

Collisions of **superconducting strings** with **Y-junctions**

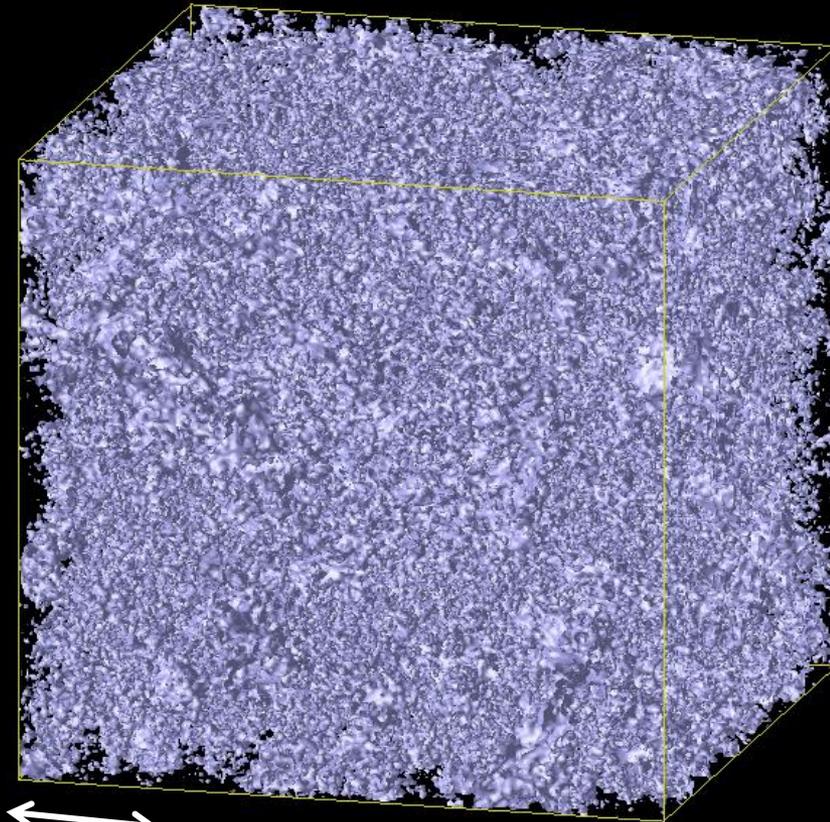
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Cosmic string network

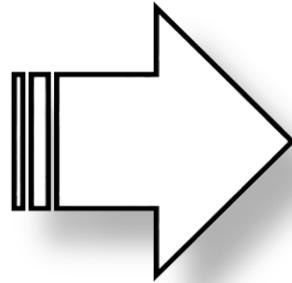
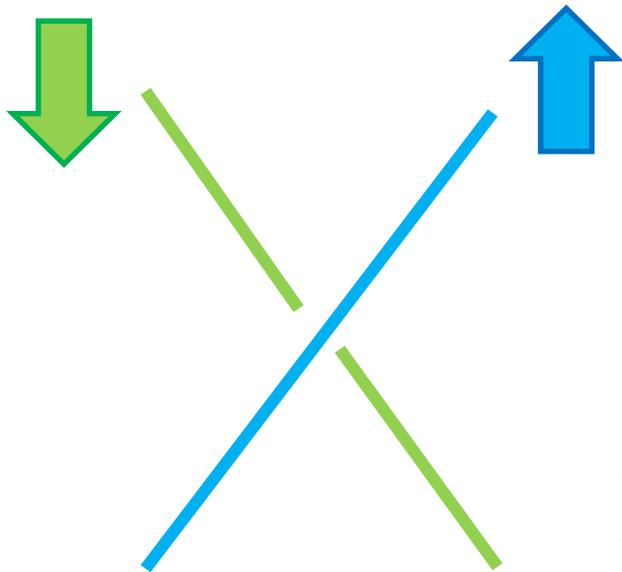
- Evolves according to *scaling*.
- Eventually loses its energy through loop formation due to *partner exchange : reconnection*.
- Although the reconnection almost always happens, strings with *Y-typed junctions* occurs in many models!



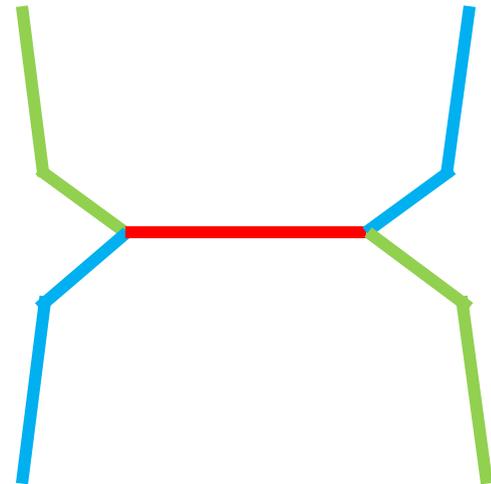
↔
Hubble length when
simulation starts.

