

Dilution refrigerators - concepts

Concept of Landau's Fermi liquid theory

elementary excitations of interacting Fermions are described by almost independent fermionic quasiparticles

state of Fermi liquid described simply by quasiparticle distribution

Phenomenological Theory by Landau

energy functional:

$$E = E_0 + \sum_{\vec{k}, \sigma} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) + \frac{1}{2\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} \sum_{\sigma, \sigma'} f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma'}(\vec{k}')$$

deviation from ground state

$$\delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) = n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) - n_{\sigma}^{(0)}(\vec{k})$$

spin index $\sigma = \pm 1$

ground state distribution

$$n_{\sigma}^{(0)}(\vec{k}) = \Theta(k_F - |\vec{k}|)$$

filled Fermi sea

Fermi liquid theory

$$E = E_0 + \sum_{\vec{k}, \sigma} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) + \frac{1}{2\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} \sum_{\sigma, \sigma'} f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma'}(\vec{k}')$$

effective quasiparticle spectrum:

$$\tilde{\epsilon}_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) = \frac{\delta E}{\delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k})} = \epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) + \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}', \sigma'} f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') \delta n_{\sigma'}(\vec{k}')$$

bare quasiparticle spectrum:

$$\epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) = \frac{\hbar^2 \vec{k}^2}{2m^*}$$

effective mass

Fermi velocity:

$$\frac{1}{\hbar} \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{k}} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \Big|_{k_F} = \vec{v}_F = \frac{\hbar \vec{k}_F}{m^*}$$

density of states at ϵ_F :

$$N(\epsilon_F) = \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}, \sigma} \delta(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) - \epsilon_F) = \frac{k_F^2}{\pi^2 \hbar v_F} = \frac{m^* k_F}{\pi^2 \hbar^2}$$

Fermi volume conserved

$$k_F = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$$

Fermi liquid theory

$$E = E_0 + \sum_{\vec{k}, \sigma} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) + \frac{1}{2\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} \sum_{\sigma, \sigma'} f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma'}(\vec{k}')$$

couplings: $f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') = f^s(\hat{k}, \hat{k}') + \sigma\sigma' f^a(\hat{k}, \hat{k}')$

symmetric
(charge)
antisymmetric
(spin)

spherical symmetry: $f^{s,a}(\hat{k}, \hat{k}') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} f_l^{s,a} P_l(\cos \theta_{\hat{k}, \hat{k}'})$ Legendre Polynomials

Landau parameters:

$$F_l^s = N(\epsilon_F) f_l^s \quad \text{charge}$$

$$F_l^a = N(\epsilon_F) f_l^a \quad \text{spin}$$

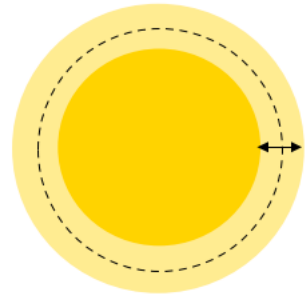
$$\int_{-1}^{+1} dz P_l(z) P_{l'}(z) = \frac{2\delta_{ll'}}{2l+1}$$

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \gamma}} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{r'^{\ell}}{r^{\ell+1}} P_{\ell}(\cos \gamma),$$

$$P_0(x) = 1, P_1(x) = x, P_2(x) = (3x^2 - 1)/2, \text{ etc.}$$

Fermi liquid theory

specific heat: $\delta n_\sigma(\vec{k}) = n_\sigma^{(0)}(T, \vec{k}) - n_\sigma^{(0)}(0, \vec{k})$ $\frac{m^* k_F}{\pi^2 \hbar^2}$

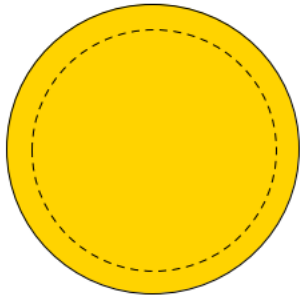


T
thermal softening
of Fermi surface



$$C = \frac{\pi^2 k_B^2 N(\epsilon_F)}{3} T$$

compressibility: $\kappa = -\frac{1}{\Omega} \left. \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial p} \right|_{T, N}$ $\delta \tilde{\epsilon}_\sigma(\vec{k}) = \frac{2}{3} \tilde{\epsilon}_\sigma(\vec{k}) \kappa \delta p$



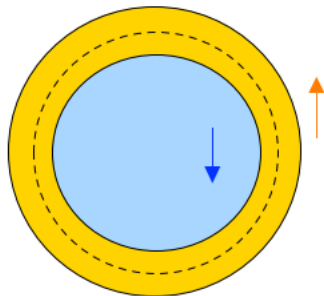
change of
Fermi volume



$$\kappa = \frac{3}{2n\epsilon_F} \frac{1}{1 + F_0^s} = \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{N(\epsilon_F)}{1 + F_0^s}$$

spin susceptibility: $\chi = \frac{M}{H}$

$$\delta \tilde{\epsilon}_\sigma(\vec{k}) = -\tilde{g} \mu_B H \frac{\sigma}{2}$$



spin splitting
of Fermi sea



$$\chi = \frac{\mu_B^2 N(\epsilon_F)}{1 + F_0^a}$$

Let us now compute the *compressibility*:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} V = N/n \\ Vdp = dE, \quad dE/N = d\mu \end{array} \right.$$

$$\kappa = -\frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial P} = \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} \quad (5.38)$$

$$\delta n = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{p,\sigma} \delta n_{p,\sigma}$$

where P is the pressure. At $T = 0$,

$$\delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{p}) = \frac{\partial n_{\sigma}(\vec{p})}{\partial \varepsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{p})} (\delta \varepsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{p}) - \delta \mu) \quad \delta \varepsilon_{p,\sigma} = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{p'\sigma'} f_{p\sigma,p'\sigma'} \delta n_{p'\sigma'}$$

The quasiparticle energy $\varepsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{p})$ depends on μ only through its dependence on $\delta n_{\sigma'}(\vec{p}')$ (*i.e.*, quasiparticle interactions, see Eq. 5.9). As $T \rightarrow 0$ both $\frac{\partial n}{\partial \varepsilon}$ and $\delta n_{\sigma}(p)$ vanish unless all momenta are *at* the Fermi-surface.

$$\delta \varepsilon_{\sigma}(p) = f_0^S \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\sigma', \vec{p}'} \delta n_{\sigma'}(\vec{p}') \equiv f_0^S \delta n \quad (5.40)$$

where f_0^S is Landau parameter with $l = 0$. Hence, we have

$$\delta n_\sigma(\vec{p}) = \frac{\partial n_\sigma(\vec{p})}{\partial \varepsilon_\sigma(\vec{p})} (f_0^S \delta n - \delta \mu) \quad (5.41)$$

and

$$\delta n = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\sigma, \vec{p}} \delta n_\sigma(\vec{p}) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\sigma, \vec{p}} \frac{\partial n_\sigma(\vec{p})}{\partial \varepsilon_\sigma(\vec{p})} (f_0^S \delta n - \delta \mu) \quad (5.42)$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial n_\sigma(\vec{p})}{\partial \varepsilon_\sigma(\vec{p})} \longrightarrow -\delta(|p| - p_F) \text{ for } T \rightarrow 0 \quad (5.43)$$

Thus,

$$\delta n = -N(0)(f_0^S \delta n - \delta \mu) \quad (5.44)$$

and

$$\delta n[1 + N(0)f_0^S] = N(0)\delta \mu \quad (5.45)$$

using the expression for the (s-wave) symmetric (singlet) Landau parameter,

$$F_0^S = N(0)f_0^S \quad (5.46)$$

we can write

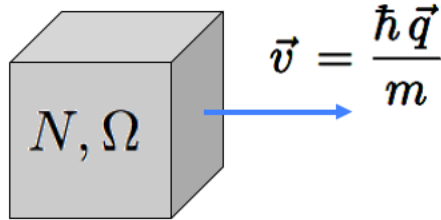
$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} = \frac{N(0)}{1 + F_0^S} \quad (5.47)$$

which leads to an expression for the *compressibility* κ :

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{N(0)}{1 + F_0^S} \quad F_0^S > 10, \text{ "less compressible"} \quad (5.48)$$

