


Phase structure of neutron 3P_2 superfluids in strong magnetic fields in neutron stars

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We discuss the effect of a strong magnetic field on neutron 3P_2 superfluidity. Based on the attraction in the 3P_2 pair of two neutrons, we derive the Ginzburg–Landau equation in the path-integral formalism by adopting the bosonization technique and leave the next-to-leading order in the expansion of the magnetic field B . We determine the (T, B) phase diagram with temperature T , comprising three phases: the uniaxial nematic (UN) phase for $B = 0$, D_2 -biaxial nematic (BN) and D_4 -BN phases in finite B and strong B such as magnetars, respectively, where D_2 and D_4 are dihedral groups. We find that, compared with the leading order in the magnetic field known before, the region of the D_2 -BN phase in the (T, B) plane is extended by the effect of the next-to-leading-order terms of the magnetic field. We also present the thermodynamic properties, such as heat capacities and spin susceptibility, and find that the spin susceptibility exhibits anisotropies in the UN, D_2 -BN, and D_4 -BN phases. This information will be useful to understand the internal structure of magnetars.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Neutron stars are interesting astrophysical objects whose phenomena are induced by combinations of fundamental forces, i.e., the strong interaction, weak interaction, electromagnetic interaction, and gravitation (see Refs. [1,2] for recent reviews). Studying neutron stars by several different signals can open a new approach to unveil the interiors in neutron stars. It was epoch-making that gravitational waves from a neutron-star merger were observed directly [3]. One of the most important properties of neutron stars is accompanied by a strong magnetic field. It is known that the magnitude of the magnetic field is around 10^{12} G in standard neutron stars and, in magnetars, it can reach about 10^{15} G at the surface and may reach even larger values in the inside (see Refs. [4,5] for reviews on magnetars). As for the origin of the strong magnetic fields, researchers have studied several mechanisms such as spin-dependent interactions between neutrons [6–9],¹ the pion domain wall [11,12], the spin polarization in quark-matter core [13–15] and so on. In neutron matter, the influence of the magnetic field on a neutron is provided by a finite magnetic moment, $\boldsymbol{\mu}_n = -(\gamma_n/2)\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ with the gyromagnetic ratio of a neutron, $\gamma_n = 1.2 \times 10^{-13}$ MeV/T (in natural units, $\hbar = c = 1$), and the Pauli matrices for the neutron spin $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$. The interaction between the neutron and the magnetic field (\mathbf{B}) supplies the energy splitting between the spin-up state and the spin-down state for a neutron, $-\boldsymbol{\mu}_n \cdot \mathbf{B}$. For example,

the strong magnetic field $|\mathbf{B}| \approx 10^{15}$ G in magnetars gives the mass splitting about $O(10)$ keV (notice the unit relation, $1 \text{ T} = 10^4 \text{ G}$).

The dominant ingredient in neutron stars is the neutron matter, and it exists as superfluidity with a small admixture of superconducting protons and normal electrons (see Refs. [16,17] for recent reviews). In relation to the observations of neutron stars, it is considered that the neutron superfluidity affects relaxation time after pulsar glitches [18], i.e., sudden speed-up events of neutron-star rotation. It was proposed that the origin of pulsar glitches is the starquake in the core of the neutron stars [19–21] or the unpinning dynamics of neutron vortices pinned on the neutron-rich nuclei around the surface of the neutron stars [22]. The neutron superfluidity is also related to rapid cooling by neutrino emissions known as the modified Urca process [23]. The realization of a superfluid gap can be supported by the recent observation of the rapid cooling time in neutron stars in Cassiopeia A [24–26]. Interestingly, the nuclear forces can supply different types of pairings for two neutrons when the baryon number density in neutron matter changes from low density to high density (see Ref. [27] for a recent review). In the early stage of the study of neutron superfluidity, Migdal considered the 1S_0 channel as the most attractive interaction [28]. However, it was pointed out that the 1S_0 superfluidity cannot exist at higher densities due to the strong repulsion at short ranges of the nuclear force [29]. Instead, the superfluidity is induced by the 3P_2 channel as the more attractive one in the higher-density region, which exists deep inside neutron stars. The nuclear force for a pair of neutrons is provided by the LS interaction at higher energy, and the gap equation for 3P_2 was analyzed by many researchers [30–44]. The angular momentum and the total spin are coupled to each other to form gap structures in the ground state, and the $U(1)_B \times SO(3)_S \times SO(3)_L \times T \times P$

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¹In recent years, the many-body calculation leads to a negative result for the realization of strong magnetic fields [10].

symmetry is broken into several subgroups (B for baryon number, S for spin rotation, L for spatial rotation, T for time-reversal symmetry, and P for parity symmetry). In nuclear physics, it is known that, in the LS interaction, the 3P_2 channel is attractive, while the 3P_0 and 3P_1 channels are repulsive. Thus, the 3P_2 pairing should be realized in neutron matter at high density. It was discussed that the cooling process by neutrino emission can be described by low-energy excitations [45–56] and by quantum vortices [57].

The neutron 3P_2 superfluidity has a rich gap structure due to the many possible combinations of spin and momentum [58–65]. It is interesting to note that the 3P_2 pairings, i.e., tensor-type pairings, are analogous to those in D -wave superconductivity [66]. It is known that ${}^3\text{He}$ liquid below the critical temperature exhibits P -wave superfluidity in which many different states (BW state, ABM state, A_1 state, etc.) can be realized according to the values of temperature, pressure, magnetic field, and so on [67]. Among them, for example, the BW state corresponds to the phase with the 3P_0 pairing induced at low pressure and small magnetic field. Chiral P -wave superconductivity has been established in Sr_2RuO_4 [68]. Apart from P -wave superfluidity, spin-2 superfluidity has been recently studied extensively as spin-2 Bose–Einstein condensates (see Ref. [69] for a review) that share some properties with 3P_2 superfluidity. Stimulated by those studies, interesting topological properties in the neutron 3P_2 superfluidity were proposed: topological superfluidity and gapless Majorana fermions on the boundary of 3P_2 superfluids [70], a quantized vortex [64], a soliton on it [71], and a half-quantized non-Abelian vortex [65].

