

Superconductivity




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April 1, 2026 1

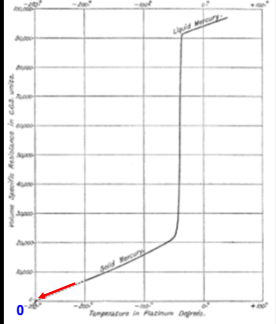
Resistance at $T = 0K$?

Sir John Ambrose Fleming



Sir James Dewar




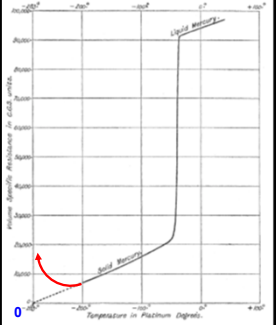


J. Dewar and J.A. Fleming, Proc. R. Soc. London 60, 76-81 (1896)

Resistance at $T = 0K$?

Lord Kelvin






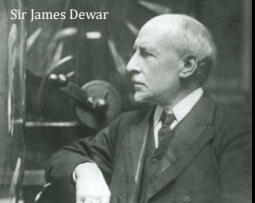
J. Dewar and J.A. Fleming, Proc. R. Soc. London 60, 76-81 (1896)

Race to liquefy hydrogen

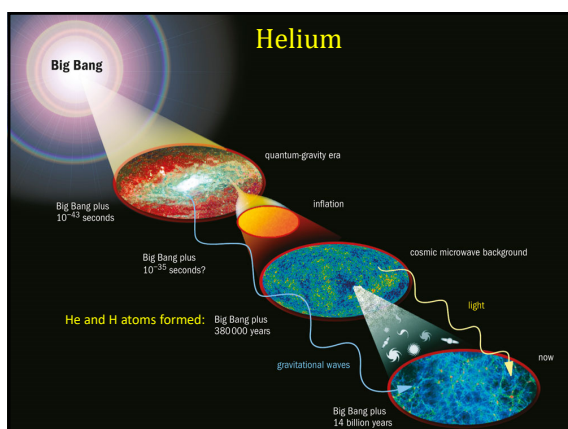
- Invent the dewar flask in 1892
- Dewar succeed making 20cc of L.H₂ on June 2, 1898
- Liquid H₂ T = 20.3 K at 1 bar.



Sir James Dewar




© Royal Institution




Helium

Sir William Ramsay
Nobel in Chemistry, 1904



©University College London
Mathematical & Physical Sciences

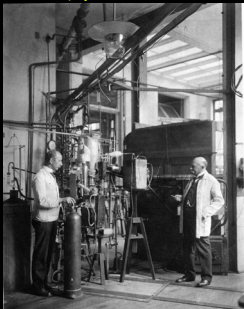
Cleveite



- Ramsay received Nobel Prize for his discovery of the inert gas (He, Ne, Ar, Kr, and Xe) in air, and his determination of their place in the periodic table.
- Cleveite was the first known terrestrial source of helium, which is created over time by alpha decay of U/Th and trapped within the mineral.
- Massive quantity of He gas was first found along with natural gas at Dexter, Kansas in 1903.


Helium Liquefaction in 1908

July 10, 1908



© Leiden Institute of Physics

Heike Kamerlingh Onnes
Nobel Prize, 1913



The first experiment had produced 60 ml of liquid helium.

Total Production of LHe in 2019

~228M Liters of LHe

GLOBAL PRODUCERS

- UNITED STATES 55%
- RUSSIA 2%
- AUSTRALIA 3%
- ALGERIA 6%
- QATAR 32%
- REST OF WORLD 1%
- POLAND 0%

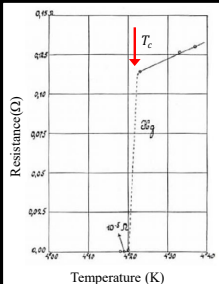
MAIN USES

- 20% MRI scanners
- 17% Welding
- 10% Laboratories
- 8% Balloons
- 6% Pressurising
- 6% Fibre optics
- 5% Leak detection
- 4% Other cryogenics
- 4% Electronics
- 3% Controlled atmospheres
- 3% Breathing
- 14% Other

Source: USFOS, 2019 © AL JAZEERA


The Discovery of Superconductivity

R = 0 on April 8, 1911



H. Kamerlingh Onnes, *Commun. Phys. Lab. Univ. Leiden, Suppl.* 29 (Nov. 1911).

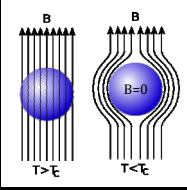
Heike Kamerlingh Onnes
Nobel Prize, 1913



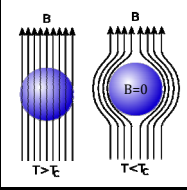
"Door meten tot weten"
(Knowledge through measurement)

Meissner effect, 1933



- Superconductors are found to be perfect diamagnets in 1933.



$T < T_c$



$T > T_c$

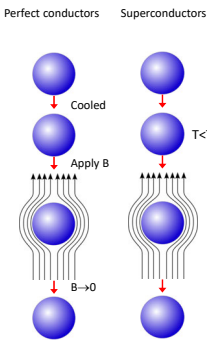



© PTB Berlin Institute

- What's the difference between a superconductor and a perfect conductor?