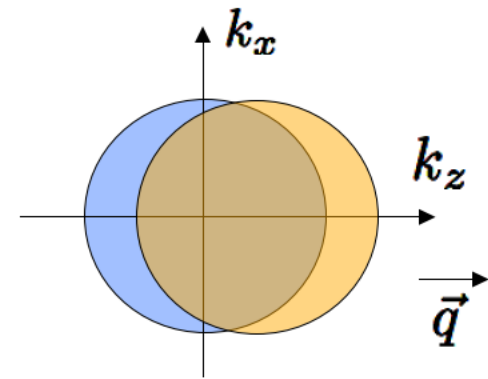
Fermi liquid theory

momentum shift for all particles $\vec{k} \rightarrow \vec{k} + \vec{q}$



current density

$$\vec{j}_{\vec{q}} = \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}, \sigma} \vec{v}(\vec{k}) \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k})$$



shifted Fermi sea

"bare particle" view

$$\vec{v}(\vec{k}) = \frac{\hbar \vec{k}}{m}$$

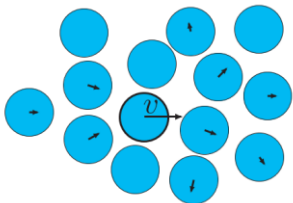
quasiparticle view

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v}(\vec{k}) &= \frac{1}{\hbar} \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{k}} \tilde{\epsilon}_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) && \text{quasiparticle motion} \\ &= \frac{1}{\hbar} \left(\vec{\nabla}_{\vec{k}} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}) + \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}', \sigma'} \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{k}} f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') \delta n_{\sigma}(\vec{k}') \right) && \text{induced motion} \end{aligned}$$

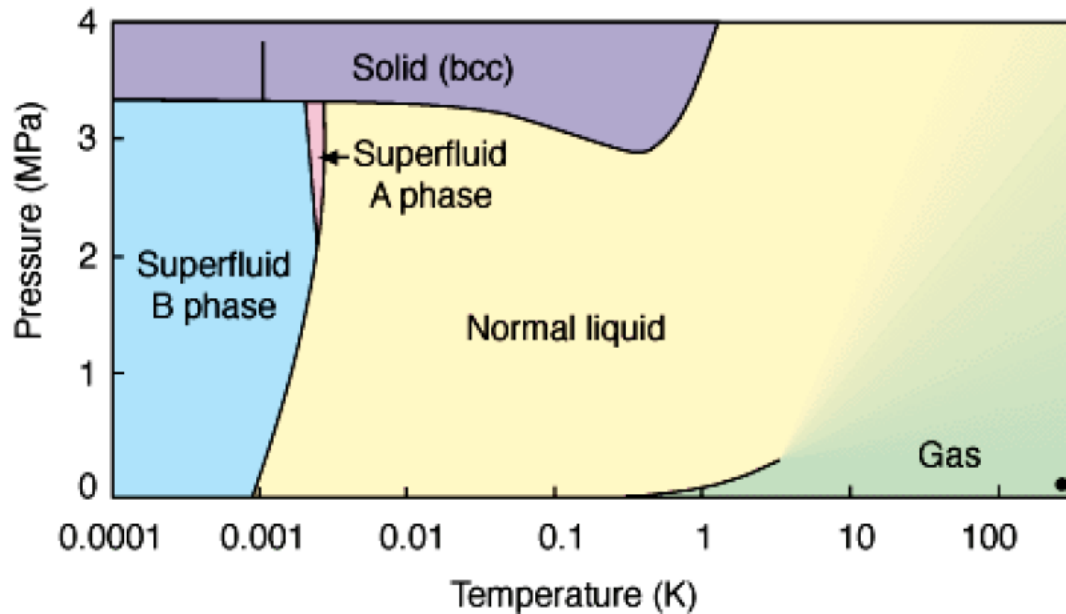
$$\frac{\hbar \vec{k}}{m} = \frac{\hbar \vec{k}}{m^*} + \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_{\vec{k}', \sigma'} f_{\sigma\sigma'}(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') \delta(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\vec{k}') - \epsilon_F) \frac{\hbar \vec{k}'}{m^*}$$

$$\frac{m^*}{m} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} F_1^s$$

intrinsic consistency



^3He as an example Fermi liquid



strong short-range repulsion



Fermi liquid

longer-ranged attraction



superfluid

pressure	m^*/m	F_0^s	F_0^a	F_1^s	κ/κ_0	χ/χ_0
0	3.0	10.1	-0.52	6.0	0.27	6.3
$< p_c$	6.2	94	-0.74	15.7	0.065	24

enhanced

diminished

enhanced

$$\frac{m^*}{m} = 1 + \frac{1}{3}F_1^s$$

$$c = v_F \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}(1 + F_0^s)(1 + \frac{1}{3}F_1^s)}$$

Speed of (first) sound

$$c_0 = v_F \sqrt{\frac{F_0^{(s)}}{3}}$$

Speed of zero sound

$$G(p, T) = U + pV - TS$$

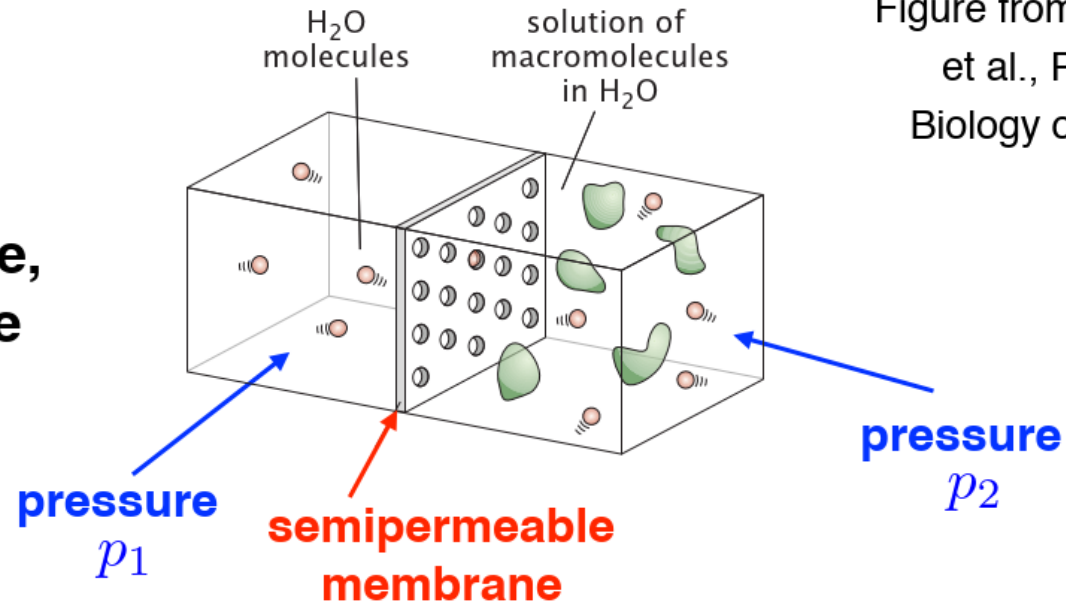
$$\mu = \frac{\partial G}{\partial N}$$

Osmotic pressure

MIT MAE 545

Figure from R. Phillips et al., Physical Biology of the Cell

Small water molecules can pass through a semipermeable membrane, which blocks large solute macromolecules.



$$G = N_1 \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_1, 0) + N_2 \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_2, c_s) + N_s \mu_s(T, p_2, c_s)$$

In thermodynamic equilibrium the Gibbs free energy G is minimized, which means that chemical potentials of water are the same on both sides of the semipermeable membrane!

$$\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_1, 0) = \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_2, c_s)$$

H₂O => ⁴He
membrane => superleak

Osmotic pressure

Figure from R. Phillips
et al., Physical
Biology of the Cell

$$G(p, T, c) - G(p, T, 0) = -TS$$

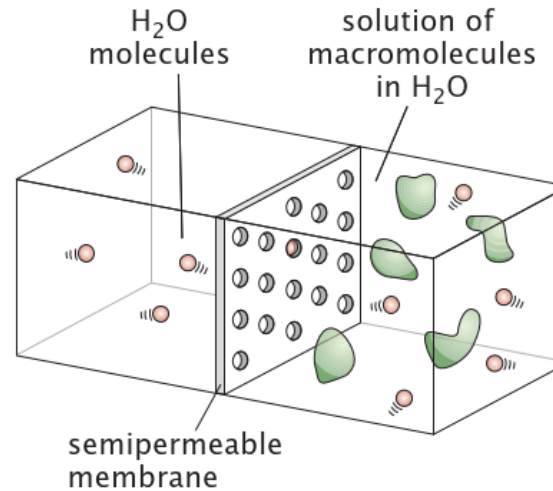
$$S_{mix} = -R(c_1 \ln c_1 + c_2 \ln c_2)$$

$$\approx -Rc_1 \ln c_1 \approx -Rc_2$$

Chemical potential of water

$$\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = \frac{\partial G}{\partial N_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} = \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^0 - k_B T \frac{N_s}{N_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}$$

$$\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p, c_s) = \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^0(T, p) - k_B T c_s v$$



$$\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_1, 0) = \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_2, c_s)$$

$$\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_2, c_s) = \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^0(T, p_2) - k_B T c_s v$$

$$\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T, p_2, c_s) \approx \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^0(T, p_1) + \left(\frac{\partial \mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^0}{\partial p} \right) (p_2 - p_1) - k_B T c_s v$$

$$\Pi = p_2 - p_1 = k_B T \Delta c_s$$

Osmotic pressure depends only on temperature and concentration difference across the membrane!