The most fundamental equation for the superfluidity is the Bogoliubov–de Gennes (BdG) equation. In the BdG equation, the pairing gap function, which is dependent on position in general, can be solved self-consistently with the motion of the fermions. The BCS equation, for which the BdG equation is restricted to the spatially uniform state of neutron 3P_2 superfluidity, was studied for a long time [30–33,35–44]. More recently, the BdG equation has been applied to investigate phase structures and topological properties in neutron 3P_2 superfluidity [70]. Near the critical temperature, the BdG equation can be reduced to the Ginzburg–Landau (GL) equation as the low-energy effective theory. In the GL equation, the pairing gap behaves as the effective degrees of freedom. The GL equation was applied to study the phase structure of neutron 3P_2 superfluidity in a magnetic field [58–65]. The ground state at the weak-coupling limit was found to be in a nematic phase [60], where $U(1)_B \times SO(3)_S \times SO(3)_L \times T \times P$ symmetry is broken into smaller (discrete) subgroups. Either uniaxial nematic (UN) phase or biaxial nematic (BN) phase is realized, depending on the magnitude of the magnetic field. The UN phase is realized at zero magnetic field, while the BN phase is realized at finite magnetic field [64,70]. Furthermore, the BN phase can be classified into two types: D_2 -BN and D_4 -BN phases, characterized by the unbroken discrete (dihedral) symmetry, D_2 and D_4 symmetries, respectively. The GL equation was also applied to study the vortex structures of neutron 3P_2 superfluidity [59,61,62] and spontaneous magnetization in the vortices was found [62]. Concerning the bulk properties in a magnetic field, it was obtained that the D_2 -BN phase is

realized at weak magnetic field, while the D_4 -BN phase is realized at strong magnetic field (such as magnetars), when only leading terms for the magnetic field in the GL equation were considered [64,70]. It is not satisfactory, however, to conclude the influence of the strong magnetic field on neutron 3P_2 superfluidity without investigating the effect by the next-to-leading-order terms in the strength of the magnetic field. In fact, the neutron 3P_2 superfluidity inside neutron stars should be affected by strong magnetic fields. Because the typical magnitude of the neutron pairing gap in the 3P_2 superfluidity is $O(10^2)$ – $O(10^3)$ keV, the neutron energy splitting by the strong magnetic field may change the properties of the neutron 3P_2 superfluidity. The purpose in the present paper is to clarify the effect of the strong magnetic field on the neutron 3P_2 superfluidity. We specifically focus on the changes of the phase structures and the thermodynamic properties (heat capacity and spin susceptibility) by the strong magnetic field.

This paper is organized as the follows: In Sec. II, we introduce the LS interaction between two neutrons, and the spin interaction between the neutron and the magnetic field, and then derive the GL equation, including the next-to-leading-order terms of the magnetic field, from the BdG equation. In Sec. III, we show our numerical results and clarify the effect on the phase structure by the next-to-leading-order terms of the magnetic field. We also present the thermodynamic properties (heat capacities and spin susceptibility), and discuss possible observables for neutron 3P_2 superfluidity inside neutron stars. The final section is devoted to our conclusion.

II. FORMALISM

A. LS potentials

For the neutron field, we use a two-component spinor $\varphi(t, \mathbf{x})$ in a nonrelativistic formalism. The total Lagrangian is given by a sum of the kinematic term and the interaction term [58–65]:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[\varphi] = & \varphi(t, \mathbf{x})^\dagger \left(i\partial_t - \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu + \boldsymbol{\mu}_n \cdot \mathbf{B} \right) \varphi(t, \mathbf{x}) \\ & + G \sum_{a,b} T^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})^\dagger T^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x}), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $m = 939$ MeV is a neutron mass and μ is the chemical potential of the neutron gas. We have introduced the interaction term, $-\boldsymbol{\mu}_n \cdot \mathbf{B}$, for the magnetic moment of a neutron and the magnetic field $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, B_2, B_3)$. The second term is the interaction Lagrangian in the 3P_2 channel with the coupling constant $G > 0$ as an attraction in the neutron 3P_2 pair. $T^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})$ ($a, b = 1, 2, 3$; spin and space directions) is a symmetric and traceless tensor operator defined by

$$T^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} [\phi^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x}) + \phi^{ba}(t, \mathbf{x})] - \frac{1}{3} \delta^{ab} \sum_c \phi^{cc}(t, \mathbf{x}), \quad (2)$$

where $\phi^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})$ is the pairing function defined by

$$\phi^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x}) = -\varphi(t, \mathbf{x})^\dagger \Sigma^{a\dagger} [\nabla_x^b \varphi(t, \mathbf{x})]. \quad (3)$$

Here, $\Sigma^a = i\sigma^a \sigma^2$ and $\nabla_x^b = \partial/\partial x^b$, where σ^a are the Pauli matrices, $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3)$, acting for neutron spin and Σ^a

transforms as a vector for the rotation in space. We consider only the tensor part in the LS interaction, because the 3P_2 channel is only the attractive channel. We notice that the interaction is of zero range, and this simple form is sufficient for us in the present study. In Eq. (3), the minus sign in the right-hand side is just for our convention.

