

The Viktor Schauberger Phenomenon

By CHRISTINE RIVELAND
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It may sound like a plot for a science fiction novel, but at the conclusion of World War II, the Germans had actually developed disc-shaped, fully functioning flying machines—what we now call flying saucers.

Viktor Schauberger, a gifted Austrian scientist (1885–1958), was the inventor of this unique flying machine. Known as the father of implosion technology—the same technology behind what made this German flying saucer a success story—Schauberger was not interested in an academic education. Instead, he was inspired by nature.

He talked of the importance of man's cooperation with the natural world and famously claimed that "water is a living substance." In fact, it was his study of water that led him to develop his ideas of implosion as a means of propulsion.

Schauberger's implosion principles are diametrically opposed to how today's explosion-oriented propulsion technology is utilized. Implosion involves a self-sustaining vortex flow of any liquid or gaseous medium, which in turn has a concentrating, ordering effect and which decreases the temperature of the medium, in opposition to the dictates of modern thermodynamics.

These words sound impressive, but why would the Nazis have spent a fortune to finance Schauberger's ideas? What did they hope to gain from such a last-ditch effort? And what technological hurdles still needed to be overcome?

The Nazis, in a desperate attempt to win, needed superior air power to turn the war in their favor, so they pressed Schauberger into service. At this time, he was already testing concepts of vortex dynamics when he constructed water sluices for log transport. This invention enabled him to move logs of an extremely high specific weight that normally cannot be transported on water.



FLYING SAUCER: We usually consider flying saucers to be the vehicles of beings from a faraway galaxy, but Austrian scientist Viktor Schauberger helped develop such a disc-shaped flying machine at the end of World War II.
DAVID MCNEW/NEWSMAKERS

He did so by controlling water temperature and vortex flow. This success led him to develop the speedy flying discs as well as other hydroelectric projects, including the effective use of jet turbine hydroelectric power.

Using these liquid vortex principles, Schauberger supervised construction of actual working prototypes of levitating discs. While the initial prototype of the German-made flying saucer rose approximately 206 feet into the air before it crash-landed, some of these machines later flew considerable distances at tremendous speed. At the end of World War II, the remainder of Schauberger's research work fell into Russian and American military hands.

After the war, Schauberger worked further on his inventions and perfected the concept of closed-cycle water-based power generation through vortex action, which had fueled these early-

stage flying saucers.

In the late 1950's, U.S. and Canadian companies enticed him to come to North America with promises that further development and application of his technologies would be generously subsidized. However, as soon as he discovered he wouldn't cooperate with military application of his work, the deal was over.

One U.S. consortium is said to have confiscated his writings and patents, and would only permit his return to Austria if he signed a promissory document, not to promote his technology further.

Mr. Schauberger died five days after his return to Austria in 1958, a broken man, his dreams of additional research and development unrealized.

Because of the nature of his creative process, Schauberger's documents can be difficult to decipher. However, many believe that further development of Schauberger's ideas have been

thoroughly suppressed by powerful fossil fuel interests. Today, Schauberger is celebrated by researchers in the Green Movement, as much of his work points to sustainable energy sources.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.schauberger.co.uk/>

Olof Alexandersson's "Living Water" The German-language edition of the book is entitled "Lebendes Wasser," available from Ennsthaler Verlag, A 4402 Steyer/Austria.

Another source of information about Schauberger is the magazine *Implosion* (in German), published quarterly by Verein für Implosionsforschung und Anwendung, Windschlägerstrasse 58, D 77652 Offenburg/Germany. This German-language magazine is a precious source for many of Schauberger's original writings.

Media Multitasking Doesn't Work

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters)—Multitaskers of media activities like watching YouTube, writing e-mail, and talking on the phone are not very good at any of their tasks, according to a recent Stanford University report.

Researchers who published the report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences said the results had surprised them. They were looking for the secret to good media multitaskers but instead found broad-based incompetence.

"Heavy multitaskers are lousy at multitasking ... The more you do it, the worse you get," said Stanford communications professor Clifford Nass.

Compulsive media multitaskers are worse at focusing their attention, worse at organizing information, and worse at quickly switching between tasks, the Stanford scientists wrote.

After testing about 100 Stanford students, the scientists concluded that chronic media multitaskers have difficulty focusing and are not able to ignore irrelevant information.

Nass said that multitasking is becoming more widespread—some jobs require workers to keep an instant message window open—and the scientists were surprised at the results.

"We knew that multitasking was difficult from a cognitive perspective. We thought, 'What's this special ability that people have that allows them to multitask?' ... Rather than finding things that they were doing better, we found things they were doing worse," Stanford symbolic systems professor Eyal Ophir said.

