



PHY 712 Electrodynamics

10-10:50 AM MWF Olin 103

Notes for Lecture 33:

Special Topics in Electrodynamics:

Electromagnetic aspects of superconductivity

- **Brief history**
- **Analysis by Fritz London**
- **Type I and type II superconductors**
- **Ideas from BSC theory**
- **Demo**



24	Mon: 03/24/2025	Chap. 9	Radiation from time harmonic sources	<u>#20</u>	03/26/2025
25	Wed: 03/26/2025	Chap. 9 & 10	Radiation from scattering	<u>#21</u>	03/28/2025
26	Fri: 03/28/2025	Chap. 11	Special Theory of Relativity	<u>#22</u>	03/31/2025
27	Mon: 03/31/2025	Chap. 11	Special Theory of Relativity	<u>#23</u>	04/02/2025
28	Wed: 04/02/2025	Chap. 11	Special Theory of Relativity	<u>#24</u>	04/04/2025
29	Fri: 04/04/2024	Chap. 14	Radiation from accelerating charged particles	<u>#25</u>	04/07/2025
30	Mon: 04/07/2025	Chap. 14	Analysis of synchrotron radiation	<u>#26</u>	04/09/2025
31	Wed: 04/09/2025	Chap. 14	Synchrotron radiation and Compton scattering	<u>#27</u>	04/11/2025
32	Fri: 04/11/2025	Chap. 13 & 15	Other radiation -- Cherenkov & bremsstrahlung	<u>#28</u>	04/14/2025
33	Mon: 04/14/2025		Special topic:E & M aspects of superconductivity		
34	Wed: 04/16/2025	Special Topics			
35	Fri: 04/18/2025		Presentations I		
	Mon: 04/21/2025	Special topics			
	Wed: 04/23/2025		Presentations II		
	Fri: 04/25/2025		Presentations III		
36	Mon: 04/28/2025		Review		

PHY 712 Presentation Schedule

Friday 4/18/2025

	Presenter Name	Topic
10:00-10:24	Edoardo Levati	Self-force
10:25-10:50	Pablo	Polarization in Kerr geometry

Wednesday 4/23/2025

	Presenter Name	Topic
10:00-10:24	Thomas Myers	Ising Model
10:25-10:50	Conall O'Leary	

Friday 4/25/2025

	Presenter Name	Topic
10:00-10:24	Julia Radtke	
10:25-10:50	Bhargava Jogi R	



Special topic: Electromagnetic properties of superconductors

Ref: D. Teplitz, editor, Electromagnetism – paths to research, Plenum Press (1982); Chapter 1 written by Brian Schwartz and Sonia Frota-Pessoa

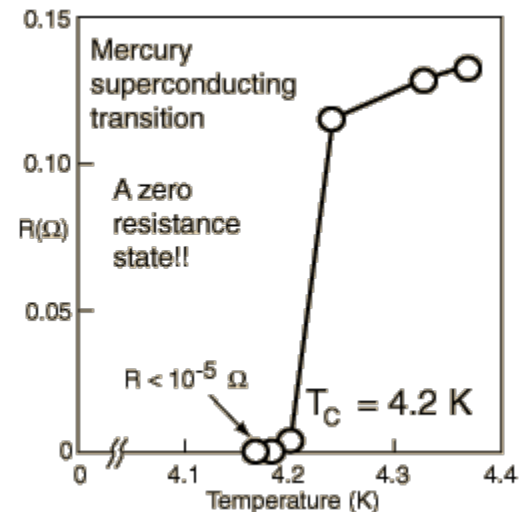
History:

1908 H. Kamerlingh Onnes successfully liquified He

1911 H. Kamerlingh Onnes discovered that Hg at 4.2 K has vanishing resistance

1957 Theory of superconductivity by Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer

The surprising observation was that electrical resistivity abruptly dropped when the temperature of the material was lowered below a critical temperature T_c .



Fritz London 1900-1954



Fritz London, 1947, photo: Lotte Meitner-Graf

Fritz London, one of the most distinguished scientists on the Duke University faculty, was an internationally recognized theorist in Chemistry, Physics and the Philosophy of Science. He was born in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland) in 1900.

He immigrated to the United States in 1939, and came to Duke University, first as a Professor of Chemistry. In 1949 he received a joint appointment in Physics and Chemistry and became a James B. Duke Professor. In 1953 he became the 5th recipient of the Lorentz medal, awarded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and was the first American citizen to receive this honor. He died in Durham in 1954.

<https://phy.duke.edu/about/history/historical-faculty/fritz-london>

Some phenomenological theories < 1957 thanks to F. London

Drude model of conductivity in "normal" materials

$$m \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -e\mathbf{E} - m \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\tau}$$

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{v}_0 e^{-t/\tau} - \frac{e\mathbf{E}\tau}{m}$$

Note: Equations are in
cgs Gaussian units.

$$n = \frac{\text{number of electrons}}{\text{volume } h}$$

$$\mathbf{J} = -ne\mathbf{v}; \quad \text{for } t \gg \tau \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{J} = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m}\mathbf{E} \equiv \sigma\mathbf{E}$$

London model of conductivity in superconducting materials; $\tau \rightarrow \infty$

$$m \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -e\mathbf{E}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\frac{e\mathbf{E}}{m}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{J}}{dt} = -ne \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{ne^2\mathbf{E}}{m}$$

From Maxwell's equations:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

Properties of a normal metal

Drude model of conductivity in "normal" materials

$$m \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -e\mathbf{E} - m \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\tau}$$

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{v}_0 e^{-t/\tau} - \frac{e\mathbf{E}\tau}{m}$$

$$\mathbf{J} = -nev; \quad \text{for } t \gg \tau \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{J} = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m} \mathbf{E} \equiv \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

Does this model allow for any temperature dependence on the resistivity?

