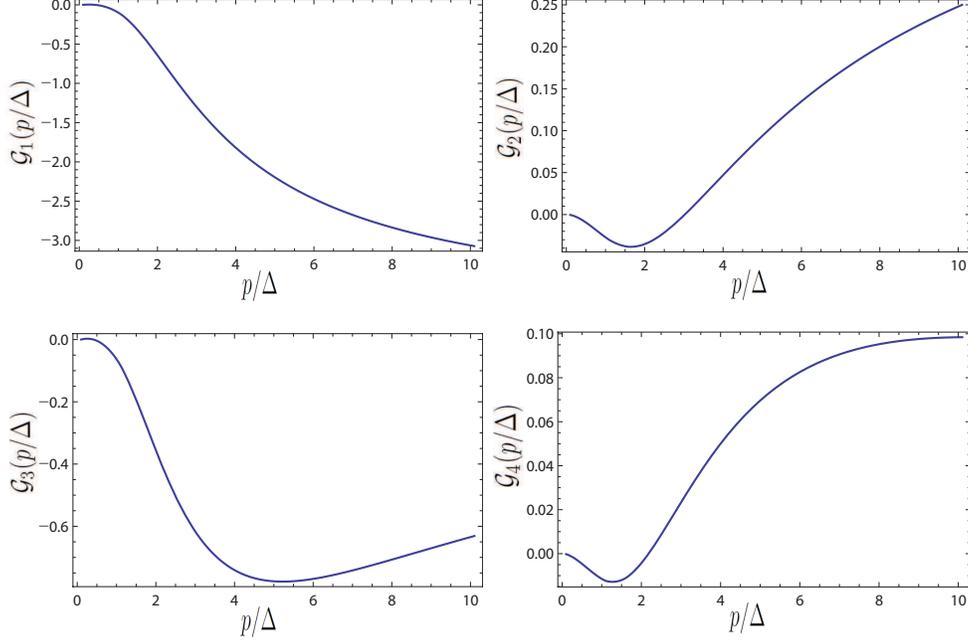


FIG. 2. Dimensionless functions of the vertex functions. See Eqns. 29.

the vertex functions dropped out as expected. This is because we are considering a non-zero angular momentum channel in the vertex function, so the zero-momentum channel cancelled out. Next, the vertex functions depend on the additional constants (C_1, C_2, C_3). If we only considered linear dispersion and constant nematic coupling, then the vertex functions vanish because C_2 and C_3 are zero.

In Fig. 3, we illustrate the vertex functions for the spherical Fermi surface case.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &= C_1 \mathcal{F}_0(p) \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2} \\
 \tilde{\Gamma}_{\phi\psi^*\psi}(p) &= C_1 \mathcal{F}_1(p) \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p^2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

As we can see, the functional behavior of the anisotropy vertex is almost monotonic. The non-monotonic contribution comes from g_3 function which is much smaller than g_1 . From that, we understand that decreasing SC indicates increasing anisotropy effect. It certainly shows competition between the nematic order and SC.

Now let us make the simplest approximation to see how much the non-analytic term is important inside the vortex core. For simplicity, let us assume SC is completely suppressed inside the vortex core, and has full gap size outside the vortex core. Of course, its size is

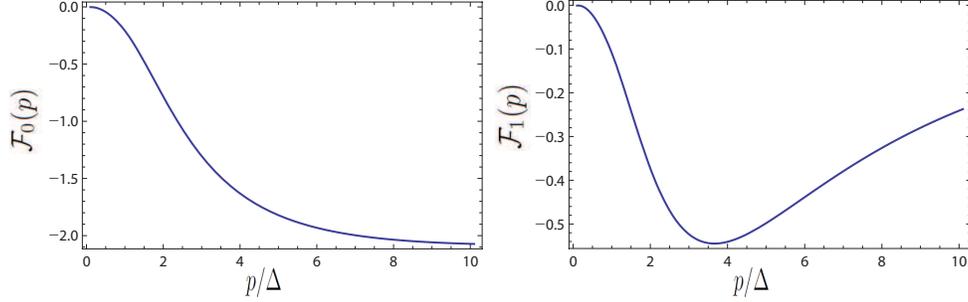


FIG. 3. total vertex functions for the spherical Fermi surface. $\mathcal{F}_0(p)$ and $\mathcal{F}_1(p)$ are defined in Eqn. 32

determined by the coherence length (gap size). Inside of the core, the functional behavior is approximated as

$$\Gamma_{inside} \sim \frac{1}{p^2}(p_x^2 - p_y^2) \quad (33)$$

Then, the enhanced anisotropy inside the vortex core, η , is basically

$$\eta = \int_{\xi^{-1}}^{a^{-1}} d^2p \frac{1}{p^2} \sim \log\left(\frac{\xi}{a}\right) \quad (34)$$

up to some constant factors. We use a lattice length scale for comparison.

V. CONCLUSION

Before closing the paper, let us take one step back and think about the meaning of our calculation. In theoretical physics, one of the most powerful concept is a low energy effective theory. It is very powerful because higher energy degrees of freedom are ignored and the theory become significantly simplified. Following the spirit, in a s wave SC, it is common to forget about fermion excitations in low energy limits because of the pairing gap in fermion spectrum. So, in our system, it seems reasonable to use a GL theory to describe systems because fermions are gapped.

However, our calculation explicitly shows that such consideration is not enough and it is dangerous to use the naive GL theory. How can we understand such inconsistency? The answer is hidden in Fermi surface physics especially when multiple order parameters are considered. Even though the pairing makes fermion spectrum gapped, the SC order and the

nematic order are coupled to each other with a finite momentum transfer. Once the finite momentum is bigger than the gap magnitude, fermions start to see Fermi surface physics and the energy gap becomes irrelevant. In terms of our calculation, it exactly corresponds to the metallic case, $p\xi \gg 1$.

To see importance of Fermi surface physics further, let us consider SC pairing susceptibility with nematic order parameter in the metallic ground state.

$$\chi^\phi(2p) = \int_k \frac{1}{\epsilon_{k+p}^\phi + \epsilon_{k-p}^\phi} (\theta(-\epsilon_{k+p}^\phi) - \theta(\epsilon_{k-p}^\phi)), \quad (35)$$

where the superscript(ϕ) indicates presence of the nematic order parameter in band structures. The denominator basically describes particle-particle channel energy difference and the step functions are for allowed phase space contribution. If we take $p \rightarrow 0$ limit, then the usual BCS logarithmic instability shows up, but the presence of the finite momentum regularizes the susceptibility. The anisotropy SC coherence length vertex is basically $\Gamma_{\phi\psi\psi^*} = \partial\chi^\phi/\partial\phi|_{\phi=0}$, and it is easy to check it indeed corresponds to the form of the metallic limit.

Based on these considerations, the logic that gapped fermion theory only gives a GL theory is not correct. One should keep in mind that possibility of Fermi surface effects, especially in the case where a momentum (or frequency) dependent function is present. Such non GL type term is not universal, and depends on order parameter properties significantly. For example, if we consider a rotationally invariant order parameter, which means absence of $\cos(2\theta)$ in the integration of Eqn. 29, then the constant term for non-local interaction of the metallic limit disappears by symmetry. Therefore, more careful investigation with fermions are required in analysis of multiple order parameters.

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