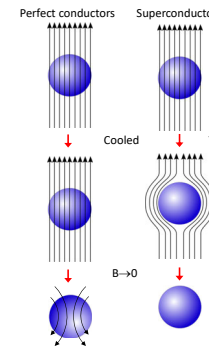
Perfect Conductors vs Superconductors

Perfect conductors



Cooled → Apply B → B=0

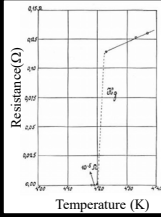
Superconductors

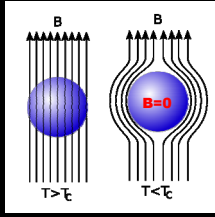


$T < T_c$ → Cooled → Apply B → B=0

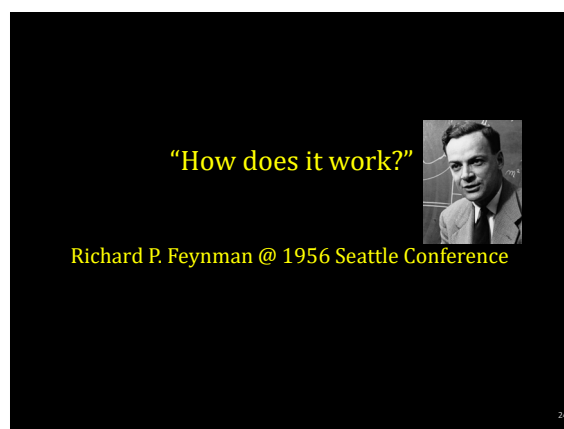
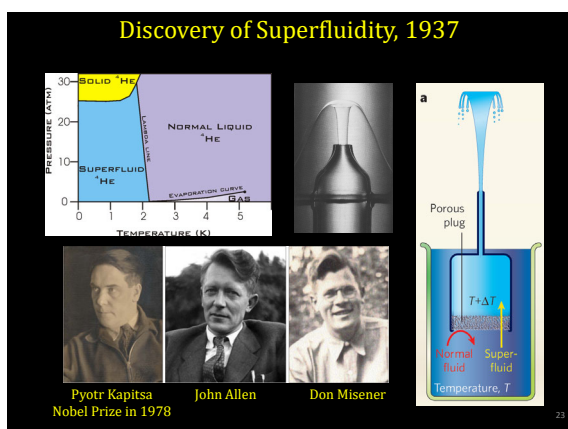
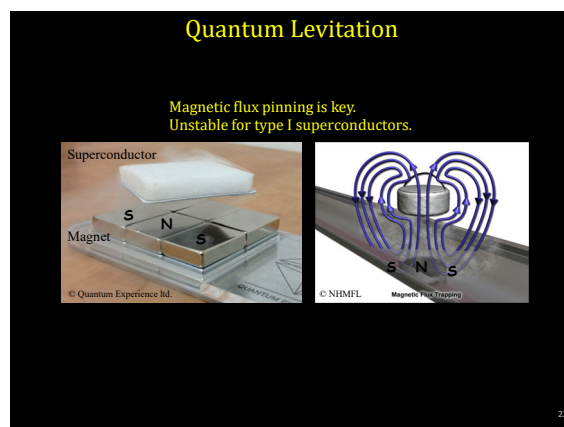
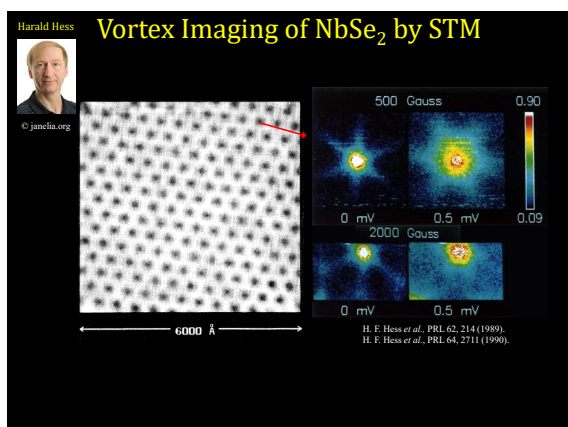
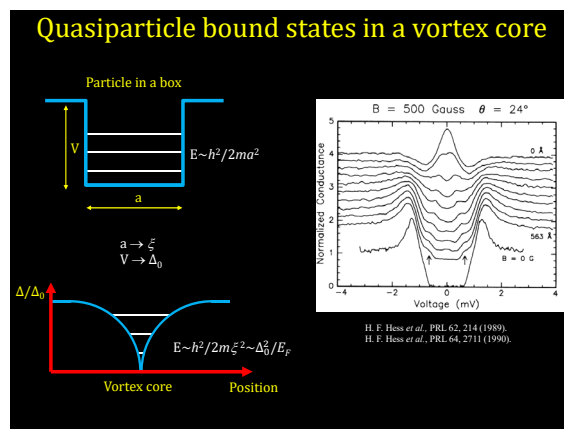
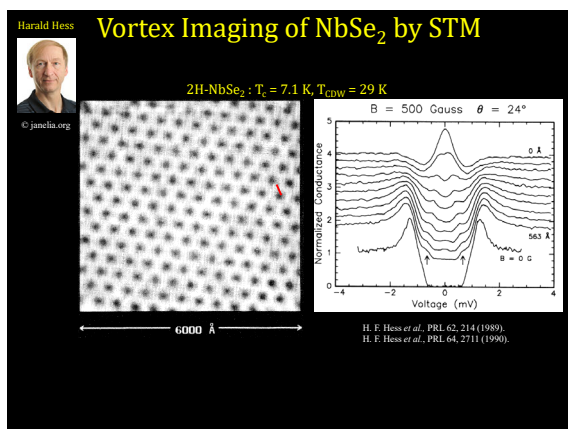
Basic Properties of Superconductors

Zero electrical resistivity + Meissner effect





$T < T_c$



The London Equation and Penetration Depth, 1935

Correct theoretical descriptions of the SC phenomenon:

- In 1935, London brothers propose two equations for E and H; results in the concept of penetration depth.

- Starting from the classical Drude model:

$$m\dot{v} = eE - m\frac{\dot{\varphi}}{\tau}$$

but adapts to account for the perfect conductivity:

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{m}{n_s e^2} \frac{\partial \vec{j}_s}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$



Heitz and Fritz London © Duke University

- Stationary currents in superconductors are possible even when E=0.

The London Equation and Penetration Depth, 1935

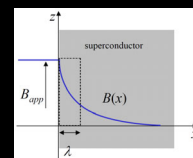
- Take curl of (1) and with Faraday's Law $\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$:

$$\nabla \times \vec{j}_s = -\frac{n_s e^2}{mc} \vec{B} \quad \text{Meissner's Effect included!}$$

- Combine London Equations with Ampère's law $\nabla \times \vec{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{j}_s$:

$$\rightarrow \nabla^2 \vec{B} = \frac{\vec{B}}{\lambda_L^2} \quad ; \quad \lambda_L \equiv \sqrt{\frac{mc^2}{4\pi n_s e^2}}$$

$$B_z(x) = B_z(0) \exp(-x/\lambda_L)$$



- B is exponentially screened over a length, λ_L , which explains Meissner effect.
- The penetration depth λ_L is also the characteristic depth of the supercurrent on the surface of the material (due to Ampère's law)

Ginzburg-Landau Theory, 1950

Correct theoretical descriptions of the SC phenomenon:

- The Limitation of London theory: only valid when

- The penetration depth is the dominant length scale:

$$\lambda \gg \xi_0 \text{ (coherent length)}$$

- The field is small and can be treated as a perturbation.

