

UNIFORM WELL-POSEDNESS FOR A TIME-DEPENDENT GINZBURG-LANDAU MODEL IN SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

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Abstract

We study the initial boundary value problem for a time-dependent Ginzburg-Landau model in superconductivity. First, we prove the uniform boundedness of strong solutions with respect to diffusion coefficient $0 < \epsilon < 1$ in the case of Coulomb gauge. Our second result is the global existence and uniqueness of the weak solutions to the limit problem when $\epsilon = 0$.

1. Introduction

This paper is concerned with the following Ginzburg-Landau model in superconductivity:

$$(1.1) \quad \eta \partial_t \psi + i\eta k \phi \psi + \left(i \frac{\epsilon}{k} \nabla + A \right)^2 \psi + (|\psi|^2 - 1)\psi = 0,$$

$$(1.2) \quad \partial_t A + \nabla \phi + \operatorname{curl}^2 A + \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \left(i \frac{\epsilon}{k} \nabla \psi + \psi A \right) \bar{\psi} \right\} = 0$$

in $Q_T := (0, T) \times \Omega$, with boundary and initial conditions

$$(1.3) \quad \epsilon \nabla \psi \cdot \nu = 0, \quad A \cdot \nu = 0, \quad \operatorname{curl} A \times \nu = 0 \quad \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega,$$

$$(1.4) \quad (\psi, A)(x, 0) = (\psi_0, A_0)(x) \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Here $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is a bounded domain with smooth boundary $\partial\Omega$, ν is the outward normal to $\partial\Omega$, and T is any given positive constant. The unknowns ψ , A , and ϕ are \mathbb{C} -valued, \mathbb{R}^d -valued, and \mathbb{R} -valued functions, respectively, and they stand for the order parameter, the magnetic potential, and the electric potential, respectively. η and k are Ginzburg-Landau positive constants. $\bar{\psi}$ denotes the complex conjugate of ψ , $\operatorname{Re}\psi := (\psi + \bar{\psi})/2$, $|\psi|^2 := \psi\bar{\psi}$ is the density of superconducting carriers, and $i := \sqrt{-1}$. ϵ is a positive constant.

It is well known that the Ginzburg-Landau equations are gauge invariant, namely if (ψ, A, ϕ) is a solution of (1.1)-(1.4), then for any real-valued smooth function χ , $(\psi e^{ik\chi}, A + \nabla\chi, \phi - \partial_t\chi)$ is also a solution of (1.1)-(1.4). So, in order to obtain the well-posedness of the problem, we need to impose suitable gauge condition. From the physical point of view, one usually has four types of the gauge conditions:

- Coulomb gauge: $\operatorname{div} A = 0$ in Ω and $\int_{\Omega} \phi dx = 0$.
- Lorentz gauge: $\phi = -\operatorname{div} A$ in Ω .
- Lorenz gauge: $\partial_t \phi = -\operatorname{div} A$ in Ω .
- Temporal gauge (Weyl gauge): $\phi = 0$ in Ω .

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For the initial data $\psi_0 \in H^1(\Omega), |\psi_0| \leq 1, A_0 \in H^1(\Omega)$, Chen, Elliott and Tang [1], Chen, Hoffmann and Liang [2], Du [3] and Tang [4] proved the existence and uniqueness of global strong solutions to (1.1)-(1.4) in the case of the Coulomb and Lorentz as well as temporal gauges. For the initial data $\psi_0 \in H^1(\Omega), A_0 \in H^1(\Omega)$, Tang and Wang [5] obtained the existence and uniqueness of global strong solutions, while Fan and Jiang [6] showed the existence of global weak solutions when $\psi_0, A_0 \in L^2$. Fan and Ozawa [7] (2-D) and Fan, Gao and Guo [8, 9] (3-D) prove the uniqueness of weak solutions for $\psi_0, A_0 \in L^d$ with $d = 2, 3$, which is critical. This comes from a scaling argument for (1.1) and (1.2). More precisely, if $(\psi(t, x), A(t, x), \phi(t, x))$ is a solution of (1.1) and (1.2) associated with the initial data $(\psi_0(x), A_0(x))$ without linear lower order term ψ , then

