

Nanoscale superconductivity: Smaller is different and more

Antonio M. García-García

Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University

<http://www.tcm.phy.cam.ac.uk/~amg73/>



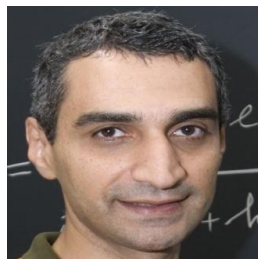
Pedro Ribeiro
Dresden



Santos & Way
Santa Barbara



Altshuler
Columbia



Yuzbashyan
Rutgers



Richter & Urbina
Regensburg



Sangita Bose
Bombay



Klaus Kern
Stuttgart

PRB, 86, 064526 (2012)

PRL 108, 097004 (2012)

PRB 84,104525 (2011)

Editor's Suggestion

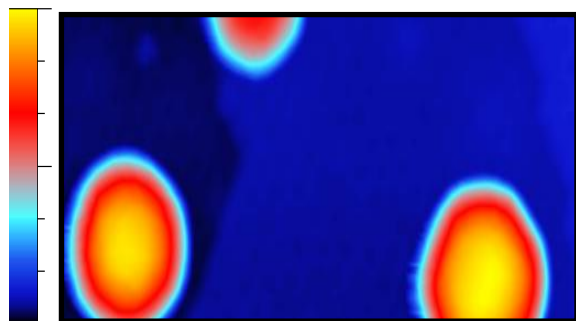
PRB 83, 014510 (2011)

Nature Materials 9, 550 (2010)

Single grains

$$R \ll \xi$$

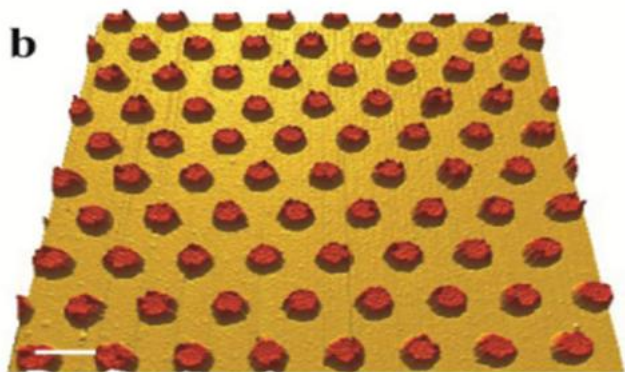
7 nm



0 nm

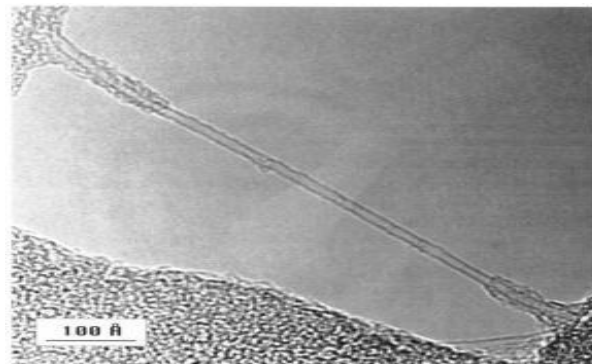
JJ Arrays

$$R, l \ll \xi$$



Nanowires

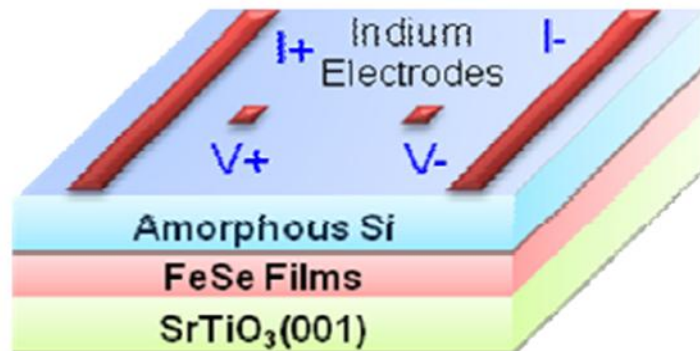
$$R \ll \xi$$



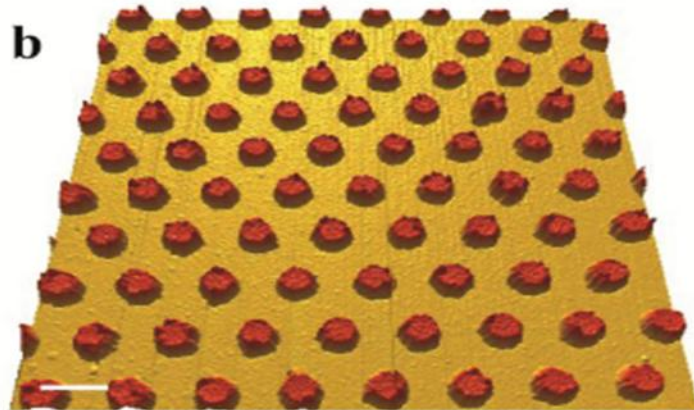
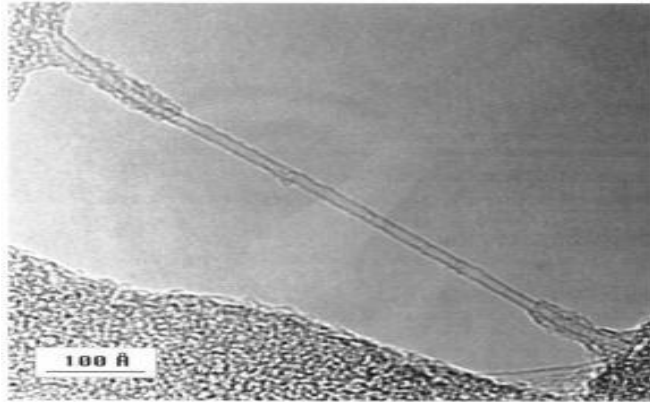
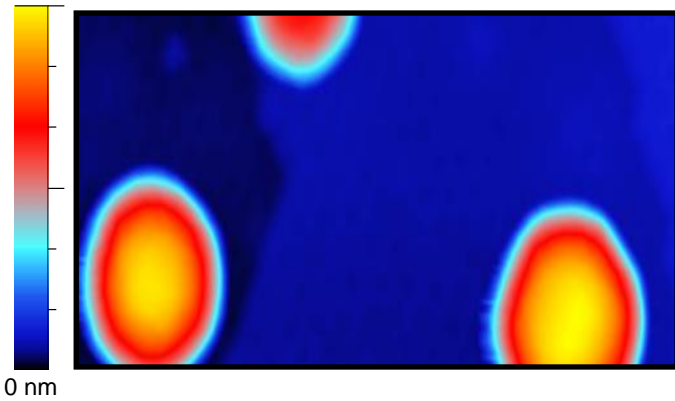
What?

Thin Films

$$L_z \ll \xi$$



7 nm



Why?

Mesoscopic + SC

Beauty of quantum coherence

Nanocircuits

Where is the limit?

Enhancement of T_c

Despite Mermin-Wegner theorem?

Enhancement?

How to enhance
SC substantially?

with **control**

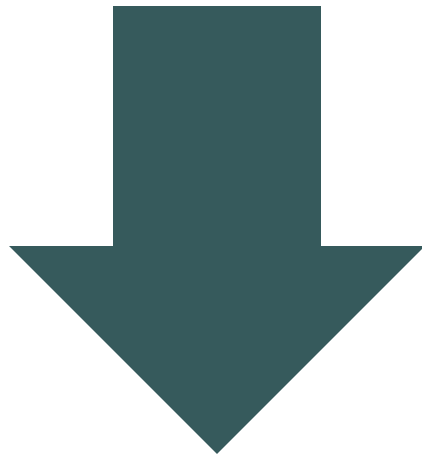
Mechanism of SC
in cuprates?



$\$10^6$
Question

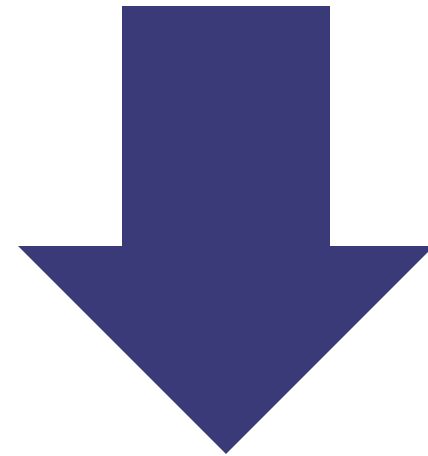
$\$10$
Question

+Experimental
Control



+Predictive
power

No
Control

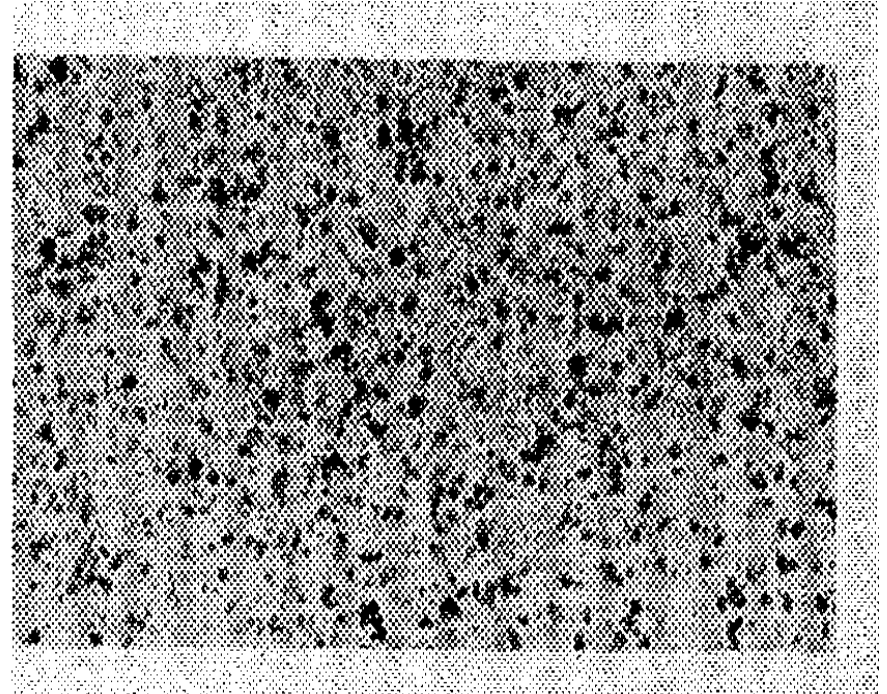


Theory Drifts
Trial and error

Thin Films? JJ array?

2000 Å

Metal	T_c (°K)	T_c/T_{c0}	d (Å)	ρ_0
Al	3.0	2.6	40	0.19
Ga	7.2	6.5	...	0.20
Sn	4.1	1.1	110	0.31
In	3.7	1.1	110	0.36
Pb	7.2	1.0	...	0.53

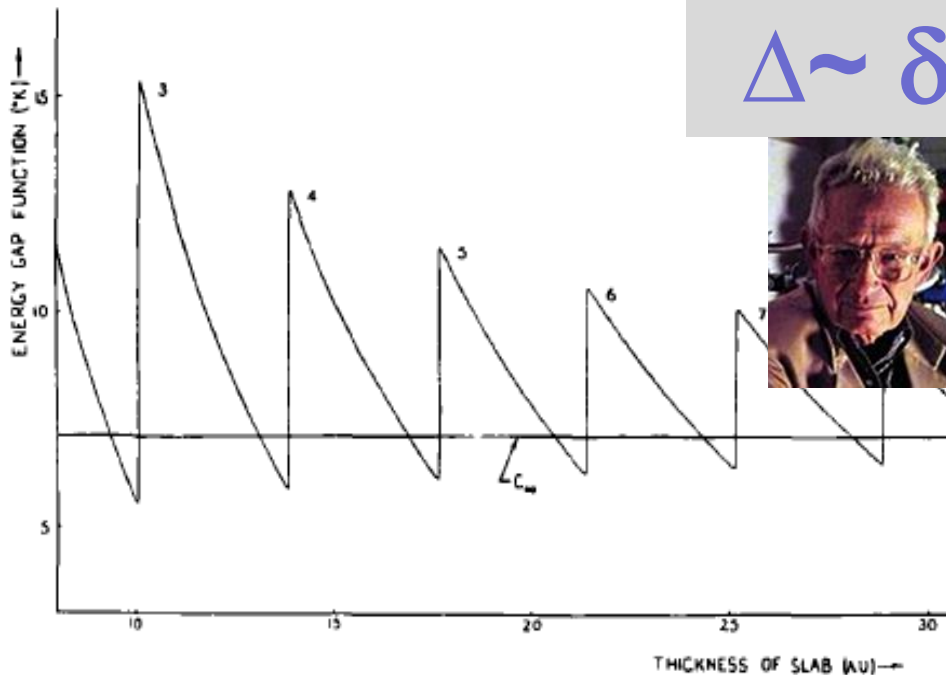


Abeles, Cohen, Cullen, Phys. Rev. Lett., 17, 632 (1966)

Crow, Parks, Douglass, Jensen, Giaver, Zeller....

A.M. Goldman, Dynes, Tinkham...

Thin Films



$$\Delta \sim \delta ?$$



Single grains

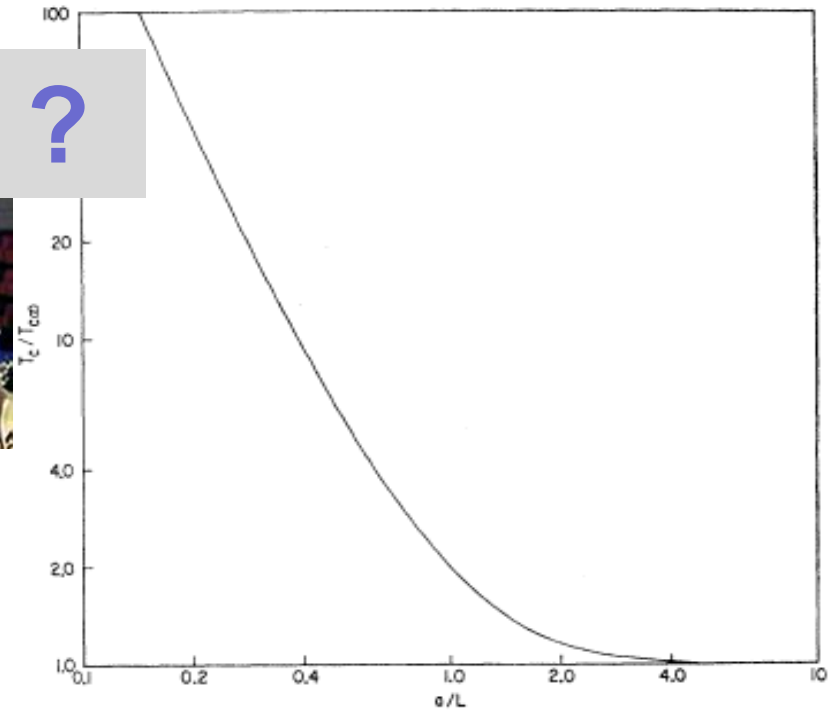


FIG. 1. ($T_c/T_{c(\infty)}$) versus (a/L) (see Ref. 17).