Dilution refrigerator

Only available CONTINUOUS cooling method below 0.3 K

- 1951 H. London proposed the operating principle at LT meeting in Oxford
- 1962 First practical concept about it (London, Clarke & Mendoza)
- 1965 First realization (Das, De Bruyn Ouboter & Taconis, Leiden, 0.22 K)
- 1966 Dubna, 25 mK
- 1999 Lancaster, 1.7 mK

Physical grounds: QUANTUM-effects make it possible !

- **^3He atoms take more space than ^4He** (zp motion) => distinguishable
- ^3He dissolves into ^4He (Fermi/Bose systems) even at absolute zero temperature; $x_{3s}(T=0) = 6.6\%$
- molar entropy of ^3He is higher in dilute mixture than in pure phase;
heat of mixing: $L_m = 84 T^2 \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)$ $L=\Delta ST; \Delta S \sim T$
- ^4He is **superfluid and has no entropy** ($T < 0.5 \text{ K}$)
- osmotic pressure of ^3He keeps balance against thermal gradient in mixture
- ^3He vapor pressure higher than of ^4He (possible to distill ^3He out of ^4He)

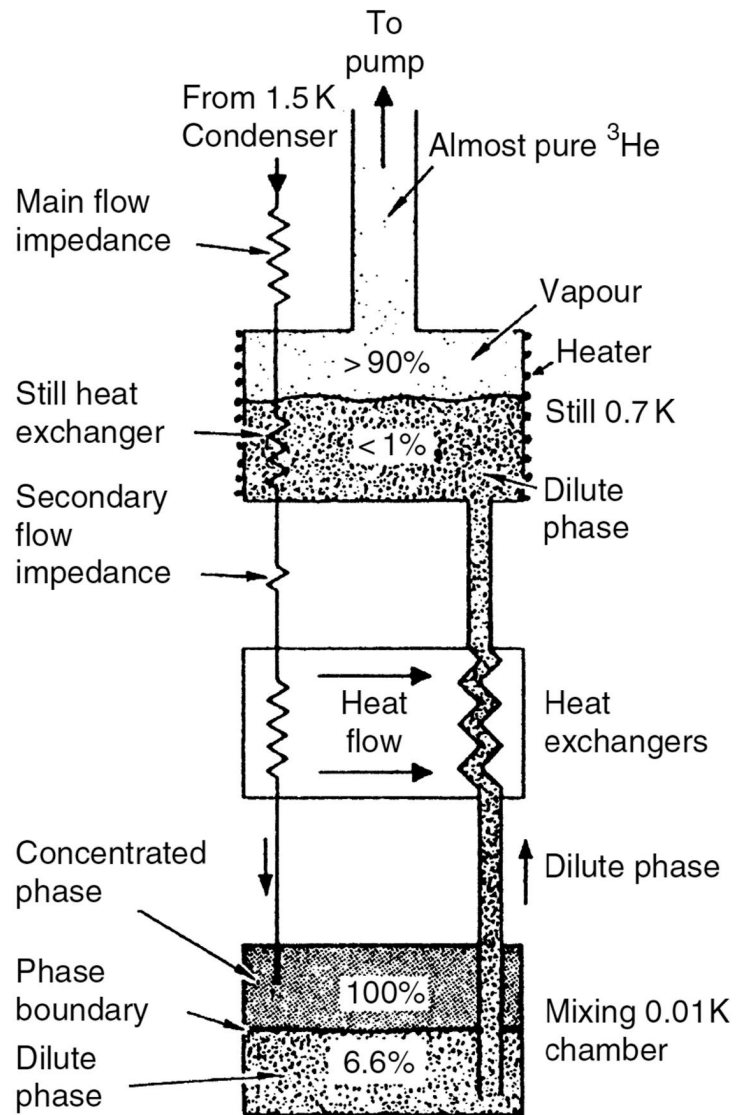
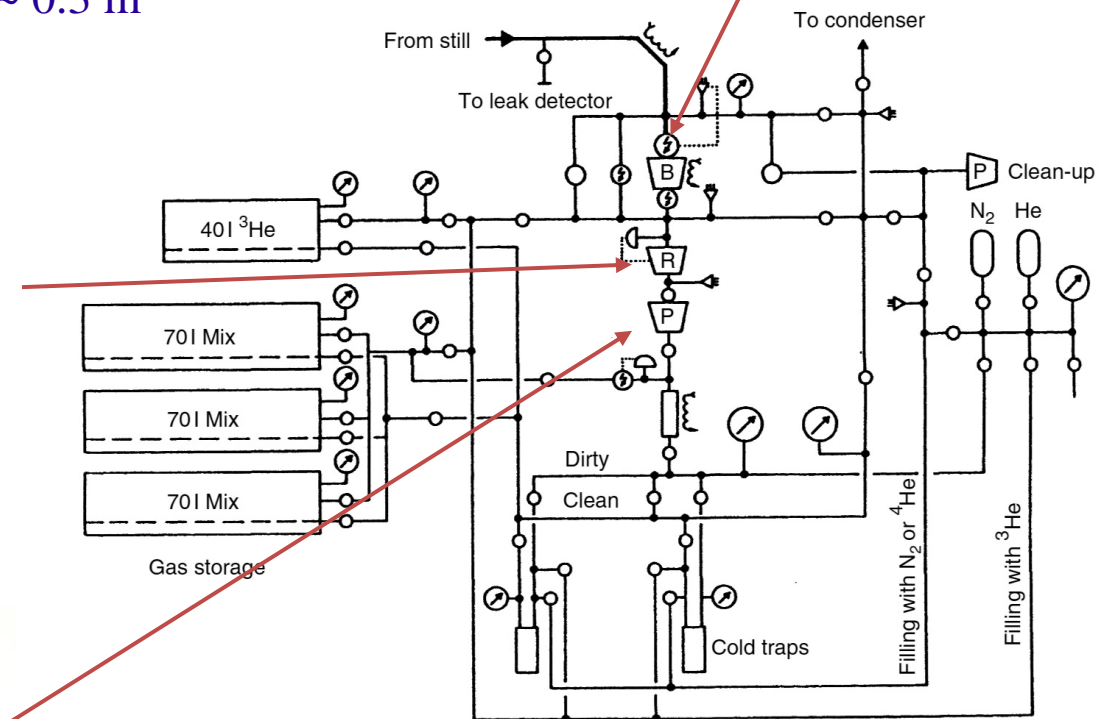
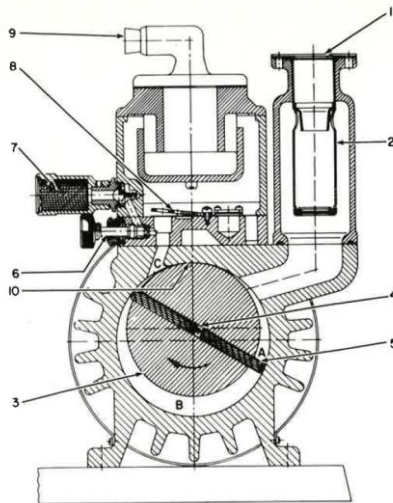
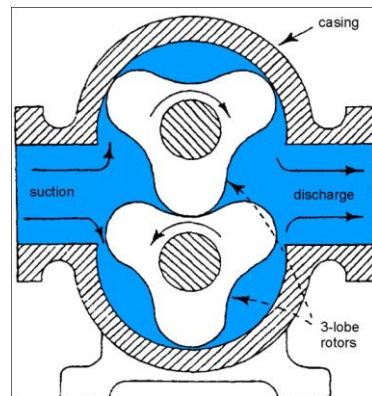
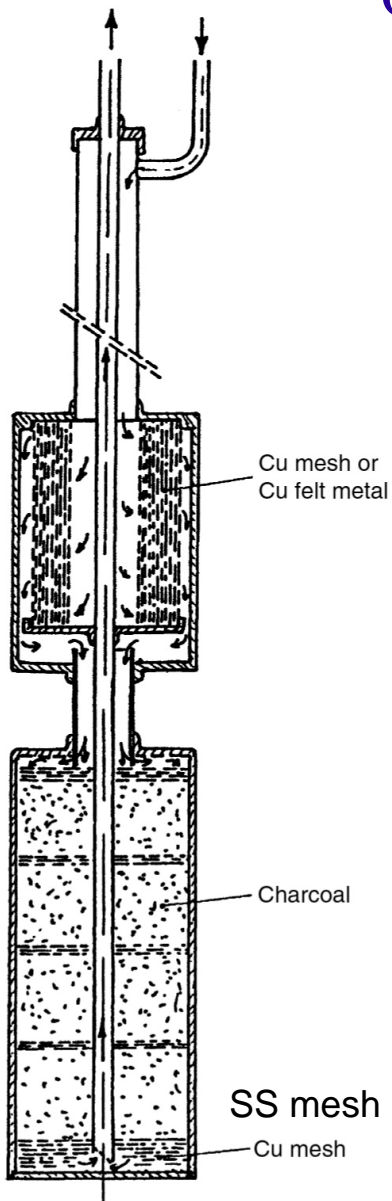