B. Derivation of Ginzburg–Landau free-energy density

We derive the GL equation from Eq. (1) by introducing the gap function and integrate out the neutron fields (bosonization) based on the path-integral formalism. The generating functional is written as

$$Z = \mathcal{N} \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \mathcal{D}\varphi^\dagger \exp\left(i \int dt d\mathbf{x} \mathcal{L}[\varphi]\right), \quad (4)$$

with \mathcal{N} being an overall constant irrelevant to the dynamics. The generating functional is transformed by introducing the auxiliary field $A(t, \mathbf{x})$, which is a symmetric and traceless 3×3 tensor field with complex components. Their components are denoted by $A(t, \mathbf{x})^{ab}$ in the basis of the spin and spatial directions ($a, b = 1, 2, 3$). By noting that multiplying

$$\int \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}A^* \exp\left(i \int dt d^3\mathbf{x} \sum_{a,b} A(t, \mathbf{x})^{ab*} A(t, \mathbf{x})^{ab}\right) \quad (5)$$

does not change the physical content of the generating functional, we can express the generating functional Z by

$$Z' = \mathcal{N}' \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \mathcal{D}\varphi^\dagger \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}A^* \exp\left(i \int dt d\mathbf{x} \mathcal{L}'[\varphi, A]\right), \quad (6)$$

with an overall constant \mathcal{N}' , where we have defined a new form of the Lagrangian by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}'[\varphi, A] = & \varphi(t, \mathbf{x})^\dagger \left(i\partial_t - \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu + \boldsymbol{\mu}_n \cdot \mathbf{B} \right) \varphi(t, \mathbf{x}) \\ & + \sum_{a,b} [A^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})^* T^{ab}(\mathbf{x}) + T^{ab}(\mathbf{x})^\dagger A^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})] \\ & + \frac{1}{G} \sum_{a,b} A^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})^* A^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x}). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

In the above derivation, $A(t, \mathbf{x})^{ab}$ has been shifted by a constant without changing the physical content. $A(t, \mathbf{x})^{ab}$ is the gap function as a matrix of spin ($a = 1, 2, 3$) and angular momentum ($b = 1, 2, 3$). We assume the weak-coupling limit² and consider the one-loop diagram for the neutron field. Now performing the path integrals for φ , we obtain the effective action

$$\begin{aligned} W'[A] = & -\text{Tr} \ln[S_m(t, \mathbf{x})^{-1}] - \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \text{Tr}[S_m(t, \mathbf{x}) \hat{A}(t, \mathbf{x})]^n \\ & + \frac{1}{4G} \text{Tr}[A(t, \mathbf{x})^* A(t, \mathbf{x})]. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

²It was discussed that the strong-coupling effect does not change the phase diagram [63].

Here we have defined the neutron propagator,

$$S_m(t, \mathbf{x})^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} i\partial_t - \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu + \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_n \cdot \mathbf{B} & 0 \\ 0 & i\partial_t + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} + \mu - \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_n' \cdot \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (9)$$

and the vertex function,

$$\hat{A}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\sum_{a,b} A^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x}) t^{ab}(\mathbf{x})^\dagger \\ \sum_{a,b} A^{ab}(t, \mathbf{x})^* t^{ab}(\mathbf{x}) & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (10)$$

with

$$t^{ab}(\mathbf{x}) = -\left(\frac{1}{2} \Sigma^{a\dagger} \nabla^b + \frac{1}{2} \Sigma^{b\dagger} \nabla^a - \frac{1}{3} \delta^{ab} \sum_c \Sigma^{c\dagger} \nabla^c \right), \quad (11)$$

which are expressed in the Nambu–Gor'kov formalism. The trace (Tr) is meant to take not only the sum over particle-hole and spin components but also the time-space integrals. In Eq. (9), we defined $\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_n = (\bar{\gamma}_n/2)\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ and $\bar{\gamma}_n = \gamma_n/(1 + F_0^a)$, where F_0^a is the Landau parameter in the Fermi-liquid theory introduced as a correction by the effect of the Hartree–Fock approximation. This correction is necessary because the Hartree–Fock approximation is not covered in the present calculation for the particle-particle interaction at the one-loop level.

The effective potential (8) is regarded as the GL free energy (GL equation). Therefore, the GL free-energy density is given by

$$f[A] = \frac{1}{2TV} W'[A], \quad (12)$$

with T and V being the time and the volume of the system, $T = \int dt$ and $V = \int d^3\mathbf{x}$, respectively. The factor $1/2$ in the right-hand side is necessary because the effective potential (8) counts the doubled numbers of the degrees of freedom for neutrons in the Nambu–Gor'kov formalism. Considering that $A(t, \mathbf{x})$ is a small quantity near the critical temperature and also that \mathbf{B} is a small quantity, we expand Eq. (12) with respect to $A(t, \mathbf{x})$ and \mathbf{B} to obtain the GL free-energy density:

$$f[A] = f_0 + f_6^{(0)}[A] + f_2^{(\leq 4)}[A] + f_4^{(\leq 2)}[A] + O(B^m A^n)_{m+n \geq 7}. \quad (13)$$

We keep the terms up to $O(A^6)$, $O(B^2 A^4)$, and $O(B^4 A^2)$. In the derivation, we have left only the lowest order for the derivative expansion for $A(t, \mathbf{x})$ by taking the long-wavelength limit. The first term f_0 , which is irrelevant to the neutron pairing, is given as

$$f_0 = -T \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \ln[(1 + e^{-\xi_p^-/T})(1 + e^{-\xi_p^+/T})], \quad (14)$$

with $\xi_p^\pm = \xi_p \pm |\boldsymbol{\mu}_n| |\mathbf{B}|$ and $\xi_p = \mathbf{p}^2/(2m) - \mu$. The following terms are the interacting parts, in which the neutron pairings are taken into account. The momentum integrals and the Matsubara sums are estimated by assuming the particle-hole symmetry, i.e., the quasiclassical approximation, in the low-temperature region due to the weak coupling. We

use the notation $f_n^{(0)}$ for the free-energy density containing the A field up to $O(A^n)$ at zero magnetic field, and $f_n^{(\leq m)}[A]$ for the one containing the A field up to $O(A^n)$ and the magnetic field up to $O(B^m)$. Their explicit forms read