Shape Resonances

Blatt, Thompson
Phys. Lett. 5, 6 (1963)

Shell Effects

Parmenter, Phys. Rev. 166,
392 (1967)

BCS superconductivity

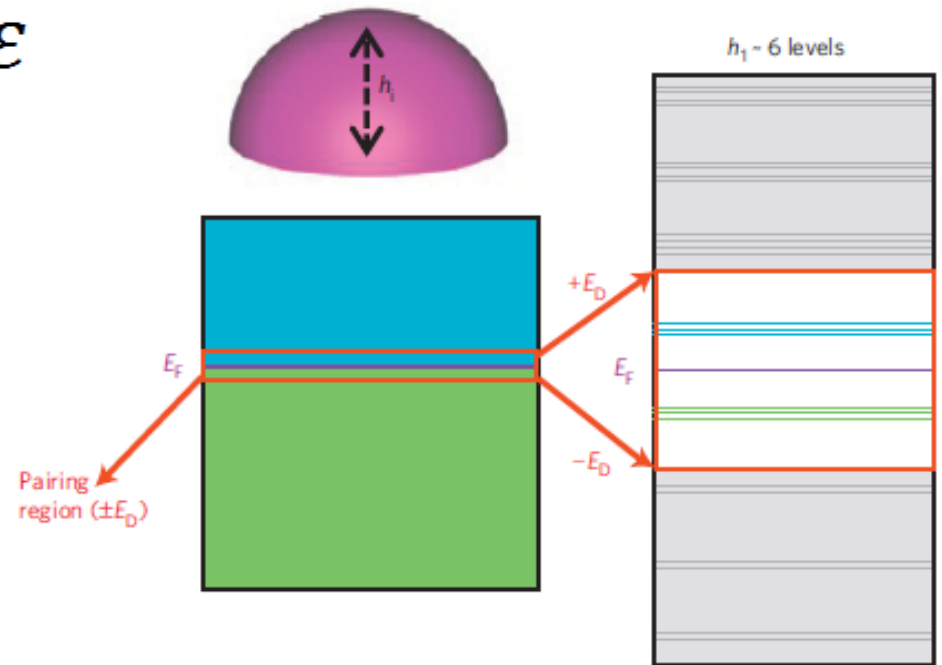
$$\frac{2}{g} = \int_{-E_D}^{E_D} \frac{v(\varepsilon)}{\sqrt{\Delta^2 + \varepsilon^2}} d\varepsilon$$

$$v(\varepsilon) = \sum_i c_i \delta(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_i)$$

$$V \rightarrow \infty$$
$$\Delta \sim \varepsilon_D e^{-1/\lambda}$$

$$V \text{ finite}$$
$$\Delta = ?$$

Finite size effects



Thinner

Smoother

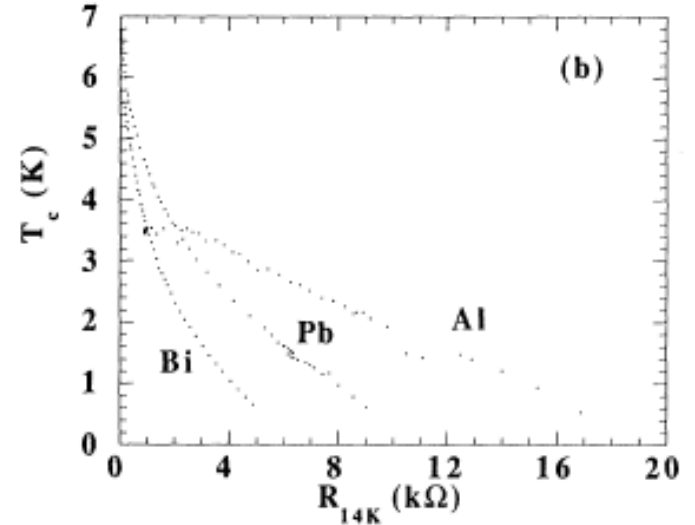
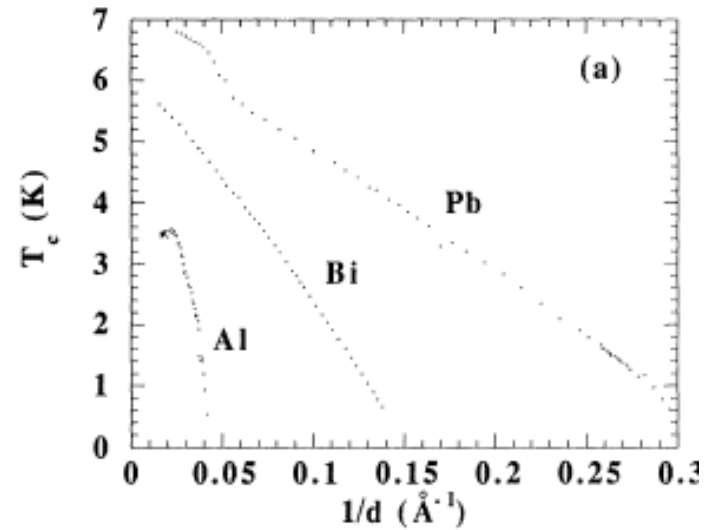
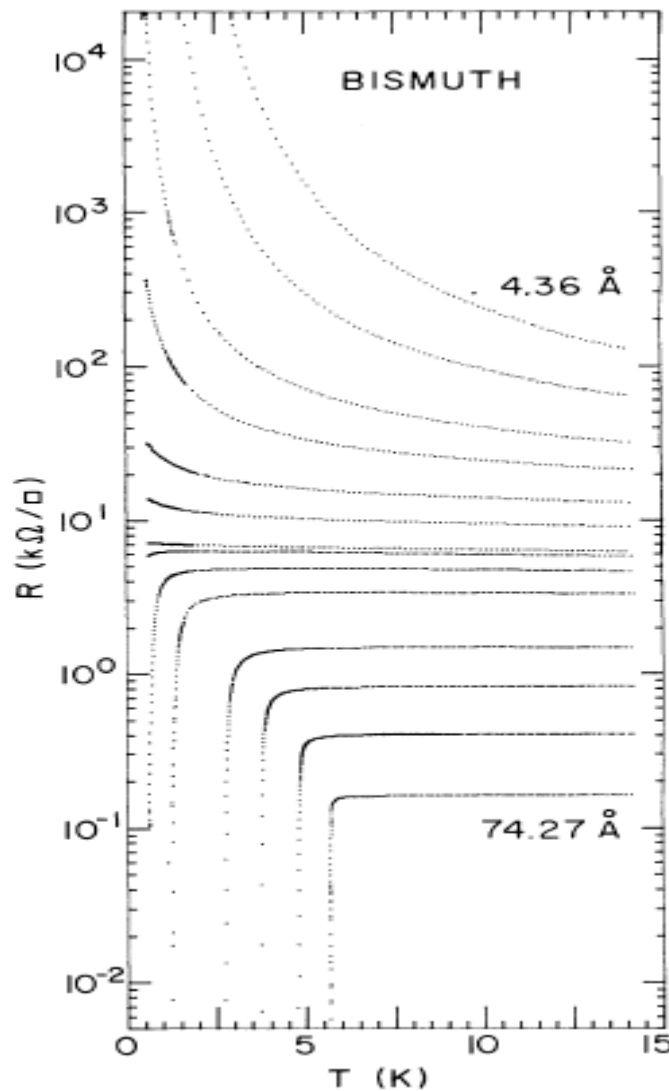
Disordered

BKT

Transition

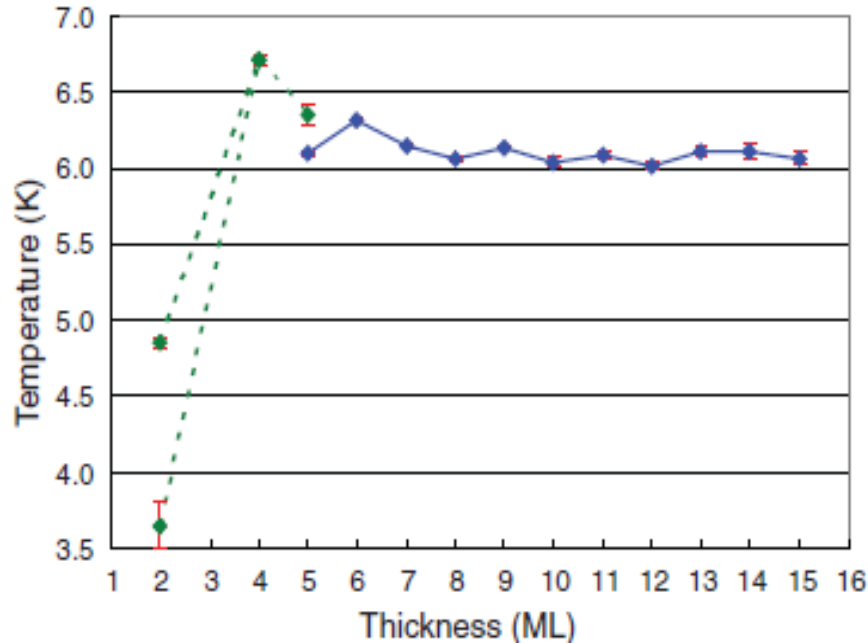
$$R_N > R_q$$

Vortices
unbinding

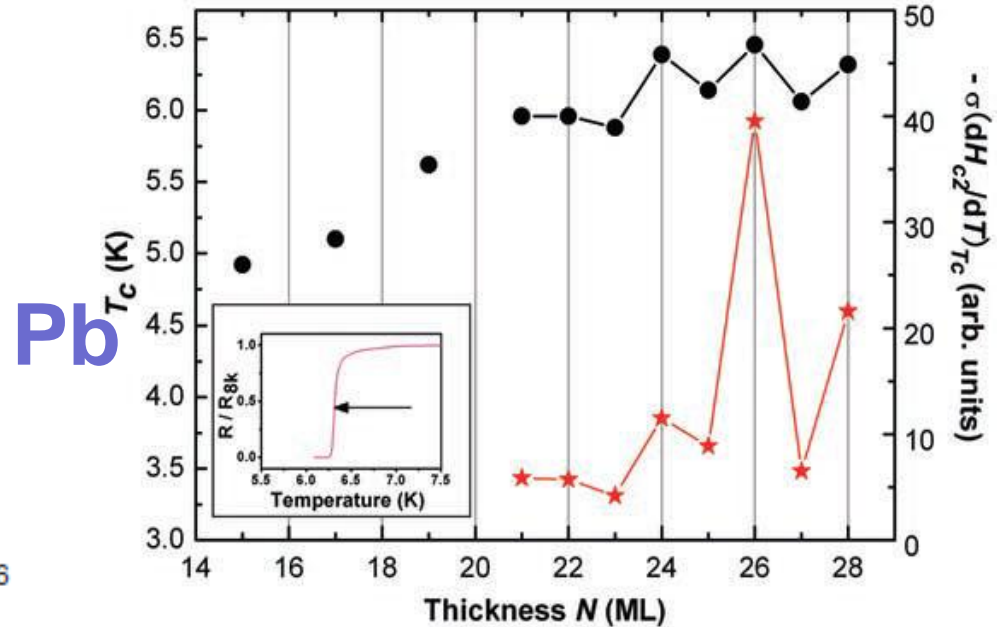


A.M. Goldman et al.

PRL 62 2180 (1989)
PRB 47 5931 (1993)



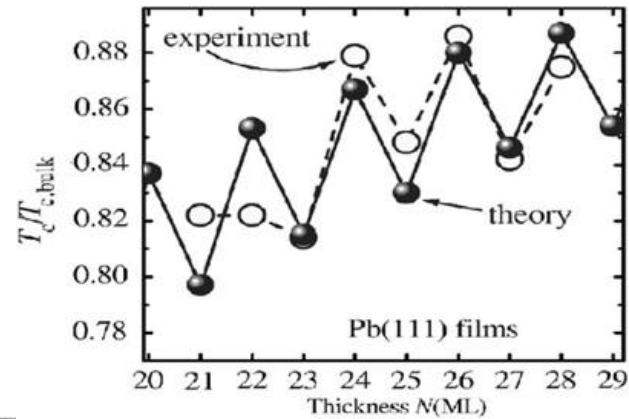
Shih et al., Science 324, 1314
(2009)



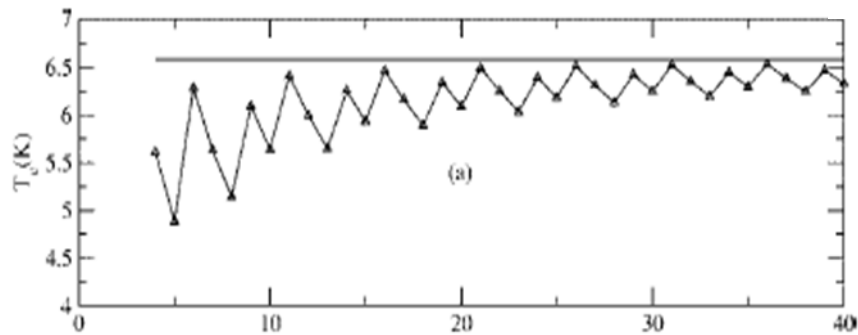
Xue et al., Science 306, 1915 (2004)

Xue et al., Nat Phys, 6 (2010), 104.

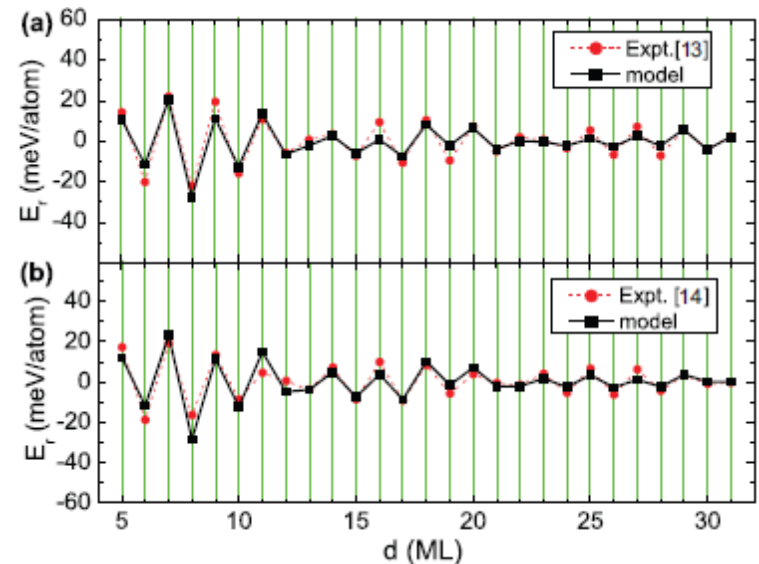
Quantum size effects



PRB 75 014519
(2007)



PRB 74 132504 (2006)

