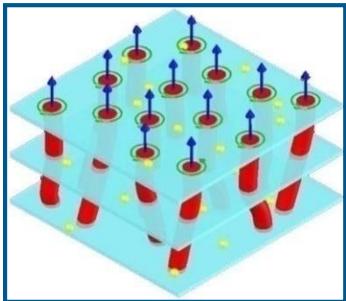
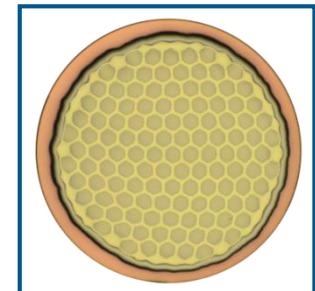


Superconductivity and its applications

Lecture 2



Carmine SENATORE



*Département de Physique de la Matière Quantique
Université de Genève*

Previously, in lecture 1

If it is a superconductor, then...

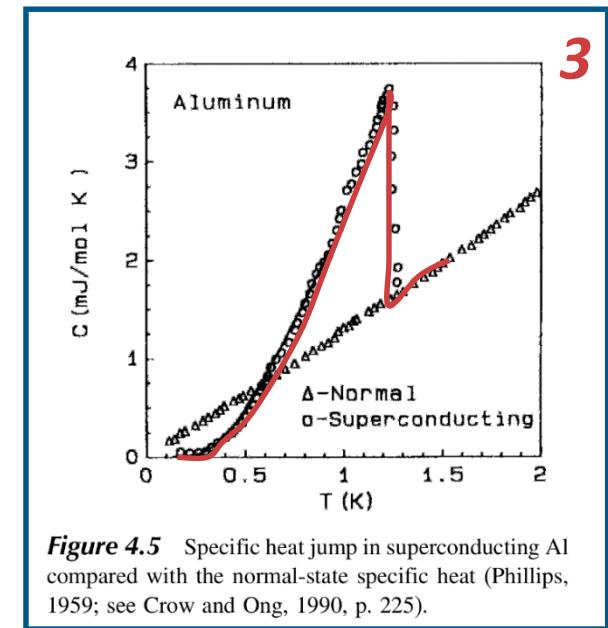
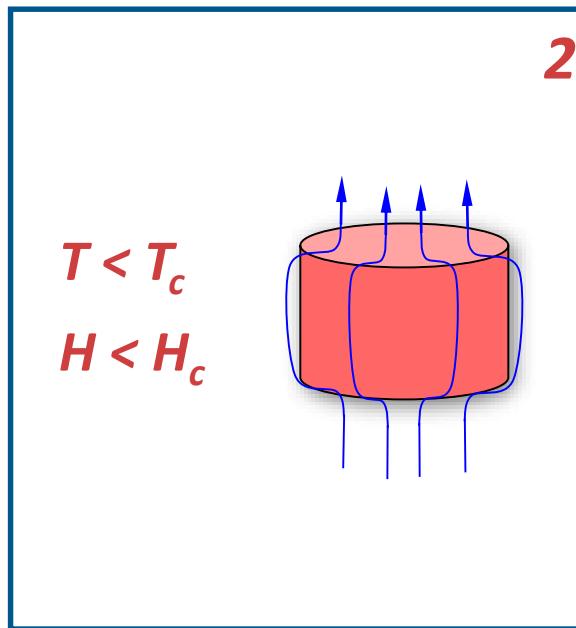
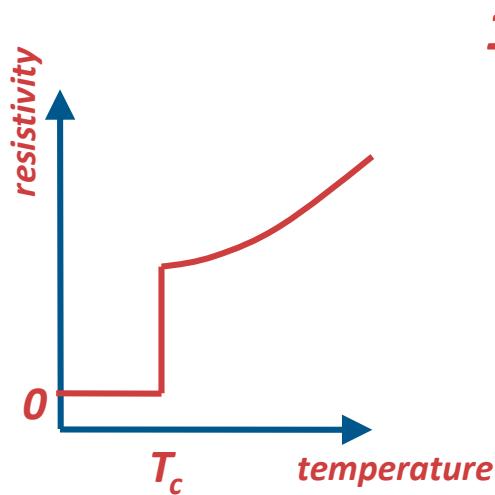
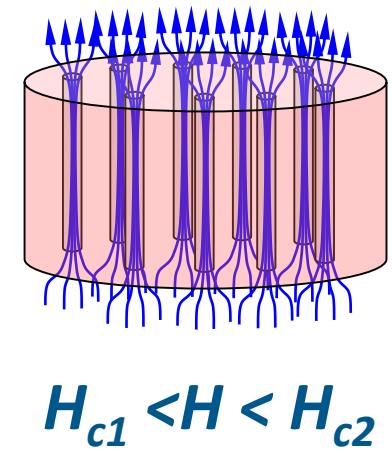
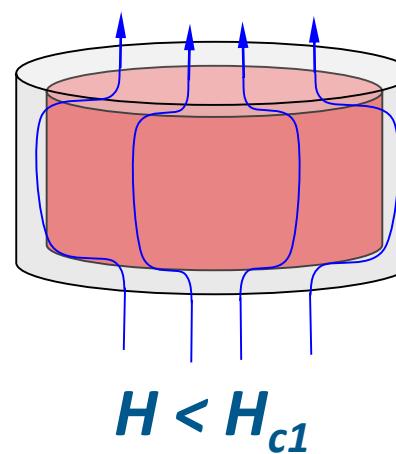
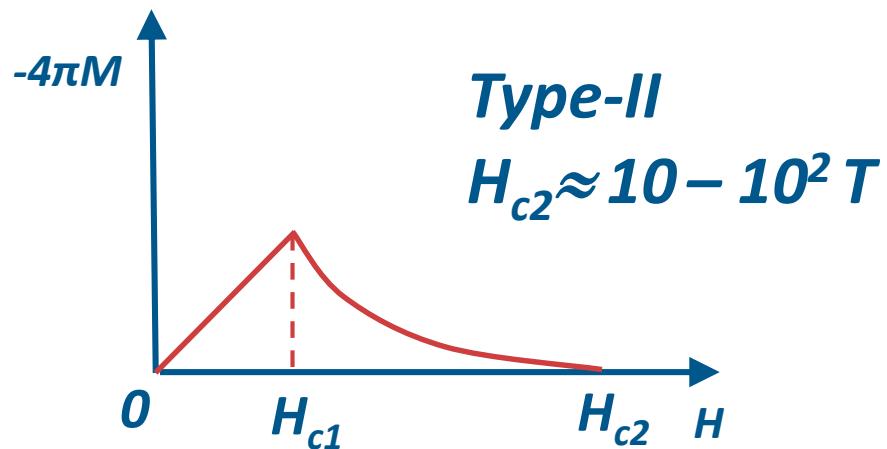
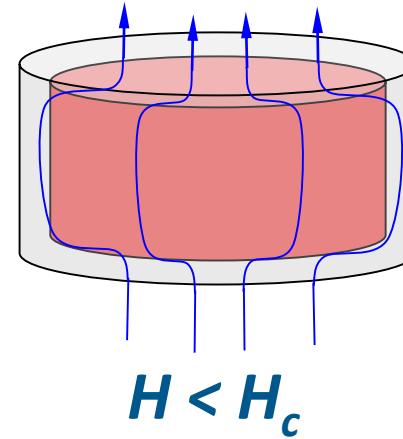
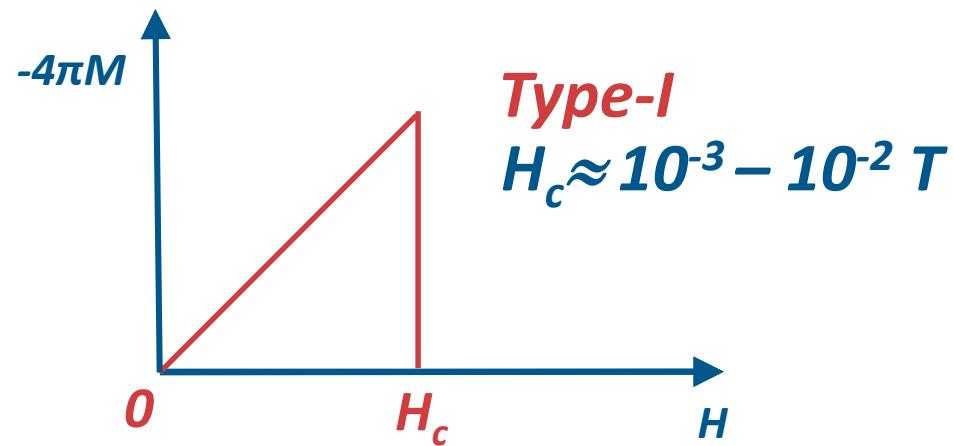