Fig. 7.9. Schematic ${}^3\text{He}$ - ${}^4\text{He}$ dilution refrigerator. This part will sit in a vacuum chamber that is immersed in a ${}^4\text{He}$ bath at 4.2 K. The incoming ${}^3\text{He}$ gas is condensed on a continuously operating ${}^4\text{He}$ pot at 1.5 K (Sect. 5.2.4)

Operation of a dilution refrigerator requires pretty elaborate pumping and gas handling systems

- efficient booster-, roots-, or turbo pumps + backing pumps
=> $10^4 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$ ($\sim 1 \text{ mmol/s}$, $p \sim 1 \text{ Pa}$)
- still pumping line $\phi \sim 0.3 \text{ m}$
- LN₂-charcoal trap
- safety measures, etc



Symbols: , pump; B, booster; R, roots; P, regular mechanical pump;
 , valve; , automatic valve; , manometer; , filter;
 , water cooling; , vacuum gauge; , controlling switch;
 , electrical connection

Fig. 7.24. Schematic diagram of the gas handling and pumping system of a ³He-⁴He dilution refrigerator (courtesy of P. Sekowski, Universität Bayreuth)

Fig. 7.25. LN₂ cooled activated charcoal/Cu mesh trap (courtesy of R.M. Mueller and P. Sekowski)

Dilution units are commercially available (price around 200-300 k€...700k€)

- Oxford Instruments, UK
- Leiden Cryogenics, The Netherlands
- Bluefors Cryogenics, Finland
- etc.

Special types may be adapted to specific conditions:

- **Dry cryostats**
 - pulse tube cooler provides the ~ 2 (3.5) K base
 - have become the mainstream of mK-refrigerators
 - just one vacuum space for the pulse tube and the dilution fridge
- **Miniature cryostats**
 - can be dipped into a storage dewar (often max diam ~ 5 cm)
 - quick operation, $T_{\min} \sim 10 \dots 20$ mK in couple hours, limited power
- **Fully plastic dilution fridges**
 - can be operated in very high magnetic fields
 - Kapitza resistance between helium and plastics is smaller than He–metal
- **Monster machines**
 - $dn/dt \sim 10$ mmol/s with $A_{\text{hex}} > 2000$ m²



Mixing chamber
diameter 490 mm

CF-CS110-1500 Maglev-2PT

$T_{min} < 7 \text{ mK}$

$Q > 1500 \text{ microW @ } 100 \text{ mK}$



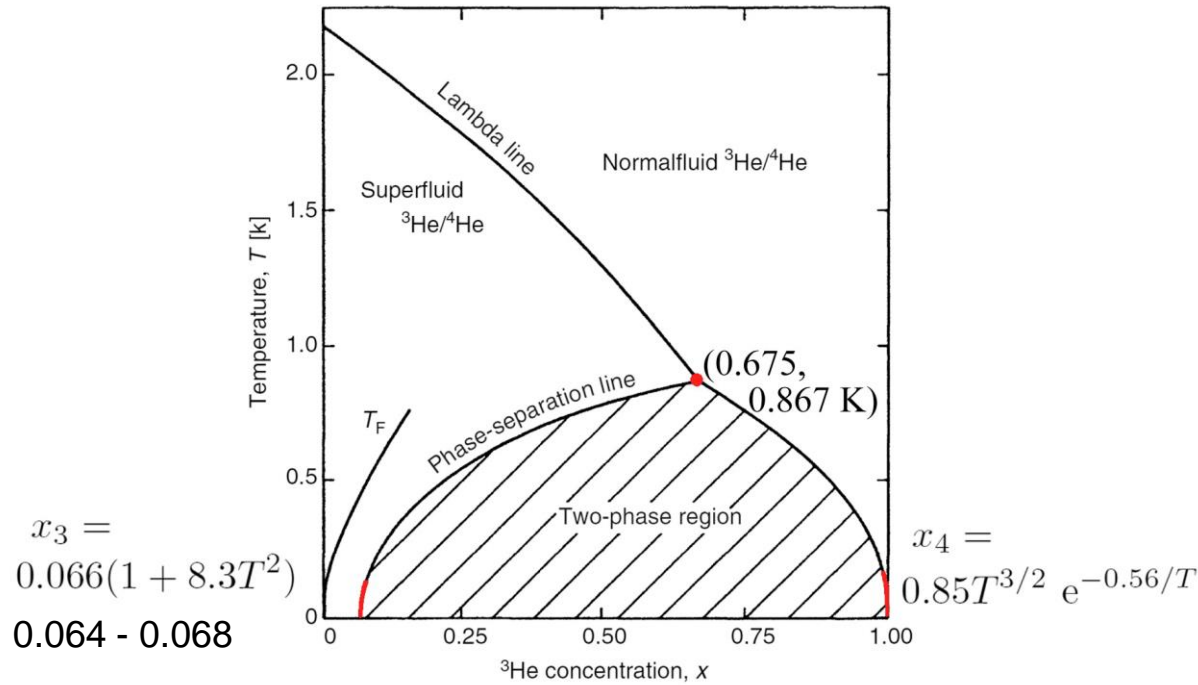


Fig. 7.1. Phase diagram of liquid ${}^3\text{He}$ - ${}^4\text{He}$ mixtures at saturated vapour pressure. The diagram shows the lambda line for the superfluid transition of ${}^4\text{He}$, the phase separation line of the mixtures below which they separate into a ${}^4\text{He}$ -rich and a ${}^3\text{He}$ -rich phase, and the line of the Fermi temperatures T_F of the ${}^3\text{He}$ component

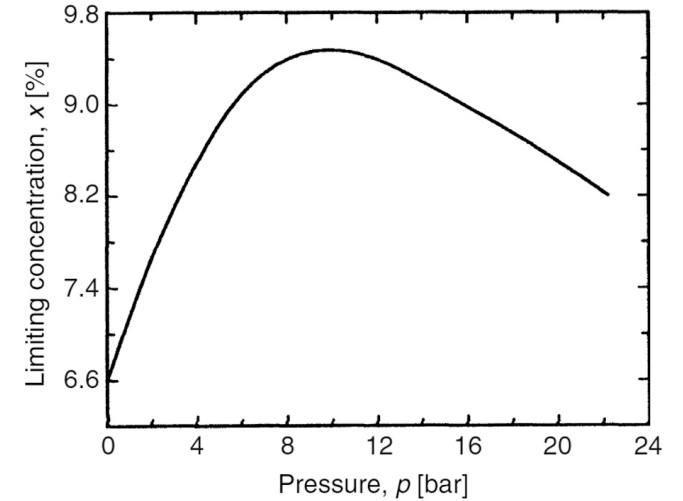


Fig. 7.2. Limiting low-temperature concentration of ${}^3\text{He}$ in ${}^4\text{He}$ at $T = 50 \text{ mK}$ as a function of pressure