Y-junction formation?

When two strings collide, bound states and Y-junctions would be produced.



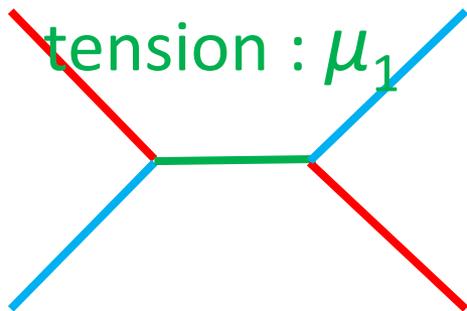
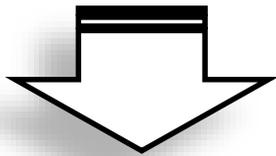
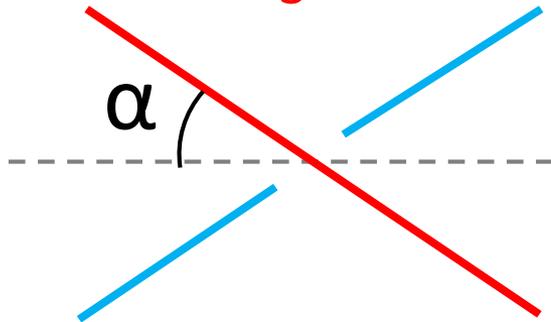
- Nearly parallel
- Low relative velocity