- n_s is nearly constant everywhere.

- The first theory to properly take into account the quantum nature of superconductivity.

- Introducing the superconducting order parameter:

$$\psi(\vec{r}) \equiv \psi_0 e^{i\phi(\vec{r})} \text{ where } \psi_0 = \sqrt{n_s(\vec{r})}$$



Ginzburg-Landau Theory, 1950

- Landau expansion of free energy:

$$F = F_n + \int \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left| \left(\nabla - i \frac{2e}{\hbar c} \vec{A} \right) \psi \right|^2 + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{\hbar^2}{8m} \nabla^2 |\psi|^2 \right) dV$$

Quantum mechanics 2nd order phase transition

- Introducing coherence length, ξ

$$\alpha = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m\xi^2} \quad |\psi|^2 = -\alpha/\beta$$

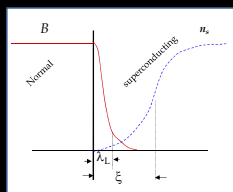
- GL theory yields $\vec{j} = \vec{j}_s = \frac{ehn_s}{2m} \left(\nabla\theta - \frac{2e}{\hbar c} \vec{A} \right)$
In the absence of magnetic field: $\vec{j}_s = en_s v_s$

- Also $(\nabla^2 - \lambda_L^{-2})\vec{j}_s = 0$

- Connection of BCS to GL Theory by Lev Gor'kov in 1958.

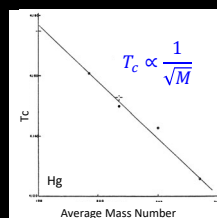
Coherence Length

- First introduced by Brian Pippard for the non-local generalization of the Londons' equation concerning electrodynamics in superfluids and superconductors. Later confirmed by BCS theory.
- The DOS, n_s of the Cooper pairs decreases to zero near a superconducting /normal interface, with a characteristic length ξ (coherence length).
- ξ and λ_L are both functions of temperature.



The Isotope Effect, 1950

- Lattice vibration is a part of the superconducting process.
- A crucial step to a microscopic theory of superconductivity!



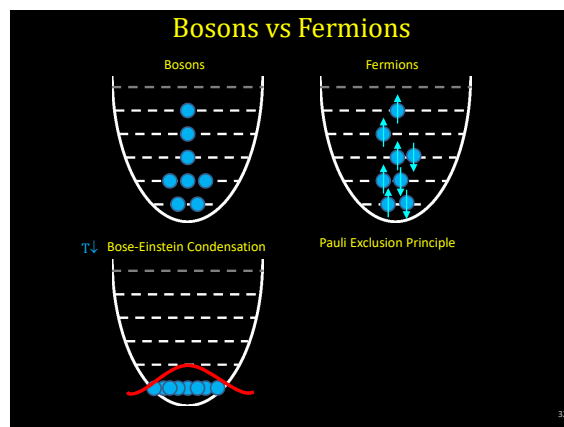
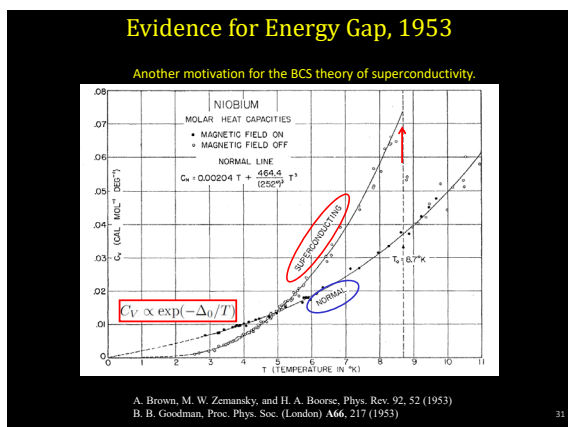
Emanuel Maxwell Bernard Serin & Charles Reynolds



© MIT



© Rutgers University



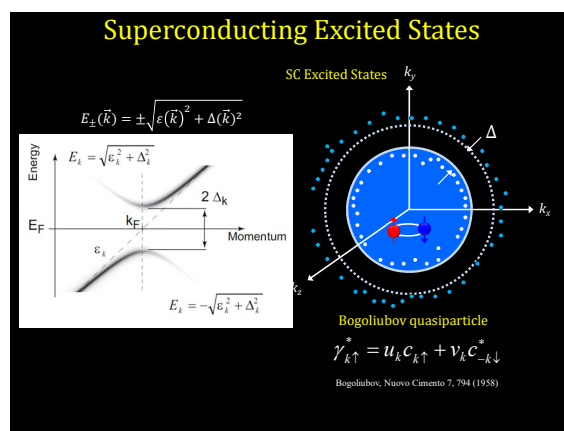
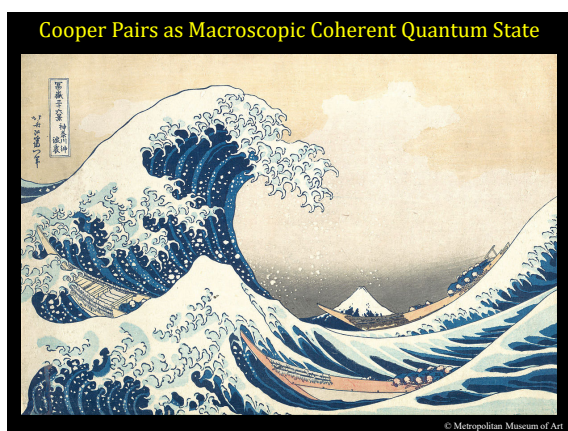
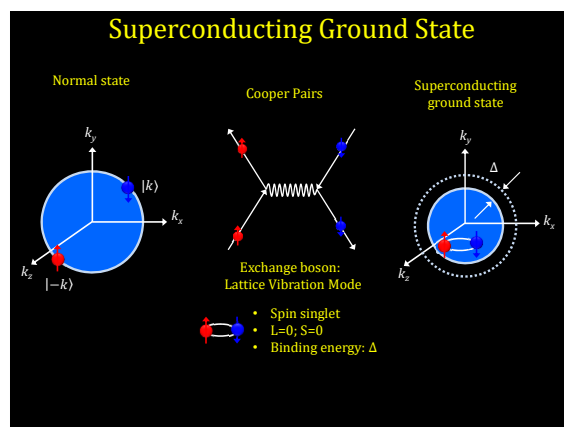
Microscopic Theory for SC : BCS Theory

A microscopic theory that explained essentially all complex properties of conventional SC!