	${}^4\text{He}$	${}^3\text{He}$
Helium isotopes	– Bose condensate	– Fermi fluid
$T < 0.5 \text{ K}$	– no thermal excitations	– $T_F \sim 1 \text{ K}$
	– $\eta = 0, S \sim 0, C \sim 0$	– $C = \pi^2 R/2 T/T_F$
		– $m^* \sim 2.8 (3.0) m_3$

$$T_F = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_3^*k_B} (3\pi^2 n_3)^{2/3}$$

Finite solubility of ^3He in ^4He at $T = 0$

Stronger binding of ^3He atoms in liquid ^4He than in ^3He is expressed by $\varepsilon_{3,d}(0, 0) > L_3/N_0$

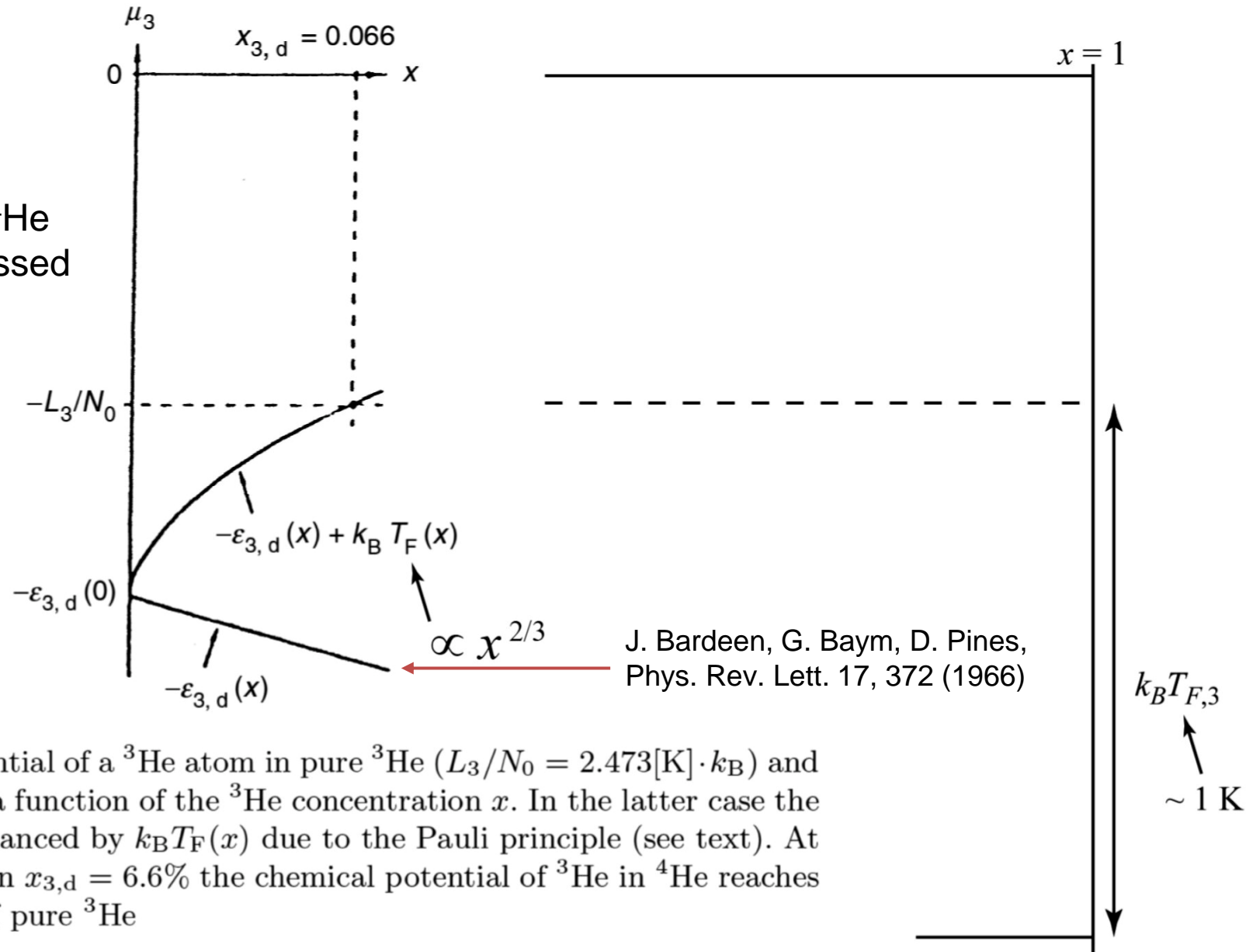
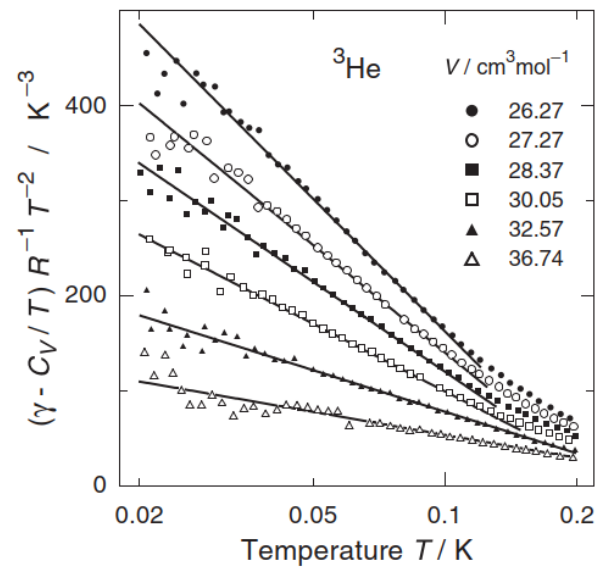


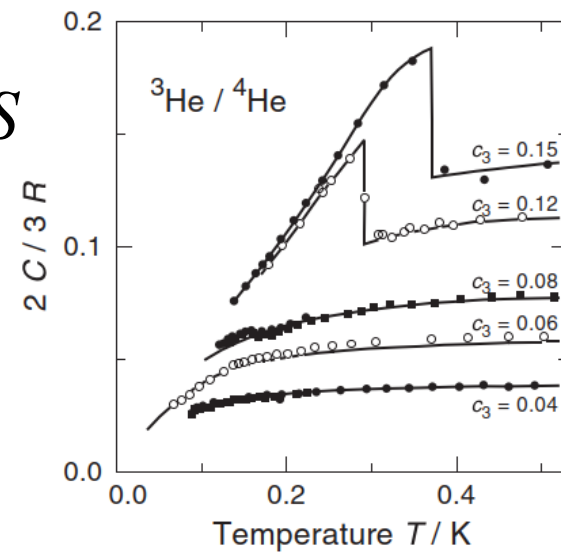
Fig. 7.4. Chemical potential of a ^3He atom in pure ^3He ($L_3/N_0 = 2.473[\text{K}] \cdot k_B$) and in ^3He - ^4He mixtures as a function of the ^3He concentration x . In the latter case the chemical potential is enhanced by $k_B T_F(x)$ due to the Pauli principle (see text). At the limiting concentration $x_{3,d} = 6.6\%$ the chemical potential of ^3He in ^4He reaches the chemical potential of pure ^3He



Heat of mixing $L_m = T \Delta S$

$$C = \frac{dQ}{dT} = \frac{T dS}{dT}$$

$$dS = \frac{C}{T} dT \quad S(T) = \int_0^T \frac{C}{T} dT$$



$$C_3 = 2.7 RT = 22 T \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)$$

$$S_3 = 22 T \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)$$

- empirical fact
- no first-principles theory

$$C_V = \gamma T + \Gamma T^3 \ln \left(\frac{T}{\Theta_c} \right)$$

Fermi-liquid theory works fine: $C_d =$

$$N_A k_B \frac{\pi^2}{2} \frac{T}{T_F} = \frac{0.745 \text{ J}}{\text{mol K}} \frac{T}{\text{K}} \frac{m^*}{m_3} \left(\frac{V_m \text{ mol}}{x \text{ cm}^3} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$x = 0.066, \quad m^* = 2.5 m_3$$

$$x \rightarrow 0, \quad m^* = 2.34 m_3$$

$$\Rightarrow C_d(0.066) = 106 T \text{ J}/(\text{mol}_3 \text{ K}^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow S_d(0.066) = 106 T \text{ J}/(\text{mol}_3 \text{ K}^2)$$

THUS: $L_m = T \Delta S = T^2 (106 - 22) \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2) = 84 (T/\text{K})^2 \text{ J/mol}$