$$(1.5) \quad (\lambda\psi(\lambda^2 t, \lambda x), \lambda A(\lambda^2 t, \lambda x), \lambda^2 \phi(\lambda^2 t, \lambda x)) =: (\psi_\lambda, A_\lambda, \phi_\lambda)$$

is also a solution for any $\lambda > 0$. A Banach space \mathbf{B} of distributions on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d$ is a critical space if its norm verifies for any λ and any $u \in \mathbf{B}$,

$$\|u\|_{\mathbf{B}} = \|\lambda u(\lambda^2 \cdot, \lambda \cdot)\|_{\mathbf{B}}.$$

If we choose \mathbf{B} as $L^r(0, \infty; L^p(\mathbb{R}^d))$, then (r, p) should satisfy

$$\frac{2}{r} + \frac{d}{p} = 1.$$

In this paper, we will choose the Coulomb gauge. First, we will prove

Theorem 1.1. *Let $d = 3$ and $0 < \epsilon < 1$. Let $\psi_0 \in H^1, |\psi_0| \leq 1$ and $A_0 \in H^1$. Then the solution (ψ, A, ϕ) satisfies*

$$(1.6) \quad \begin{aligned} |\psi| &\leq 1, \|\psi\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} \leq C, \|\partial_t \psi\|_{L^2(0,T;L^2)} \leq C, \\ \|A\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} + \|A\|_{L^2(0,T;H^2)} + \|\partial_t A\|_{L^2(0,T;L^2)} &\leq C, \\ \|\phi\|_{L^2(0,T;H^1)} &\leq C \end{aligned}$$

for any $0 < T < \infty$. Here and later C will denote a constant independent of ϵ .

When $\epsilon = 0$, we will prove

Theorem 1.2. *Let $d = 3, \epsilon = 0$, and $\psi_0, A_0 \in L^2$. If $\psi, A \in L^2(0, T; H^1) \cap W$ with $W := \{(\psi, A); \psi \in L^\infty(0, T; L^3) \cap L^2(0, T; L^\infty), A \in L^\infty(0, T; L^3) \cap L^{\frac{2p}{p-3}}(0, T; L^p)$ with some $3 < p \leq \infty\}$, then the problem (1.1)-(1.4) has at most a unique weak solution.*

REMARK 1.1. *The space W is scaling invariant due to (1.5).*

Theorem 1.3. *Let $d = 3, \epsilon = 0, \psi_0 \in H^1, |\psi_0| \leq 1$ and $A_0 \in L^4$. Then the problem (1.1)-(1.4) has a unique weak solution.*

REMARK 1.2. *Our results also hold true with the choice of Lorentz gauge.*

In our proofs, we will use the following lemmas.

Lemma 1.1 ([10, 11]). *Let Ω be a smooth and bounded open set in \mathbb{R}^3 . Then there exists $C > 0$ such that*

$$(1.7) \quad \|f\|_{L^p(\partial\Omega)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \|f\|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)}^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

for any $1 < p < \infty$ and $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be in $W^{1,p}(\Omega)$.

Lemma 1.2 ([12]). *Let Ω be a regular bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^3 , let $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a smooth enough vector field, and let $1 < p < \infty$. Then, the following identity holds true:*

$$(1.8) \quad \begin{aligned} & - \int_{\Omega} \Delta f \cdot f |f|^{p-2} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} |f|^{p-2} |\nabla f|^2 dx + \frac{4(p-2)}{p^2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla |f|^{\frac{p}{2}}|^2 dx - \int_{\partial\Omega} |f|^{p-2} (\nu \cdot \nabla) f \cdot f dS. \end{aligned}$$

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.1, we only need to show a priori estimates (1.6).