- In a superconductor, when $T < T_c$, electrons are energetically preferable to form Cooper pairs.
- The Cooper pairs are due to electron-phonon interaction. (It can be other electron-boson interaction).
- The balance between electron-phonon interaction and Coulomb force determines if a material is SC

John Bardeen
Leon Cooper
Nobel Prize in 1972
© Nobel Foundation
Robert Schrieffer

J. Bardeen, L. N. Cooper, and J. R. Schrieffer, Phys. Rev. 108, 1175 (1957)



Superconducting Excited States

Superconducting energy gap=2Δ
(T=0)

SC Excited States

Bogoliubov quasiparticle

$$\gamma_{k\uparrow}^* = u_k C_{k\uparrow} + v_k C_{-k\downarrow}^*$$

Bogoliubov, Nuovo Cimento 7, 794 (1958)

BCS Theory

BCS theory predicts the T-dependence of the energy gap

$$\Delta = 3.2 k_B T_c \sqrt{1 - T/T_c}$$

Fig. 1. Ratio of the energy gap for single-particle-like excitations to the gap at T=0°K vs temperature.
J. Bardeen, L. N. Cooper, and J. R. Schrieffer, Phys. Rev. **108**, 1175 (1957)

Confirmation of BCS

Ivar Giaever
Nobel Prize in 1973

Tunneling junction

Pair Energy Gap Δ

I. Giaever, Phys. Rev. Lett. **5**, 147 (1960)
I. Giaever, Phys. Rev. **122**, 1101 (1961)

Confirmation of BCS

Ivar Giaever
Nobel Prize in 1973

Tunneling junction

I. Giaever, Phys. Rev. Lett. **5**, 147 (1960)
I. Giaever, Phys. Rev. **122**, 1101 (1961)

Superconductivity by Tunneling Spectroscopy

Tunneling junction

Pb/MgO/Pb
ε=1.34meV
T=0.33K

Electron-Phonon Interaction by Tunneling Spectroscopy

Tunneling junction

F(ω)=phonon DOS
α²(ω)= e-ph coupling

W.L. McMillan & J.W. Rowell, PRL **14**, 108 (1965)

Flux Quantization, 1950


* We note that in order for Ψ to be a single-valued function, as required by quantum mechanics, it is necessary that the moduli of χ fulfill a kind of quantum condition:

$$\langle \chi \rangle = \oint \vec{p}_s \cdot d\vec{s} = K\hbar$$

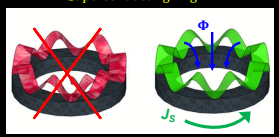
where K must be an integer. This means that there exists a universal unit for the fluxoid:

$$\Phi_0 = hc/4e \simeq 4 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ gauss} \cdot \text{cm}^2$$

Fritz London



Superconducting ring



Superfluids, Macroscopic Theory of Superconductivity, Structure of Matter Vol. 1 (Wiley, New York, 1950)

Flux Quantization

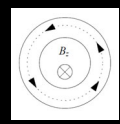
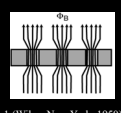
- From Ginzburg-Landau theory: $\vec{j} = \frac{ehc}{2m} (\nabla\theta - \frac{2e}{\hbar c} \vec{A})$
- Take $\oint \vec{j} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$ around a closed contour within a superconductor.

1st term: $\oint \nabla\theta \cdot d\vec{l} = \Delta\theta = 2n\pi$, n is integer

2nd term:
With Stoke's theorem \rightarrow

$$\oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int \nabla \times \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{S} = \Phi$$

- Thus, flux quantum $|\Phi| = n \frac{h}{2e} = n\Phi_0$ where $\Phi_0 = 2.07 \times 10^{-15} \text{ Tesla} \cdot \text{m}^2$
- One flux quantum in each vortex. The density of vortices in the superconductor is determined by the magnitude of the applied field.

Superfluids, Macroscopic Theory of Superconductivity, Structure of Matter Vol. 1 (Wiley, New York, 1950)

Flux Quantization Experiments in 1961

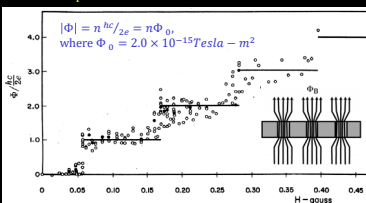
Bascom Deaver
UAPS

William Fairbank
CDuke

Robert Doll
Walther-Meißner-Institut

Martin Näbauer
Walther-Meißner-Institut

One of the most compelling evidence for the validity of the description of superconductors by a complex order parameter



This also shows that $q=2e$ (pairs) in superconductors!

B. D. Deaver and W. M. Fairbank, Phys. Rev. Lett. 7, 43 (1961)
R. Doll and M. Näbauer, Phys. Rev. Lett. 7, 51 (1961)

Pairing Symmetry

Order parameter: SC gap function, $\Delta_{ss'}^{\ell}(k) \propto |\Psi_{kss'}|^2$

Pair wave function: $\Psi_{kss'} = \langle \Psi_{BCS} | c_{-ks'} c_{ks} | \Psi_{BCS} \rangle = g_{\ell}(k) \chi_{ss'}$

Spin part: $\chi_{ss'}$

- $(\uparrow\downarrow - \downarrow\uparrow)$ singlet, $S=0$
- $(\uparrow\uparrow, \uparrow\downarrow + \downarrow\uparrow, \downarrow\downarrow)$ triplet, $S=1$

Orbital part: $g_{\ell}(k) = \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} a_{\ell m}(k) Y_{\ell m}(\hat{k})$, where $\hat{k} = k/k_F$

- $\ell = 0$: s wave (conventional SC) If $\ell > 0$, $\psi(0) = 0$
- $\ell = 1$: p wave (superfluid ^3He)
- $\ell = 2$: d wave (cuprate SC)

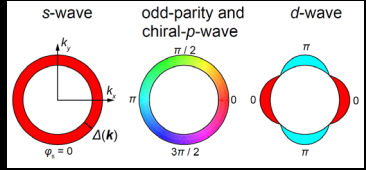
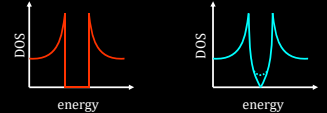
repulsive interaction $\rightarrow \Delta(k)$ must change its sign

Spin	Orbital
anti-symmetric ($S=0$)	symmetric (s, d, ...)
symmetric ($S=1$)	anti-symmetric (p, f, ...)