Cooling power

$$\dot{Q} = \dot{n} L_m = 84 \dot{n} (T/\text{K})^2 \text{ J/mol}$$

Compare evaporation vs. dilution ($\dot{Q}_i = \dot{n} L_i$)

<p>evaporation</p> <p>$\dot{n} \propto e^{-L_e/RT}$</p> <p>$L_e$ indep. of T</p>	vs.	<p>dilution</p> <p>\dot{n} indep. of T</p> <p>$L_m \propto T^2$</p>
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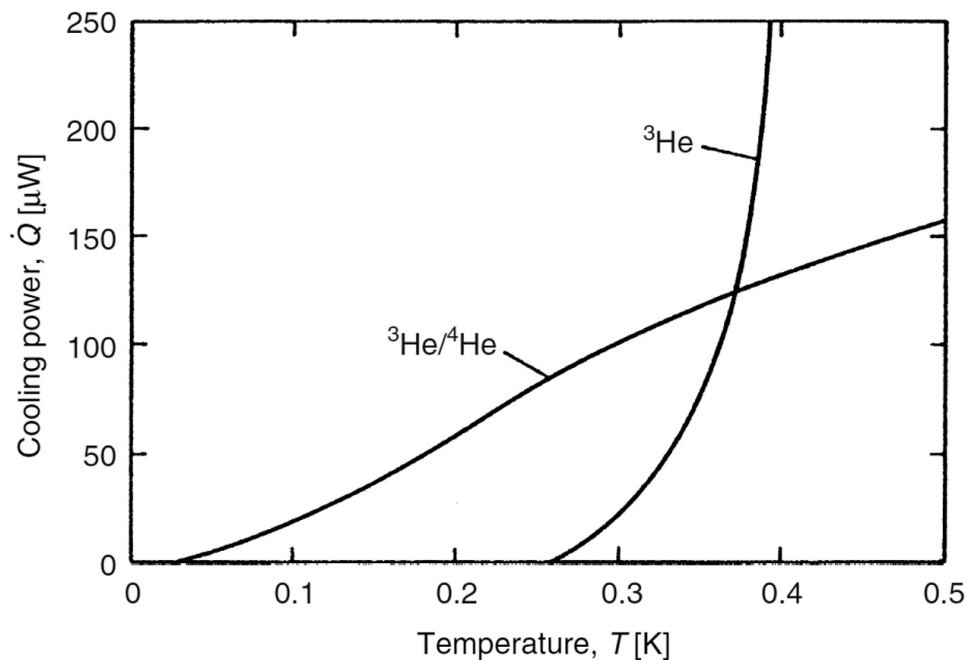


Fig. 7.3. Cooling power of a ${}^3\text{He}$ evaporation cryostat and of a ${}^3\text{He}$ - ${}^4\text{He}$ dilution refrigerator, assuming that the same pump with a helium gas circulation rate of 5 l s^{-1} is used [7.9]

Osmotic pressure

Large thermal gradient in DR
causes concentration gradients, $x(T)$

Ideal mixture model:

$$T > T_F \quad \pi V_{m,4} = x R T$$

$$T < T_F \quad \pi V_{m,4} = 0.4 R T_F$$

π is osmotic pressure

Equilibrium:
 $\pi(z)$ is constant
 \Rightarrow concentration
gradient is
opposite to
 dT/dz

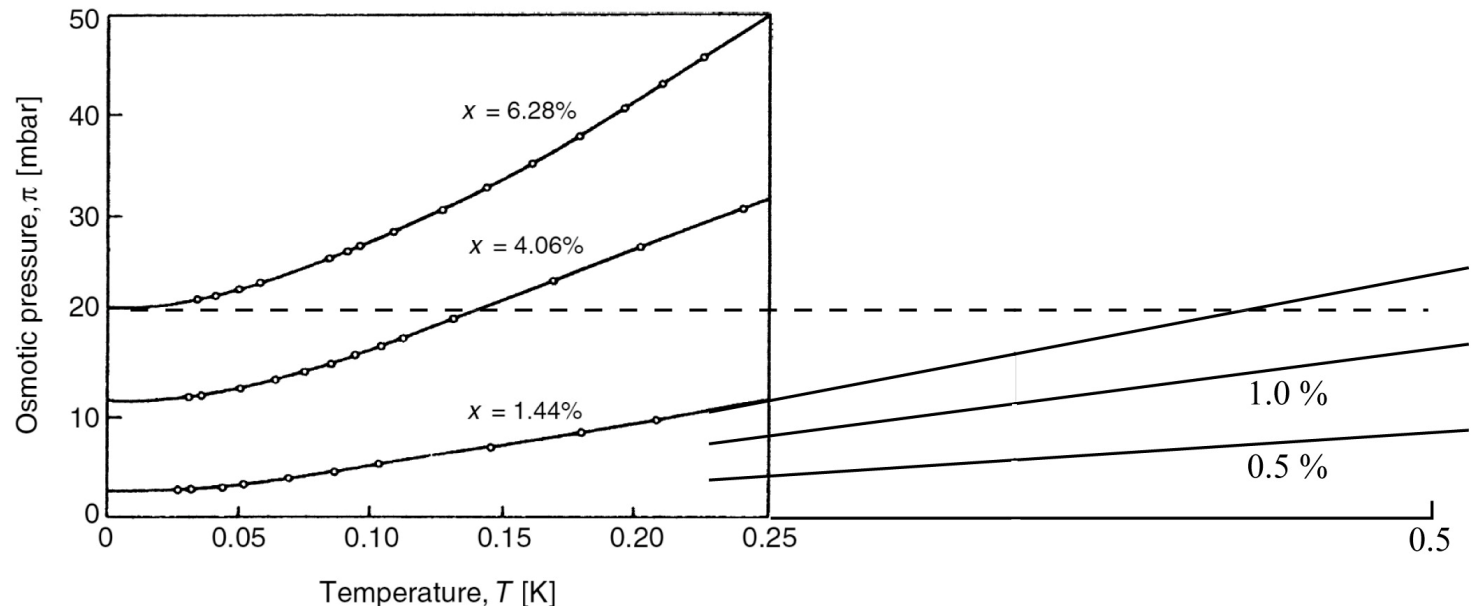
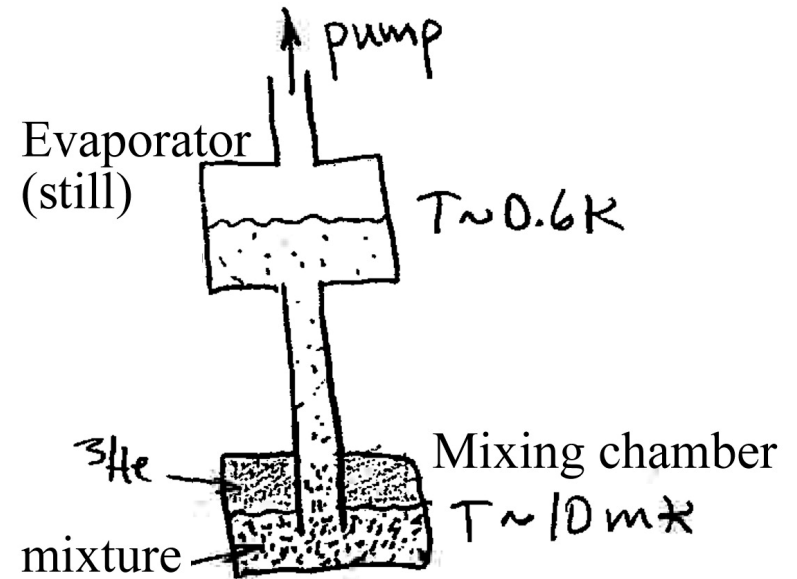


Fig. 7.7. Osmotic pressures of some dilute ^3He - ^4He mixtures at a pressure of 0.26 bar (from [7.11] who used the data of [7.31])

Mixing chamber

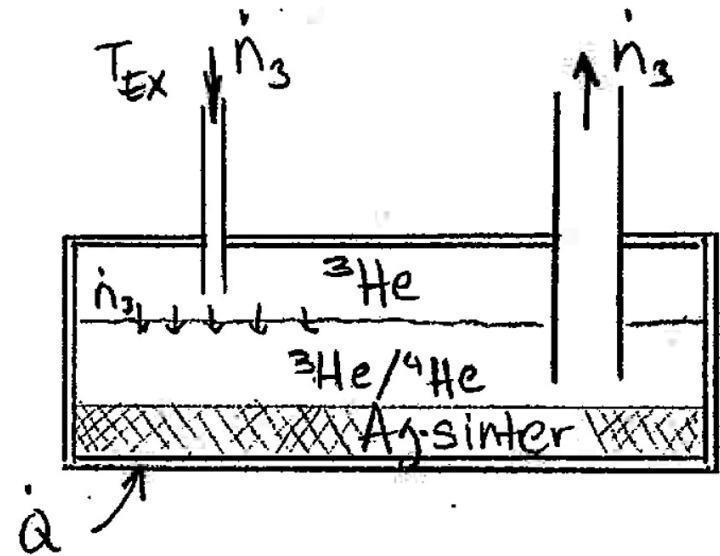
Power balance:

Enthalphy $\Delta H = c_p \Delta T$

$$\dot{Q} = \dot{n}_3 L_m - 11(T_{EX}^2 - T_{MC}^2) \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)$$

$$L_m = 84T_{MC}^2 \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)$$

➔
$$\dot{Q} = \dot{n}_3 (95T_{MC}^2 - 11T_{EX}^2) \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)$$



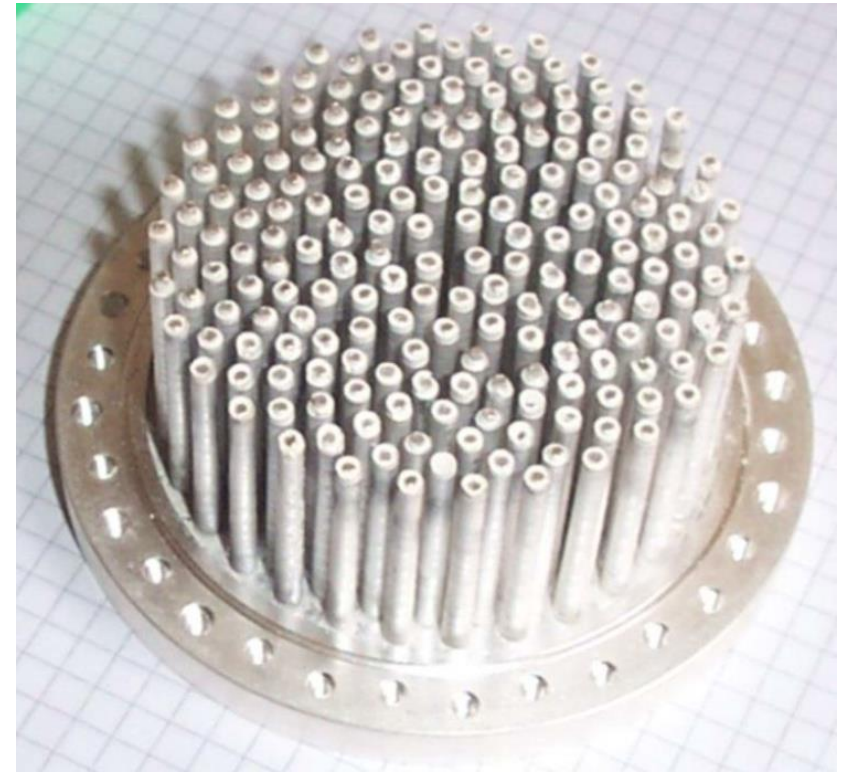
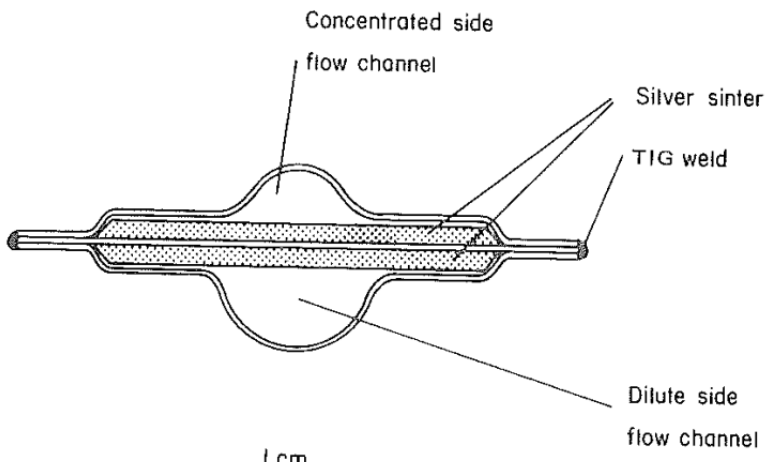
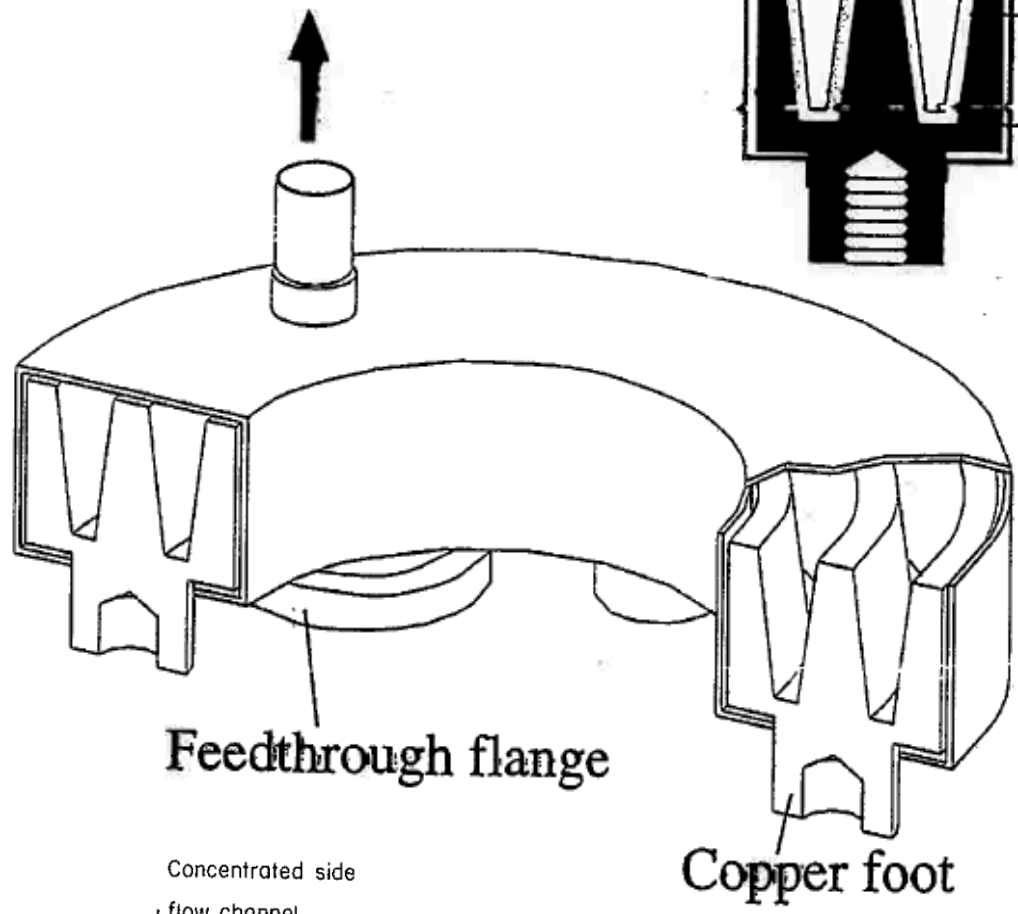
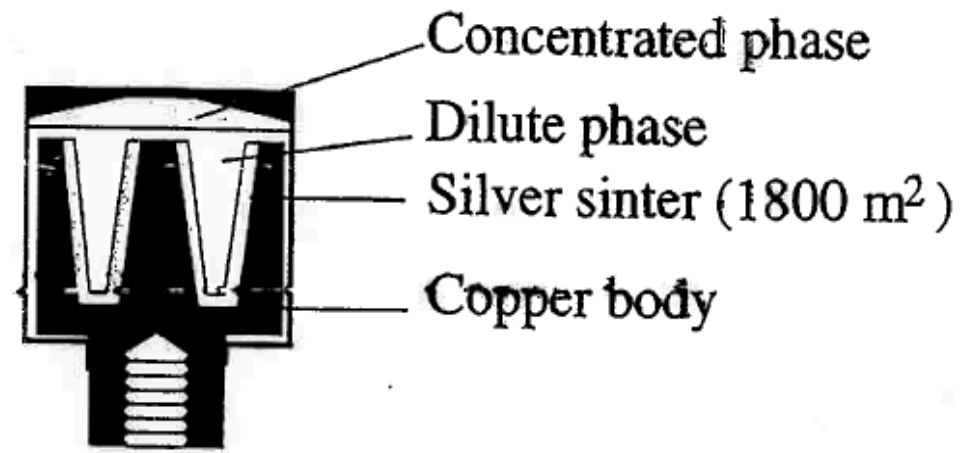
If $T_{EX} = T_{MC}$ (or operation in single cycle)