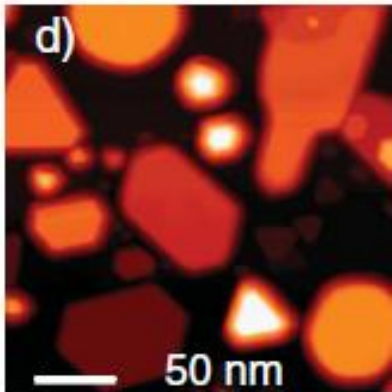


Stress, substrate

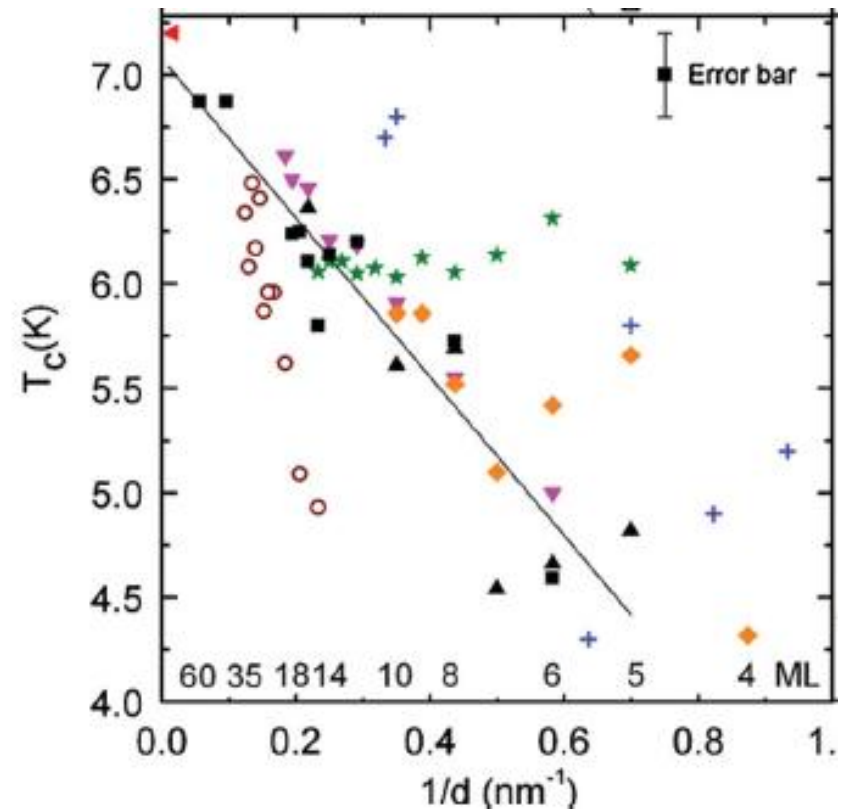
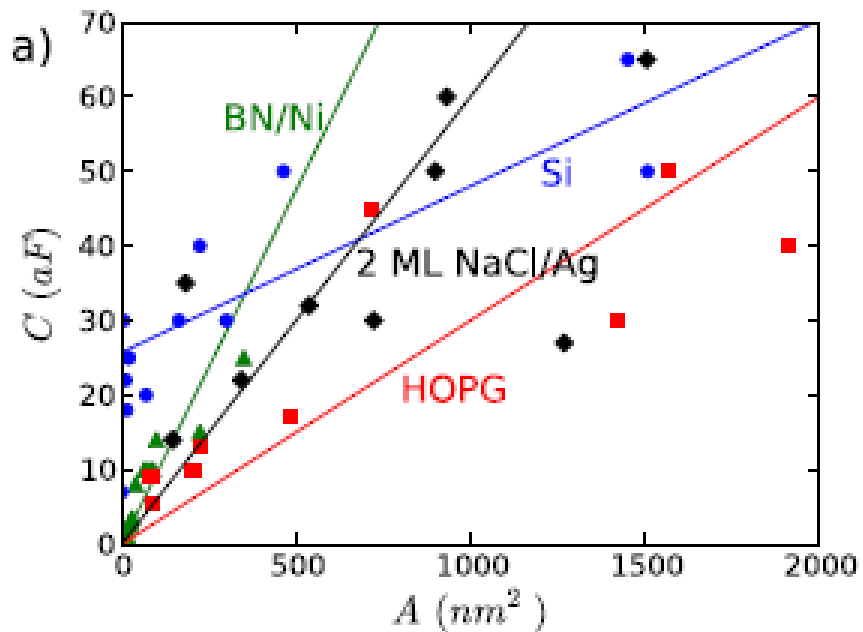
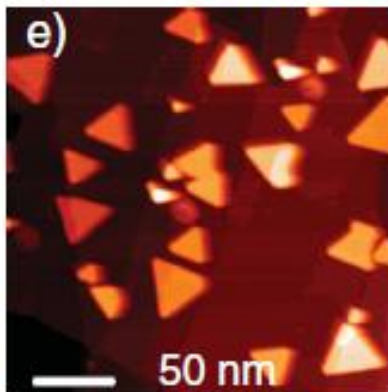
Xue, Liu et al.
arxiv:1208.6054

Islands

Pb/BN/Ni(111)



Pb/NaCl/Ag(111)



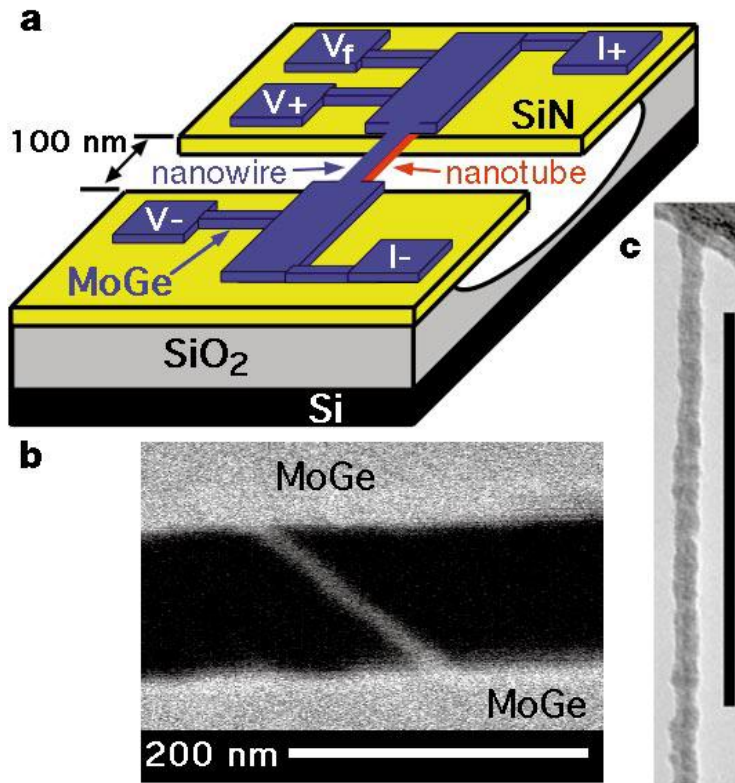
Schneider, et al.,
PRL 102, 207002 (2009)

PRL 108, 126802 (2012)

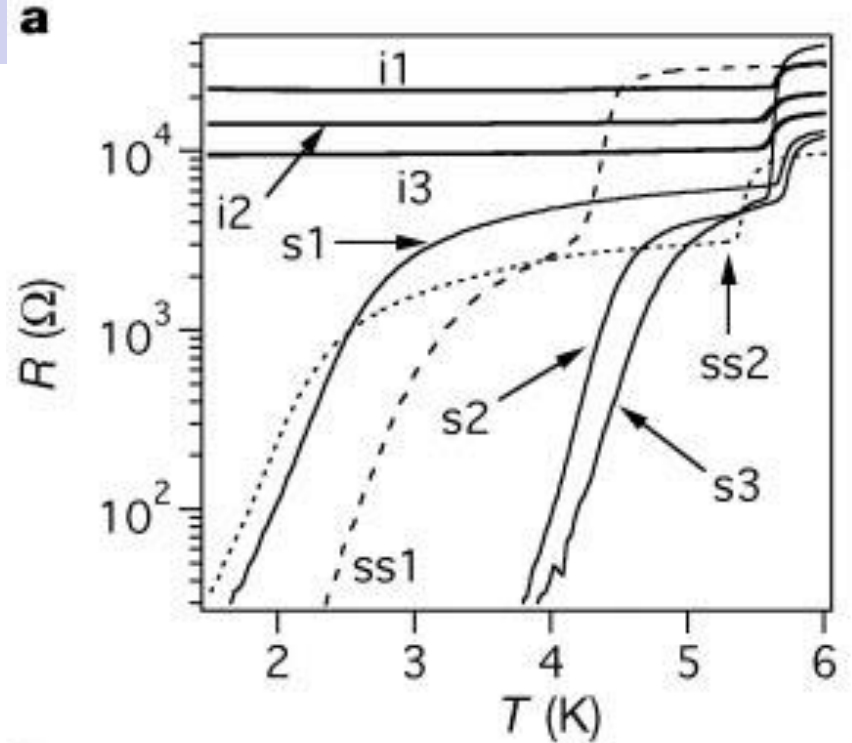
Hasegawa, et al.

Phys. Rev. Lett. 101, 167001 (2008)

Nanowires $R \ll \xi$



Tinkham et al.
Nature 404, 971 (1990)



Superconductor
Insulator
transition

$$|\Delta(r, t)| e^{i\theta(r, t)}$$

Fluctuation

$$\Delta(r_0, t_0) \approx 0$$

Phase-slips

$$\theta \approx 0 \rightarrow 2\pi$$

Thermal

Langer & Ambegaokar,
PR. 164, 498 (1967).
McCumber & Halperin
PRB 1, 1054 (1970).

Quantum

Zaikin, A. D., Golubev, et al,
PRL 78, 1552 (1997).

Instantons

Finite
Resistance

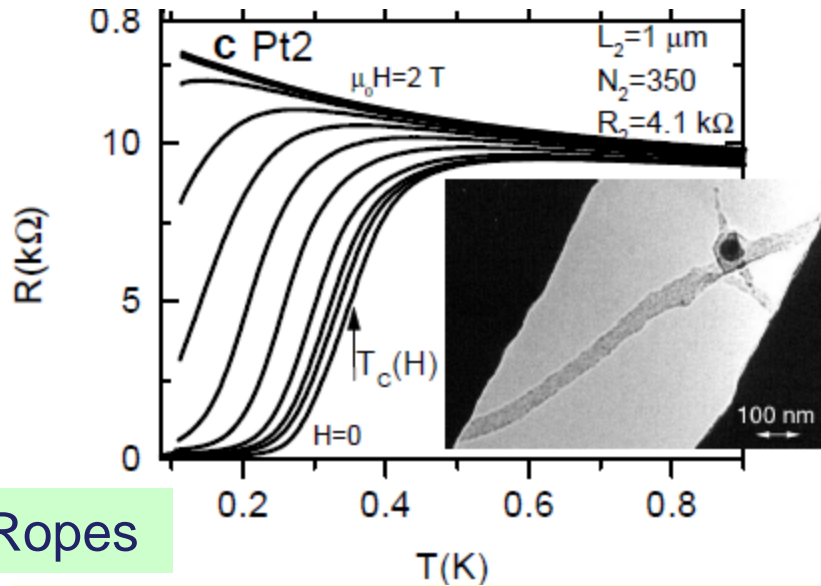
$$R \propto e^{-S_{inst}}$$

Coulomb-Gas

BKT transition

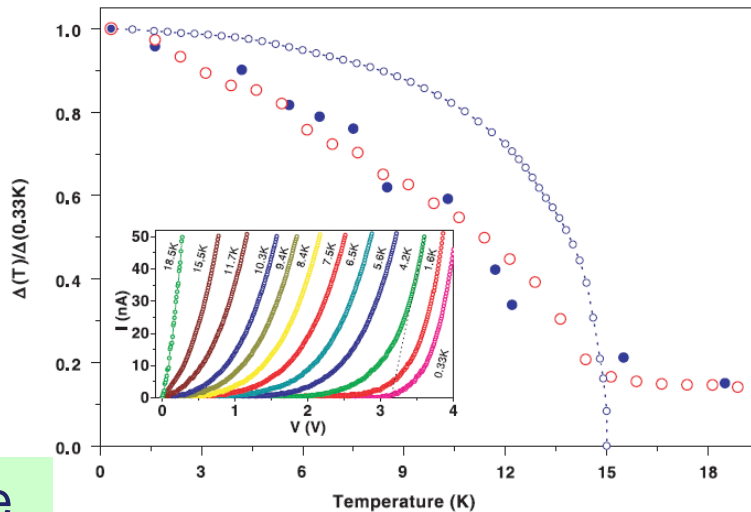
Quantitative?

Carbon nanotubes



Ropes

Phy. Rev. Lett. 86, 2416 (2001)



Single

Science 292, 2462 (2001)

Fluctuations

High T_c ?

Phase Slips

Lehtinen, PRB 85 094508 (2012)

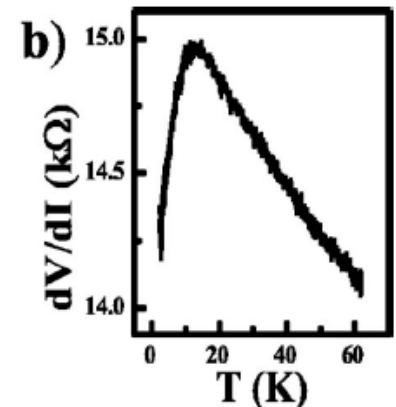
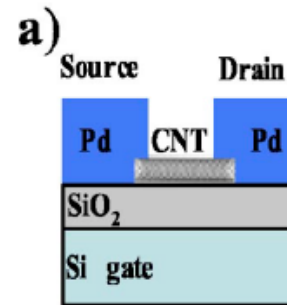
How to suppress fluctuations?

Dissipation

PRB 80, 214515 (2009)

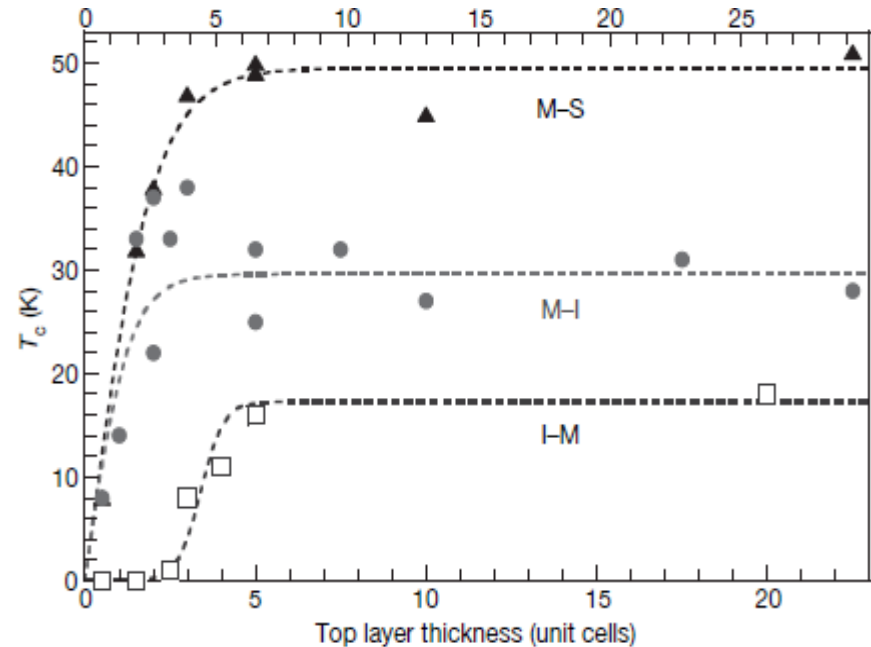
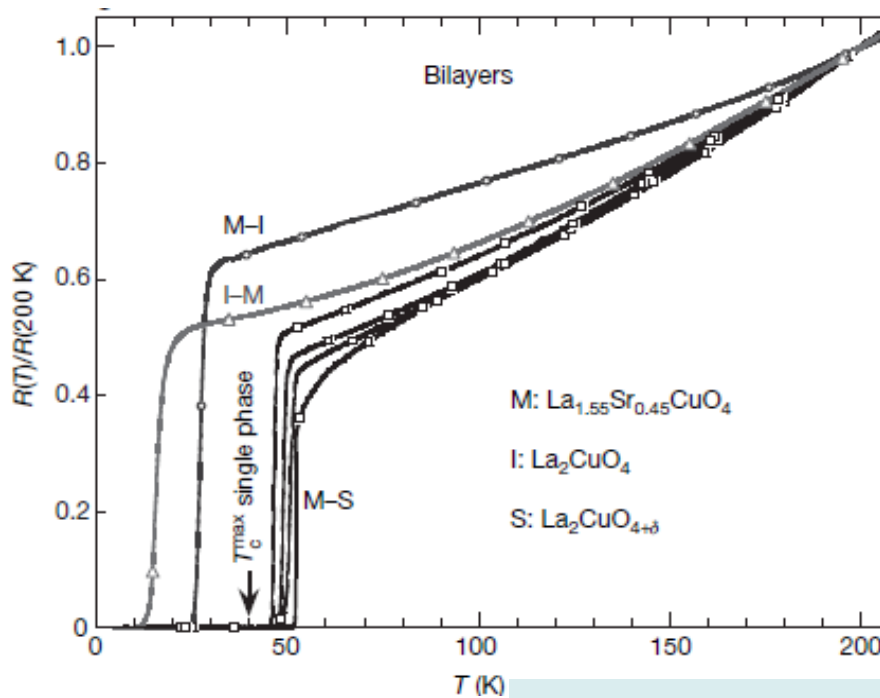
Electric field effect

Yang, PRB 74 155414 (2006)



Is enhancement of
superconductivity
possible?