1. No.
2. Yes.
3. Maybe.

London model of conductivity in superconducting materials; $\tau \rightarrow \infty$

$$m \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -e\mathbf{E}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\frac{e\mathbf{E}}{m} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{J}}{dt} = -ne \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{ne^2\mathbf{E}}{m}$$

From Maxwell's equations:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

How is the London model different from the Drude model?

1. Subtle difference.
2. Big difference.



Some phenomenological theories < 1957

London model of conductivity in superconducting materials

$$\frac{d\mathbf{J}}{dt} = -ne \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{ne^2 \mathbf{E}}{m}$$

From Maxwell's equations:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) = -\nabla^2 \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \nabla \times \mathbf{J} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{B}}{\partial t^2}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \nabla \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^3 \mathbf{B}}{\partial t^3}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \frac{4\pi ne^2}{mc} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^3 \mathbf{B}}{\partial t^3}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\frac{4\pi ne^2}{mc^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^3 \mathbf{B}}{\partial t^3}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right) \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\text{with } \lambda_L^2 \equiv \frac{mc^2}{4\pi ne^2}$$

Are these equations

1. Exact?
2. Approximate?
3. Wrong?

London model – continued

London model of conductivity in superconducting materials

$$\frac{d\mathbf{J}}{dt} = -ne \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{ne^2 \mathbf{E}}{m}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right) \mathbf{B} = 0 \quad \text{with } \lambda_L^2 \equiv \frac{mc^2}{4\pi ne^2}$$

For slowly varying solution:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} \right) \mathbf{B} = 0 \quad \text{for } \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial B_z(x,t)}{\partial t} :$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial B_z(x,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial B_z(0,t)}{\partial t} e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$

Here we assume we know the boundary value at $x=0$.

London's leap: $B_z(x,t) = B_z(0,t) e^{-x/\lambda_L}$

Consistent results for current density:

$$\frac{4\pi}{c} \nabla \times \mathbf{J} = -\nabla^2 \mathbf{B} = -\frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} \mathbf{B} \quad \mathbf{J} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} J_y(x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_y(x) = \lambda_L \frac{ne^2}{mc} B_z(0) e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$



London model – continued

Penetration length for superconductor: $\lambda_L^2 \equiv \frac{mc^2}{4\pi ne^2}$ Typically, $\lambda_L \approx 10^{-7} m$

$$B_z(x, t) = B_z(0, t)e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$

Vector potential for $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ and $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$:

Note that: $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J}$

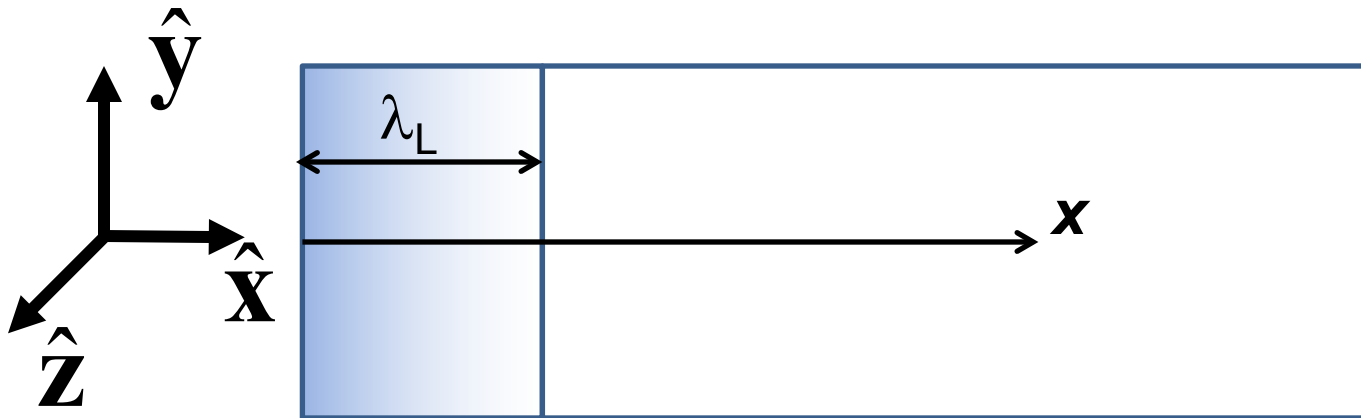
$$\mathbf{A} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} A_y(x)$$

$$A_y(x) = -\lambda_L B_z(0) e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} \Rightarrow \nabla^2 \mathbf{A} + \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} = 0$$

Recall form for current density: $J_y(x) = \lambda_L \frac{ne^2}{mc} B_z(0) e^{-x/\lambda_L}$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{J} + \frac{ne^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{ne}{m} \left(m\mathbf{v} + \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) = 0$$



Behavior of superconducting material – exclusion of magnetic field according to the London model

Penetration length for superconductor: $\lambda_L^2 \equiv \frac{mc^2}{4\pi ne^2}$

$$B_z(x, t) = B_z(0, t)e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$

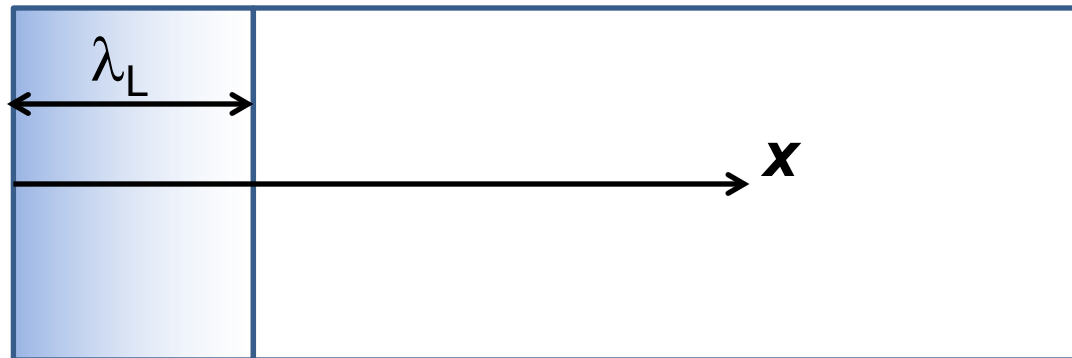
Vector potential for $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$:

$$\mathbf{A} = \hat{\mathbf{y}}A_y(x) \quad A_y(x) = -\lambda_L B_z(0)e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$

$$\text{Current density: } J_y(x) = \lambda_L \frac{ne^2}{mc} B_z(0) e^{-x/\lambda_L}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{J} + \frac{ne^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{ne}{m} \left(m\mathbf{v} + \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) = 0$$

Typically, $\lambda_L \approx 10^{-7} m$



Behavior of magnetic field lines near superconductor

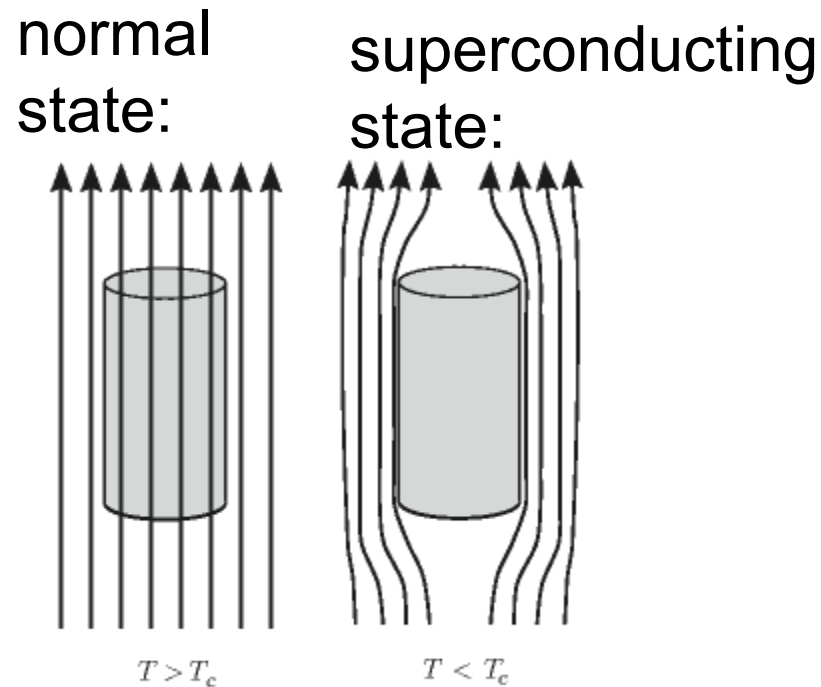
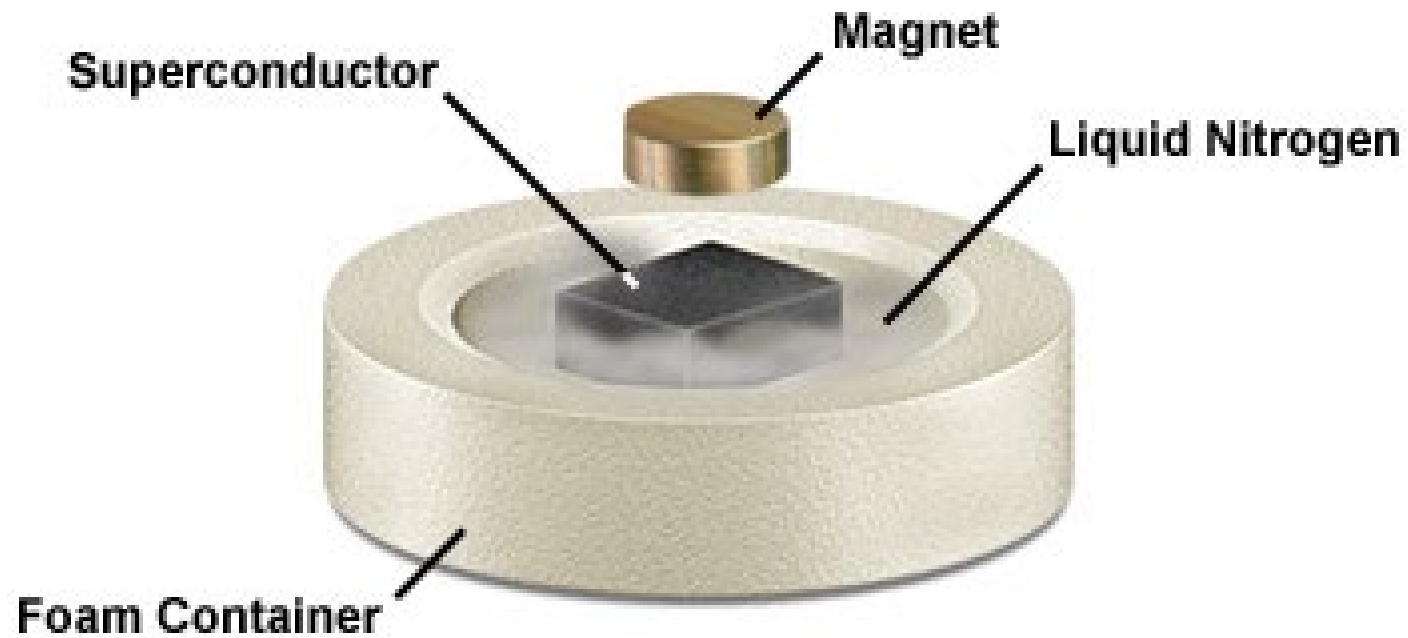


Figure 18.2 Exclusion of a weak external magnetic field from the interior of a superconductor.