$$\underline{\underline{\dot{Q} = \dot{n}_3 84T_{MC}^2 \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}^2)}}$$

if $\dot{Q} \rightarrow 0$ $T_{MC} = T_{EX} / 2.9$

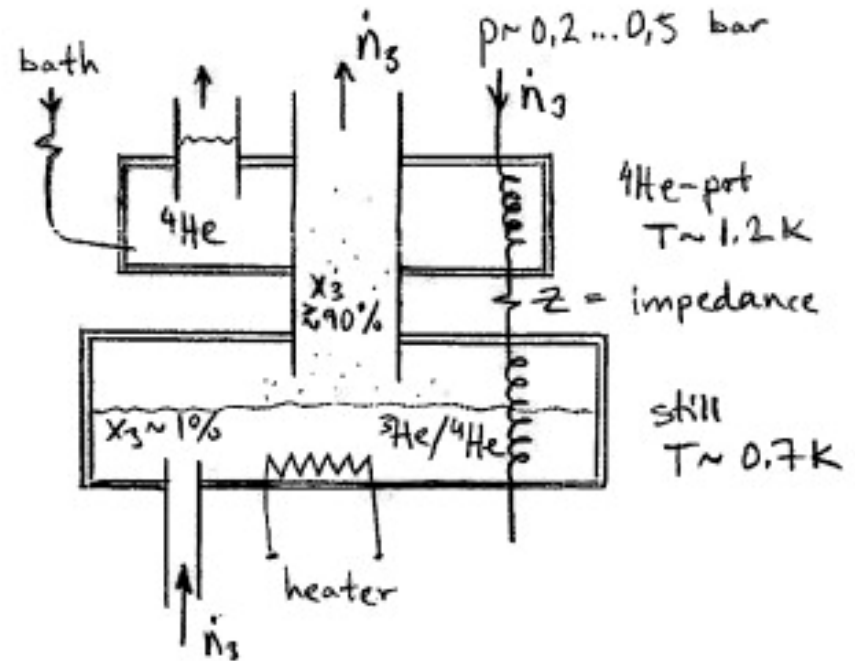
=> best possible heat exchangers to obtain minimum T_{EX}

Examples on real geometry



Distiller (still):

Optimal still temperature is 0.6 – 0.7 K



T/K	$x_3 / \%$	$p_3 + p_4 / \text{Pa}$	$p_3 / (p_3 + p_4) / \%$
0.6	1.2	4.6	99
0.7	1.0	8.8	97

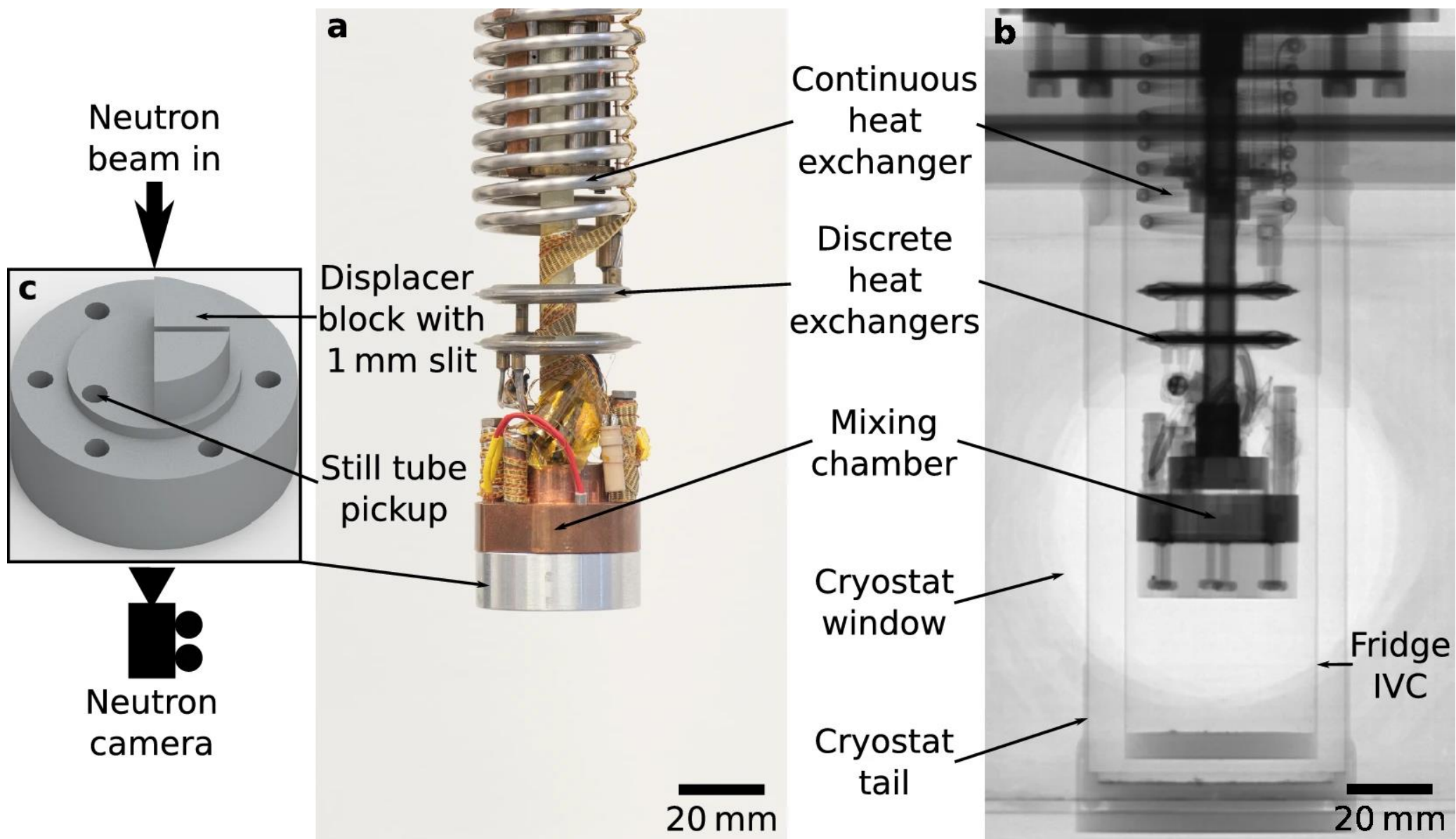
- ^3He coming from RT is condensed in ^4He evaporator (pot), $T \sim 1.2\text{ K}$
- further cooling of returning ^3He occurs in still, $T \sim 0.7\text{ K}$
- simple spiral tube heat exchangers
- impedance $Z \sim 10^{12}\text{ cm}^{-3}$

Still must be heated up:

- latent heat of ^3He evaporation is $L_3 \sim 20 \text{ J/mol}$
- **incoming ^3He flow gives a load $\Delta H_3 \sim 2 \text{ J/mol}$**
- additional heating $dQ/dt \sim 18 dn/dt \text{ J/mol}$ (\sim few mW typically) must be provided to keep up circulation
- still is a good thermal-anchor point (**additional load up to $\sim 1 \text{ mW}$ is OK**)

Important to prevent ^4He from evaporating in the still. **Superfluid film may creep** up to a point where $T \sim 2 \text{ K} \Rightarrow$ higher vapor pressure

- may become **as much as 10 ... 20 %** unless attention is paid
- pumps are loaded by additional mass flow
- heat exchangers are loaded as **mixture has higher heat capacity than pure ^3He**
- before MC ^3He separates from ^4He and produces heating (reverse to mixing)
- ^4He may accumulate to heat exchangers if geometry is not right (**gravity**)
- down at the mixing chamber extra ^4He does no harm, except that some ^3He is away from taking part in the mixing process
- **check $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratio in circulation by a leak detector** (mass spectrometer)



<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-05025-0#Sec13>

Lawson, C.R., Jones, A.T., Kockelmann, W. *et al.* Neutron imaging of an operational dilution refrigerator. *Sci Rep* **12**, 1130 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-05025-0>