Cuprates high T_c Heterostructures

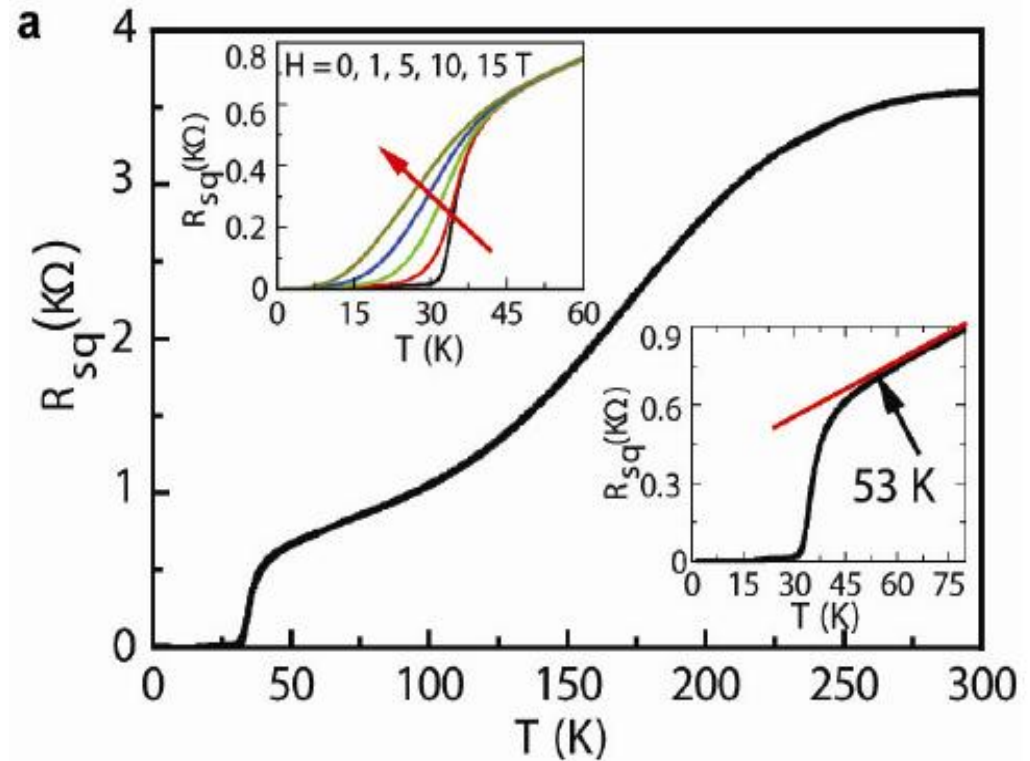
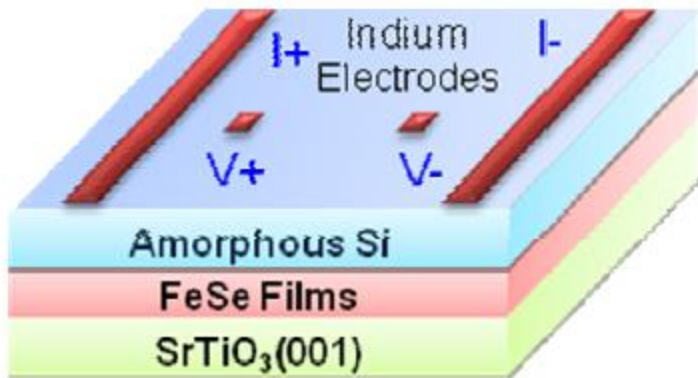


Bozovic et al., Nature 455, 782 (2008)

Higher T_c !!

Intrinsic inhomogeneities

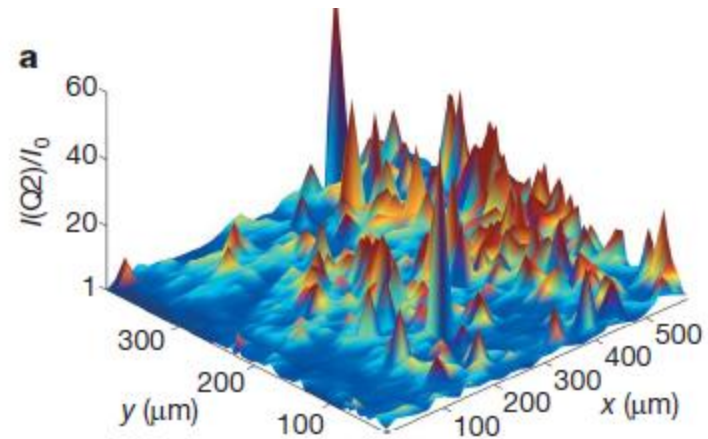
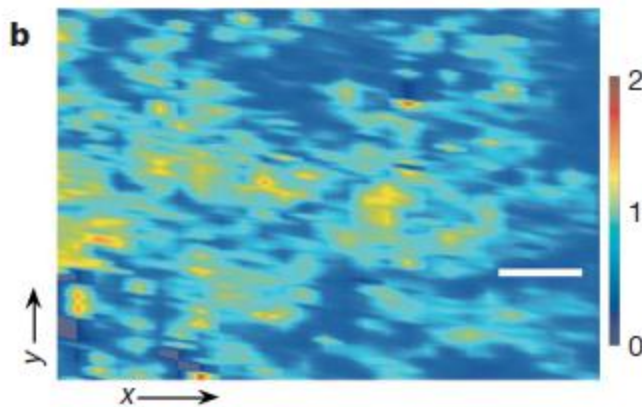
Iron Pnictides Heterostructures



Xue et al.: Arxiv: 12015694

Enhancement of T_c by disorder

Fractal distributions of dopants enhances SC in cuprates



Bianconi, et al., Nature 466, 841 (2010)

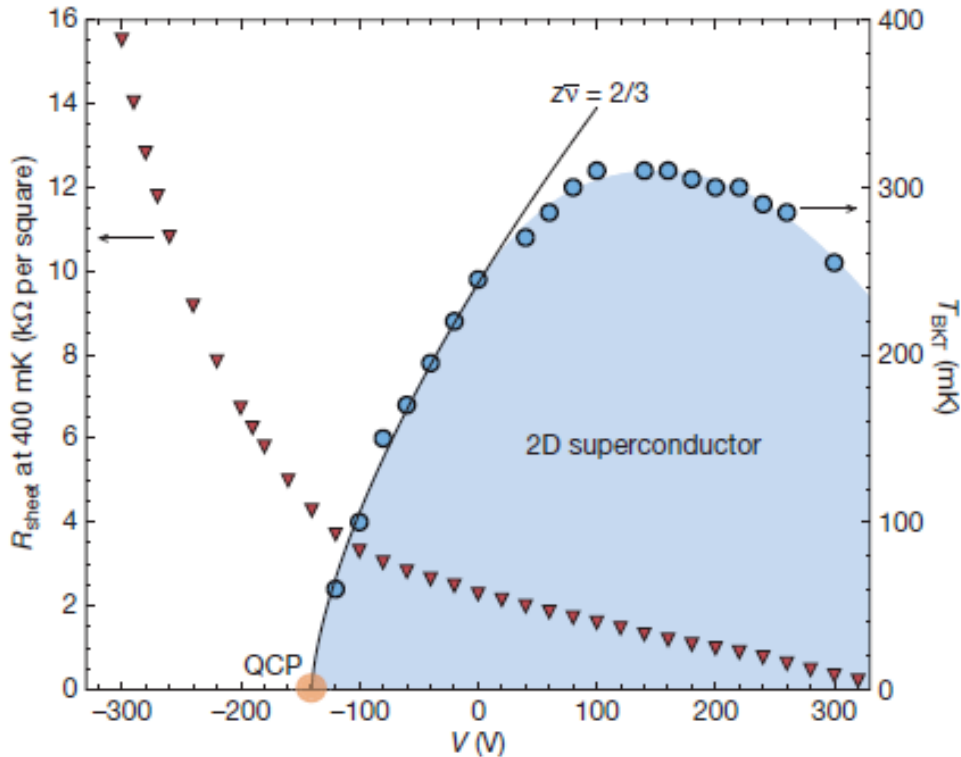
Inhomogeneities



Higher T_c

PRL 108, 017002 (2012)

LaAlO₃ /SrTiO₃ Heterostructures



Triscone, Nature 456 624 (2008)

Lesueur, arXiv:1112.2633

PRL 104, 126803 (2010)

PRB 85 020457 (2012)

Control & Tunability

Spin-Orbit

Disorder

Magnetism

E Field effect

Relevance

Localization

Exotic Quantum
Matter

Topology

Enhancement, yes

Origin?

Grains

$$\Delta \sim \delta$$



Supercon
ductivity?

1959

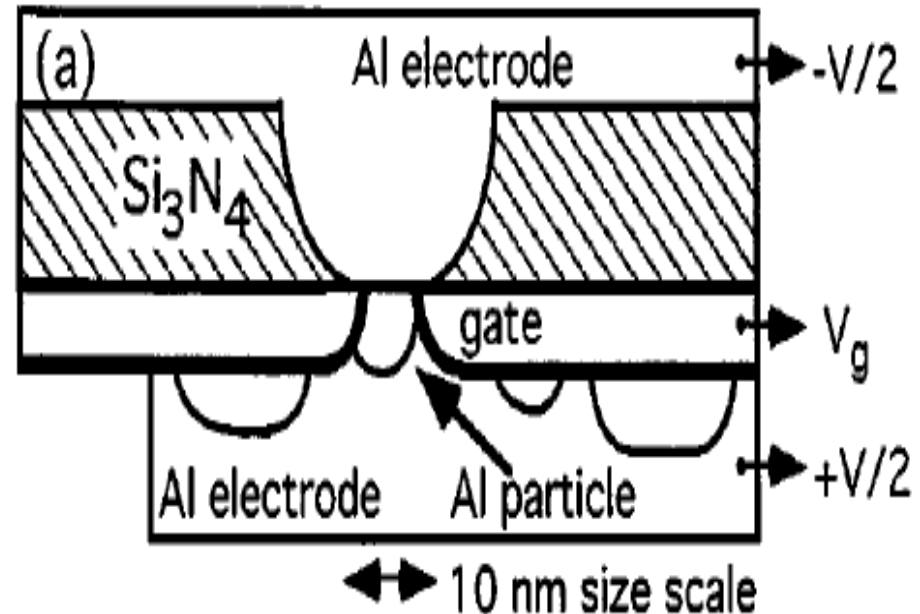
Yes, superconductivity

B closes gap

Odd-even effects

Isolated grain?

Ralph, Black, Tinkham,
Superconductivity in
Single Metal Particles
PRL 74, 3241-3244 (1995).



Theoretical
response

$T = 0$
Ultrasmall grains
 $\delta / \Delta_0 > 1$

von Delft, Braun, Larkin, Sierra, Dukelsky,
Yuzbashyan, Matveev, Smith, Ambegaokar

Exact diagonalization, RPA, Path
Integral, Montecarlo.....

Richardson

It's exact. I did it
20 years ago

BCS fine until $\delta / \Delta_0 \sim 1/2$

BCS sharp transition

Richardson no transition

$$\Delta \gg \delta$$

Heiselberg (2002): harmonic potentials, cold atom

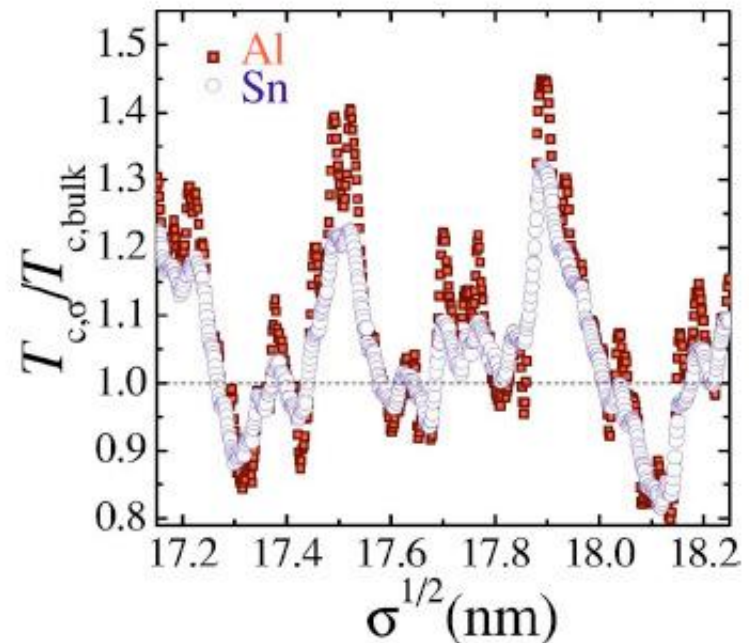
Devreese (2006): Richardson equations in a box

Kresin, Boyaci, Ovchinnikov (2007) : Spherical grain, high T_c

Olofsson (2008): Estimation of fluctuations in BCS

Peeters, Shanenko, Croitoru, (2005-): BCS, BdG in a wire, cylinder..

Enhancement of SC is possible!