$$f_6^{(0)}[A] = \alpha^{(0)} \text{tr}(A^*A) + K^{(0)} (\nabla_{xi} A^{ba*} \nabla_{xi} A^{ab} + \nabla_{xi} A^{ia*} \nabla_{xj} A^{aj} + \nabla_{xi} A^{ja*} \nabla_{xj} A^{ai}) + \beta^{(0)} [\text{tr}(A^*A) \text{tr}(A^*A) - \text{tr}(A^*A^*AA)] \\ + \gamma^{(0)} [-3\text{tr}(AA^*) \text{tr}(AA) \text{tr}(A^*A^*) + 4\text{tr}(AA^*) \text{tr}(AA^*) \text{tr}(AA^*) + 6\text{tr}(A^*A) \text{tr}(A^*A^*AA) + 12\text{tr}(A^*A) \text{tr}(A^*AA^*A) \\ - 6\text{tr}(A^*A^*) \text{tr}(A^*AAA) - 6\text{tr}(AA) \text{tr}(A^*A^*A^*A) - 12\text{tr}(A^*A^*A^*AAA) + 12\text{tr}(A^*A^*AAA^*A) + 8\text{tr}(A^*AA^*AA^*A)], \quad (15)$$

$$f_2^{(\leq 4)}[A] = \beta^{(2)} \mathbf{B}' AA^* \mathbf{B} + \beta^{(4)} |\mathbf{B}|^2 \mathbf{B}' AA^* \mathbf{B}, \quad (16)$$

$$f_4^{(\leq 2)}[A] = \gamma^{(2)} [-2|\mathbf{B}|^2 \text{tr}(AA) \text{tr}(A^*A^*) - 4|\mathbf{B}|^2 \text{tr}(AA^*) \text{tr}(AA^*) + 4|\mathbf{B}|^2 \text{tr}(AA^*AA^*) + 8|\mathbf{B}|^2 \text{tr}(AAA^*A^*) + \mathbf{B}' AAB \text{tr}(A^*A^*) \\ - 8\mathbf{B}' AA^* \mathbf{B} \text{tr}(AA^*) + \mathbf{B}' A^*A^* \mathbf{B} \text{tr}(AA) + 2\mathbf{B}' AA^*A^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B} + 2\mathbf{B}' A^*AAA^* \mathbf{B} - 8\mathbf{B}' AA^*AA^* \mathbf{B} - 8\mathbf{B}' AAA^*A^* \mathbf{B}]. \quad (17)$$

The coefficients are given as

$$\alpha^{(0)} = \frac{N(0)p_F^2}{3} \ln \frac{T}{T_{c0}}, \quad (18)$$

$$K^{(0)} = \frac{7N(0)p_F^4 \zeta(3)}{240m^2(\pi T)^2}, \quad (19)$$

$$\beta^{(0)} = \frac{7N(0)p_F^4 \zeta(3)}{60(\pi T)^2}, \quad (20)$$

$$\gamma^{(0)} = -\frac{31N(0)p_F^6 \zeta(5)}{13440(\pi T)^4}, \quad (21)$$

$$\beta^{(2)} = \frac{7\gamma_n^2 N(0)p_F^2 \zeta(3)}{48(1 + F_0^a)^2 (\pi T)^2}, \quad (22)$$

$$\beta^{(4)} = -\frac{31\gamma_n^4 N(0)p_F^2 \zeta(5)}{768(1 + F_0^a)^4 (\pi T)^4}, \quad (23)$$

$$\gamma^{(2)} = \frac{31\gamma_n^2 N(0)p_F^4 \zeta(5)}{3840(1 + F_0^a)^2 (\pi T)^4}, \quad (24)$$

with the condition that the temperature T is close to the critical temperature at zero magnetic field T_{c0} ; $|1 - T/T_{c0}| \ll 1$. $\zeta(n)$ is the zeta function. The trace (tr) is meant to be a sum over the spin and spatial directions. The terms up to $O(A^6)$ and $O(B^2A^2)$ were known in the previous studies [58–65]. We notice that the Fermi-surface approximation was adopted in the momentum integrals, and that the terms proportional to $|\mathbf{B}|^2 \text{tr}(AA^*)$ or to $|\mathbf{B}|^4 \text{tr}(AA^*)$ vanish in the present approximation. New terms found in the present study are the terms of $O(B^4A^2)$ in the second term on the right-hand side of Eq. (16), and the terms of $O(B^2A^4)$ in Eq. (17). Those new terms are

important to investigate how the ground-state properties can be changed by strong magnetic fields.

The value of T_{c0} is related to the coupling constant G by

$$T_{c0} = \frac{\pi e^{-\gamma} D}{8} \exp\left(-\frac{3}{8N(0)p_F^2 G}\right), \quad (25)$$

with the Euler gamma γ , where the energy scale D relevant for the dynamics is introduced in the momentum space below and above the Fermi surface. We define the density of states at the Fermi surface, $N(0) = mp_F/(2\pi^2)$ with the Fermi momentum $p_F = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$ with n being the neutron number density. The chemical potential can be estimated as $\mu \approx p_F^2/(2m)$ by assuming small interactions as well as the low-temperature limit.

III. NUMERICAL RESULTS

A. Phase diagrams

We investigate the phase diagram of neutron 3P_2 superfluids based on the GL free energy (13). In the numerical calculation, we use the parameter setting $T_{c0} = 0.2$ [MeV], $n = 0.17$ [fm $^{-3}$] ($p_F = 338$ MeV), $F_0^a = -0.75$. The Landau parameter F_0^a is given by referring to the value in ^3He liquid at low temperature.