A bright side to such distraction may mean that the media multitaskers will be first to notice anything new, Ophir said.

Dead Sea Among Seven Natural Wonders' Finalists

JERUSALEM (Reuters)—The Dead Sea is among 14 finalists in a global Internet vote next year to choose the seven wonders of the natural world.

The famously salty lake at the lowest point in the world is in the running for a place alongside spectacular natural phenomena such as the Amazon River, the Galapagos Islands, the Grand Canyon, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Others include Venezuela's Angel Falls, Canada's Bay of Fundy, the Maldives islands, Italy's Vesuvius volcano, Halong Bay in Vietnam, Iguazu Falls on the border between Brazil and Argentina, Lebanon's Jeita Grotto, Indonesia's Komodo national park, and the Puerto Princesa underground river in the

Philippines.

The Dead Sea is shared by Israel, Jordan, and the occupied West Bank. It was almost eliminated from the contest (www.new7wonders.com) earlier this year when Middle East politics blocked their required cooperation.

But a last-minute compromise allowed the candidacy to proceed to the next stage. Final results are due in 2011, by which time the organizers expect one billion people will have voted online.

Over 100 million people participated in choosing the seven new, man-made wonders of the world announced in July 2007. Winning the title nearly tripled tourist visits to Jordan's ancient ruins of Petra, to the east of the Dead Sea.

'Wedding Cake' Images Display Transitions Between Exotic Quantum States

National Science Foundation

Transitions are exciting. And at temperatures close to absolute zero, studying the transition from one quantum phase to another tantalizes physicists looking for a deeper understanding of the fundamental laws of the universe.

Now a team of scientists at the University of Chicago has created the first direct images of the transition between phases of ultracold cesium gas as it changes from normal to superfluid to Mott insulator, making it possible to "see" this phenomenon as it happens.

"These are the first direct images of a complete physical system in situ, allowing us to unambiguously observe certain unique features of the Mott insulating state," explained post-doctoral student Nathan Gemelke.

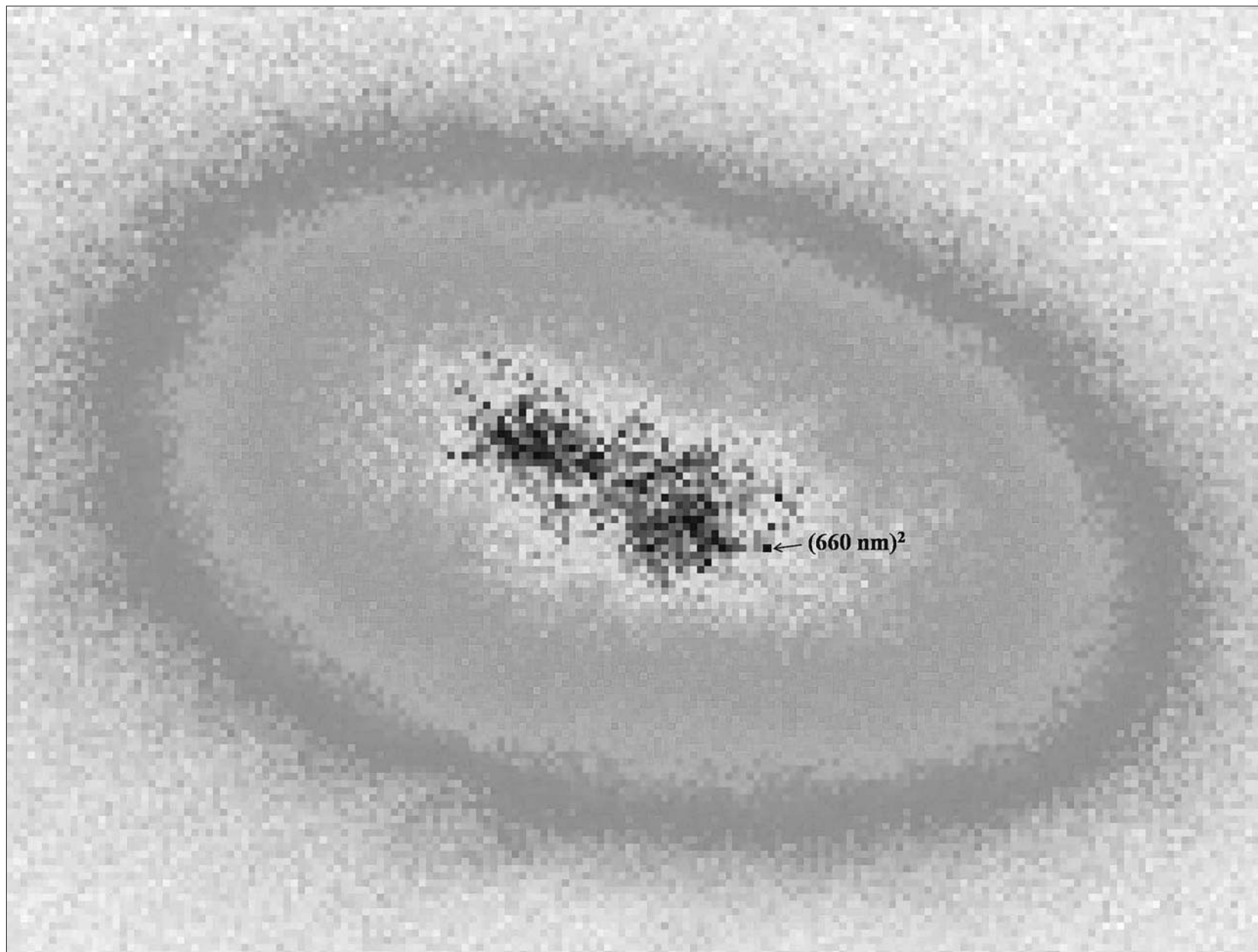
In a paper appearing in the journal *Nature*, Gemelke and his co-authors describe the most striking visual feature of this phase transition—a many-layered wedding cake structure.