The Meissner Effect







Need to consider phase equilibria between “normal” and superconducting state as a function of temperature and applied magnetic fields.

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H} + 4\pi\mathbf{M}$$

Within the superconductor, if $\mathbf{B} = 0$

$$\text{then } \mathbf{H} + 4\pi\mathbf{M} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{M} = -\frac{\mathbf{H}}{4\pi}$$

In practice, this is consistent with the analysis of London, assuming that within λ_L the surface current produces an opposing magnetic flux \mathbf{B} .

Magnetization field

Treating London current in terms of corresponding magnetization field \mathbf{M} :

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H} + 4\pi\mathbf{M}$$

Here H is thought of in terms of an applied field.

$$\Rightarrow \text{For } x \gg \lambda_L, \quad \mathbf{H} = -4\pi\mathbf{M}, \quad \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{H}) = -\frac{\mathbf{H}}{4\pi}$$

Gibbs free energy associated with magnetization for superconductor:

$$G_S(H_a) = G_S(H=0) - \int_0^{H_a} dH M(H) = G_S(0) - \int_0^{H_a} dH \left(\frac{-H}{4\pi} \right) = G_S(0) + \frac{1}{8\pi} H_a^2$$

This relation is true for an applied field $H_a \leq H_C$ when the superconducting and normal Gibbs free energies are equal:

$$G_S(H_C) = G_N(H_C) \approx G_N(H=0)$$

Condition at phase boundary between normal and superconducting states:

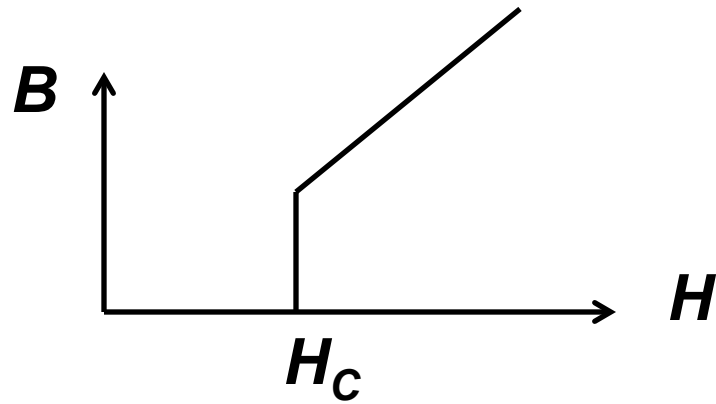
$$G_N(H_C) \approx G_N(0) = G_S(H_C) = G_S(0) + \frac{1}{8\pi} H_C^2 \quad \text{At } T=0K$$

$$\Rightarrow G_S(0) - G_N(0) = -\frac{1}{8\pi} H_C^2$$

$$G_S(H_a) - G_N(H_a) = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{8\pi} (H_C^2 - H_a^2) & \text{for } H_a < H_C \\ 0 & \text{for } H_a > H_C \end{cases}$$

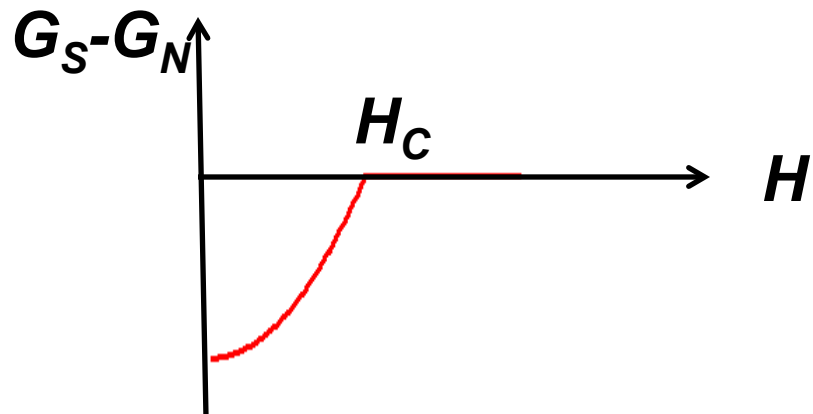
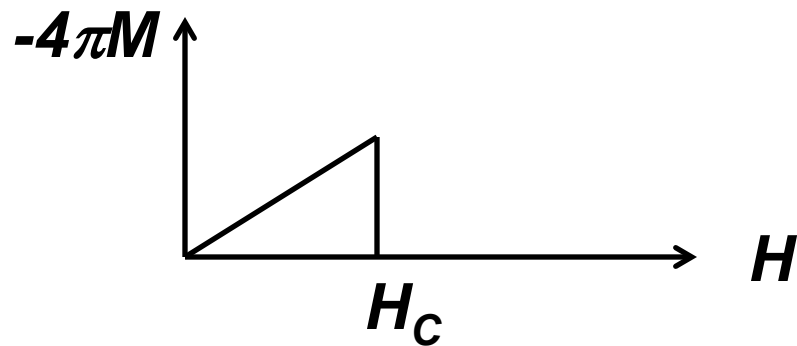


Magnetization field (for “type I” superconductor)



Inside superconductor

$$\mathbf{B} = 0 = \mathbf{H} + 4\pi\mathbf{M} \text{ for } H < H_C$$



Theory of Superconductivity*

J. BARDEEN, L. N. COOPER,[†] AND J. R. SCHRIEFFER[‡]
Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
(Received July 8, 1957)

$$G_S(0) - G_N(0) = -\frac{H_C^2}{8\pi} \approx -2N(E_F)(\hbar\omega)^2 e^{-2/(N(E_F)V)}$$

characteristic
phonon energy

density of electron
states at E_F

attraction potential
between electron
pairs



Temperature dependence of critical field

$$H_c(T) \approx H_c(0) \left(1 - \left(\frac{T}{T_c} \right)^2 \right)$$

From PR **108**, 1175 (1957)

Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer, "Theory of Superconductivity"

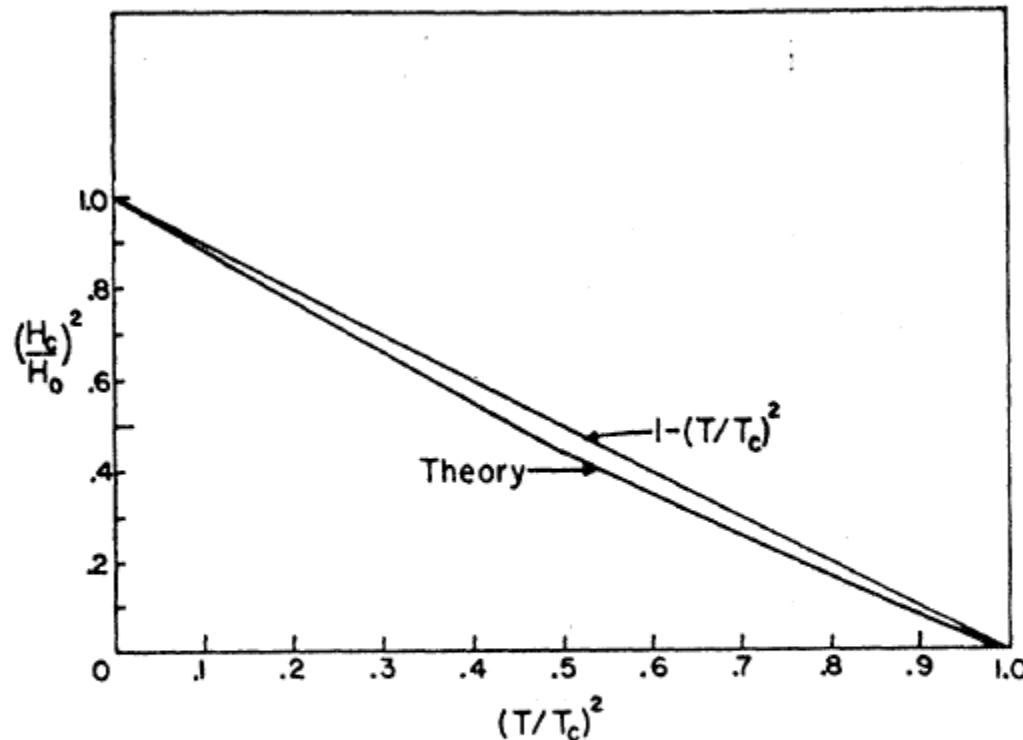


FIG. 2. Ratio of the critical field to its value at $T=0^\circ\text{K}$ vs $(T/T_c)^2$. The upper curve is the $1 - (T/T_c)^2$ law of the Gorter-Casimir theory and the lower curve is the law predicted by the theory in the weak-coupling limit. Experimental values generally lie between the two curves.

$$T_c \approx \frac{\hbar \omega}{k} e^{-2/(N(E_F)V)}$$

characteristic
phonon energy

density of electron
states at E_F

attraction potential
between electron
pairs



Type I elemental superconductors

<http://www.superconductors.org/Type1.htm>

Many additional elements can be coaxed into a superconductive state with the application of **high pressure**. For example, scandium appears to be the Type 1 element with the highest T_c . But, it requires compression pressures of **283 GPa to reach a T_c of 31K**. The above list is for elements at normal (ambient) atmospheric pressure. See the periodic table below for all known elemental superconductors (including Niobium, Technetium and Vanadium which are technically **Type 2**).

KNOWN SUPERCONDUCTIVE ELEMENTS

■ BLUE = AT AMBIENT PRESSURE
■ GREEN = ONLY UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

1	2																	10	11				
1	2																	10	11				
3	4																	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	4																	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12																	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	12																	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36						
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54						
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54						
55	56	57	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86						
55	56	57	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86						
87	88	89	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112												
87	88	89	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112												

SUPERCONDUCTORS.ORG

* Lanthanide Series

+ Actinide Series

58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103

****Note 2: Normally bulk carbon (amorphous, diamond, graphite, white) will not superconduct at any temperature. However, a T_c of 15K has been reported for elemental carbon when the atoms are configured as highly-aligned, single-walled nanotubes. And non-aligned, multi-walled nanotubes have shown superconductivity near 12K. Since the penetration depth is much larger than the coherence length, nanotubes would be characterized as "Type 2" superconductors.**

Type I superconductors:

$$H_c(T) = H_c(0) \left(1 - \frac{T^2}{T_c^2}\right)$$

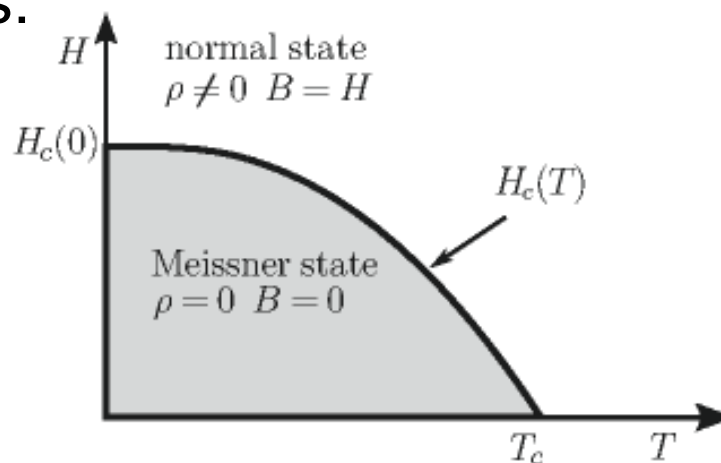


Figure 18.3 Schematic phase diagram illustrating normal and superconducting regions of a type-I superconductor.