To begin with, it is easy to show that [1, 2, 3, 4]:

$$(2.1) \quad |\psi| \leq 1 \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T).$$

Testing (1.1) by $\bar{\psi}$ and taking the real parts, we see that

$$\frac{\eta}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int |\psi|^2 dx + \int \left| i \frac{\epsilon}{k} \nabla \psi + \psi A \right|^2 dx + \int |\psi|^4 dx = \int |\psi|^2 dx,$$

which gives

$$(2.2) \quad \int_0^T \int \left| i \frac{\epsilon}{k} \nabla \psi + \psi A \right|^2 dx dt \leq C.$$

In [6], we have proved that

$$(2.3) \quad \nabla \phi \cdot \nu = 0 \text{ on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega.$$

Testing (1.2) by $\partial_t A + \text{curl}^2 A$, using (2.1), (2.2) and (2.3), we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \int |\text{curl} A|^2 dx + \int (|\partial_t A|^2 + |\text{curl}^2 A|^2) dx \\ & \leq \int \left| i \frac{\epsilon}{k} \nabla \psi + \psi A \right| |\partial_t A + \text{curl}^2 A| dx \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \int (|\partial_t A|^2 + |\text{curl}^2 A|^2) dx + C \int \left| i \frac{\epsilon}{k} \nabla \psi + \psi A \right|^2 dx, \end{aligned}$$

which leads to

$$(2.4) \quad \|A\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} + \|A\|_{L^2(0,T;H^2)} + \|\partial_t A\|_{L^2(0,T;L^2)} \leq C,$$

whence

$$(2.5) \quad \|\phi\|_{L^2(0,T;H^1)} \leq C.$$

Multiplying (1.1) by $-\Delta \bar{\psi}$, integrating by parts and taking the real part, using (2.1), (2.4) and (2.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{\eta}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int |\nabla\psi|^2 dx + \frac{\epsilon^2}{k^2} \int |\Delta\psi|^2 dx \\
 \leq & \left| \operatorname{Re} \int i\eta k \phi \psi \cdot \Delta \bar{\psi} dx \right| + 2 \left| \operatorname{Re} \frac{\epsilon}{k} \int iA \nabla\psi \cdot \Delta \bar{\psi} dx \right| \\
 & + \operatorname{Re} \int A^2 \psi \Delta \bar{\psi} dx + \operatorname{Re} \int (|\psi|^2 - 1) \psi \cdot \Delta \bar{\psi} dx \\
 \leq & \frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon^2}{k^2} \int |\Delta\psi|^2 dx + C \int |\nabla\phi| |\nabla\psi| dx \\
 & + C \|A\|_{L^\infty}^2 \|\nabla\psi\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|A\|_{L^\infty} \|\nabla A\|_{L^2} \|\nabla\psi\|_{L^2} + C \|\nabla\psi\|_{L^2}^2,
 \end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$(2.6) \quad \|\psi\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} + \epsilon \|\psi\|_{L^2(0,T;H^2)} \leq C,$$

whence

$$(2.7) \quad \|\partial_t \psi\|_{L^2(0,T;L^2)} \leq C.$$

This completes the proof. □

3. Proof of Theorem 1.2

In this section, we will prove the uniqueness. To this end, let (ψ_i, A_i, ϕ_i) ($i = 1, 2$) be the two weak solutions and let

$$\psi := \psi_1 - \psi_2, A := A_1 - A_2, \phi := \phi_1 - \phi_2.$$

Then it is easy to verify that

$$(3.1) \quad \eta \partial_t \psi + i\eta k \phi \psi_1 + i\eta k \phi_2 \psi + A_1^2 \psi_1 - A_2^2 \psi_2 + |\psi_1|^2 \psi_1 - |\psi_2|^2 \psi_2 - \psi = 0,$$

$$(3.2) \quad \partial_t A + \nabla \phi + \operatorname{curl}^2 A + |\psi_1|^2 A_1 - |\psi_2|^2 A_2 = 0,$$

$$(3.3) \quad -\Delta \phi = \operatorname{div} (|\psi_1|^2 A_1 - |\psi_2|^2 A_2).$$