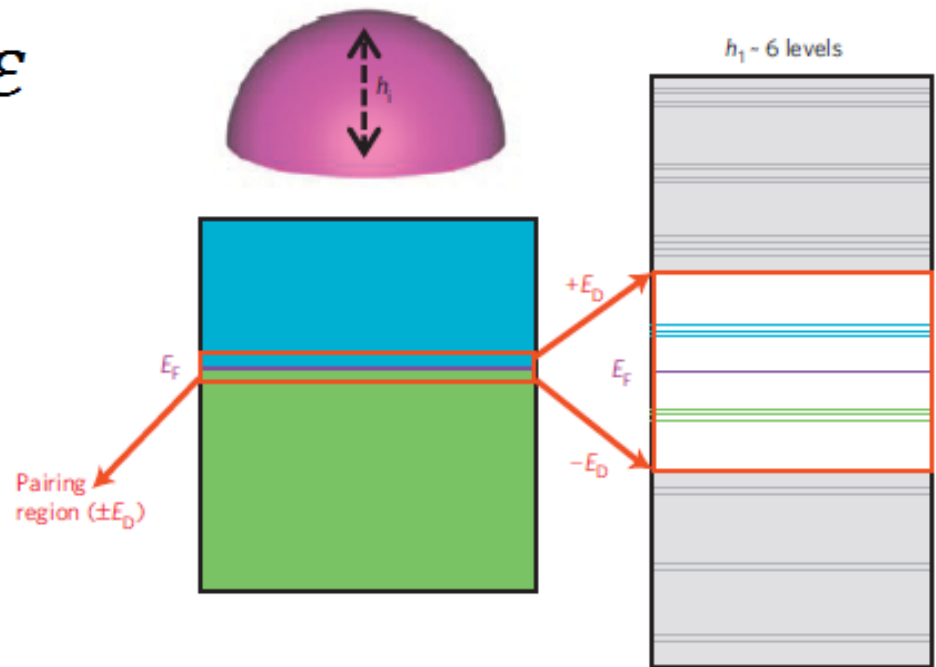


BCS superconductivity

Finite size effects

$$\frac{2}{g} = \int_{-E_D}^{E_D} \frac{v(\varepsilon)}{\sqrt{\Delta^2 + \varepsilon^2}} d\varepsilon$$

$$v(\varepsilon) = \sum_i c_i \delta(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_i)$$



$$V \rightarrow \infty$$
$$\Delta \sim \varepsilon_D e^{-1/\lambda}$$

$$V \text{ finite}$$
$$\Delta = ?$$

Chaotic grains?

Is it done already?



Go ahead!

This has not been done before



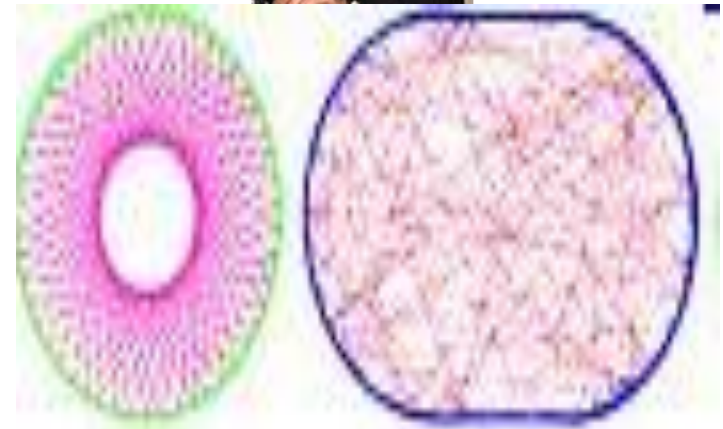
Analytical?

$$1/k_F L \ll 1$$

Semiclassical techniques

Quantum observables in terms
of classical quantities

Berry, Gutzwiller, Balian, Bloch



$$\nu(\varepsilon) \Leftrightarrow L_p$$

$$\Delta \gg \delta \quad L \sim 10\text{nm}$$

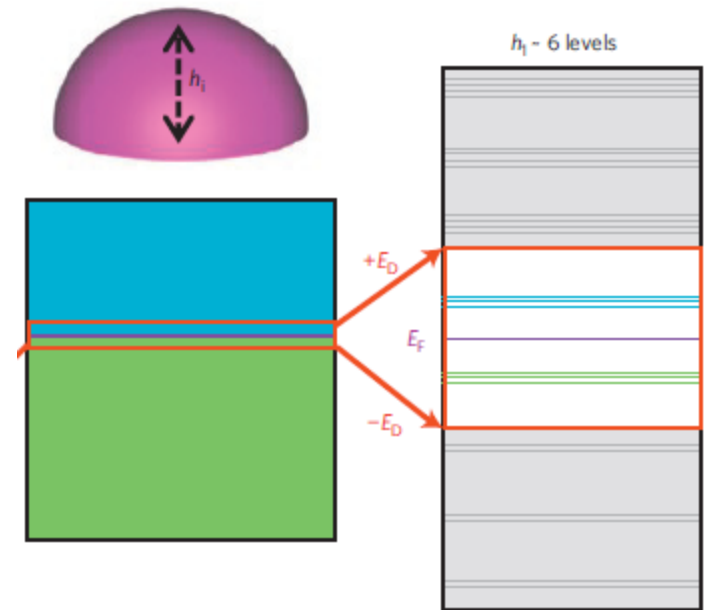
Bogouliobov de Gennes... difficult

BCS fine but..

$$H = \sum_{n\sigma} \epsilon_n c_{n\sigma}^\dagger c_{n\sigma} - \sum_{n,n'} I_{n,n'} c_{n\uparrow}^\dagger c_{n\downarrow}^\dagger c_{n'\downarrow} c_{n'\uparrow}$$

$$I(\epsilon_n, \epsilon_{n'}) = \lambda V \delta \int \psi_n^2(\vec{r}) \psi_{n'}^2(\vec{r}) d\vec{r}$$

$$\Delta(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\epsilon_D}^{\epsilon_D} \frac{\Delta(\epsilon') I(\epsilon, \epsilon')}{\sqrt{\epsilon'^2 + \Delta^2(\epsilon')}} \nu(\epsilon') d\epsilon'$$



Expansion in
 $1/k_F L, \delta/\Delta_0$

3d chaotic

Al grain

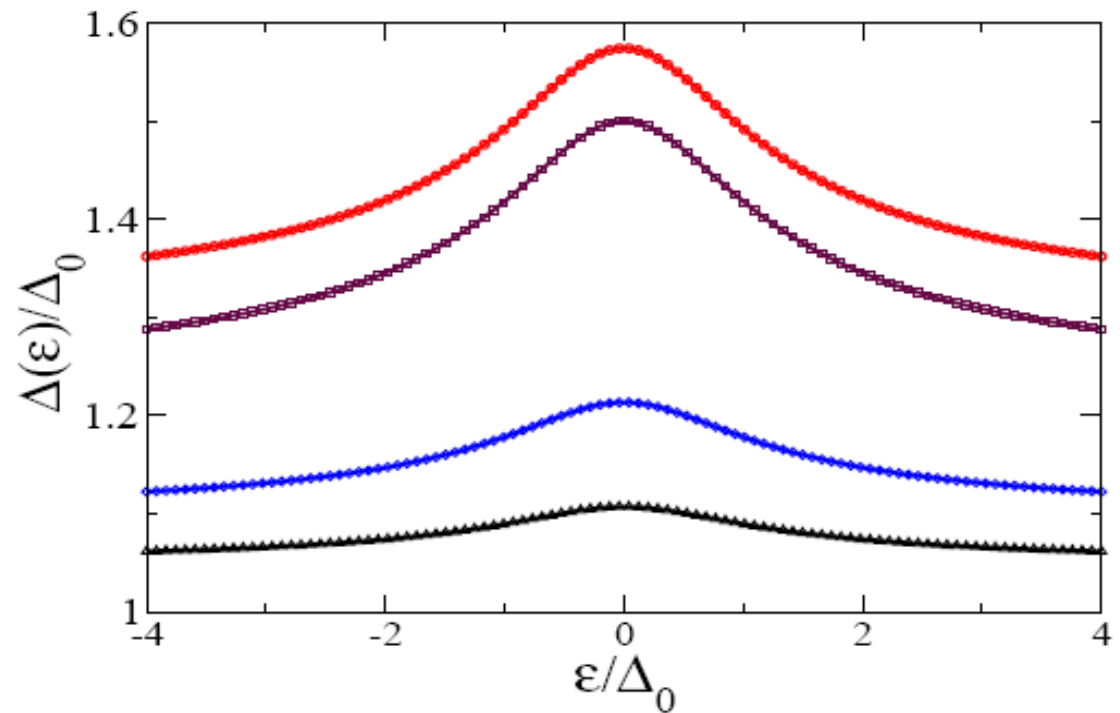
$k_F = 17.5 \text{ nm}^{-1}$

$\Delta_0 = 0.24 \text{ mV}$

For $L < 9 \text{ nm}$ leading correction comes from I

PRL 100, 187001 (2008)

PRB 83, 014510 (2011)

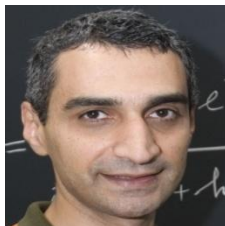


$L = 6 \text{ nm}$, Dirichlet, $\delta/\Delta_0 = 0.67$

$L = 6 \text{ nm}$, Neumann, $\delta/\Delta_0 = 0.67$

$L = 8 \text{ nm}$, Dirichlet, $\delta/\Delta_0 = 0.32$

$L = 10 \text{ nm}$, Dirichlet, $\delta/\Delta_0 = 0.08$

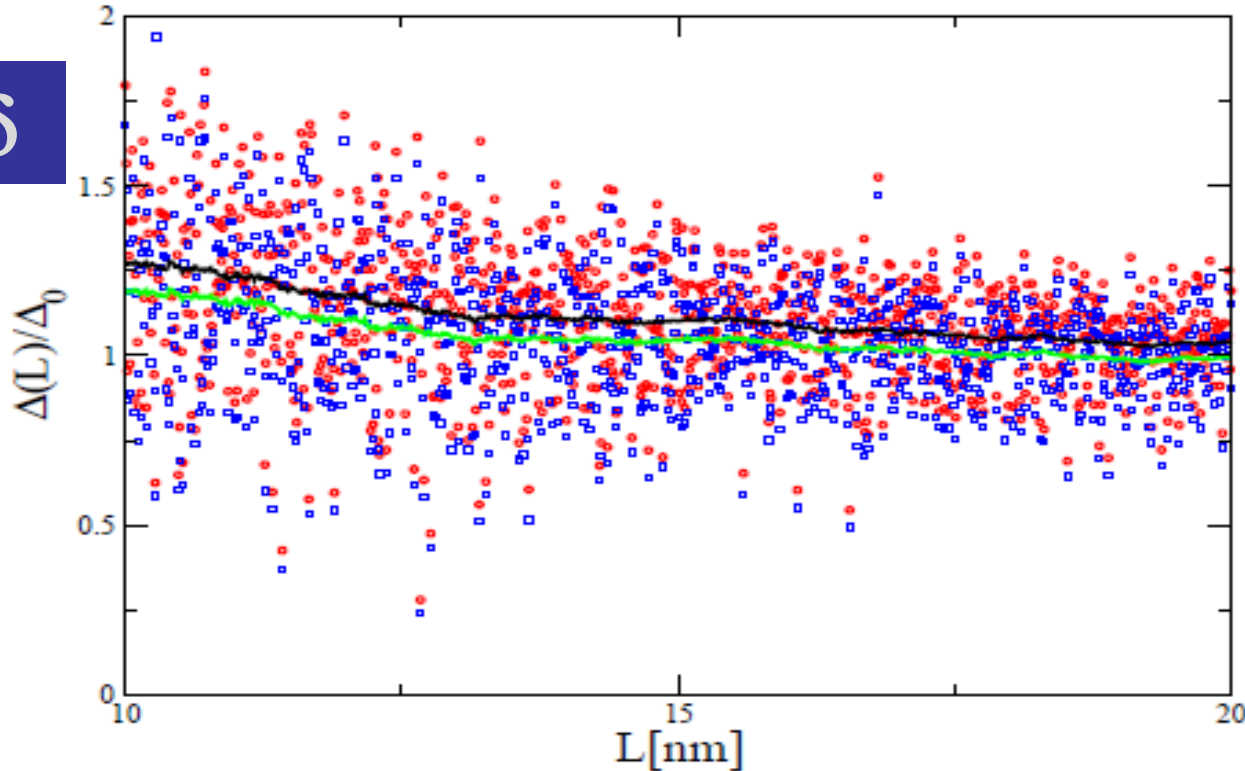


Fluctuations
 $\xi > L$

Symmetries

No fluctuations
 $\xi < L$

$$\Delta_0 \gg \delta$$



$$I(\epsilon_n, \epsilon_{n'}) = \lambda V \delta \int \psi_n^2(\vec{r}) \psi_{n'}^2(\vec{r}) d\vec{r} \quad \nu(\epsilon) = \sum_i c_i \delta(\epsilon - \epsilon_i)$$

Long range order?