Figure 4.5 Specific heat jump in superconducting Al compared with the normal-state specific heat (Phillips, 1959; see Crow and Ong, 1990, p. 225).

Previously, in lecture 1

Type-I and Type-II superconductors



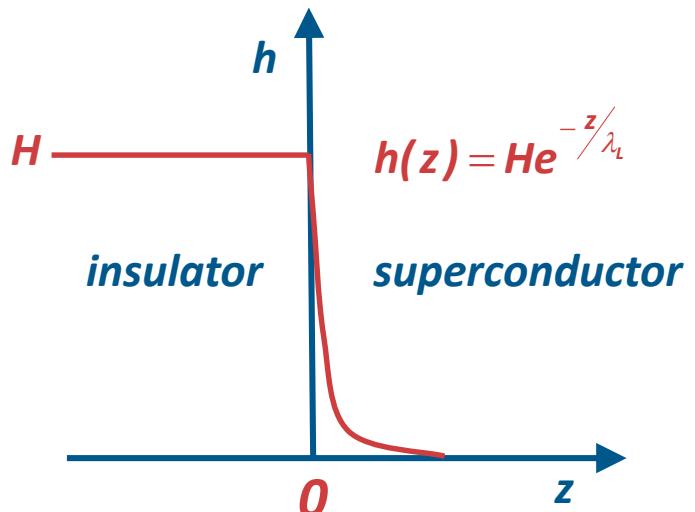
Previously, in lecture 1

1) $G_S - G_N = -\frac{H_c^2}{8\pi} \quad \text{if} \quad H < H_c$

2) $S_S < S_N \Rightarrow \text{higher order in the superconducting state}$

3) From the 1st London equation

with $\lambda_L = \sqrt{\frac{m^* c^2}{4\pi n_S e^{*2}}}$
penetration depth



Landau theory of the order-disorder transition

*The **order parameter** is a quantity which is zero in one phase (usually above the critical point) and non-zero in the other*