Testing (3.1) by $\bar{\psi}$ and taking the real part, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.4) \quad & \frac{\eta}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int |\psi|^2 dx \\
 \leq & \eta k \left| \int \phi \psi_1 \bar{\psi} dx \right| + \left| \int (A_1^2 - A_2^2) \psi_2 \bar{\psi} dx \right| + \int |\psi_2|^2 |\psi|^2 dx + \int |\psi|^2 dx \\
 \leq & C \|\phi\|_{L^2} \|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty} \|\psi\|_{L^2} + C \|A_1 + A_2\|_{L^p} \|A\|_{L^{\frac{2p}{p-2}}} \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty} \|\psi\|_{L^2} + \int |\psi_2|^2 |\psi|^2 dx + \int |\psi|^2 dx \\
 \leq & \delta \|\phi\|_{L^2}^2 + C (\|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty}^2 + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty}^2 + 1) \|\psi\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|A_1 + A_2\|_{L^p}^2 \|A\|_{L^{\frac{2p}{p-2}}}^2
 \end{aligned}$$

for any $0 < \delta < 1$.

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.5) \quad \|\phi\|_{L^2} & \leq C \|\nabla \phi\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5}}} \leq C \| |\psi_1|^2 A_1 - |\psi_2|^2 A_2 \|_{L^{\frac{6}{5}}} \\
 & \leq C \| |\psi_1|^2 A \|_{L^{\frac{6}{5}}} + C \| (|\psi_1| - |\psi_2|)(|\psi_1| + |\psi_2|) A_2 \|_{L^{\frac{6}{5}}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq C\|\psi_1\|_{L^3}^3\|A\|_{L^6} + C\|\psi_1 + \psi_2\|_{L^\infty}\|\psi\|_{L^2}\|A_2\|_{L^3} \\
 &\leq C\|A\|_{L^6} + C(\|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty} + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty})\|\psi\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C\|\operatorname{curl} A\|_{L^2} + C(\|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty} + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty})\|\psi\|_{L^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality

$$(3.6) \quad \|A\|_{L^{\frac{2p}{p-2}}}^{\frac{2p}{p-2}} \leq C\|A\|_{L^2}^{1-\frac{3}{p}}\|A\|_{H^1}^{\frac{3}{p}},$$

we have

$$(3.7) \quad C\|A_1 + A_2\|_{L^p}^2\|A\|_{L^{\frac{2p}{p-2}}}^2 \leq \delta\|A\|_{H^1}^2 + C\|A_1 + A_2\|_{L^p}^{\frac{2p}{p-3}}\|A\|_{L^2}^2$$

for any $0 < \delta < 1$.

Inserting (3.5) and (3.7) into (3.4), we have

$$(3.8) \quad \begin{aligned} &\frac{\eta}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int |\psi|^2 dx \\ &\leq C\delta\|A\|_{H^1}^2 + C(1 + \|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty}^2 + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty}^2)\|\psi\|_{L^2}^2 + C(\|A_1\|_{L^p}^{\frac{2p}{p-3}} + \|A_2\|_{L^p}^{\frac{2p}{p-3}})\|A\|_{L^2}^2 \end{aligned}$$

for any $0 < \delta < 1$.