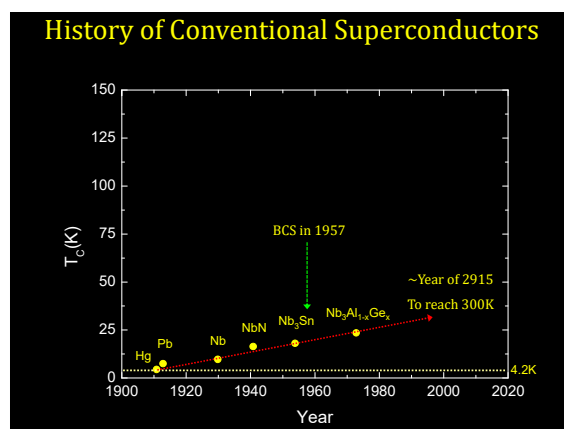
Symmetry of the Order Parameter

Singlet
Even parity
 $J=0, m_j=0$


Triplet
Odd parity
 $J=1, m_j=+1$

Shingo Yonezawa, Condens. Matter 4, 2 (2019)



Matthias's Rules for Searching High TC SC



1. Stay away from insulators; transition metals are better.
2. There are favorable electron/atom ratios.
3. High symmetry is good; cubic symmetry is best.
4. Stay away from Oxygen
5. Stay away from magnetism
6. Stay away from theorists.

Bernd Matthias
By Joel Broida©

W. E. Pickett, Physica B 296, 112 (2001)
I. I. Mazin, Nature 464, 183 (2010)

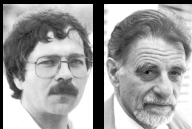
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The Beginning of High T_c Superconductors (HTS)

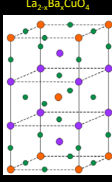
Possible High T_c Superconductivity in the Ba-La-Cu-O System

J.G. Bednorz and K.A. Müller
IBM Zürich Research Laboratory, Rüschlikon, Switzerland
Received April 17, 1986
Z. Phys. B - Condensed Matter 64,189 (1986)

Nobel Prize in Physics 1987




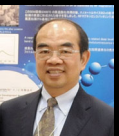
J. Georg Bednorz K. Alex Müller



La_{2-x}Ba_xCuO₄
T_c ~ 30K

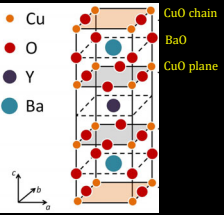
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Superconductivity above 77K

C.W. Paul Chu Maw-Kuen Wu

YBa₂Cu₃O_{7-x}, T_c ~ 93K



Cu chain
BaO
CuO plane

Legend: Cu (orange), O (red), Y (blue), Ba (green)


Note!
LN₂ ~ 30 NTD/L
Taiwan Beer ~ 76 NTD/L

M. K. Wu et al., PRL 58, 908 (1987)

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Woodstock of Physics - March Meeting 1987

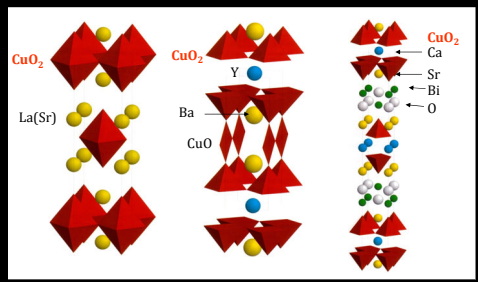
"The stores and bars were all 'Physicists welcome,' " said Paul M. Grant, who headed the superconductivity research at I.B.M.'s Almaden Research Center in San Jose. He recalled a discotheque in Chelsea with a long line of people waiting to get in. "The bouncers took anybody that had a physical society badge on to the front," Dr. Grant recalled, "and we got in gratis. Can you imagine what a culture shift? We had a hell of a good time." - NY Times



©American Institute of Physics

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The Cuprates HTS Family



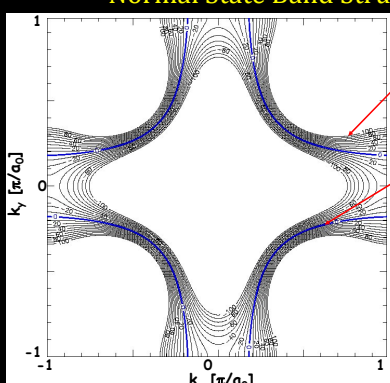
La_{2-x}Sr_xCuO₄ (LSCO) (T_c max ~ 40 K)

YBa₂Cu₃O₇ (YBCO) (T_c max ~ 93 K)

Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O₈ (Bi2212 or BSCCO) (T_c max ~ 95 K)