Example: para- / ferro- magnetic transition

$$\text{order parameter } m(T) = \frac{M(T)}{M(0)} \quad \text{where} \quad M = \frac{1}{V} \sum_i \mu_i$$

$$T > T_{Curie} \Rightarrow m = 0$$

$$T < T_{Curie} \Rightarrow m \neq 0$$

Landau theory of the order-disorder transition

The Landau expansion for the free energy density close to T_{Curie}

$$F(\vec{r}, T) = F_0(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha m^2 + \frac{1}{2} \beta m^4$$

At the equilibrium $\frac{\partial F}{\partial m} = 0$

$$2\alpha m + 2\beta m^3 = 0$$

$$m(\alpha + \beta m^2) = 0$$

Two solutions: $m = 0$ *and* $m^2 = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$

Landau theory of the order-disorder transition

Two solutions: $m = 0$ and $m^2 = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$

α and β are function of the temperature

$$\alpha(T) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1(T - T_{Curie}) + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_2(T - T_{Curie})^2 + \dots$$

$$\beta(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(T - T_{Curie}) + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2(T - T_{Curie})^2 + \dots$$

From the minimization conditions

$$\alpha = \alpha_1(T - T_{Curie})$$

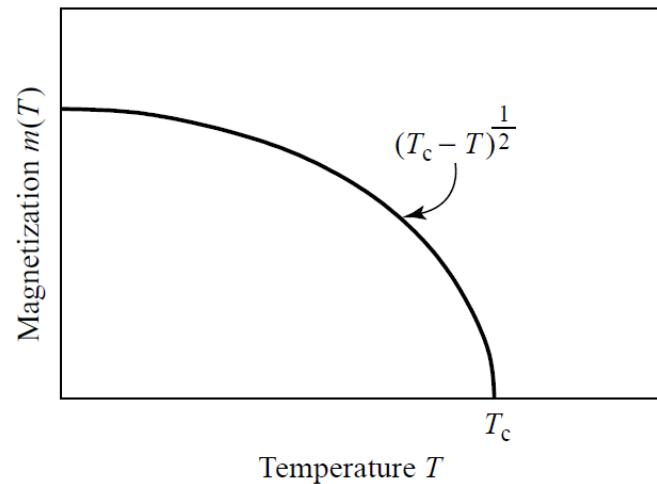
$$\beta = \beta_0$$

Landau theory of the order-disorder transition

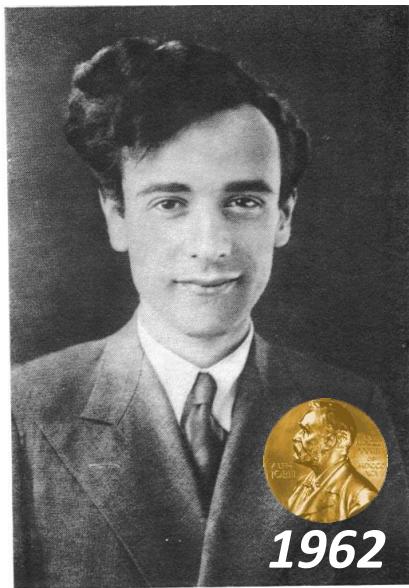
Temperature dependence of the order parameter close to T_{Curie}

$$m^2 = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \Rightarrow$$

$$m = \left(\frac{\alpha_1}{\beta_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} (T_{Curie} - T)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



1950: Ginzburg-Landau Theory of Superconductivity



$$F_s = F_n + \text{Condensation energy} + \text{Kinetic energy} + \text{Field energy}$$

Ginzburg-Landau Theory of Superconductivity

The superfluid density n_s is the order parameter

In the London model n_s does not depend on the position

In the G-L theory $n_s(\vec{r}) = |\psi(\vec{r})|^2$ where $\psi(\vec{r}) = |\psi(\vec{r})| e^{i\phi}$

Free energy expansion in the zero-field case

$$F_S(\vec{r}, T) = F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} |\vec{\nabla} \psi|^2$$

rigidity of the order parameter

Ginzburg-Landau Theory of Superconductivity

Free energy expansion in the zero-field case

$$F_S(\vec{r}, T) = F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} |\vec{\nabla} \psi|^2$$

Free energy expansion for $B \neq 0$

In electrodynamics $\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p} + \frac{q}{c} \vec{A}$ *where* $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$

For the momentum operator $-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} \rightarrow -i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a}$

$$F_S(\vec{r}, T) = F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left| \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right) \psi \right|^2 + \frac{h^2}{8\pi}$$

Ginzburg-Landau Theory of Superconductivity

$F_s = F_n + \text{Condensation energy} + \text{Kinetic energy} + \text{Field energy}$

$$F_s(\vec{r}, T) = F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left| \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right) \psi \right|^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{8\pi}$$

Ginzburg-Landau Theory of Superconductivity

Energy density $F_S(\vec{r}, T) = F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left| \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right) \psi \right|^2 + \frac{h^2}{8\pi}$

Energy $F_S(T) = \int_V d\vec{r} F_S(\vec{r}, T)$

$$F_S(T) = \int_V d\vec{r} \left[F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left| \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right) \psi \right|^2 + \frac{h^2}{8\pi} \right]$$

Minimization procedure \Rightarrow variations of ψ , ψ^* , and a

$$\delta F_S = F_S(\psi + \delta\psi, \psi^* + \delta\psi^*, a + \delta a) - F_S(\psi, \psi^*, a)$$

$$\delta F_S = \int_V d\vec{r} \left[(\quad) \delta\psi + (\quad) \delta\psi^* + (\quad) \delta\vec{a} \right]$$