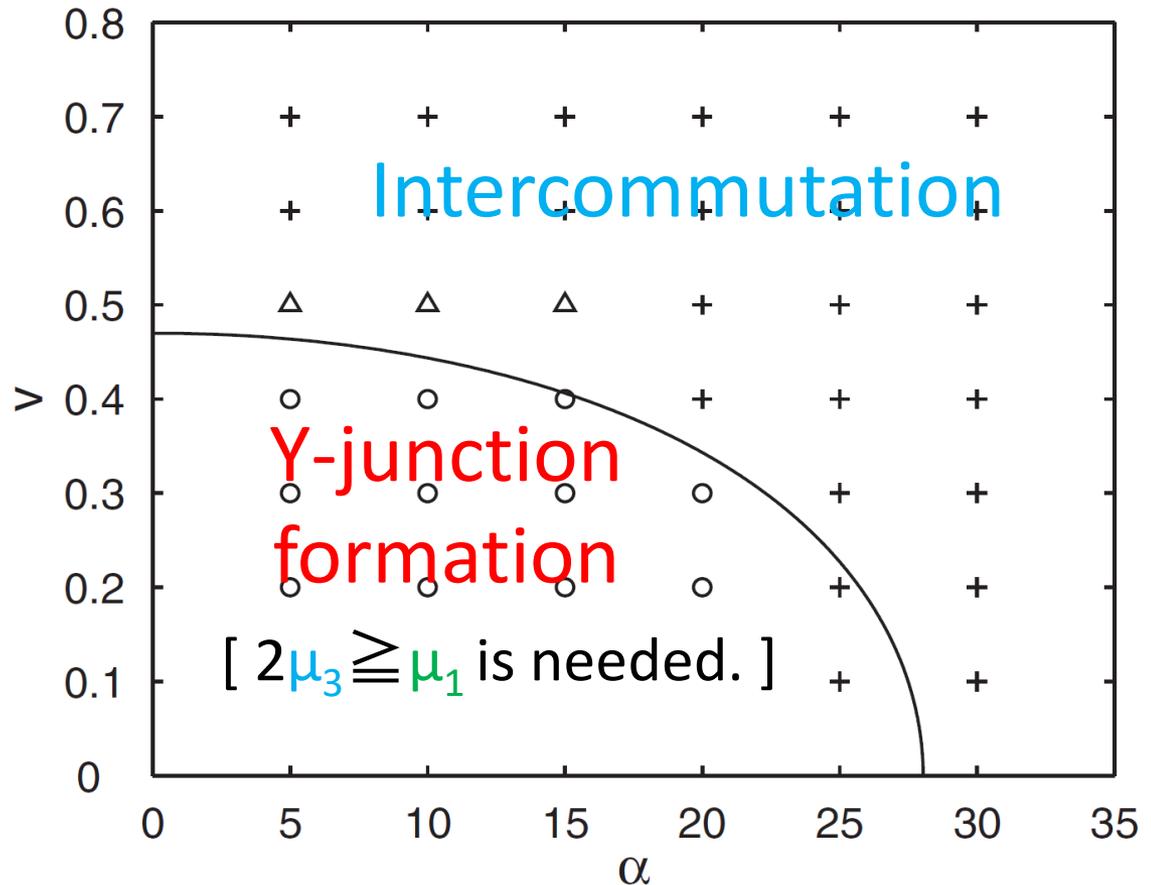
Y-junction formation : *condition*

tension : μ_3 tension : μ_3

$$\alpha < \arccos \left(\frac{\mu_1}{2\mu_3 \sqrt{1 - v^2}} \right)$$



tension : μ_1



Strategy [Nambu-Goto case]

① Consider effective action

$$S = -\mu \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{-\gamma_{ab}}$$

Choose gauge conditions

Junction position
at $\sigma = s_j(\tau)$

② Extend ① to include multiple strings with junctions

$$S = - \sum_j \mu_j \int d\tau d\sigma \Theta(s_j(\tau) - \sigma) \sqrt{-\gamma_j}$$

$$+ \sum_j \int d\tau \mathbf{f}_j \cdot \left[x_i(s_j(\tau), \tau) - X(\tau) \right]$$

4-dim embedding
of a junction

③ Solve junction conditions

Questions we are interested in here are:

- What happens to the currents when two *current-carrying* strings collide?
- Can junctions actually form?

We would like to look for the condition for the junction formation in the analytic way (if possible).

Differences between Nambu-Goto and current-carrying strings

Conformal and temporal gauges

- **Worksheet gauge choices** generally made to study NG **DO NOT** apply to general elastic strings



We need to develop a *fully covariant* formalism.

- Equations of motion are generally **NOT integrable**

[exception : chiral strings]



We need to solve *junction conditions* for string position and current *simultaneously*.

Step 1 : effective action

➤ Lagrangian depends on its internal degree of freedom φ :

$$S = \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-\det(\gamma_{ab})} \mathcal{L}(w)$$

[Carter(1989a,b)]

✓ L is constant \rightarrow Nambu-Goto strings

✓ L is a function of *state parameter* $w \rightarrow$ superconducting strings

$$w \equiv \kappa_0 \gamma^{ab} \varphi_{,a} \varphi_{,b}$$

[Witten(1985)]

[For superconducting strings, φ characterizes a phase of scalar field living on a string.]

Energy-momentum tensor

➤ Nambu-Goto strings

Conformal and temporal gauges

$$T^{\mu\nu} = U u^\mu u^\nu - T v^\mu v^\nu$$

$$\Rightarrow U = T \quad u^\mu \propto X^\mu_{,\tau}$$

Energy-momentum tensor

➤ Current-carrying strings

Conformal ~~and temporal~~ gauges

$$T^{\mu\nu} = U u^\mu u^\nu - T v^\mu v^\nu$$

⇒ $U \neq T$ $u^\mu \propto \varphi^{,a} X^\mu_{,a}$

✓ **NOTICE** : One can use the *residual* freedom of Lorentz rotation on the worldsheet!

⇒ $\varphi(\tau, \sigma) \rightarrow \varphi(\sigma)$

Preferred rest frame

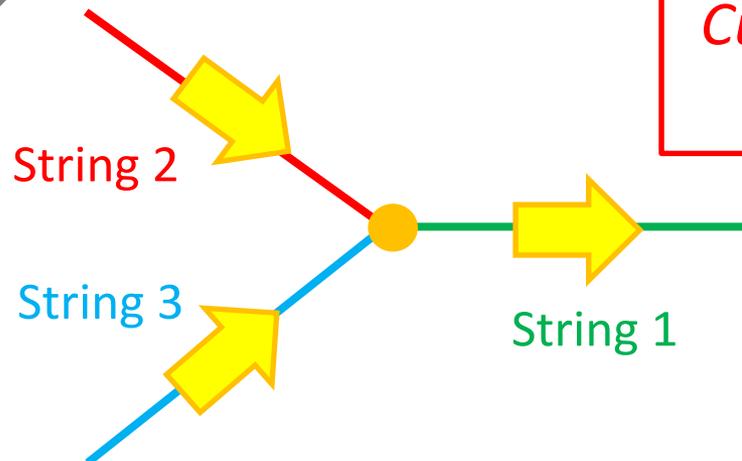
Step 2 : Effective action with a junction