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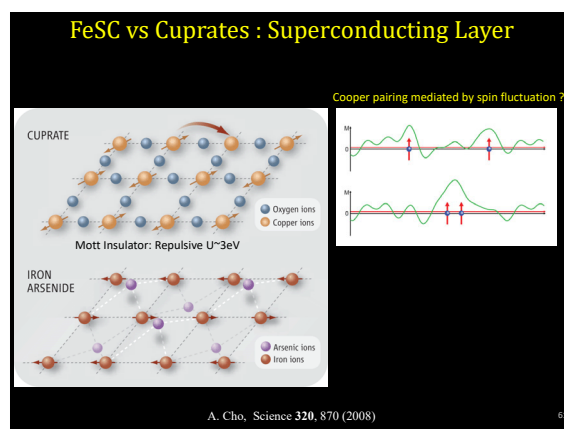
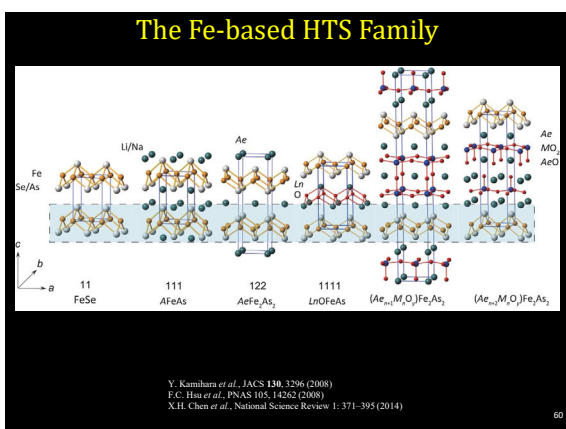
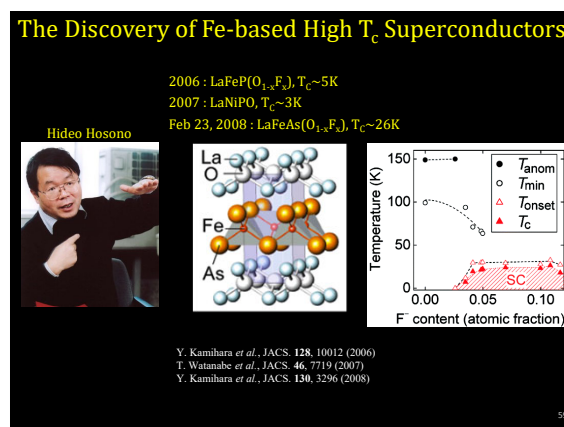
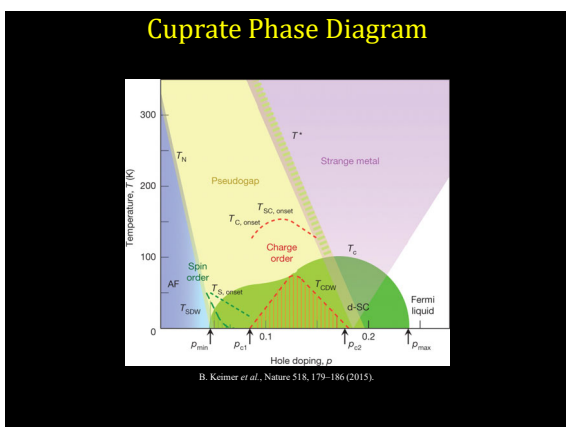
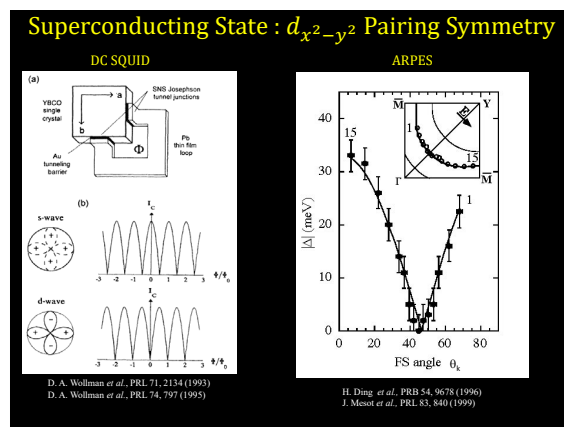
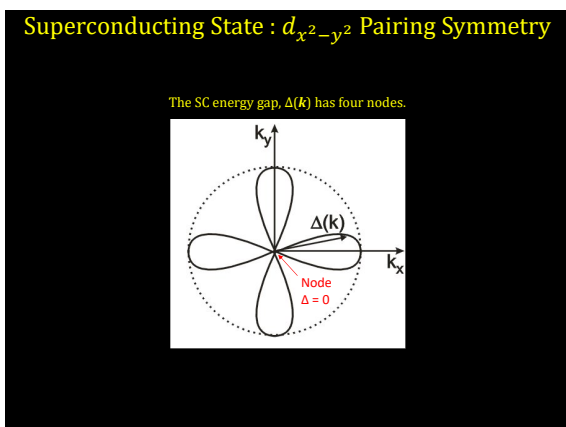
Normal State Band Structure



CEC (E): The location in k-space of states with energy E

Fermi Surface CCE(0)

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FeSC: Unconventional Superconductivity

- The electron-phonon coupling is too weak to account for such high T_c .
L. Boeri *et al.*, PRL 101, 026403 (2008)
- Isotope effect on some materials shown to be negligible.
P.M. Shirage *et al.*, PRL 105, 037004 (2010)
- Everything seems to work - doping / pressure / different structures

Possible pairing symmetries

FeSC: Candidates for Pairing Mechanism

SDW suppression leads to SC
→ AF Spin Fluctuation Exchange.
→ S_{\pm} OP symmetry
I. L. Mazin *et al.*, PRL 101, 057003 (2008)
K. Kaneko *et al.*, PRL 101, 087004 (2008)
K. Seo *et al.*, PRL 101, 206404 (2008)

Orbital Fluctuation → S_{++} OP symmetry
H. Kontani *et al.*, PRL 104, 157001 (2010)

Gap symmetry?
Phase sensitive measurements required!

CuSC vs FeSC : Fermi Surfaces

Cuprates

Fe-based HTS

CuSC vs FeSC : Gap Structures

d-wave gap

H. Ding *et al.*, PRB 54, 9678 (1996)
J. Mesot *et al.*, PRL 83, 840 (1999)

Possible s_{\pm} -wave gap

H. Ding *et al.*, EPL, 83, 47001 (2008)

Cuprates vs FeSC : Phase Diagrams

Cuprates

d-wave

D.N. Basov *et al.*, NPhys 7, 272 (2011)

FeSC

s_{\pm} -wave?


History of Superconductors

Metallic Hydrogen: A High-Temperature Superconductor?

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 26 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 23 DECEMBER 1968

METALLIC HYDROGEN: A HIGH-TEMPERATURE SUPERCONDUCTOR?
 N. W. Ashcroft
 Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850
 (Received 3 May 1968)


Application of the BCS theory to the proposed metallic modification of hydrogen suggests that it will be a high-temperature superconductor. This prediction has interesting astrophysical consequences, as well as implications for the possible development of a superconductor for use at elevated temperatures.