And set

$$\frac{\delta F_S}{\delta\psi} = 0 \quad \frac{\delta F_S}{\delta\psi^*} = 0 \quad \frac{\delta F_S}{\delta a} = 0$$

Next we carry out the minimization procedure for the free energy by making variations in ψ and ψ^* , i.e. by letting $\psi \rightarrow \psi + \delta\psi$, and $\psi^* \rightarrow \psi^* + \delta\psi^*$. The equilibrium condition $\delta F_s(T) = 0$ will then give us the Ginzburg–Landau equations, two equations of paramount importance in superconductivity. We can immediately write

$$\begin{aligned}\delta F_s(r, T) = & \alpha(\psi + \delta\psi)(\psi^* + \delta\psi^*) - \alpha\psi\psi^* \\ & + \frac{\beta}{2} [(\psi + \delta\psi)^2(\psi^* + \delta\psi^*)^2 - \psi^2\psi^{*2}] \\ & + \frac{1}{2m} [G(\psi + \delta\psi)G^*(\psi^* + \delta\psi^*) - G\psi G^*\psi^*]\end{aligned}\quad (4.96)$$

with G as defined above. Next we simplify:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta F_s(r, T) = & \alpha(\psi\delta\psi^* + \psi^*\delta\psi) + \beta(\psi|\psi|^2\delta\psi^* + \psi^*|\psi|^2\delta\psi) \\ & + \frac{1}{2m}(G\psi G^*\delta\psi^* + G\delta\psi G^*\psi^*)\end{aligned}\quad (4.97)$$

The last parenthesis is

$$\begin{aligned}G\psi G^*\delta\psi^* + G\delta\psi G^*\psi^* = & (-i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\psi(i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\delta\psi^* \\ & + (-i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\delta\psi(i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\psi^*\end{aligned}\quad (4.98)$$

Summing up:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta F_s(T) = & \int_V d^3r \left\{ (\alpha\psi\delta\psi^* + \beta\psi|\psi|^2\delta\psi^* \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{2m}(-i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\psi(i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\delta\psi^* + c.c.) \right\}\end{aligned}\quad (4.99)$$

After a partial integration we obtain, using $\nabla A = 0$

$$\delta F_s(T) = \int_V d^3r \left\{ [(\alpha\psi + \beta|\psi|^2\psi + \frac{1}{2m}(-i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)^2\psi)]\delta\psi^* + c.c.\right\}\quad (4.100)$$

Requiring $\delta F_s(T) = 0$ demands that the functions in front of $\delta\psi^*$ and $\delta\psi$ are zero, which means that we have

$$\boxed{\text{GL-I: } \alpha\psi + \beta|\psi|^2\psi + \frac{1}{2m}(-i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)^2\psi = 0}\quad (4.101)$$

This is the first of the two Ginzburg–Landau equations, hereafter referred to as GL-I. Next, as a preparation for the derivation of the second Ginzburg–Landau equation, GL-II, we introduce Maxwell's equation $\nabla \times H = J$ which we use in the form $\nabla \times B = \mu_0 J$. We write it out as

$$\mu_0 J = \nabla \times B = \nabla \times (\nabla \times A) = \nabla(\nabla \times A) - \nabla^2 A = -\nabla^2 A\quad (4.102)$$

in the London gauge where $\nabla \times A = 0$. When we later encounter the term $-\frac{1}{\mu_0}\nabla^2 A$ we will recognize this as the supercurrent J .

The procedure by which GL-II is obtained is to vary A in the free energy $F_s(r, t)$, i.e. we let $A \rightarrow A + \delta A$ and find the corresponding variation in $F_s(r, t)$. For this minimization of the free energy density $F_s(T)$ with respect to the vector potential A we need only retain the A -dependent parts of $F_s(r, t)$. We write this as $F_s(r, t, A)$. Next we take the variation

$$\delta F_s(r, t, A) = F_s(r, t, A + \delta A) - F_s(r, t, A)\quad (4.103)$$

In writing out the expression here we temporarily introduce the symbol p for $-i\hbar\nabla$ to simplify the mathematics. The proper operator is immediately reintroduced in the next step. We find

$$\begin{aligned}\delta F_s(r, t, A) = & \frac{1}{2m} [(p - 2e(A + \delta A))\psi][(p^* - 2e(A + \delta A))\psi^*] \\ & - \frac{1}{2m} [(p - 2eA)\psi][(p^* - 2eA)\psi^*] \\ & + \frac{1}{2\mu_0} [(\nabla \times (A + \delta A))^2 - (\nabla \times A)^2] \\ = & -\frac{e}{m} [i\hbar\psi^*\nabla\psi + i\hbar\psi\nabla\psi^* + 4e|\psi|^2 A] \delta A \\ & + \frac{1}{\mu_0} (\nabla \times \delta A)(\nabla \times A)\end{aligned}\quad (4.104)$$

Now $\delta F_s(r, t, A)$ is to be integrated over the superconductor volume. We do the last term first:

$$\frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3r (\nabla \times \delta A)(\nabla \times A) = -\frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3r \nabla^2 A \times \delta A\quad (4.105)$$

Therefore, the entire $\delta F_s(T)$ becomes

$$\delta F_s(T) = \int d^3r \left[\frac{ie\hbar}{m} (\psi\nabla\psi^* - \psi^*\nabla\psi) + \frac{4e^2}{m} |\psi|^2 A - \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla^2 A \right] \delta A = 0\quad (4.106)$$

This requires the square bracketed term to be zero. Using the result from Eq. 4.102 the equation for the supercurrent is obtained:

$$J = -\frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla^2 A = \frac{e}{m} [i\hbar\psi^*\nabla\psi - i\hbar\psi\nabla\psi^* + 4e|\psi|^2 A]\quad (4.107)$$

or

$$\boxed{\text{GL-II: } J = \frac{e}{m} [\psi^*(-i\hbar\nabla - 2eA)\psi + c.c.]}\quad (4.108)$$

This is the second Ginzburg–Landau equation.