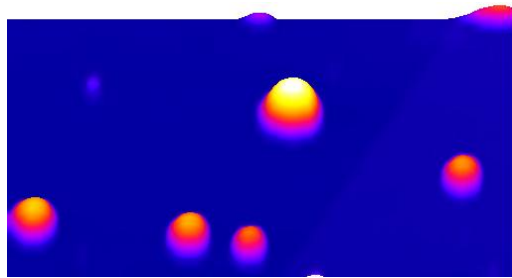
Single, Isolated Sn and Pb grains



Kern



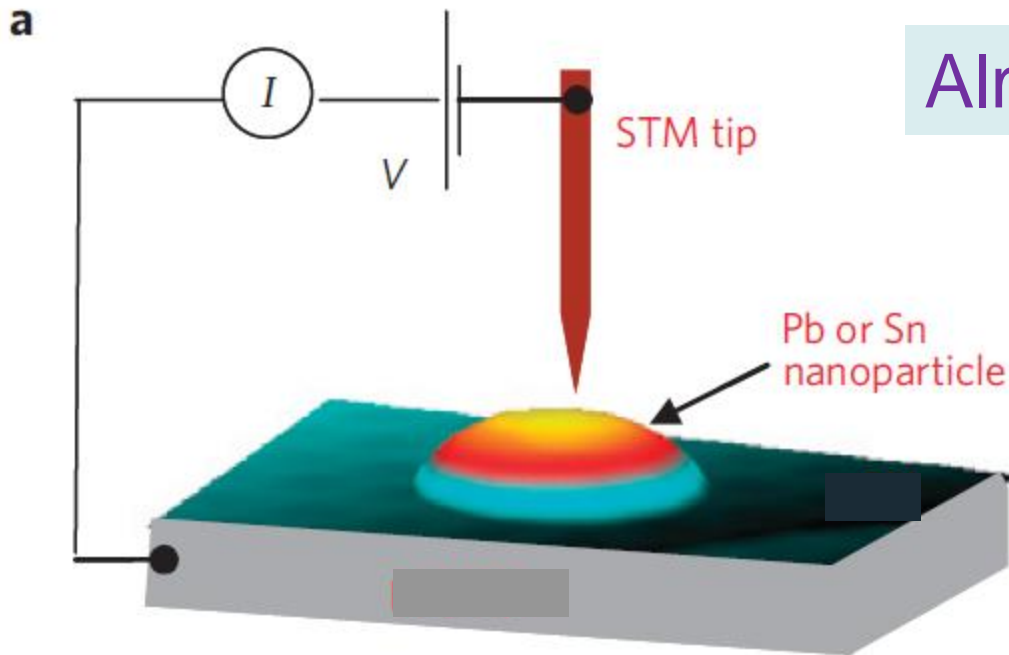
Bose



$R \sim 4\text{-}30\text{nm}$

B closes gap

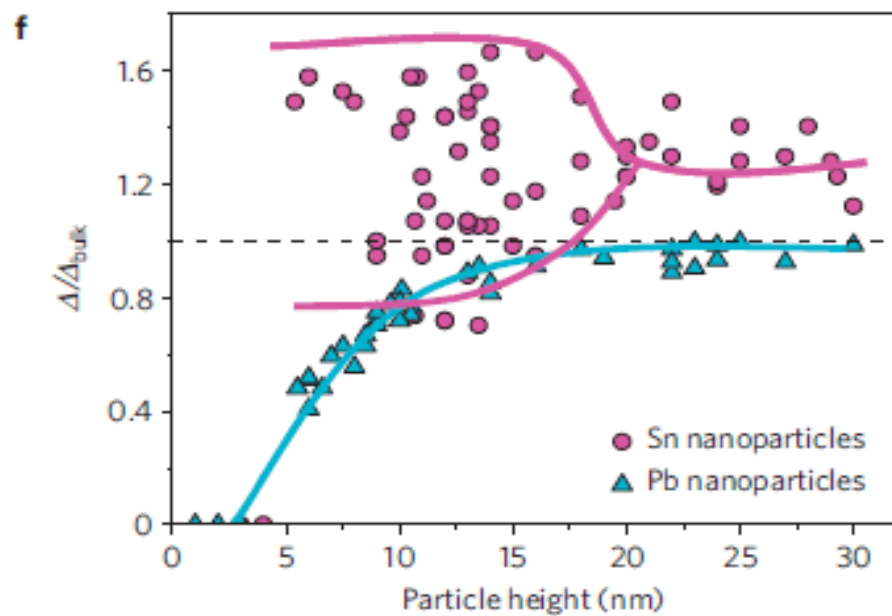
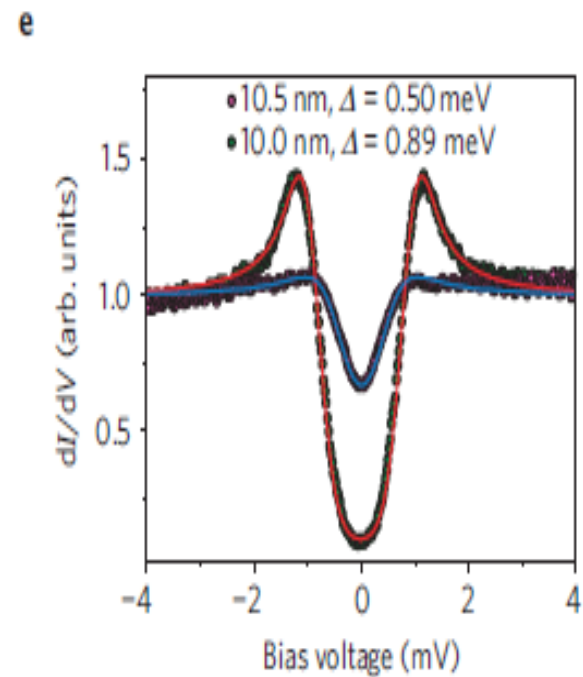
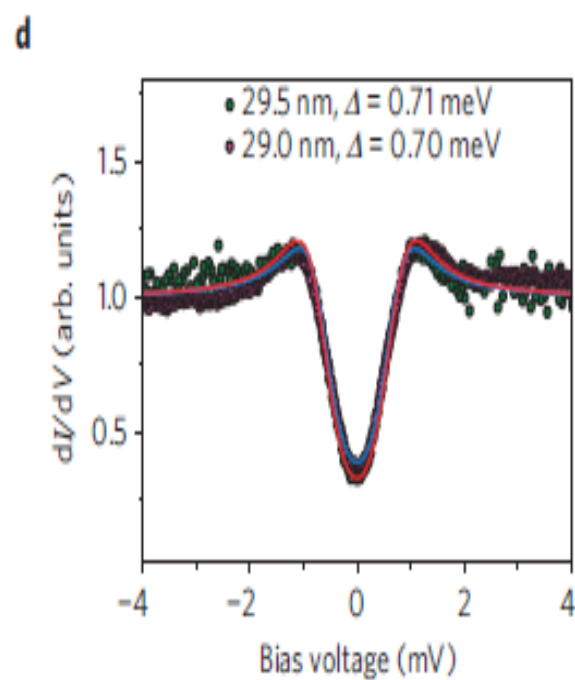
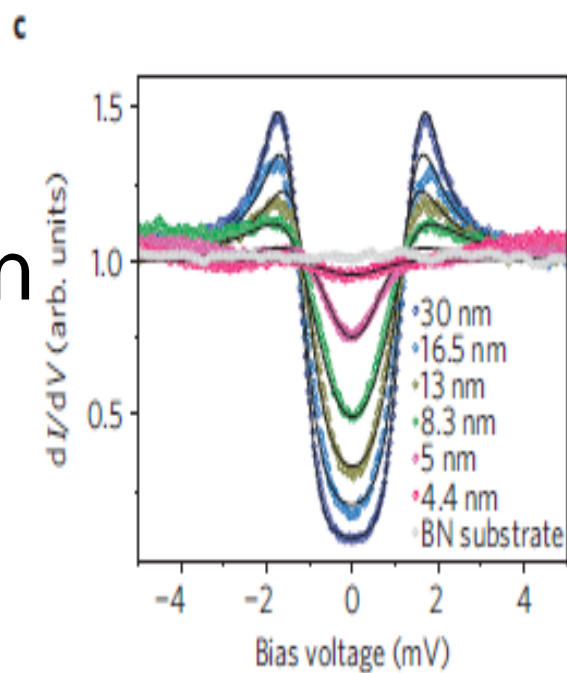
Almost hemispherical



STM

Tunneling
conductance

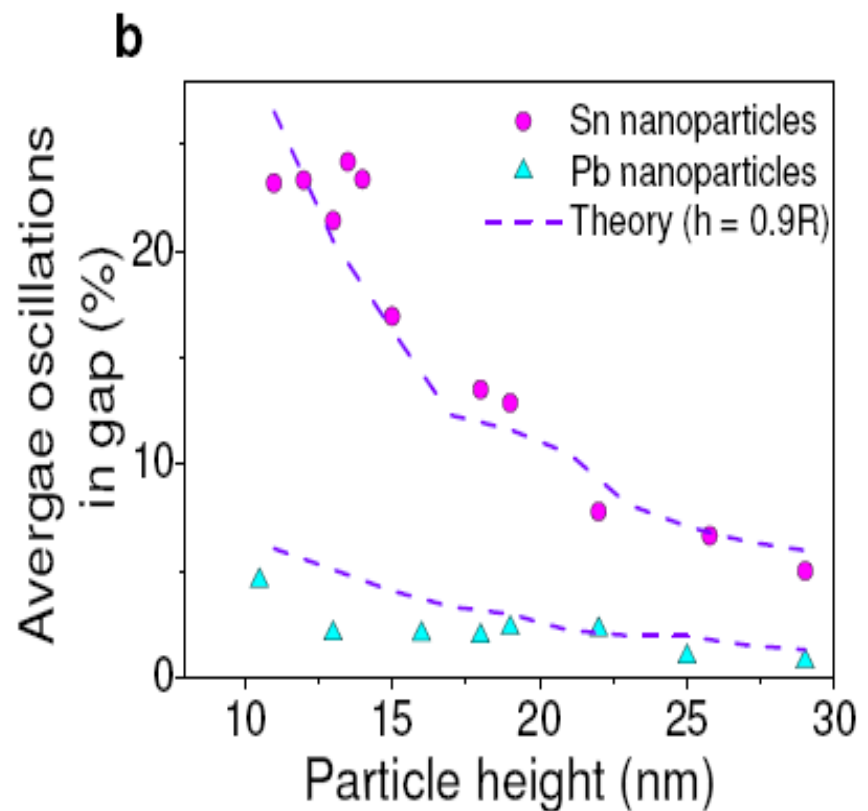
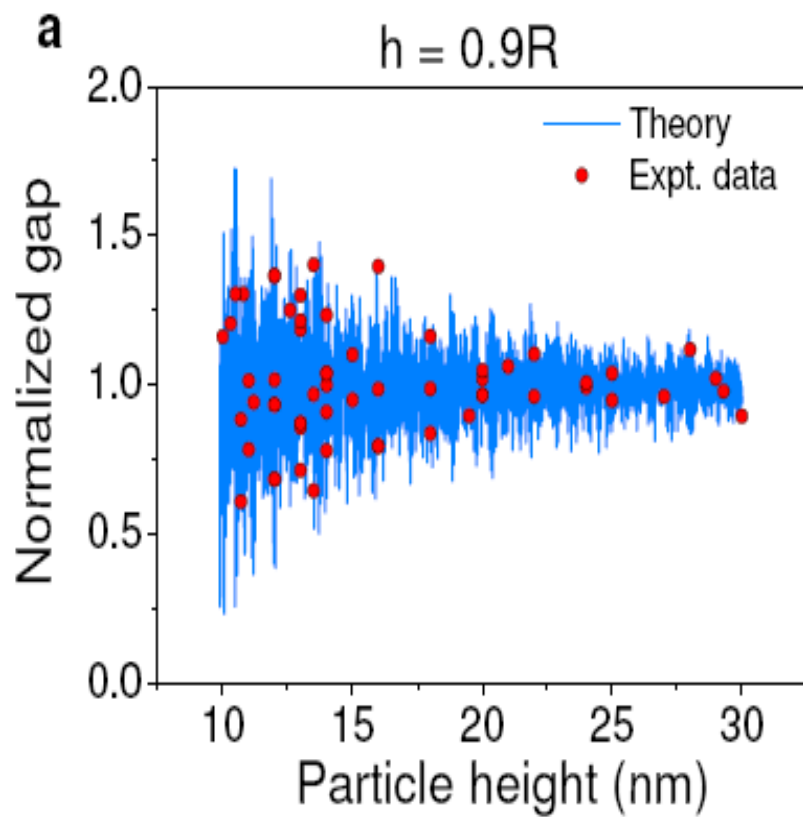
Sn



g



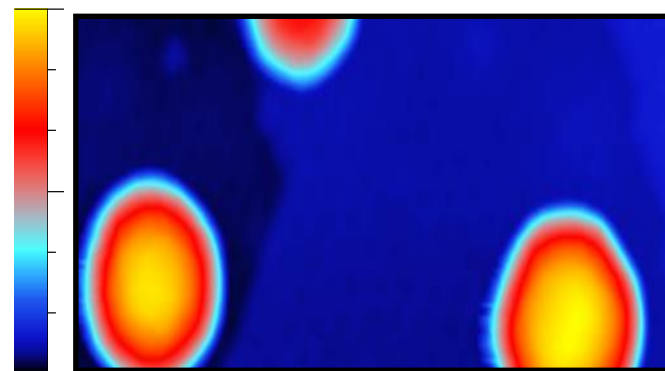
$$+ \quad \Delta(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\epsilon_D}^{\epsilon_D} \frac{\Delta(\epsilon') I(\epsilon, \epsilon')}{\sqrt{\epsilon'^2 + \Delta^2(\epsilon')}} \nu(\epsilon') d\epsilon'$$



Observation of shell effects in superconducting nanoparticles of Sn

Sangita Bose^{1*}, Antonio M. García-García^{2*}, Miguel M. Ugeda^{1,3}, Juan D. Urbina⁴,
Christian H. Michaelis¹, Ivan Brihuega^{1,3*} and Klaus Kern^{1,5}

7 nm



0 nm



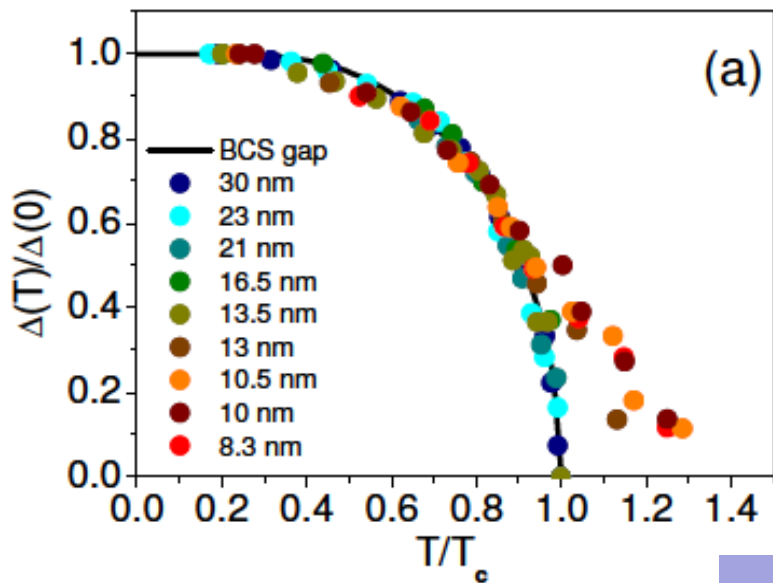
More fun?



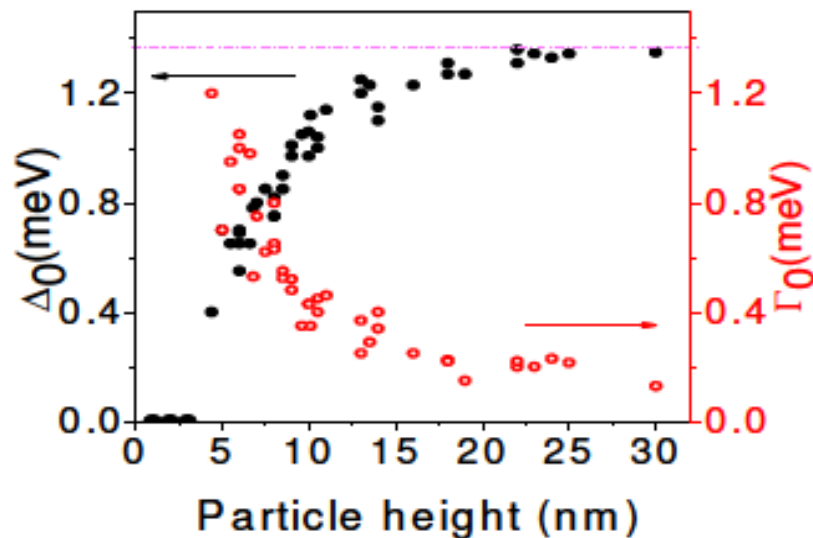
Why not



Ribeiro,
Dresden



Pb



Beyond
mean field

Beyond mean field

Quantum
Fluctuations

Random Phase
Approx
Richardson Eqs

Thermal
fluctuations

Path Integral
Static Path Approx
Muhlschlegel, Scalapino (1972)

Disorder, Coulomb....