Testing (3.2) by A , we deduce that

$$(3.9) \quad \begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int A^2 dx + \int |\operatorname{curl} A|^2 dx + \int |\psi_1|^2 A dx \\ &= - \int (|\psi_1|^2 - |\psi_2|^2) A_2 A dx \\ &\leq (\|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty} + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty})\|\psi\|_{L^2}\|A_2\|_{L^p}\|A\|_{L^{\frac{2p}{p-2}}} \\ &\leq (\|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty}^2 + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty}^2)\|\psi\|_{L^2}^2 + C\|A_2\|_{L^p}^2\|A\|_{L^{\frac{2p}{p-2}}}^2 \\ &\leq \delta\|A\|_{H^1}^2 + (\|\psi_1\|_{L^\infty}^2 + \|\psi_2\|_{L^\infty}^2)\|\psi\|_{L^2}^2 + C\|A_2\|_{L^p}^{\frac{2p}{p-3}}\|A\|_{L^2}^2 \end{aligned}$$

for any $0 < \delta < 1$.

Using the well-known Poincaré inequality

$$(3.10) \quad \|A\|_{H^1} \leq C\|\operatorname{curl} A\|_{L^2},$$

summing up (3.8) and (3.9), taking δ small enough, using the Gronwall inequality, we arrive at

$$\psi = 0, A = 0$$

and thus $\phi = 0$, whence $\psi_1 = \psi_2, A_1 = A_2$ and $\phi_1 = \phi_2$.

This completes the proof. □

4. Proof of Theorem 1.3

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.3, we only need to show a priori estimates.

We still have (2.1).

Testing (1.2) by A , we see that

$$(4.1) \quad \|A\|_{L^2(0,T;H^1)} \leq C.$$

Testing (1.2) by $|A|^2A$ and using (1.8), we have

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \frac{d}{dt} \int |A|^4 dx + \int |A|^2 |\nabla A|^2 dx + \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla |A|^2|^2 dx + \int |\psi|^2 |A|^4 dx \\ &= \int \nabla \phi \cdot |A|^2 A dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} |A|^2 (\nu \cdot \nabla) A \cdot A dS =: I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

Using the formula

$$\begin{aligned} (\nu \cdot \nabla) A \cdot A &= (A \cdot \nabla) A \cdot \nu + (\operatorname{curl} A \times \nu) \cdot A \\ &= (A \cdot \nabla) A \cdot \nu \\ &= -(A \cdot \nabla) \nu \cdot A, \end{aligned}$$

we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &= - \int_{\partial\Omega} |A|^2 (A \cdot \nabla) \nu \cdot A dS \leq C \int_{\partial\Omega} |A|^4 dS \\ &= C \int_{\partial\Omega} f^2 dS \leq C \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|f\|_{H^1(\Omega)} (f := |A|^2) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{8} \int |\nabla f|^2 dx + C \|f\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Using (2.1), we bound I_1 as follows

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &\leq \|\nabla \phi\|_{L^4} \|A\|_{L^4}^3 \\ &\leq C \|\psi\|_{L^4}^2 \|A\|_{L^4} \|A\|_{L^4}^3 \leq C \|A\|_{L^4}^4. \end{aligned}$$

Inserting the above estimates into (4.2), we have

$$(4.3) \quad \|A\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^4)} + \int_0^T \int |A|^2 |\nabla A|^2 dx dt \leq C,$$

whence

$$(4.4) \quad \|A\|_{L^5(0,T;L^5)} \leq C,$$

$$(4.5) \quad \|\nabla \phi\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^4)} \leq C.$$

Taking ∇ to (1.1), testing by $\nabla \bar{\psi}$ and taking the real part, using (2.1), (4.3) and (4.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\eta}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int |\nabla \psi|^2 dx &\leq \eta k \int |\nabla \phi| |\nabla \psi| dx + \int |\nabla |A|^2| |\nabla \psi| dx + C \int |\nabla \psi|^2 dx \\ &\leq C \|\nabla \phi\|_{L^2} \|\nabla \psi\|_{L^2} + C \|\nabla \psi\|_{L^2}^2 + C \int |A|^2 |\nabla A|^2 dx, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\|\psi\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} \leq C.$$

This completes the proof. □

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