The two Ginzburg-Landau equations

$$\frac{\delta F_S}{\delta \psi} = 0 \quad \frac{\delta F_S}{\delta \psi^*} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\alpha \psi + \beta |\psi|^2 \psi + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^* \vec{a}}{c} \right)^2 \psi = 0$$

1st G-L equation

$$\frac{\delta F_S}{\delta a} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{J} = \frac{e^* \hbar}{2m^* i} \left(\psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^* \right) - \frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{a}$$

2nd G-L equation

Zero-field case deep inside superconductor

The energy density $F_S(\vec{r}, T) = F_N(\vec{r}, T) + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left| -i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right| \psi \right|^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{8\pi}$

becomes $F_S = F_N + \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4$

And the 1st G-L equation $\alpha \psi + \beta |\psi|^2 \psi + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right)^2 \psi = 0$

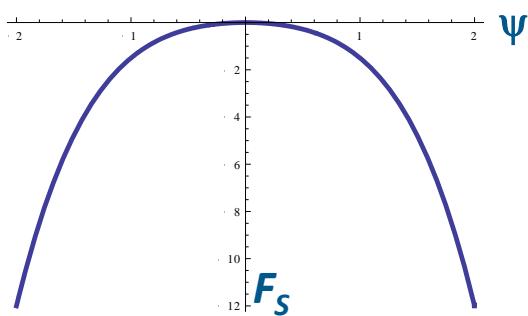
becomes $\alpha \psi + \beta |\psi|^2 \psi = 0$

Two solutions: $\psi = 0$ and $|\psi|^2 = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$

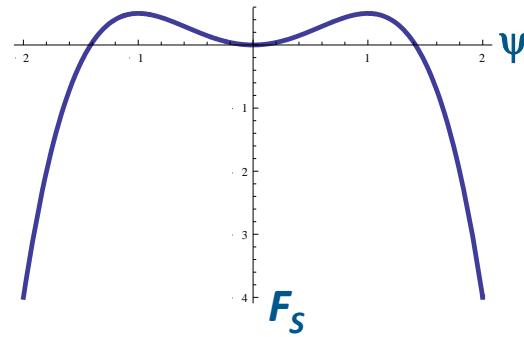
Zero-field case deep inside superconductor

On the sign of α and β

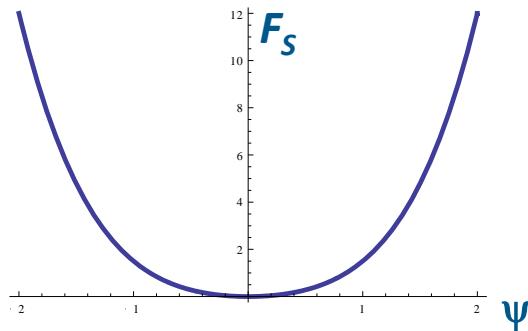
$\alpha \leq 0$ and $\beta < 0$



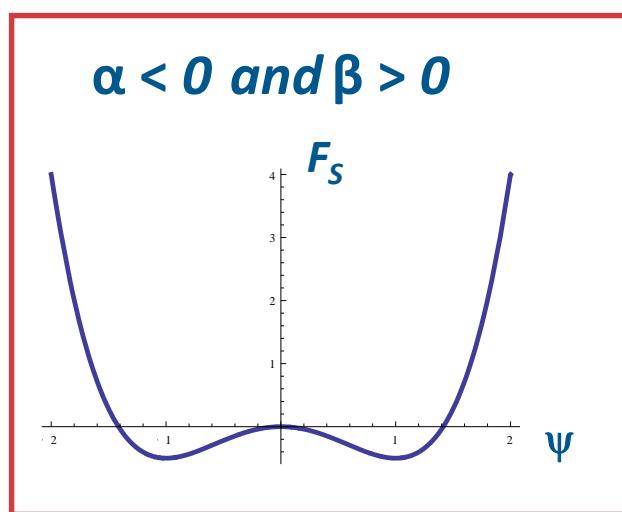
$\alpha > 0$ and $\beta < 0$



$\alpha \geq 0$ and $\beta > 0$



$\alpha < 0$ and $\beta > 0$



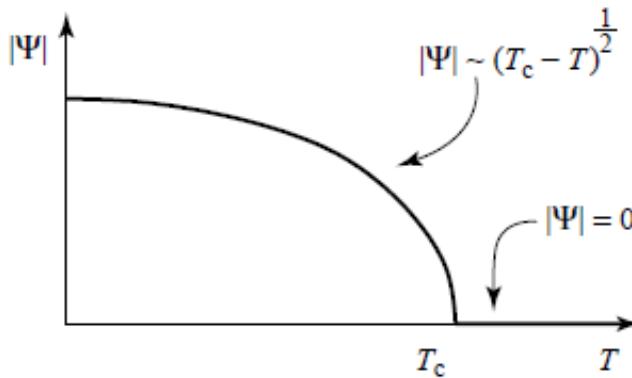
Zero-field case deep inside superconductor