Larkin, Gorkov

Fluctuations



$T < T_c$ finite resistivity
Stronger e-e interaction

T=0
deviations from
mean field

Richardson's
equations

Von Delft, Braun,
Dukelsky, Marsiglio,
Sierra, Smith,
Ambegaokar

$$-\frac{1}{\lambda d} + \sum_{j=1}^{m'} \frac{1}{E_i - E_j} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{E_i - \epsilon_k} \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

Ground
state
energy

$$E = 2 \sum_{i=1}^m E_i + \sum_B \epsilon_B$$

Expansion
in δ/Δ_0

$$\Delta^b = 2\Delta_0 - d \sqrt{1 + \frac{\Delta_0^2}{D^2}} + \frac{d\Delta_0}{D} [1 + \phi(\lambda)]$$

$$\begin{aligned} D &\equiv E_D \\ d &\equiv \delta \end{aligned}$$

Richardson ~ 1968,
Yuzbashyan, Altshuler ~ 2005

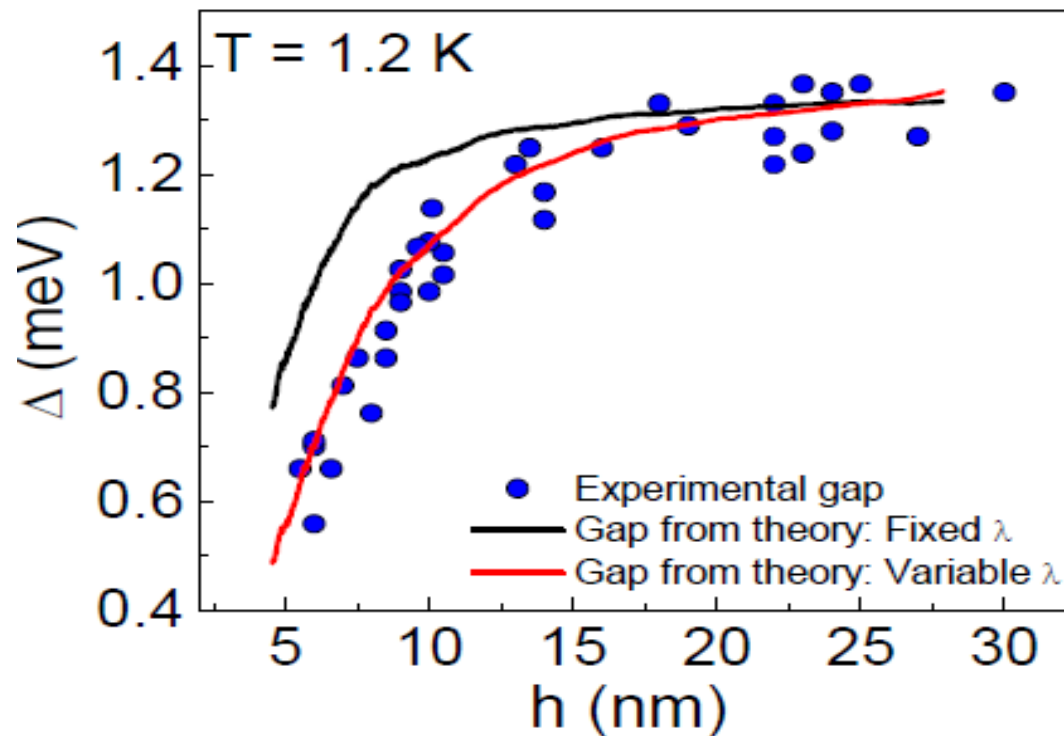
T=0

BCS size effects

Part I

Deviations BCS

Richardson



Thermal
fluctuations



Path integral

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}c^\dagger \mathcal{D}c e^{-\int_0^\beta d\tau [\sum_{k,\sigma} c_{k,\sigma}^\dagger (\partial_\tau + \varepsilon_k) c_{k,\sigma} - \lambda \delta (\sum_k c_{k,1}^\dagger c_{-k,-1}^\dagger) (\sum_{k'} c_{-k',-1} c_{k',1})]}$$

↑

$$= \int \mathcal{D}\Delta^\dagger \mathcal{D}\Delta \mathcal{D}c^\dagger \mathcal{D}c e^{-\int_0^\beta d\tau \{ \sum_{k,\sigma} c_{k,\sigma}^\dagger [\partial_\tau + \varepsilon_k] c_{k,\sigma} + \sum_k (c_{k,1}^\dagger c_{-k,-1}^\dagger \Delta(\tau) + \Delta^\dagger(\tau) c_{-k,-1} c_{k,1}) + (\lambda \delta)^{-1} \Delta^\dagger(\tau) \Delta(\tau) \}}$$

Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation

0 d grains

Δ homogenous



Static path
approach (SPA)

Scalapino et al. 70's

$$\frac{Z}{Z_0} = \int d|\Delta| |\Delta| e^{-\beta \mathcal{A}(|\Delta|)}$$

$$\xi_k = \sqrt{\varepsilon_k^2 + \Delta^\dagger \Delta}$$

$$\mathcal{A}(|\Delta|) = \left\{ (\lambda \delta)^{-1} |\Delta|^2 + \sum_{k'} \left[(|\varepsilon_{k'}| - \xi_{k'}) - \frac{2}{\beta} \log \left(\frac{e^{-\beta \xi_{k'}} + 1}{e^{-\beta |\varepsilon_{k'}|} + 1} \right) \right] \right\}$$

$$T \sim T_c$$

Thermal fluctuations

Static Path Approach

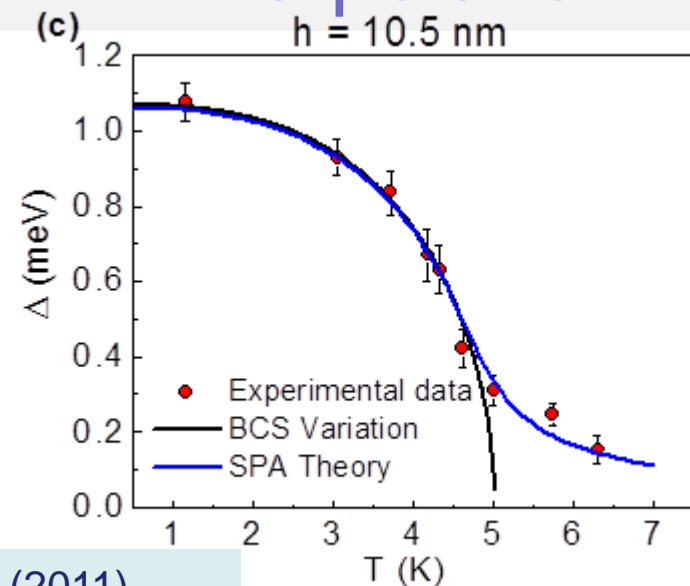
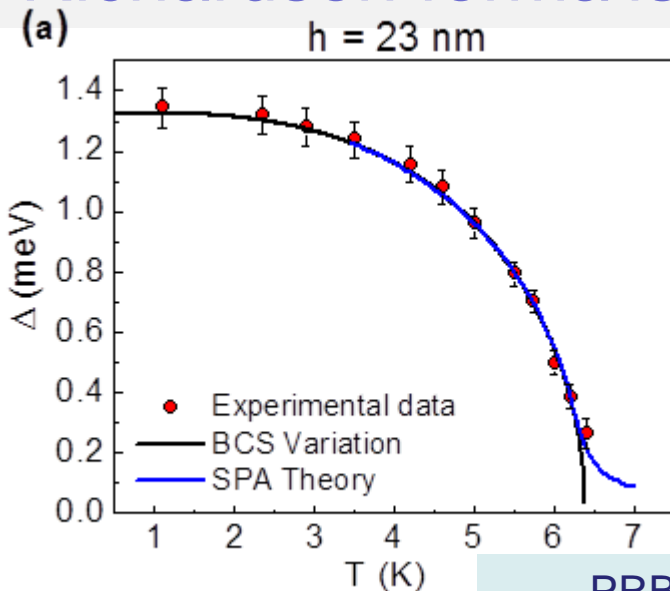
BCS finite size effects

Part I

Quantum Fluctuations

Richardson formalism

$\lambda(T)$ simple interpolation



PRB 84,104525 (2011)
Editor's Suggestion

Quantum + Thermal?

Any δ / Δ_0
 $T=0$

Richardson
solution

Coulomb?

Dynamical phonons?

BCS OK $\delta / \Delta_0 \sim$
 $1/2$

$\delta / \Delta_0 \ll 1$
Any T

SPA+RPA?

Divergences at
intermediate T

Rossignoli and Canosa
Ann. of Phys. 275, 1, (1999)

RPA+SPA, Ribeiro and
AGG, Phys. Rev. Lett.
108, 097004 (2012)





Where's the problem?

Of course the (zero modes) coordinates!!!

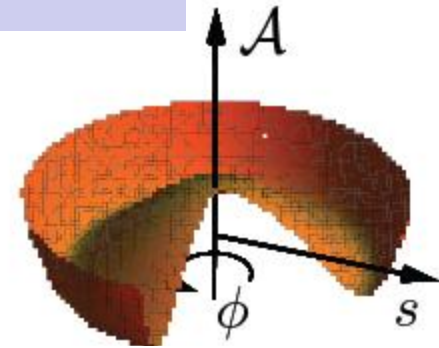


Castellani, et al. PRL 78, 1612 (1997)

$$\Delta(\tau) = s(\tau)e^{i\phi(\tau)}$$

$$s^2(\tau) = s_0^2 + \delta s^2(\tau)$$

$$\phi(\tau) = \phi_0 + 2\pi M\tau/\beta + \delta\phi(\tau)$$



$$\mathcal{A}[s, \phi, M] = \mathcal{A}_0(s_0)$$

$$+ i\pi \sum_k \left(1 - \frac{\varepsilon_k}{\xi_{0k}}\right) \frac{1}{\beta} M + \left(\sum_k \frac{s_0^2}{2\xi_{0k}^3}\right) \frac{1}{\beta^2} (\pi M)^2$$

$$s_m^2 = \frac{1}{\beta} \int d\tau e^{i\Omega_m \tau} \delta s^2(\tau)$$

$$\phi_m = \frac{1}{\beta} \int d\tau e^{i\Omega_m \tau} \delta\phi(\tau)$$

$$\tilde{s}_m^2 = \left[\beta \sum \frac{1}{2\xi_{0k}} \tanh\left(\frac{\xi_{0k}}{2}\right) \right] s_m^2$$

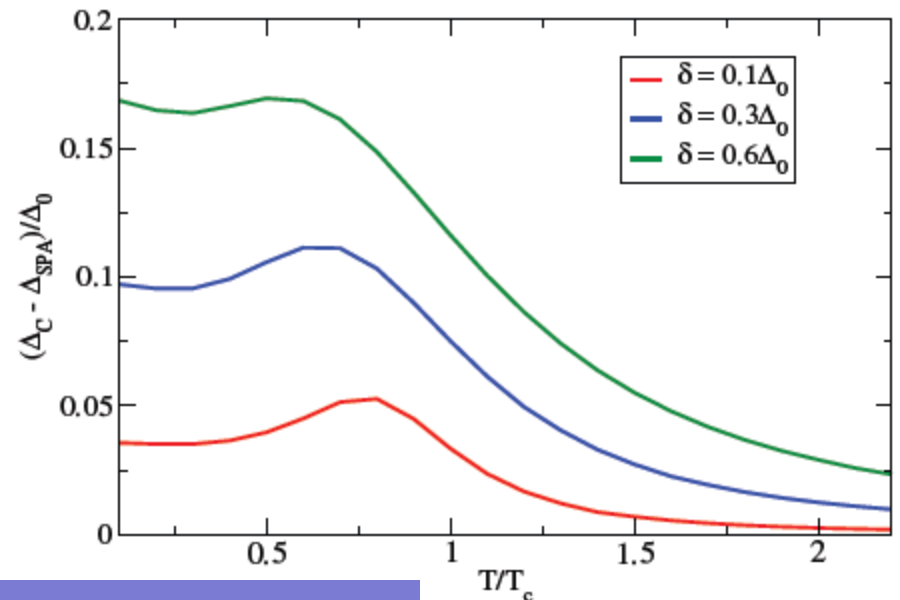
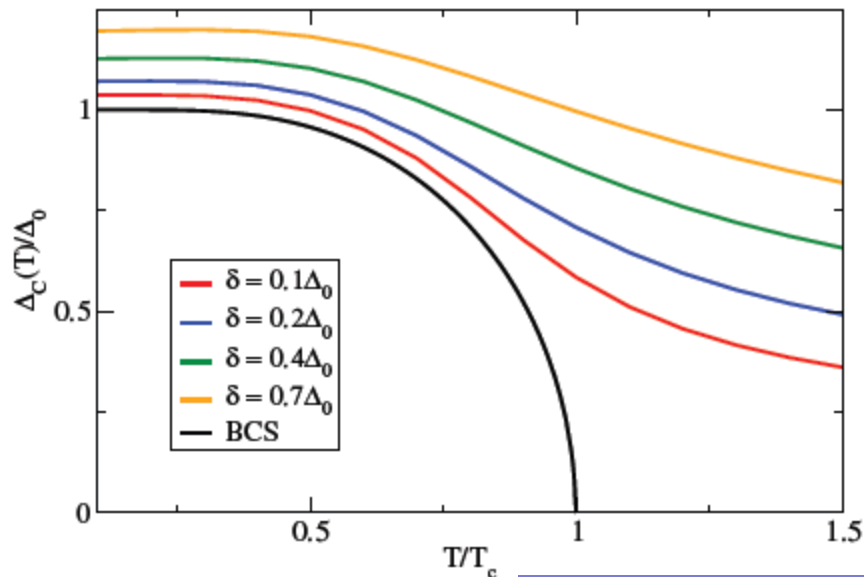
$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \neq 0} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{s}_{-m}^2 \\ \phi_{-m} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \Xi(s_0)_m \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{s}_m^2 \\ \phi_m \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Z/Z_0 = \int_0^\infty ds_0^2 e^{-\beta[\mathcal{A}_0(s_0) + \mathcal{A}_1(s_0)]}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_1[s_0] = \frac{1}{2} \int d\nu \left[n_b(\nu) - \frac{1}{\beta\nu} \right] \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left\{ \ln [\tilde{C}(\nu + i0^+)] - \ln [\tilde{C}(\nu - i0^+)] \right\}$$

$$\tilde{C}(z) = (-z^2 + 4s_0^2)(-z^2) \left[\int_D d\varepsilon \varrho(\varepsilon) \frac{r(\xi)}{-z^2 + (2\xi)^2} \right]^2 + (-z^2) \left[\int_D d\varepsilon \varrho(\varepsilon) \frac{2\varepsilon r(\xi)}{-z^2 + (2\xi)^2} \right]^2$$

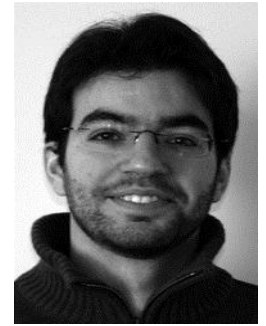
$$r(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\xi} \tanh\left(\frac{\beta\xi}{2}\right)$$





Charging effects?