There are several phases in condensations with total spin two: nematic (UN, D $_2$ -BN, D $_4$ -BN), cyclic, and ferromagnetic phases [66,69]. Among them, the nematic phase is realized at zero or weak magnetic field in the weak-coupling limit [60–65]. In the nematic phase, the A field can be parametrized

TABLE I. The nematic phases (a table taken from Ref. [64]). We show the range of r , the phases, the unbroken symmetries H , the order-parameter manifolds G/H , and the homotopy groups from π_0 to π_4 . * indicates the universal covering group, and $\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{D}_2^*$ is a quaternion group. For the definition of the product \times_n , see §4.2.2 and Appendix A of Ref. [73].

r	Phases	H	G/H	π_0	π_1	π_2	π_3	π_4
$-1/2$	UN	O(2)	U(1) \times [SO(3)/O(2)]	0	$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}_2
$-1 < r < -1/2$	D $_2$ -BN	D $_2$	U(1) \times [SO(3)/D $_2$]	0	$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Q}$	0	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}_2
-1	D $_4$ -BN	D $_4$	[U(1) \times SO(3)]/D $_4$	0	$\mathbb{Z} \times_n \mathbb{D}_4^*$	0	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}_2

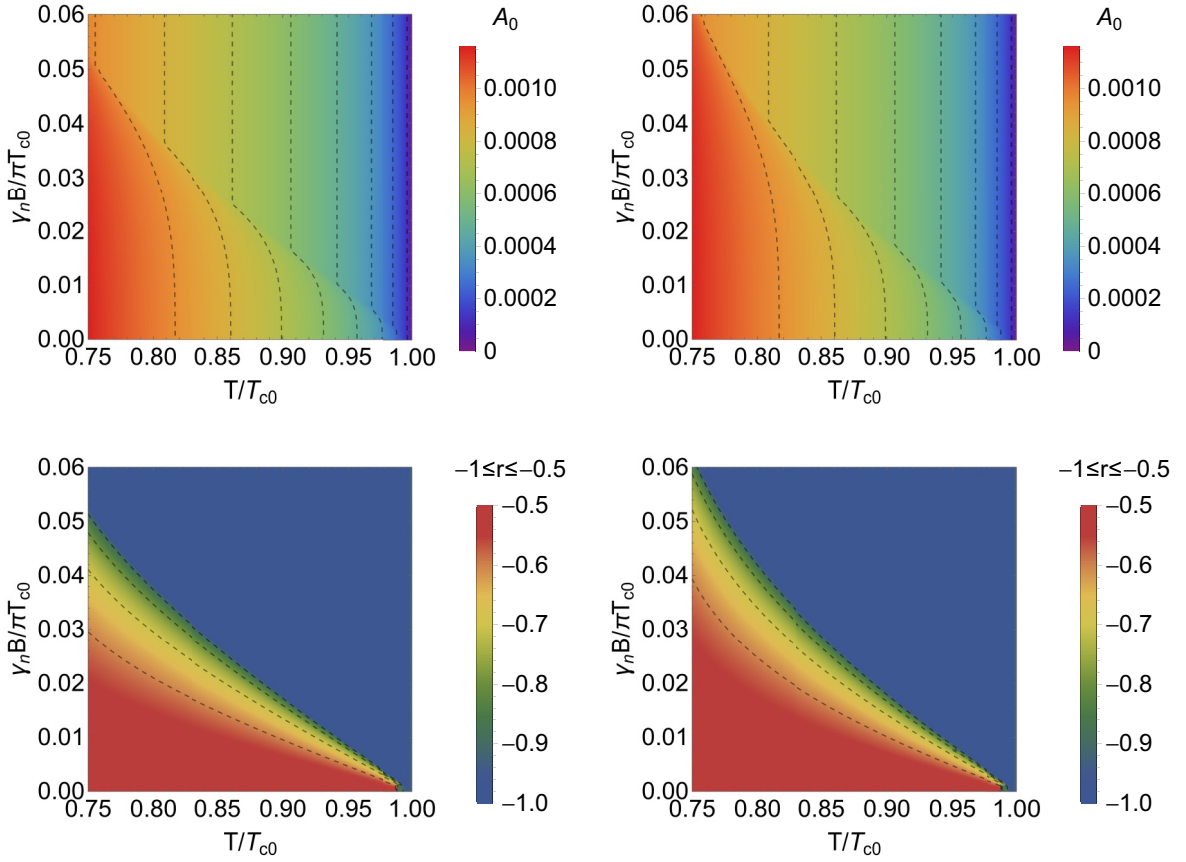


FIG. 1. The phase diagram for A_0 and r on the T - B plane. The two left panels (upper left and bottom left) are the results up to $O(B^2 A^2)$ in Ref. [64] [setting $\beta^{(4)} = \gamma^{(2)} = 0$ in Eq. (13)], and the two right panels (upper right and bottom right) are the results up to $O(B^4 A^2) + O(B^2 A^4)$ in the present study. In the bottom panels, the phases are in the UN ($r = -1/2$), D_2 -BN ($-1 < r < -1/2$), and D_4 -BN phases ($r = -1$).

by two variables A_0 and r :

$$A(t, \mathbf{x}) = A_0 \begin{pmatrix} r & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(1+r) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (26)$$

by restricting the region of the variables as $A_0 \geq 0$ and $-1 \leq r \leq -1/2$, without loss of generality. The values of A_0 and r are constant numbers in time and space. In each phase, A has continuous or discrete unbroken symmetries: $O(2)$ symmetry in the UN phase ($r = -1/2$), D_2 symmetry in the D_2 -BN phase ($-1 < r < -1/2$), and D_4 symmetry in the D_4 -BN phase ($r = -1$) [64,65]. See Table I for unbroken symmetries for each r and the corresponding order-parameter manifolds and lower-dimensional homotopy groups. For zero magnetic field, all states are degenerate in r if the sixth-order term in A is neglected, in which case the symmetry of the potential is enhanced to $SO(5)$ and the total order-parameter space is $[S^1 \times S^4]/\mathbb{Z}_2$ [72]. Turning on the magnetic field or the sixth-order term in A_0 , r is determined by minimizing the free energy [64,65].

We consider the case that the magnetic field is aligned along the y axis, $\mathbf{B} = (0, B, 0)$; this can be done without loss of generality. In fact, it can be shown that this direction gives the most stable state in the parametrization in Eq. (26); the other cases in which the magnetic field is aligned along the x or z direction give higher free energy.