The solution for the superconducting state

$$|\psi|^2 = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \quad \text{and} \quad F_S - F_N = \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta}$$

Choosing $\alpha = \alpha_1(T - T_c)$ and $\beta = \beta_0$

$$|\psi| = \left(\frac{\alpha_1}{\beta_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} (T_c - T)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



Zero-field case deep inside superconductor

Relation between α , β and H_c

$$F_s - F_N = \alpha |\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} |\psi|^4 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta}$$

and $F_s - F_N = -\frac{H_c^2}{8\pi}$

Thus

$$\frac{\alpha^2}{2\beta} = \frac{H_c^2}{8\pi}$$

Zero-field case near superconductor boundary

The 1st G-L equation $\alpha |\psi|^2 \psi + \frac{1}{2m^*} \left(-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{e^*}{c} \vec{a} \right)^2 \psi = 0$

becomes $\alpha |\psi|^2 \psi + \frac{1}{2m^*} (-i\hbar \vec{\nabla})^2 \psi = 0$

We define $f = -\frac{\psi}{\psi_\infty}$ *where* $\psi_\infty^2 = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$

In one dimension $\frac{\hbar^2}{2m^* |\alpha|} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} + f - f^3 = 0$

with the boundary condition $f(x=0) = 0$

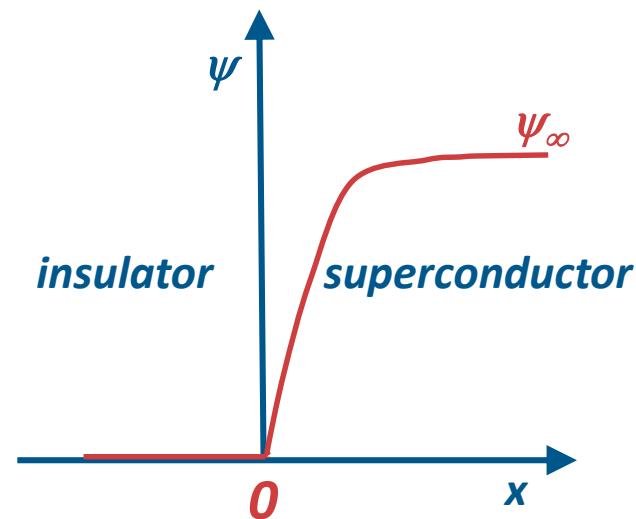
$$\xi^2 \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} + f(1 - f^2) = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \xi^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^* |\alpha|}$$

Zero-field case near superconductor boundary

$$\xi^2 \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} + f(1 - f^2) = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \xi^2(T) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^* |\alpha(T)|} \propto \frac{1}{1 - T/T_c}$$

The solution is $f = \tanh \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}\xi}$

$$\psi = \psi_\infty \tanh \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}\xi}$$



The coherence length is $\xi = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m^* |\alpha|}}$

H ≠ 0 case near superconductor boundary

The 2nd G-L equation $\vec{J} = \frac{e^* \hbar}{2m^* i} (\psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^*) - \frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{a}$

If ξ is small

$$\vec{J} \approx -\frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{a}$$

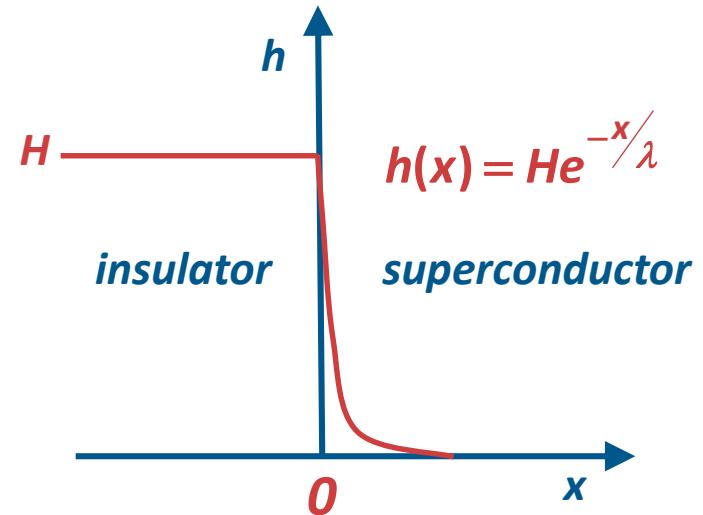
see C.P. Poole, Superconductivity (2007), pp. 150-154

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{J} = -\frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{a} = -\frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{h}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{h} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{J} \Rightarrow \vec{h} - \lambda^2 \nabla^2 \vec{h} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{m^* c^2}{4\pi |\psi|^2 e^{*2}}}$$