- Weakly coupled BCS Theory: $T_c = 0.85\theta_D \exp(-1/N_0V)$
- θ_D is small for H_2 (~120K) but large for metallic hydrogen (~3500K), leading to high T_c SC.

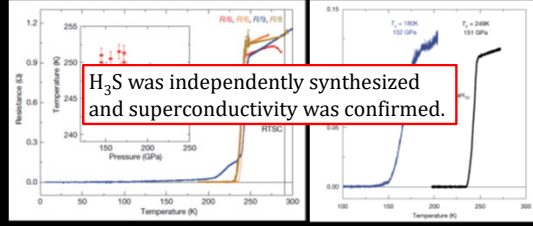
HTS under High Pressure

Mikhail Erements

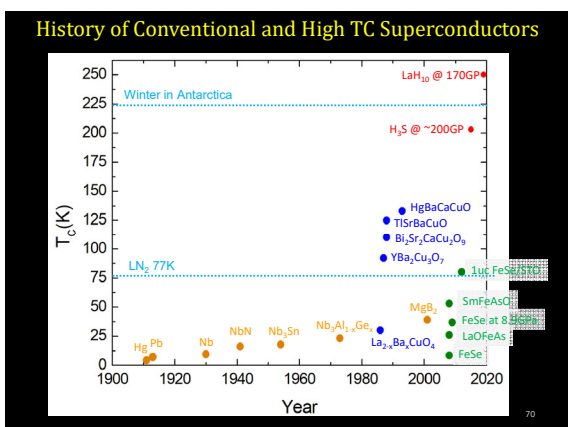


H_2S : $T_c = 203K$ at 200GPa
 LaH_{10} : $T_c = 250K$ at 170 Gpa
 0.1GPa @ the bottom of Mariana Trench


Isotope effect: BCS superconductor?



A. P. Drozdov *et al.*, Nature 525, 73 (2015)
 A. P. Drozdov *et al.*, Nature 569, 528 (2019)

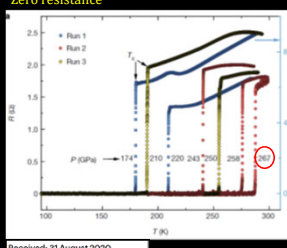


RT-SC in carbonaceous sulfur hydride !?

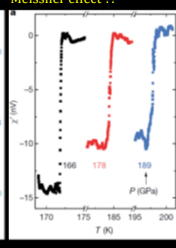


Ranga P. Dias

Zero resistance



Meissner effect ??



Received: 31 August 2020
 Accepted: 8 September 2020
 Published online: 14 October 2020

E. Snider *et al.*, Nature 586, 373 (2020)

RT-SC : Not so fast!

“Unusual width of the superconducting transition in a hydride”
 J. E. Hirsch & F. Marsiglio, Nature 596, E9–E10 (2021)

“Superconductor finding draws pointed critique”
 Science, 374 (6567), - DOI: 10.1126/science.abc9468

🔴 This article was **retracted** on 26 September 2022

📅 **15 February 2022** Editor's Note: The editors of Nature have been alerted to concerns regarding the manner in which the data in this paper have been processed and interpreted. Nature is working with the authors to investigate these concerns and establish what (if any) impact they will have on the paper's results and conclusions. In the meantime, readers are advised to use caution when using results reported therein.

RT-SC : Not so fast!

INVESTIGATION REVEALS HOW PHYSICIST FAKED BLOCKBUSTER RESULTS

The 124-page university report, disclosed in a lawsuit, details Ranga Dias's scientific misconduct.

“Evidence uncovered in this investigation shows that [Dias] cannot be trusted”
 Dan Garisto, Nature 628, 481 (2024)

5 papers have been retracted:
 E. Snider *et al.*, Nature 586, 373 (2020)
 D. Durkee *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 0164401 (2021)
 E. Snider *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 117003 (2021)
 G. Alexander Smith *et al.*, Chemical Communications 58, 9064 (2022)
 Nathan Dasenbrock-Gammon *et al.*, Nature 615, 244 (2023)

Dias was fired by University of Rochester in 2024.

LK-99 in 2023

The claim: the First room-temperature ambient-pressure superconductor.
Sukbae Lee, Ji-Hoon Kim and Young-Wan Kwon, arXiv:2307.12008 (2023)

The hints of SC seen in LK-99 were caused by Cu₂S impurities
Prashant Jain, J. Phys. Chem. C 2023, 127, 37, 18253–18255

Origin of correlated isolated flat bands in copper-substituted lead phosphate apatite
Sinéad M. Griffin, arXiv: 2307.16892 (2023)

But the result is not correct because the incorrect structure is used.

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Twisted bilayered graphene @ magic angle

Allan MacDonald, Pablo Jarillo-Herrero

T_c ~ 3K and found richer states.

Moiré filling factor ν_m MATGB

Carrier density n (10^{12} cm^{-2})

Temperature (K)

Carrier density n (per planar copper atom)

Cuprates

e-doped h-doped

R. Bistritzer & A. H. MacDonald, PNAS. 108, 12233 (2011)
Y. Cao *et al.*, Nature 556, 43–50 (2018)
Y. Cao *et al.*, Nature 556, 80–84 (2018)
X. Lu *et al.*, Nature 574, 653 (2019)

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Nickelates superconductors

Harold Y. Hwang

Nd_{0.8}Sr_{0.2}NiO₂ Perovskite phase
Nd_{0.8}Sr_{0.2}NiO₂ Infinite-layer phase
T_c < 15 K

CaH₂ reduction

● Nd/Sr
● Ni
● Sr
● Ti
● O

SrTiO₃ (001) substrate

Temperature (K)

Metallic

d-wave?

Hole doping x

D. Li *et al.*, Nature 572, 624 (2019)
Wang *et al.*, Annu Rev Condens Matt Phys 15, 305 (2024)

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Nickelates superconductors

Ambient-pressure superconductivity onset above 40 K in (La,Pr)₂Ni₂O₇ films

(001) Treated SrLaNO₃ substrate

Resistivity (mΩ)

T (K)

Onset T_c = 45 K

McMillan limit

0 T

3UC La_{0.5}Pr_{0.5}Ni₂O₇/SrLaNO₃

Film

Substrate

R (mΩ)

T (K)

R ~ T²

T² (10⁴ K²)

R (mΩ)

T (K)

T_{onset} = 9 K

R (mΩ)

T (K)

Zhou *et al.*, Nature 640, 641 (2025)

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Applications of Superconductivity

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Superconductors for applications

- Critical magnetic field and critical current of superconductor are intimately related.
- Type II SC exhibits higher B_c and I_c .