Junction position
at $\sigma = s_j(\tau)$

$$S = \sum_i \int d\tau d\sigma \theta(s_i(\tau) - \sigma) \sqrt{-\gamma_i} \mathcal{L}(w_i) \\ + \sum_i \int d\tau \{ \mathbf{f}_i^\mu \cdot [x_{i,\mu}(s_i(\tau), \tau) - X_\mu(\tau)] + \mathbf{g}_i \cdot [\varphi_i(s_i(\tau), \tau) - \Phi(\tau)] \}$$

4-dim embedding
of a junction

*Current conservation
at a junction*



Step 3 : Covariant form of junction conditions

NEW

	Current-carrying strings	Nambu-Goto strings
Energy-momentum	$\sum_j \Gamma_j^2 (U_j \dot{s}_j^2 - T_j) \lambda_j^\mu = 0$ $\sum_j \Gamma_j^2 \dot{s}_j (U_j - T_j) = 0$	$\sum_j T_j \lambda_j^\mu = 0$ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; width: fit-content;"> Outward-directed unit normal vector </div>
Current	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j \dot{s}_j = 0 \quad [w > 0] \\ \sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j = 0 \quad [w < 0] \end{array} \right.$	

Step 3 : Covariant form of junction conditions

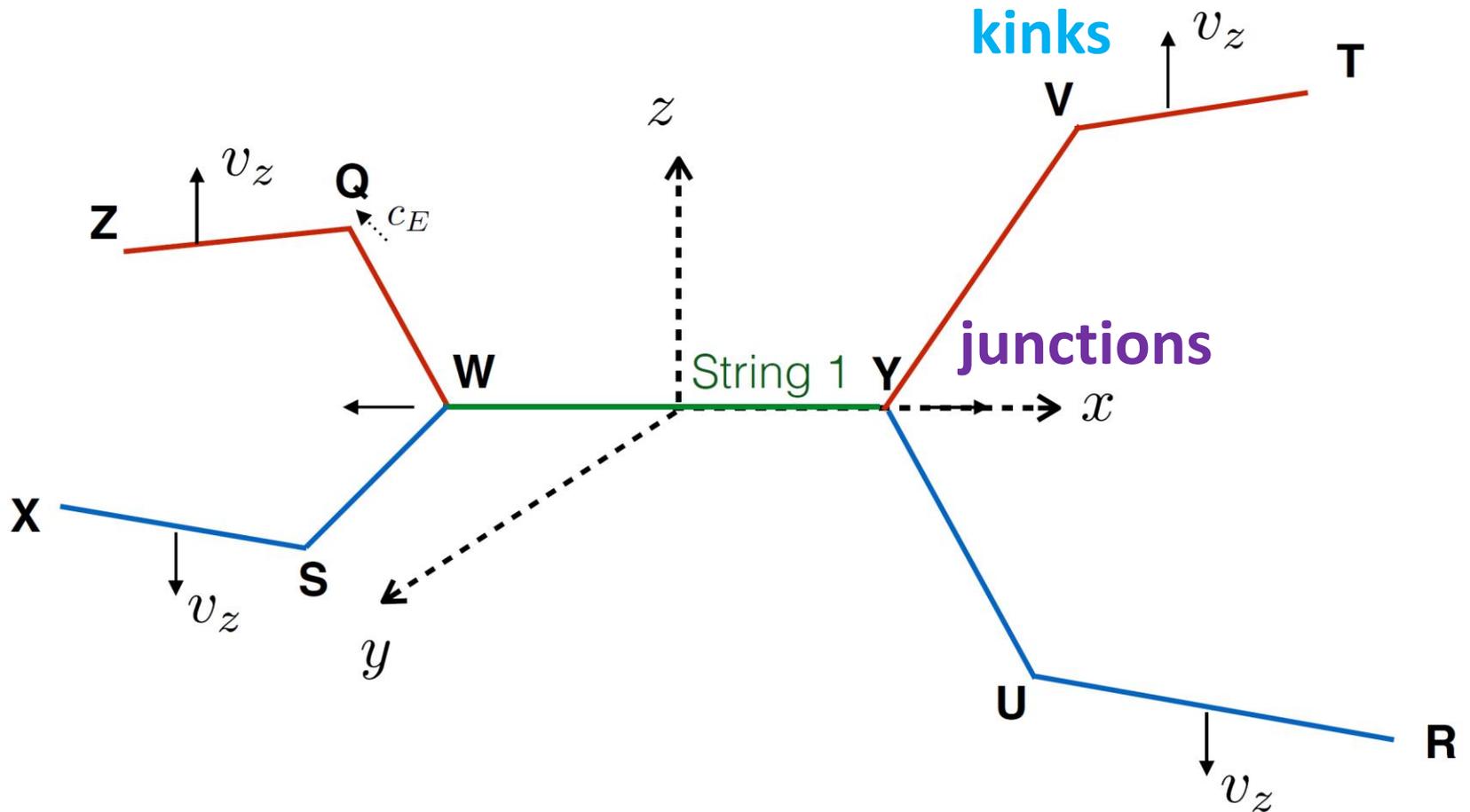
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Current	$\sum_j \Gamma_j^2 \dot{s}_j (U_j - T_j) = 0$	
	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j \dot{s}_j = 0 \quad [w > 0] \\ \sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j = 0 \quad [w < 0] \end{array} \right.$	