THE MOTT INSULATOR OBSERVED

"The Mott insulator phenomenon was first observed in ultracold atomic gases in 2002 by the group of Ted Hänsch, at the Max-Planck institute for Quantum Optics in Munich, Germany, and has been a subject of intense research ever since," said Cheng Chin, Gemelke's co-author and an assistant professor at the University of Chicago.

A Mott insulator is a special phase of matter, usually formed at very low temperatures, in which certain materials that should conduct electricity act as electrical insulators, due to unusual interactions between electrons. The system studied in Chicago is the ultracold atom equivalent of a Mott insulator.

To make the insulator, the Chicago team trapped individual atoms by using a cross-section of laser beams to create an "optical lattice," something like marbles trapped in the individual sections



SPECIAL PHASE: A heterogeneous sample of Mott-insulating, superfluid, and normal gases of ultracold atoms in an optical lattice. Each pixel corresponds to a square 660 nanometers. CHENG CHIN, JAMES FRANCK INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

of an egg carton.

"In a Mott insulator, there is exactly one atom at every site, or two, or three, but never a mixture of, say, one here, two there, etc.," Chin explained.

THREE COEXISTING PHASES

According to Gemelke, the Mott insulator phase sometimes coexists with superfluid and normal gas phases. Superfluids are

another exotic quantum material phase that forms at temperatures near absolute zero.

"The superfluid and normal phases of the ultracold gas will react to small pressures by changing their volumes, and will react to small forces by flowing freely," explained Gemelke.

"In contrast, the Mott insulator phase has a constant density," he said. "Even when it's trapped, if

you squeeze it gently, its volume will not change, which means it is incompressible. And if you apply a small force across it, particles do not flow through it, because it acts as an insulator."

The researchers took advantage of the differences between phases to create visual images of the system by measuring the density of the trapped gas.

"In two dimensions, the

normal, superfluid, and Mott insulating phases can be identified by spatially resolved in-situ imaging," Gemelke said. These two-dimensional images appear as bull's-eye targets, with denser material showing up as dark rings. The Mott insulator phase image remains a single color all the way through, because its density does not increase.

"In three-dimensional systems,

the image integrates the density along the line of sight, so the measurements represent the combined properties of several phases," Gemelke said.

The result looks like a colorful, multilayered wedding cake.

"The different layers of the cake are formed by Mott insulating domains of successively higher particle numbers, and their flatness results from their incompressibility," says Gemelke.

"The edges as we go from one layer of the cake to the next are superfluid regions, where the density varies continuously," he said. "As the temperature is increased, the cake melts like a multitiered ice cream cake, and smears out the edges of the layers. By measuring its shape, we can infer the temperature—and unlike an ice cream cake, the result is within 15 parts-per-billion of absolute zero."

WORTH MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS

The researchers hope to apply the understanding they gain from studying simple quantum gases like this one to the development of a wide range of more subtle and potentially useful new materials, Chin said.

"We are excited to extend this research into basic studies of quantum phase transitions—that is to say, transitions between phases which can occur at zero temperature," he said. "Very fascinating and general phenomena can be observed near these types of transitions, and to have such a simple and readily studied example on the laboratory bench is a great commodity."

"We are surprised by how true the adage is that a picture is worth a thousand words," added Gemelke. "Each image we take of these systems is a high-resolution snapshot into the life of a quantum gas, including all the bumps and wriggles we hope to describe with theory. Every time we think we have extracted all the information we could hope for from an image, we realize there is more to study."