In the above settings, we substitute Eq. (26) into the GL free energy density in Eq. (13) and perform the variational calculation with respect to A_0 and r . Then, we obtain the phase diagram on the T - B plane as shown in Fig. 1. We use the dimensionless quantities T/T_{c0} and $\gamma_n B / \pi T_{c0}$ for plotting the temperature and the magnetic field. Notice that the temperature in the GL free energy should be restricted as $|1 - T/T_{c0}| \ll 1$, and also that $B = 10^{15}$ G (10^{11} T), as a typical value in magnetars, corresponds to the value $\gamma_n B / \pi T_{c0} = 0.02$ for $T_{c0} = 0.2$ MeV. The left panel is the case up to $O(A^6) + O(B^2 A^2)$ [i.e., the result by setting $\beta^{(4)} = \gamma^{(2)} = 0$ in Eq. (13)] [64], and the right panel is the case up to $O(A^6) + O(B^4 A^2) + O(B^2 A^4)$. In both cases, for $T < T_{c0}$, we observe the following common properties: At zero magnetic field ($B = 0$), the ground state is in the UN phase ($r = -1/2$).³ As the magnetic field increases ($B \neq 0$), the phase changes to the D_2 -BN phase ($-1 < r < -1/2$) and reaches the D_4 -BN phase ($r = -1$). All the phase transitions are of the second order. As a consequence of the effect of $O(B^4 A^2) + O(B^2 A^4)$, the region of the D_2 -BN phase is extended, as shown in the right panel in Fig. 1.

³It is known that the values for $-1 \leq r \leq -1/2$ are degenerate if the terms up to $O(A^4)$ in $f_6^{(0)}$ are included. The degeneracy is resolved when the term of $O(A^6)$ is included.

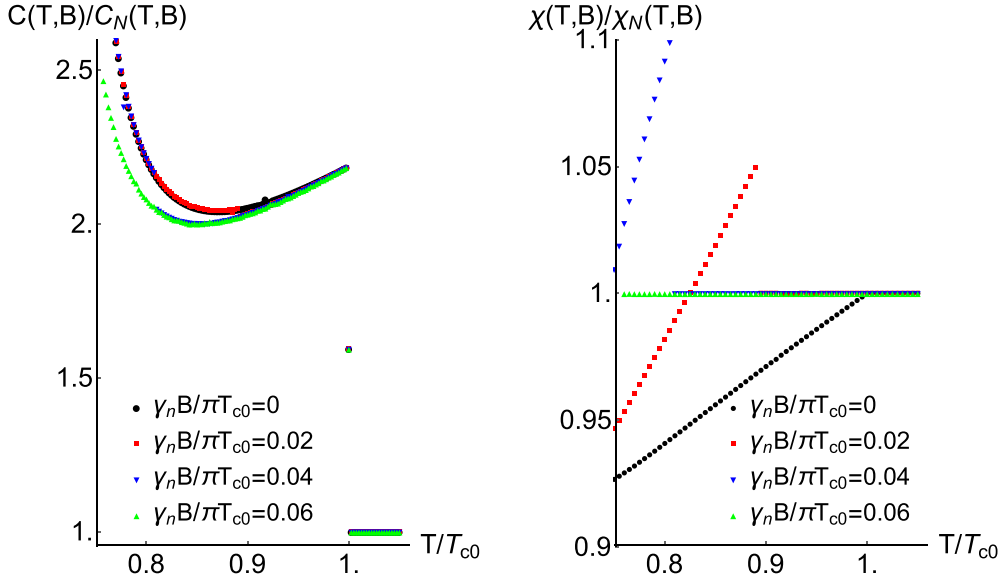


FIG. 2. The heat capacity $C(T, B)$ and the magnetic susceptibility $\chi(T, B) = \chi_2(T, B)$ along the direction parallel to the magnetic field. They are normalized by $C_N(T, B)$ and $\chi_N(T, B)$, respectively.

Notice that the condensate A_0 in the D_4 -BN phase does not depend on the magnetic field, as shown in the dashed contour lines in Fig. 1. This is expected from the energy spectrum of the neutrons in the quasiclassical approximation. The neutron 3P_2 pairing in the D_4 -BN phase has the spin $\uparrow\uparrow$ component and the spin $\downarrow\downarrow$ component with equal fraction in the D_4 -BN phase, and they have energy shifts in the opposite sign due to $-\mu_n \cdot B$ term in the magnetic field. Their energy shifts should be canceled in total because, in the quasiclassical approximation, the higher- and lower-energy states above and below the Fermi surface are treated symmetrically. This cancellation of the energy shifts turns to be the independence of the condensate A_0 from the magnetic field in the D_4 -BN phase.

Before concluding our findings about the change in the phase diagram, we need to confirm the validity of the expansion up to $O(B^4 A^2) + O(B^2 A^4)$ for the magnetic field relevant to neutron stars and magnetars. To confirm this, we compare the term of $O(B^4 A^2)$ with the term of $O(B^2 A^2)$ in $f_2^{(\leq 4)}$ in Eq. (13). The ratio is given as $\beta^{(4)} B^2 / \beta^{(2)} \approx \gamma_n^2 B^2 / T^2$. This quantity should be less than unity in order to achieve a good convergence for the expansion by the magnetic field. Considering that the temperature is close to T_{c0} ($T \approx T_{c0}$), we obtain the upper limit of the magnitude of magnetic field: $B \lesssim T_{c0} / \gamma_n = 1.6 \times 10^{16}$ G (1.6×10^{12} T), i.e., $\gamma_n B / (\pi T_{c0}) \lesssim 0.3$. In our analysis based on Eq. (13), in fact, we find that the ground state becomes unstable for stronger magnetic field and no stable solution exists. Therefore, it is justified that the phase diagrams presented in the right panels in Fig. 1 are within a reasonable range of the magnitude of the magnetic field in the present expansion.