Dual Phase Diagram of Superconductors

Vortex-Current Interaction

- Lorentz force on J_s due to the interaction between J_s and B .

$$f = J_s \times B - d^2 r - J_{tr} \times \nabla \phi_s$$

- Vortex motion implies that the vortex is subject to a power input per unit volume of vortex of characteristic radius r_B .

$$P = \frac{f \cdot v}{\pi r_B^2} = J_{tr} \frac{v}{\pi r_B^2} = J_{tr} B v$$

Lorentz force per unit volume

- Vortex motion leads to dissipation! $R \neq 0$!
- Vortex pinning is crucial for applications.

SCs for applications : vortex interaction

No pinning.
Perfect Abrikosov lattice

2H-NbSe₂

H. F. Hess *et al.*, PRL 62, 214 (1989)

Weak coupling.
Weakly pinned by impurities.

Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O_{8-delta}

S.H. Pan *et al.*, PRL 85, 1536 (2000)

Strong pinning.
No vortex lattice.

BaFe_{1-x}Co_xAs₂

Y. Yin *et al.*, PRL 102, 097002 (2009)
Y. Yin *et al.*, Physica C 469 535 (2009)

Superconducting Wire

Cu offers cooling, quench protection and mechanical stability.

Nb₃Sn filaments embedded in Cu matrix.

200 μ m
© CERN

Conductors from Cu to Nb3Sn

For a strand with diameter = 0.85mm,

Material	J_c (A/mm ²)	I (A)	B (T)
Cu	~5	~3	~2
NbTi	~600	~300	~9
Nb ₃ Sn	~600	~300	12~16

High Tc Superconducting Cables

YBCO Coated conductor by SuperPower (Guilderland NY) – available since mid 2007

- Phenomenal J_c in the YBCO – $\sim 20 \times 10^6$ A/cm² at 25T
- YBCO is $\sim 1\%$ of cross-section
- 50% is high strength superalloy

< 0.1 mm

© David Larbalestier, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

High Tc Superconducting Cables

Bi2212 Ag-sheathed conductor before heat treatment

- Bi-2212 round wire technology – layer winding, cableable conductor
- Round wires enable cabling into the high current conductors needed for large magnets or fast ramp magnets.

Bi-2212 filaments after heat treatment

Unreacted 17 strand cable Unreacted 8 strand cable
Unconfined reacted cable

Edge of cables reacted in coils

Arno Godeke Magnet Group, LBNL

©David Larbalestier, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Grain boundary (GB) issue

Insulating dislocation cores

Current channels

Hole-depleted layer

AJ vortices

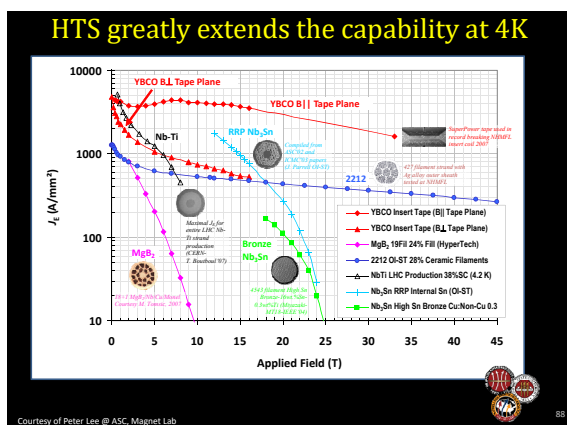
A vortices

GB

- GB dislocations enable the misorientation – but produce strains which destroy superconductivity
- GB dislocations cause charge imbalance, thus – suppress the superconducting gap in the current channels
- 8~10° GBs force current to flow through lower angle GBs

HRTEM image of 8[100] tilt GB in Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O_x

A Gurevich and E.A. Pashitskii, PRB 57, 13875 (1998)
J. Manhart and H. Hilgenkamp, APL 73, 265 (1998)



Transmission	Subtransmission	Distribution
500kV, 230kV, 138kV	33-69kV	7-14kV
Long Island Power Cable 138kV transmission cable used to connect a LIPA substation to transmission grid	Albany Power Cable 34.5kV subtransmission cable used to connect two Niagara Mohawk substations.	Columbus Power Cable 13.2kV distribution cable used within a utility substation.
Overhead Powerlines Conventional		Submersible Cable HTS

Conductor, Insulator, Liquid Nitrogen, Cable Jacket, Conduit, Core

© US Department of Energy

Superconducting Power Grid

- Transmission loss is approximately 7~10% in the grid.
- 350 m long HTS cable in Albany, NY commissioned in fall 2006
- 800 A at 34.5 kV
- Cooled by 50 liters of liquid N₂ per minute.
- 600 m long HTS cable in Long Island, NY commissioned in 2008.
- 2400 A_{RMS} at 138 kV (574MVA)
- Fault current up to 51000 A_{RMS}.

© DOE, USA

Tres Amigas Super Station, USA

Western Interconnection

Eastern Interconnection

Texas Interconnection

Eastern Grid Phase II

Texas Grid Phase II

Eastern Grid Phase II

Eastern Grid York Tolk

Western Grid Phase II

Western Grid Blackwater

HVDC Lines

Battery Energy

Power Switch

Voltage

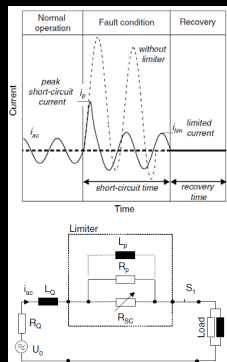
Gas Insulated Substation

Phase I

Phase II

http://www.tresamigasllc.com

HTS Fault-Current Limiters



- A fault current is the current flow during a short circuit.
- In the power grid system, the fault current is thousands of ampere.
- Dangerous due to large magnetic force and high heat.

Review paper: M. Noe & M. Steurer,
<https://doi.org/10.1088/0953-2048/20/3/R01>