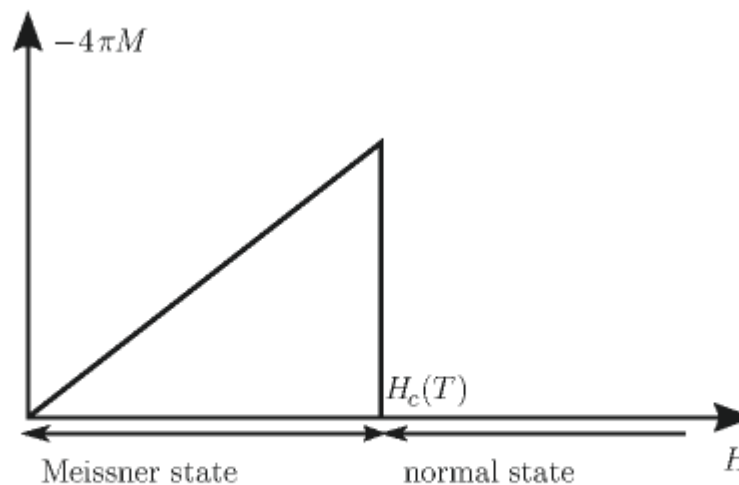


Figure 18.4 Magnetization versus applied field for type-I superconductors.

The following slides give a quick look of some of the intriguing aspects of superconducting materials and their properties --

Type II superconductors

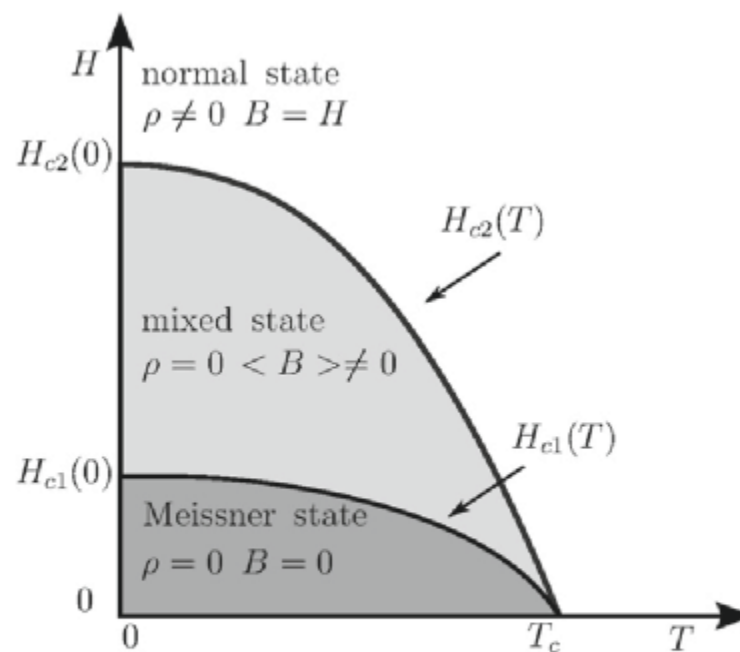


Figure 18.5 Schematic phase diagram illustrating normal, mixed and Meissner regions of a type-II superconductor (the vanishingly small resistivity of the mixed state occurs if flux lines are “pinned” by appropriate material defects); in the mixed state, $\langle B \rangle$ denotes the average magnetic field in the superconductor.

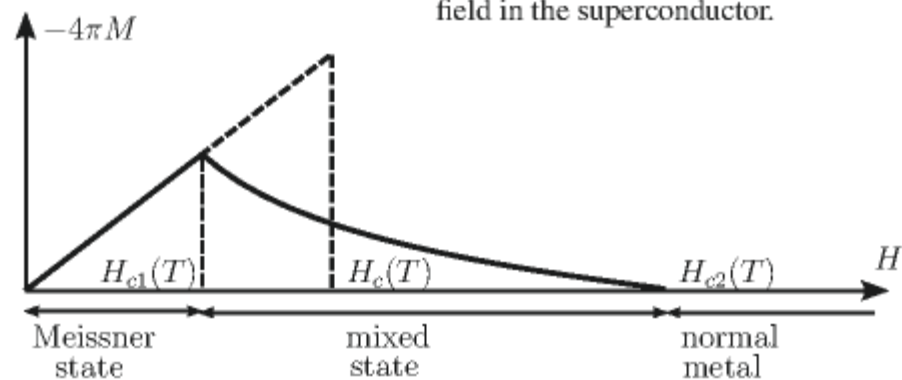


Figure 18.6 Magnetization versus applied field H for a type-II superconductor. The equivalent area construction of the thermodynamic field $H_c(T)$ is also illustrated.



Quantization of current flux associated with the superconducting state (Ref: Ashcroft and Mermin, ***Solid State Physics***)

From the London equations for the interior of the superconductor:

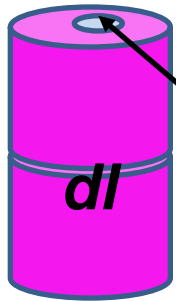
$$\left(m\mathbf{v} + \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) = 0$$

Now suppose that the current carrier is a pair of electrons characterized by a wavefunction of the form $\psi = |\psi| e^{i\phi}$

The quantum mechanical current associated with the electron pair is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{j} &= -\frac{e\hbar}{2mi} (\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*) - \frac{2e^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} |\psi|^2 \\ &= -\left(\frac{e\hbar}{m} \nabla \phi + \frac{2e^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} \right) |\psi|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Quantization of current flux associated with the superconducting state -- continued



Suppose a superconducting material has a cylindrical void. Evaluate the integral of the current in a closed path within the superconductor containing the void.

$$\oint \mathbf{j} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 0 = -\oint \left(\frac{e\hbar}{m} \nabla \phi + \frac{2e^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} \right) |\psi|^2 \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

$$\oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \int (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot d\mathbf{a} = \int \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = \Phi \quad \text{magnetic flux}$$

$$\oint \nabla \phi \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 2\pi n \quad \text{for some integer } n$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Quantization of flux in the void: } |\Phi| = n \frac{hc}{2e} \equiv n\Phi_0$$

Such “vortex” fields can exist within type II superconductors.