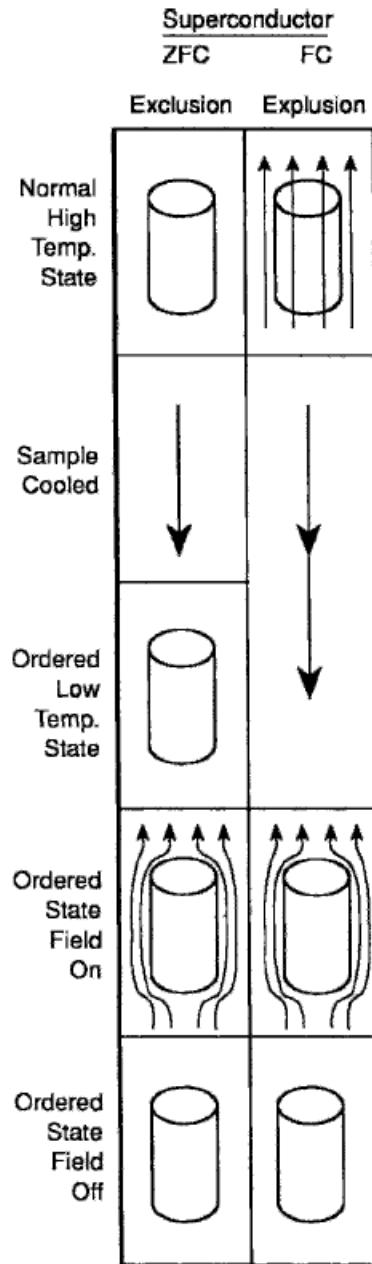
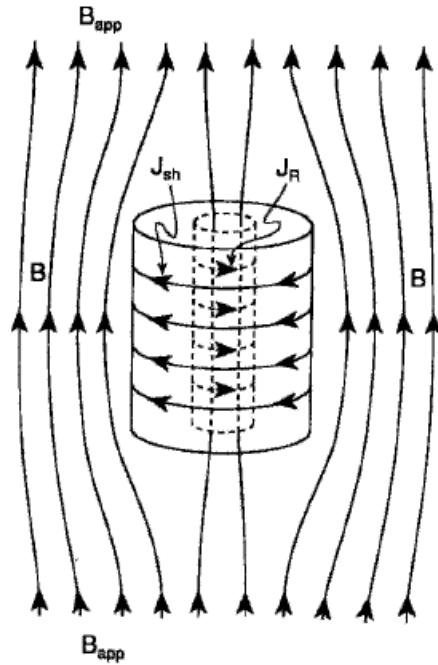
$H \neq 0$ case near superconductor boundary

$$\vec{h} - \lambda^2 \nabla^2 \vec{h} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{m^* c^2}{4\pi |\psi|^2 e^{*2}}}$$



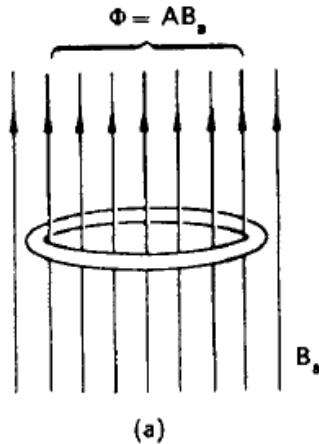
The London penetration depth is $\lambda_L = \sqrt{\frac{m^* c^2}{4\pi n_s e^{*2}}}$

Flux exclusion and retention



Flux exclusion & retention : the resistanceless circuit

The total magnetic flux threading a closed resistanceless circuit cannot change so long as the circuit remains resistanceless.



- 1. The circuit is cooled below T_c in an applied field B_a . The magnetic flux in the circuit is $\Phi = A B_a$**
- 2. The value of B_a is changed**

$$-\cancel{A} \frac{dB_a}{dt} = RI + L \frac{dI}{dt} \Rightarrow LI(t) + AB_a(t) = \text{constant}$$

Flux quantization

The 2nd G-L equation $\vec{J} = \frac{e^* \hbar}{2m^* i} (\psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^*) - \frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{a}$

$$\psi(\vec{r}) = |\psi| e^{i\phi(\vec{r})} \Rightarrow \psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^* = 2i |\psi|^2 \vec{\nabla} \phi(\vec{r})$$

$$\vec{J} = \frac{e^* \hbar}{2m^* i} (2i |\psi|^2 \vec{\nabla} \phi) - \frac{e^{*2}}{m^* c} |\psi|^2 \vec{a}$$

$$\vec{a} + \frac{m^* c}{e^{*2} |\psi|^2} \vec{J} = \frac{\hbar c}{e^*} \vec{\nabla} \phi$$

$$\oint_{\Gamma} \vec{a} d\vec{l} + \frac{m^*}{e^{*2}} \oint_{\Gamma} \frac{\vec{J} d\vec{l}}{|\psi|^2} = \frac{\hbar c}{e^*} \oint_{\Gamma} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot d\vec{l}$$

Flux quantization

$$\oint_{\Gamma} \vec{a} d\vec{l} + \frac{m^*}{e^{*2}} \oint_{\Gamma} \frac{\vec{J} d\vec{l}}{|\psi|^2} = \frac{\hbar c}{e^*} \oint_{\Gamma} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot d\vec{l}$$

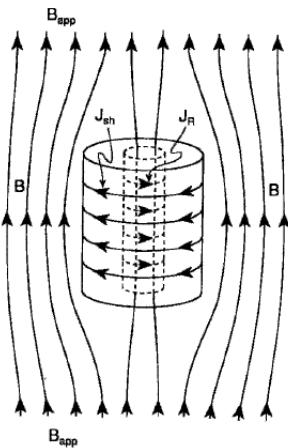
$$\oint_{\Gamma} \vec{a} d\vec{l} = \int_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{a}) \hat{n} dS = \int_S \vec{h} \hat{n} dS = \Phi_S(\vec{h})$$

$$\oint_{\Gamma} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot d\vec{l} = 2\pi n$$

