Physics 224 **Fall 2000**

Discoveries and Inventions of Modern Physics **due 11:00 am Tuesday Nov. 14**

PROBLEM SET 7

November 9: No Colloquium

1. Name the topic of your report (try to be specific) and list the reference(s) you will use for your final report.

2. **Meissner Effect** In deriving flux quantization in a superconductor, we found that the electric current is given by

$$\vec{j} = q\psi^* \vec{v} \psi = \frac{qn_p}{m} \left(\hbar \nabla \theta - \frac{q}{c} \vec{A} \right) \quad (1)$$

   (a) Use this and the appropriate Maxwell equation to show that

$$\nabla^2 \vec{B} = \lambda^{-2} \vec{B} \quad (2)$$

   What is λ in terms of the density of Cooper pairs n_p, e, the mass of the electron m, and c? λ is called the London penetration depth. (Hint: Use some vector identities to simplify the equations. See inside cover of Jackson's *Classical Electrodyamics*, for example.)

   (b) Suppose that $\vec{B}$ points along the z axis and only varies in the x direction. Suppose the superconductor fills the half space $x > 0$ and there is vacuum for $x < 0$. Show that B_x dies out exponentially as it penetrates the superconductor in the x direction. (Don't worry about the prefactor of the exponential.) In other words the magnetic field dies out exponentially as you go into the superconductor. This is the Meissner effect.

3. **AC Josephson Effect** When a static DC voltage V is applied across a Josephson junction, an AC current results. To see how this comes about, notice that an electron pair experiences a potential energy difference qV on passing across the junction, where

$q = -2e$. We can say that a pair on one side is at potential $-eV$ and a pair on the other side is at $+eV$. Thus the equations of motion become

$$i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi_1}{\partial t} = \hbar T\psi_2 - eV\psi_1 \qquad i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi_2}{\partial t} = \hbar T\psi_1 + eV\psi_2 \tag{3}$$

where ψ_1 is the superconducting order parameter on side 1:

$$\psi_1 = \sqrt{n_1}e^{i\theta_1} \tag{4}$$

n_1 is the density of superconducting pairs on side 1. Similarly

$$\psi_2 = \sqrt{n_2}e^{i\theta_2} \tag{5}$$

Assume that the superconductors are identical. Find the current density J as a function of time and of the phase difference $\delta(0)$. $\delta(0) = \theta_2 - \theta_1$ is the phase difference at $V = 0$. What is the angular frequency ω at which the current oscillates when a voltage V is applied?

4. Eisberg and Resnick Problem 13.18.

5. Eisberg and Resnick Problem 13.24.

6. Eisberg and Resnick Problem 13.30 (n-p-n transistor).