B. Thermodynamic properties

We investigate the thermodynamic properties, heat capacity, and magnetic susceptibility of the neutron 3P_2 superfluid.

They will be useful quantities for the investigation of the inner structures in neutron stars by observations. The heat capacity is defined by

$$C(T, B) = -T \left. \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial T^2} \right|_{\mathbf{B}=(0,B,0)}. \quad (27)$$

We plot the heat capacity normalized by the heat capacity of a free neutron gas, $C_N(T, B) = (2\pi^2/3)N(0)T$, in the left panel in Fig. 2. The spin susceptibility along the spatial direction $i = 1, 2, 3$ is defined by

$$\chi_i(T, B) = \left. \frac{\partial M_i(T, B)}{\partial B_i} \right|_{\mathbf{B}=(0,B,0)}, \quad (28)$$

with the magnetization $M_i(T, B) = -(1 + F_0^a) \partial f / \partial B_i |_{\mathbf{B}=(0,B,0)}$. Notice that the direction of the magnetic field is fixed to be along the y axis, $\mathbf{B} = (0, B, 0)$. We plot $\chi(T, B) = \chi_2(T, B)$, which is directed along the y axis and is normalized by the spin susceptibility for a free neutron gas, $\chi_N(T, B) = 2N(0)\mu_n^2 / (1 + F_0^a)$, in the right panel in Fig. 2. Both in the heat capacity and in the spin susceptibility, we find some discontinuities, which indicate that the phase transition is of second order. In the left panel of the figure, the heat capacity jumps drastically at the temperature $T \approx T_{c0}$. This is the phase transition from the 3P_2 superfluid phase to the normal phase. At finite magnetic field, we find small jumps at $T = 0.89T_{c0}$ for $\gamma_n B / \pi T_{c0} = 0.02$ and $T = 0.81T_{c0}$ for $\gamma_n B / \pi T_{c0} = 0.04$. Similarly, we also find jumps in the spin susceptibility, as shown in the right panel of the figure. They are at phase transitions of the second order from the D_2 -BN and D_4 -BN phases (cf. Fig. 1). We may notice that the heat capacity has a minimum as a function of temperature in the left panel. However, this should not be considered seriously because the temperature region should be restricted to $|1 - T/T_{c0}| \ll 1$. In the present parameter set, the temperature region with

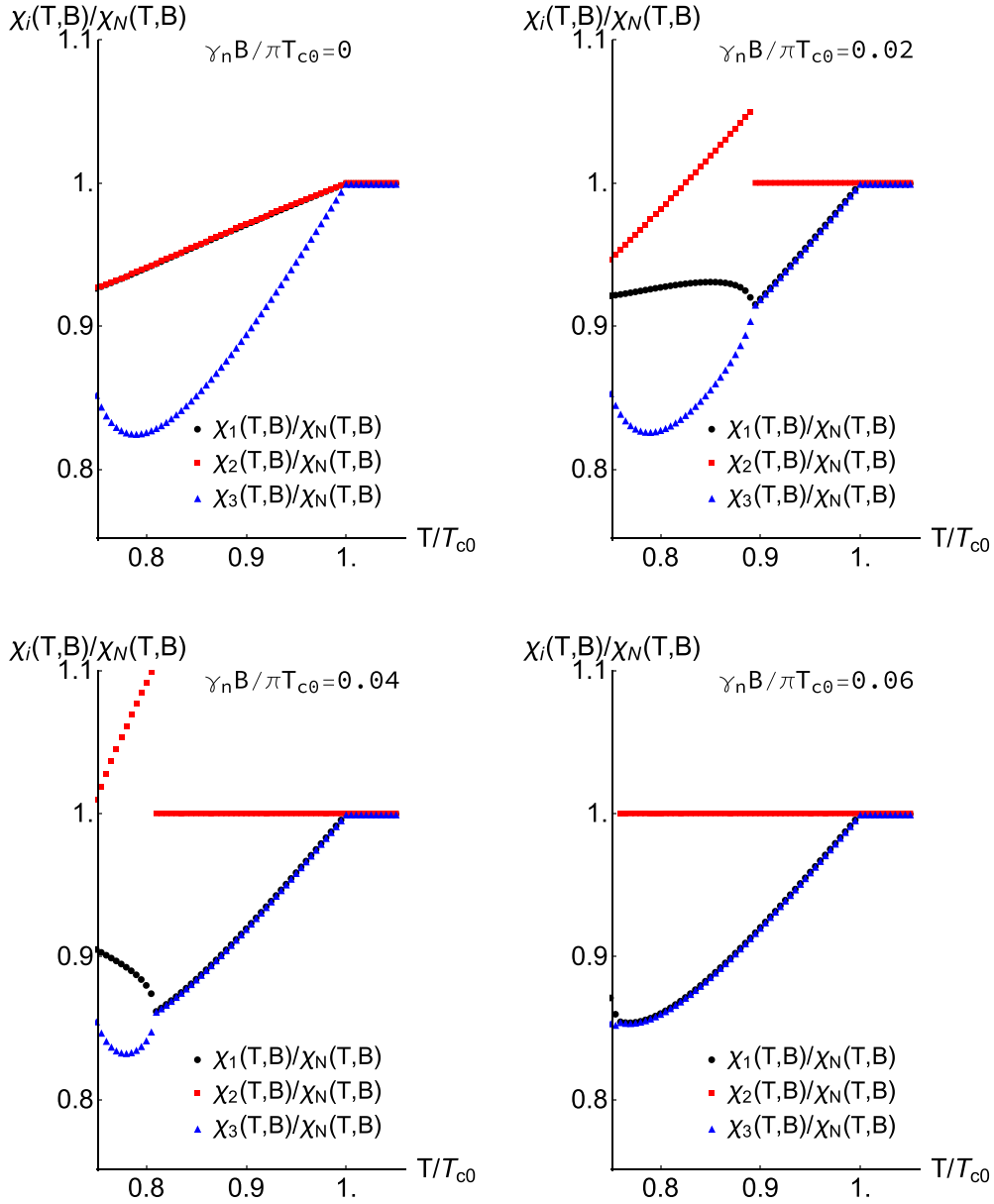


FIG. 3. Spin susceptibilities $\chi_i(T, B)$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$) for various magnitudes of magnetic field. They are normalized by $\chi_N(T, B)$.