ψ is a single-value function

$$\Phi_S(\vec{h}) + \frac{m^*}{e^{*2}} \oint_{\Gamma} \frac{\vec{J} d\vec{l}}{|\psi|^2} = \frac{\hbar c}{e^*} n$$

$$\Phi_S(\vec{h}) = \frac{\hbar c}{e^*} n = n\Phi_0$$



Calculation of the domain-wall energy

At a domain wall

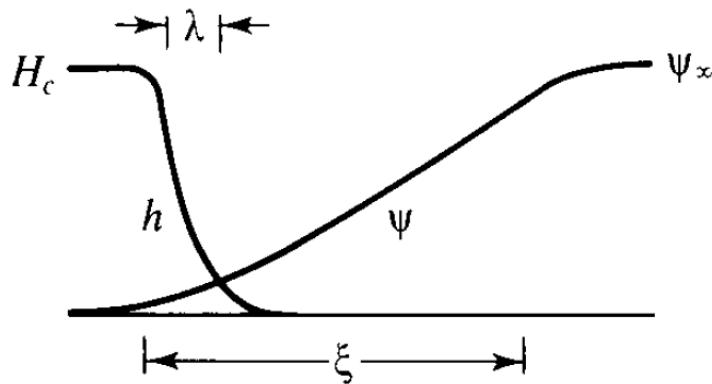
magnetic energy is gained

$$E_1 = -\lambda A \frac{H_c^2}{8\pi}$$

condensation energy is lost

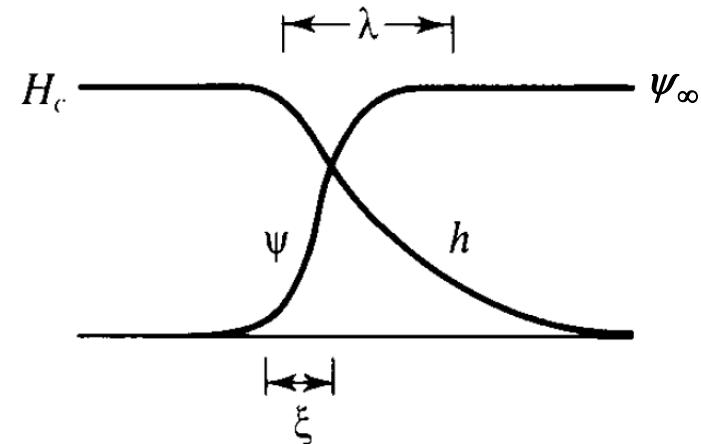
$$E_2 = \xi A \frac{H_c^2}{8\pi}$$

$$\lambda \ll \xi$$



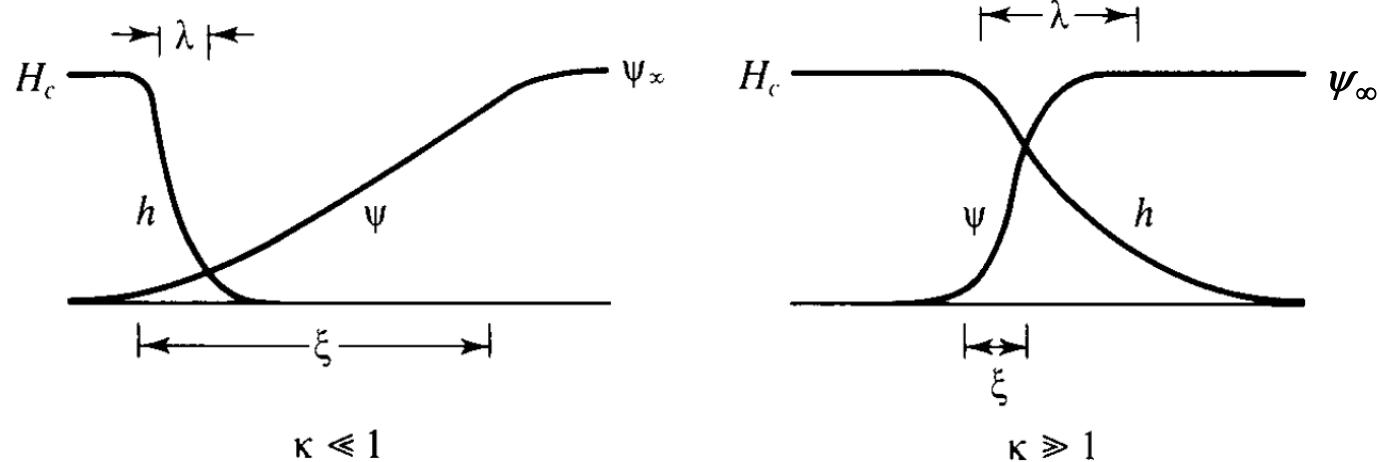
$$\Delta E = A \frac{H_c^2}{8\pi} (\xi - \lambda) > 0$$

$$\xi \ll \lambda$$



$$\Delta E = A \frac{H_c^2}{8\pi} (\xi - \lambda) < 0$$

Calculation of the domain-wall energy



Ginzburg-Landau parameter $\kappa = \frac{\lambda}{\xi}$

$$\kappa < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Rightarrow \Delta E > 0$$

Type-I superconductor

$$\kappa > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Rightarrow \Delta E < 0$$

Type-II superconductor

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Chapter 6