2 more constraint equations!

Step 4 : Apply to string collision

Consider a string collision between 2 incoming and identical strings at angle $\pm\alpha$ with velocity $\pm v_z$:



Step 4.1 : Nambu-Goto case

➤ Junction conditions

$$\sum_j T_j \lambda_j^\mu = 0$$

➤ Unknowns

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{s}_3 = \dot{s}_2 = -\frac{\mu_3}{2\mu_1} \dot{s}_1 \\ \dot{s}_1 = \frac{2\mu_3 \sqrt{1 - v_z^2} \cos \alpha - \mu_1}{2\mu_3 - \mu_1 \sqrt{1 - v_z^2} \cos \alpha} \end{array} \right.$$

All unknowns can be determined by the junction conditions!



The solution makes sense only if $s_1 > 0$:
the connecting string cannot get shorter.

$$\alpha < \arccos \left(\frac{\mu_1}{2\mu_3 \sqrt{1 - v^2}} \right)$$

Step 4.2 : Current-carrying case

➤ Junction conditions

➤ Unknowns

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \sum_j \Gamma_j^2 (U_j \dot{s}_j^2 - T_j) \lambda_j^\mu = 0 \\ \sum_j \Gamma_j^2 \dot{s}_j (U_j - T_j) = 0 \\ \sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j \dot{s}_j = 0 \end{array} \right] \longleftrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{l} \dot{s}_3 = \dot{s}_2 = \frac{c_E - v_+}{1 - c_E v_+} \\ \dot{s}_1 = \dots \\ w_1 = \dots \end{array} \right]$$

2 more constraint eqs!

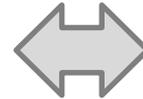
Step 4.2 : Cur

In the presence of the current, $S_3=S_2$ is determined **NOT** by the junction conditions but by the configuration.

➤ Junction conditions

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \sum_j \Gamma_j^2 (U_j \dot{s}_j^2 - T_j) \lambda_j^\mu = 0 \\ \sum_j \Gamma_j^2 \dot{s}_j (U_j - T_j) = 0 \\ \sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j \dot{s}_j = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

2 more constraint eqs!



$$\dot{s}_3 = \dot{s}_2 = \frac{c_E - v_+}{1 - c_E v_+}$$

*There are only
2 unknown variables!*

$$w_1 = \dots$$

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$$\sum_j \Gamma_j^2 (U_j \dot{s}_j^2 - T_j) \lambda_j^\mu = 0$$

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$$\sum_j \Gamma_j \nu_j \dot{s}_j = 0$$

2 more constraint eqs!



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(# of eqs to solve) **>** (# of unknowns)

The system is **OVERDETERMINED!**

Step 4.2 : Cur

In the presence of the current, $S_3=S_2$ is determined **NOT** by the junction conditions but by the configuration.

➤ Junction conditions

$$\left[\sum_i \Gamma_j^2 (U_j \dot{s}_j^2 - T_j) \lambda_j^\mu = 0 \right]$$

$$\dot{s}_3 = \dot{s}_2 = \frac{c_E - v_+}{1 - c_E v_+}$$

The joining string can **NOT** be described by the elastic model (that is, a barotropic EoS).

$$S = \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-\det(\gamma_{ab})} \mathcal{L}(w)$$

bles!

(# of eqs to solve)  (# of unknowns)

The system is **OVERDETERMINED!**

Summary

- We have extended the analysis of the subsequent formation of Y-junction to the elastic models characterizing current-carrying strings.
- There are big differences between NG and elastic strings:
 - ✓ Gauge issues
 - ✓ Presence of internal DoF

In the case of the string collision, the joining string can NOT be described by the elastic model.

Future prospects

- The treatment of such a collision may generally require the use of a *non-conservative model*.
- It is of great interest to compare the results from the *numerical investigation* of a collision of current-carrying strings.

→ Takashi Hiramatsu's talk

Thank you!