$T/T_{c0} \gtrsim 0.8$ would be reasonably acceptable. Our result is consistent with the result in the analysis by the BdG equation that the heat capacity decreases as the temperature decreases in the superfluid phase [70]. As for the spin susceptibility, we notice that χ_2 in the D_4 -BN phase has no change from that of a free neutron gas. This is expected from the energy spectrum of the neutrons in the magnetic field, as discussed previously. Thus, the response of the neutron 3P_2 superfluidity to the magnetic field seems to be the same as that of a free neutron gas. However, the spin susceptibilities, χ_1 and χ_3 , in the direction perpendicular to the applied magnetic field are still dependent on the magnetic field. Thus, there exists the nontrivial magnetic response in the D_4 -BN phase.

Finally, we discuss the (an)isotropy of the spin susceptibility. We plot $\chi_i(B, T)$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$) for the fixed magnetic field $\mathbf{B} = (0, B, 0)$ in Fig. 3. We find that χ_1 , χ_2 , and χ_3 exhibit different behavior in the superfluid phase. It is interesting to note that χ_1 and χ_2 are the same (isotropic) in the UN phase and are different (anisotropic) in the D_2 -BN and D_4 -BN phases. Similarly, χ_1 and χ_3 are different (anisotropic) in the UN and D_2 -BN phases and are the same (isotropic) in the D_4 -BN phase (cf. Fig. 1). Such (an)isotropy can be understood by the energy-momentum dispersion relations for neutrons in the UN, D_2 -BN, and D_4 -BN phases. From the neutron propagator (9) and the vertex function (10), we obtain the energy-momentum dispersion relation of the neutron in

the 3P_2 phase,

$$E_{\pm}(A_0, r) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{\bar{\gamma}_n^2}{4} \mathbf{B}^2 + \mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{d}^* + \xi_p^2 \pm \sqrt{-2|\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{d}^*|^2 + \bar{\gamma}_n^2(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{d})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{d}^*) - 2i\bar{\gamma}_n \mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{d}^*)\xi_p + \bar{\gamma}_n^2 \mathbf{B}^2 \xi_p^2}}, \quad (29)$$

with $\mathbf{d} = A\mathbf{p}$ and three-dimensional momentum $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$ of a neutron. In the case of $\mathbf{B} = (0, B, 0)$, the above equation becomes

$$E_{\pm}(A_0, r)|_{\mathbf{B}=(0,B,0)} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{\bar{\gamma}_n^2}{4} B^2 + A_0^2(r^2 p_1^2 + (1+r)^2 p_2^2 + p_3^2) + \xi_p^2 \pm \bar{\gamma}_n B \sqrt{A_0^2(1+r)^2 p_2^2 + \xi_p^2}}. \quad (30)$$

We observe that the energy-momentum dispersion is anisotropic on the (p_1, p_3) plane, perpendicular to the y axis, for $-1 < r < -1/2$ (the D₂-BN phase), and that it is isotropic on the (p_1, p_2) plane for $r = -1/2$ (the UN phase) and isotropic also on the (p_1, p_3) plane for $r = -1$ (the D₄-BN phase). Thus, we confirm that the (an)isotropy of the energy-momentum dispersion relation for the neutron in the 3P_2 phase is correctly reflected in the GL free-energy density.

IV. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

We have studied the effect of a strong magnetic field on the neutron 3P_2 superfluidity. Assuming the attraction in the neutron 3P_2 pair, as expected from the LS interaction, we have derived the GL free energy by integrating out the neutron fields at the one-loop level and by adopting the low-energy approximation near the critical temperature. We have kept the next-to-leading-order terms of the magnetic field in the expansion of the GL free energy. It has been found that the region of the D₂-BN phase is extended at strong magnetic fields, as the effect of next-to-leading order in the expansion for the magnetic field. We also investigate the thermodynamic properties, such as the heat capacity and spin susceptibility, and show that the spin susceptibility is anisotropic in the D₂-BN phase and isotropic in the UN and D₄-BN phases, depending on the direction relative to the magnetic field. Such the (an)isotropy of the spin susceptibility may help us to understand the neutron 3P_2 superfluids inside magnetars in observations.

The phase transitions are of the second order in the GL analysis in this paper. The phase diagram derived from the BdG equation contains a first-order transition between the D₂-BN and D₄-BN phases for lower temperature and the tricritical point between the first and second-order transition lines [70]. These may be incorporated in the GL analysis by taking into account higher-order terms in A . Beyond the particle-hole

symmetry, it is an interesting question to ask what is the change of the phase diagram in the particle-hole asymmetry, i.e., the competition between the nematic phase and the ferromagnetic phase.

For future work, it is an interesting question to ask how the neutron 3P_2 phase is connected to the other phases, such as hyperon matter, quark matter, and so on. For example, the connection of the (non-Abelian) quantum vortices between the hadron matter and the quark matter is discussed in the view of boojums [74–77].⁴ The applications to the observables in the magnetars are also important.

It is also interesting to investigate a possibility of realization of different phases of 3P_2 superfluids. In the Mermin's classification in the GL theory, there can exist cyclic and ferromagnetic phases. The former admits 1/3 quantized non-Abelian vortices [79] forming a network in collision [80], and the latter could be the origin of strong magnetic field of magnetars. Furthermore, both phases have been found to be topological matter, called Weyl semimetals, admitting gapless fermions in the bulk [70,81], which would significantly affect the cooling properties of neutron stars. Those subjects are left for future works.

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⁴See Ref. [78] for a review of non-Abelian quantum vortices in quark matter.

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