Table 18.1 Critical temperature of some selected superconductors, and zero-temperature critical field. For elemental materials, the thermodynamic critical field $H_c(0)$ is given in gauss. For the compounds, which are type-II superconductors, the upper critical field $H_{c2}(0)$ is given in Tesla ($1 \text{ T} = 10^4 \text{ G}$). The data for metallic elements and binary compounds of V and Nb are taken from G. Burns (1992). The data for MgB_2 and iron pnictide are taken from the references cited in the text, and refer to the two principal crystallographic axes. The data for the other compounds are taken from D. R. Harshman and A. P. Mills, Phys. Rev. B 45, 10684 (1992)]. A more extensive list of data can be found in the mentioned references.

Metallic elements	$T_c(K)$	$H_c(0)$ (gauss)
Al	1.17	105
Sn	3.72	305
Pb	7.19	803
Hg	4.15	411
Nb	9.25	2060
V	5.40	1410
Binary compounds	$T_c(K)$	$H_{c2}(0)$ (Tesla)
V_3Ga	16.5	27
V_3Si	17.1	25
Nb_3Al	20.3	34
Nb_3Ge	23.3	38
MgB_2	40	≈ 5 ; ≈ 20
Other compounds	$T_c(K)$	$H_{c2}(0)$ (Tesla)
UPt_3 (heavy fermion)	0.53	2.1
PbMo_6S_8 (Chevrel phase)	12	55
$\kappa\text{--}[\text{BEDT--TTF}]_2\text{Cu}[\text{NCS}]_2$ (organic phase)	10.5	≈ 10
$\text{Rb}_2\text{CsC}_{60}$ (fullerene)	31.3	≈ 30
$\text{NdFeAsO}_{0.7}\text{F}_{0.3}$ (iron pnictide)	47	≈ 30 ; ≈ 50
Cuprate oxides	$T_c(K)$	$H_{c2}(0)$ (Tesla)
$\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$ ($x \approx 0.15$)	38	≈ 45
$\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$	92	≈ 140
$\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_8$	89	≈ 107
$\text{Tl}_2\text{Ba}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{10}$	125	≈ 75



Some other notable type II superconductors – (from www.superconductors.org)

$(\text{Nd,Sr,Ce})_2\text{CuO}_4$	35 K
$\text{Pb}_2(\text{Sr,Lu})_2\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_6$	32 K
$(\text{La}_{1.85}\text{Ba}_{0.15})\text{CuO}_4$	30 K (<u>First HTS ceramic SC discovered - 1986</u>)

MgB_2	39 K (<u>one of the highest known transition temperatures of any BCS superconductor</u>)
$\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{K}_{0.4}\text{BiO}_3$	30 K (<u>First 4th order phase compound</u>)

Comment: After NbTi (below) NbN is the most widely used low-temperature superconductor.

$\text{Nb}_{0.6}\text{Ti}_{0.4}$
 MgCNi_3

9.8 K (First superconductive wire)
7-8 K (First all-metal perovskite superconductor)

Used in MRI machines

Crystal structure of one of the high temperature superconductors

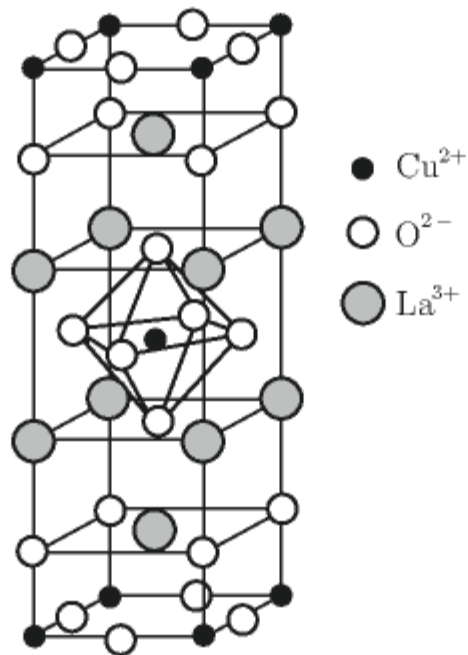
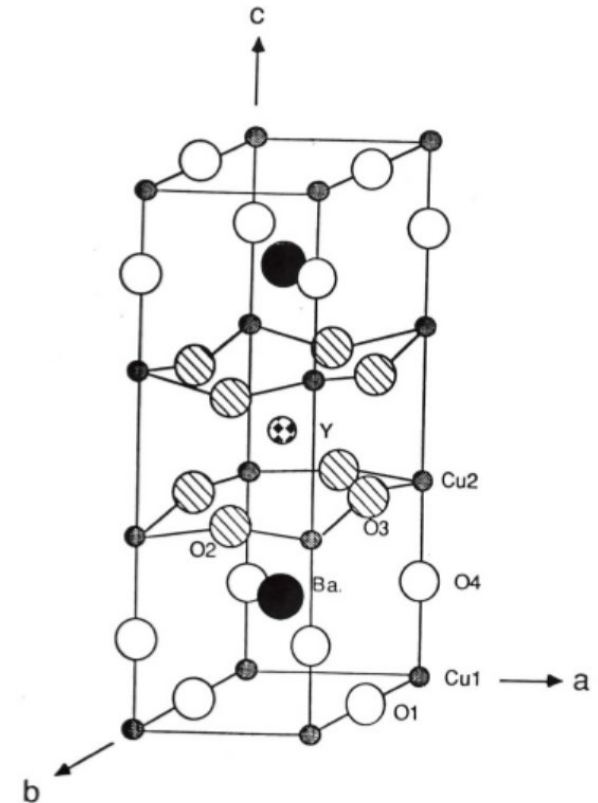


Figure 18.1 Crystal structure of the ceramic material La_2CuO_4 . Appropriately doped, lanthanum-based cuprates opened the path to high- T_c superconductivity in 1986.



From MS thesis of Brent
Howe (Minn State U, 2014)

Some details of single vortex in type II superconductor

London equation without vortices:

$$\frac{4\pi}{c} \nabla \times \mathbf{J} = -\nabla^2 \mathbf{B} = -\frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} \mathbf{B} \quad \text{where} \quad \lambda_L^2 \equiv \frac{mc^2}{4\pi ne^2}$$

Equation for field with single quantum of vortex along z - axis:

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} \mathbf{B} = -\frac{\Phi_0}{\lambda_L^2} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \delta(\mathbf{r}) \quad \Phi_0 = \frac{hc}{2e} \quad \mathbf{r} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\text{Solution:} \quad \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) = \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi\lambda_L^2} K_0\left(\frac{r}{\lambda_L}\right)$$

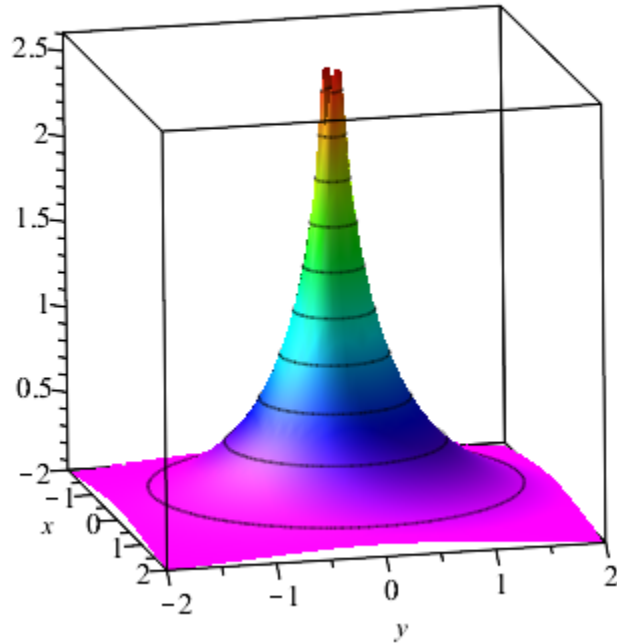
Check:

$$\text{For } r > 0 \quad \left(\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dr} - \frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} \right) K_0\left(\frac{r}{\lambda_L}\right) = 0$$

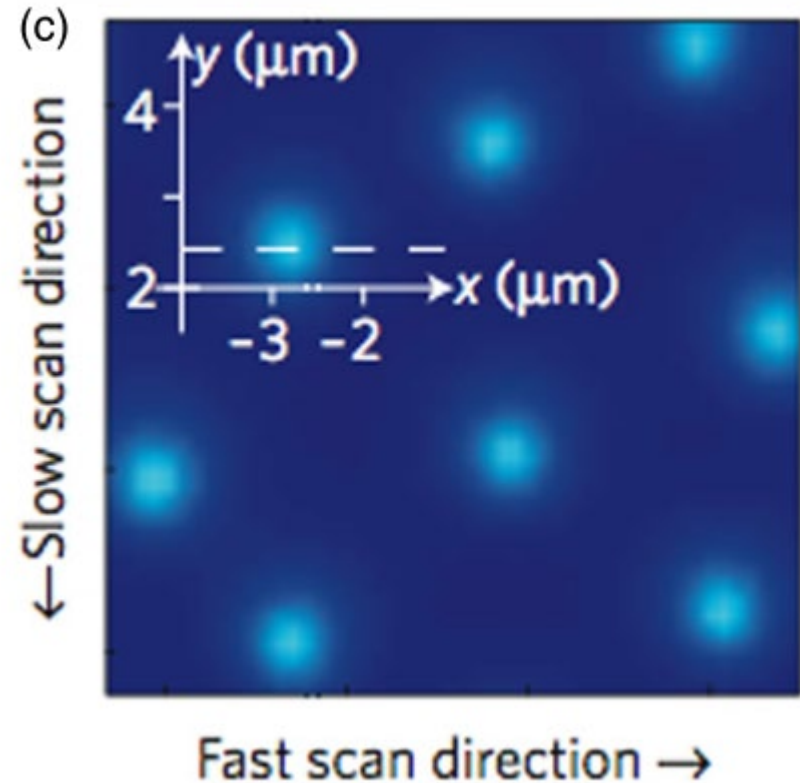
$$\text{For } r \rightarrow 0 \quad 2\pi \int_0^r dr' r' \left(\frac{d^2}{dr'^2} + \frac{1}{r'} \frac{d}{dr'} - \frac{1}{\lambda_L^2} \right) K_0\left(\frac{r'}{\lambda_L}\right) = -2\pi$$

$$\text{Since } K_0(u) \underset{u \rightarrow 0}{\approx} -\ln u$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) = \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi\lambda_L^2} K_0\left(\frac{r}{\lambda_L}\right)$$



Scanning probe images of vortices in YBCO at 22 K



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Fundamental studies of superconductors using scanning magnetic imaging

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Based on physics of the Josephson junction.