The same



Perturbative

$$\Xi_m^{\phi\phi} = \sum_k r_k \frac{2\beta s_0^2 \Omega_m^2}{\Omega_m^2 + (2\xi_{0k})^2}$$

Charging effects

$$\sim \frac{\beta}{\delta} \Omega_m^2 \longrightarrow \delta^{-1} \int_0^\beta d\tau (\partial_\tau \delta\phi)^2$$

Non perturbative

$$\phi(\tau) = \phi_0 + 2\pi M\tau/\beta + \delta\phi(\tau)$$

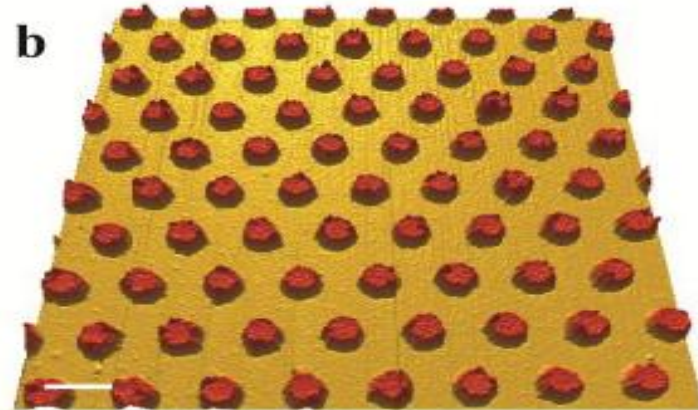
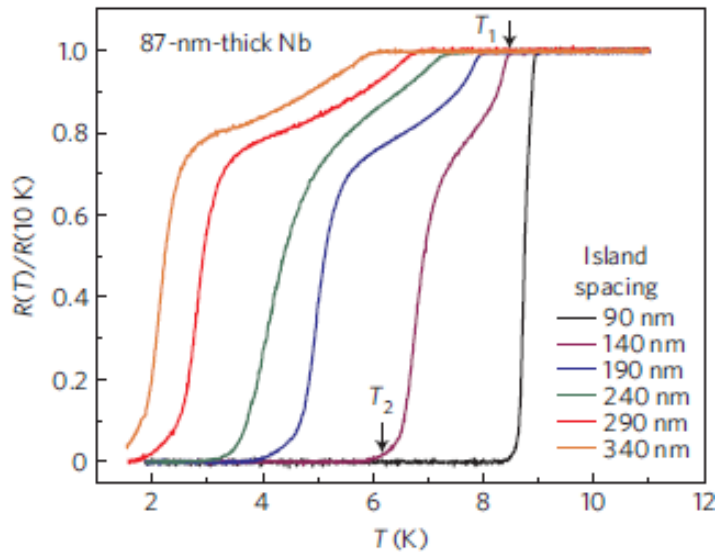
Odd-Even at T=0

Charging
=
fluctuations

NEXT

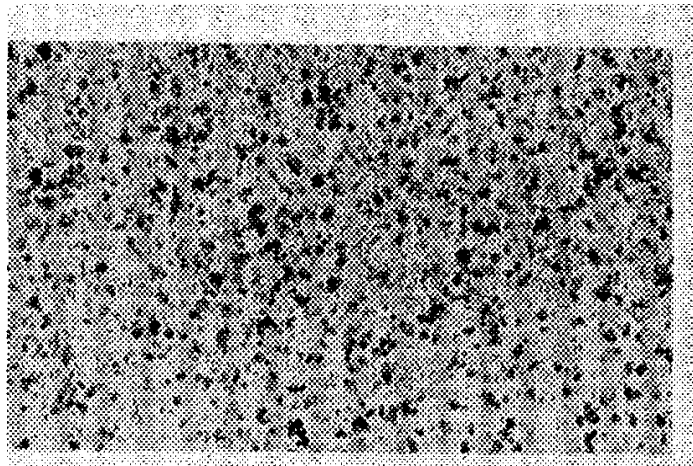
Enhancement SC?

Josephson junctions

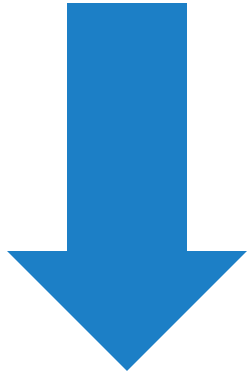


Mason, Goldbart et al, Nature
Physics 8 59 (2012)

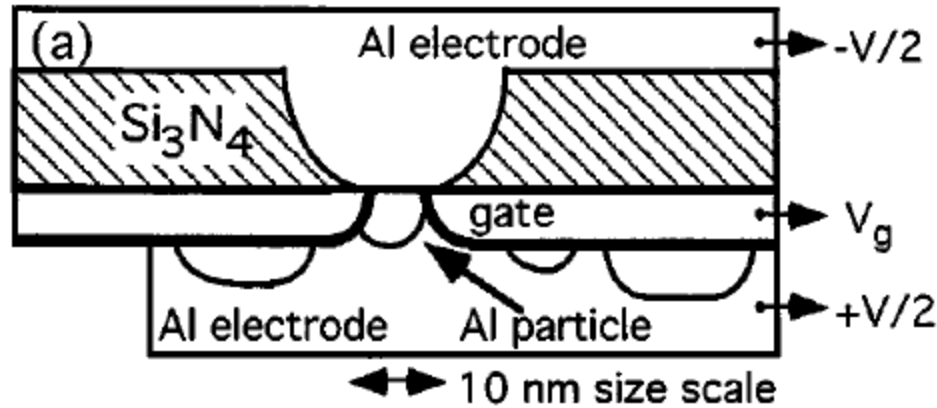
+Experimental control



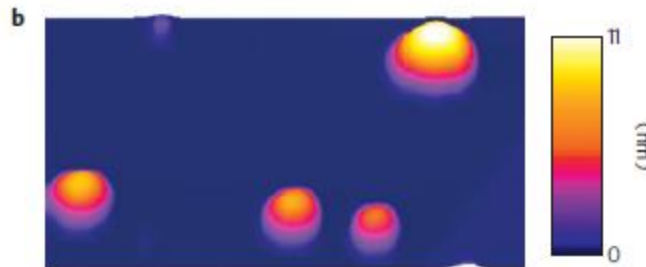
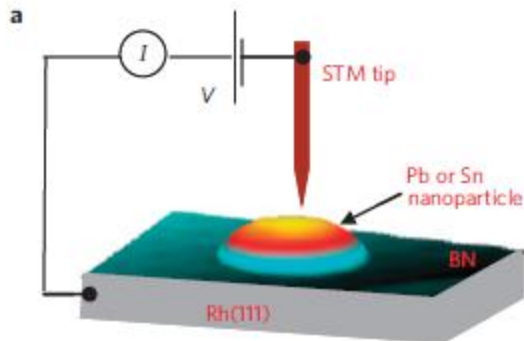
1966



+Predictive power



1995



Now

Nature Physics **6**, 104 (2010), *Science* 324, 1314 (2009).



Finite Size
+
Strong interactions ?

Tough for even
conventional superconductors



Benson
Way

Holographic
superconductivity in
confined geometries?



Jorge
Santos

Holographic principle

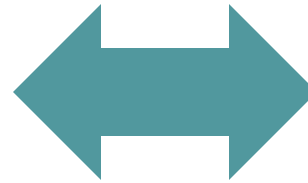
Maldacena's conjecture

AdS/CFT correspondence

t'Hooft, Susskind, Weinberg, Witten....

Strongly coupled
field theory in d

$N=4$ Super-Yang Mills
CFT

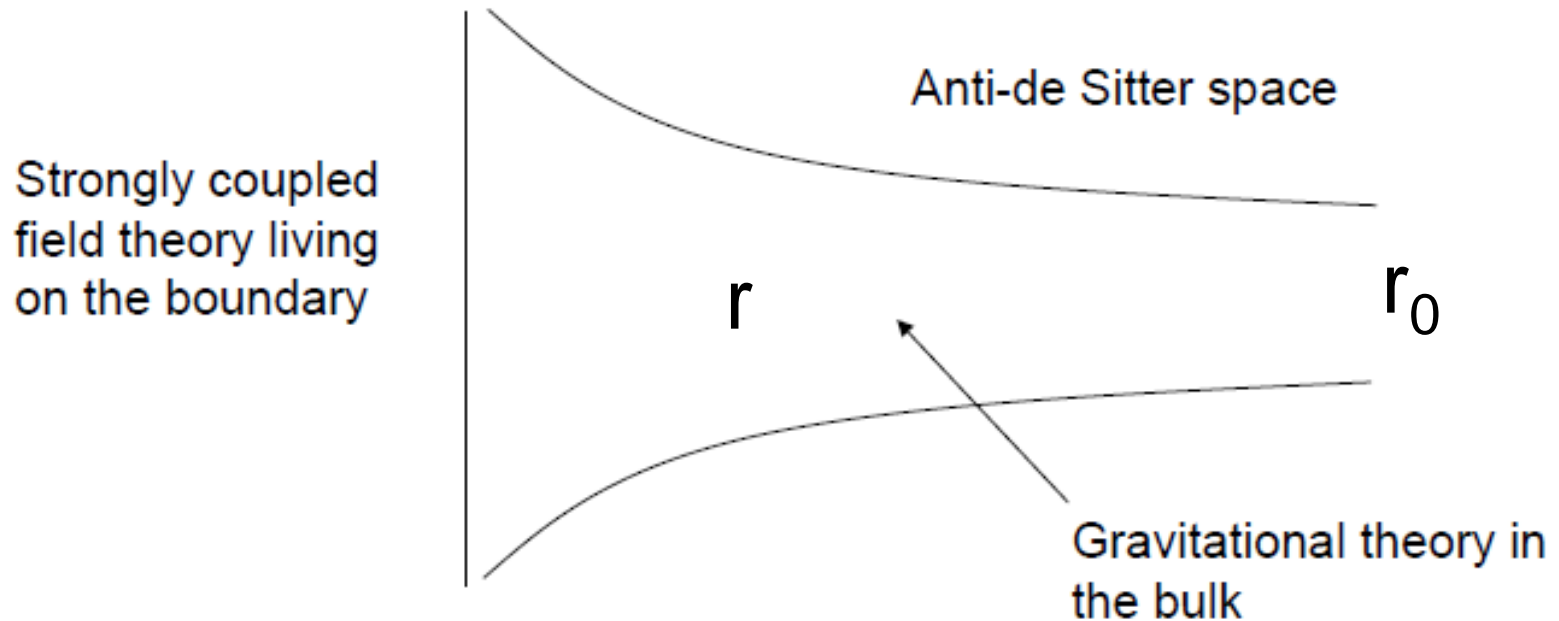


Weakly coupled
gravity in $d+1$

Anti de Sitter space
AdS

Extra dimension?

Geometrization of Wilson RG



Holography beyond string theory

2003

QCD Quark gluon plasma

Gubser, Son

2008

Holographic superconductivity

Hartnoll, Herzog, Horowitz

2012

Quantum criticality, non-equilibrium..

Zaanen, Sachdev, Philips

Easy to compute in the
gravity dual

&

Detailed
dictionary

An answer looking for a question

$H = ?$

I do not know

Complex scalar

I know
that

Spontaneous breaking
 $U(1)$ at low T

Finite μ

Simplest dual gravity theory

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + \frac{6}{L^2} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - |D\psi|^2 - m^2 |\psi|^2 \right]$$

$$D = \nabla - iqA.$$

$\psi \equiv$ complex scalar

Metric

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(dx^2 + dy^2) \\ &= -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(dR^2 + R^2 d\theta^2) \\ f(r) &= \frac{r^2}{L^2} \left(1 - \frac{r_0^3}{r^3} \right), \end{aligned}$$

Equations of motion:

$$\partial_r^2 |\psi| + \frac{1}{r^2 f} \partial_x^2 |\psi| + \left(\frac{f'}{f} + \frac{2}{r} \right) \partial_r |\psi| + \frac{1}{f} \left(\frac{A_t^2}{f} - m^2 \right) |\psi| = 0$$

$$\partial_r^2 A_t + \frac{1}{r^2 f} \partial_x^2 A_t + \frac{2}{r} \partial_r A_t - \frac{2|\psi|^2}{f} A_t = 0$$

Boundary conditions:

$$r = r_0 \quad r \rightarrow \infty \quad |\psi| = \frac{\psi^{(1)}}{r} + \frac{\psi^{(2)}}{r^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^3}\right)$$

$$A_t = 0$$

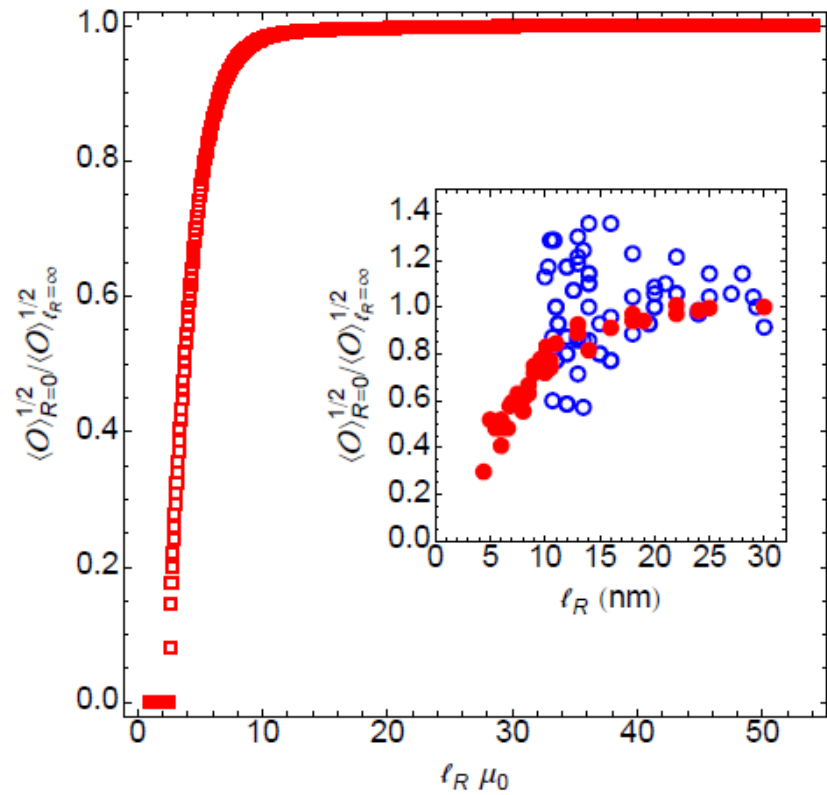
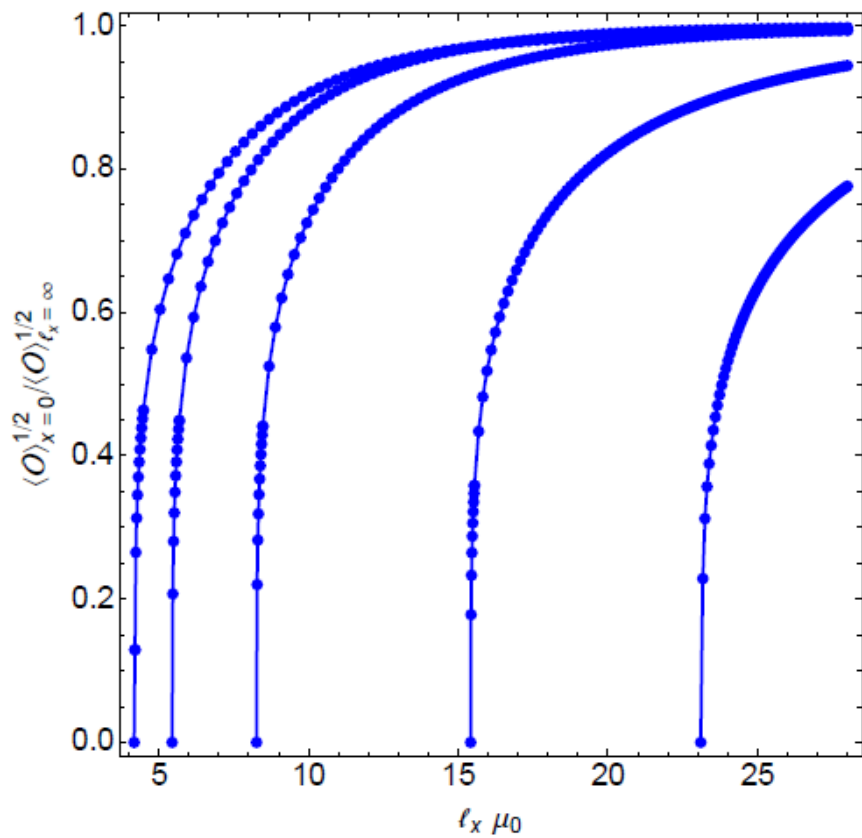
$$A_t = \mu - \frac{\rho}{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right)$$

How small?

$$\mu(x) = \mu_0 \left[\frac{1 - \epsilon + \epsilon \cosh\left(\frac{2x}{\sigma}\right) + \cosh\left(\frac{\ell_x}{\sigma}\right)}{\cosh\left(\frac{2x}{\sigma}\right) + \cosh\left(\frac{\ell_x}{\sigma}\right)} \right]$$

Dictionary:

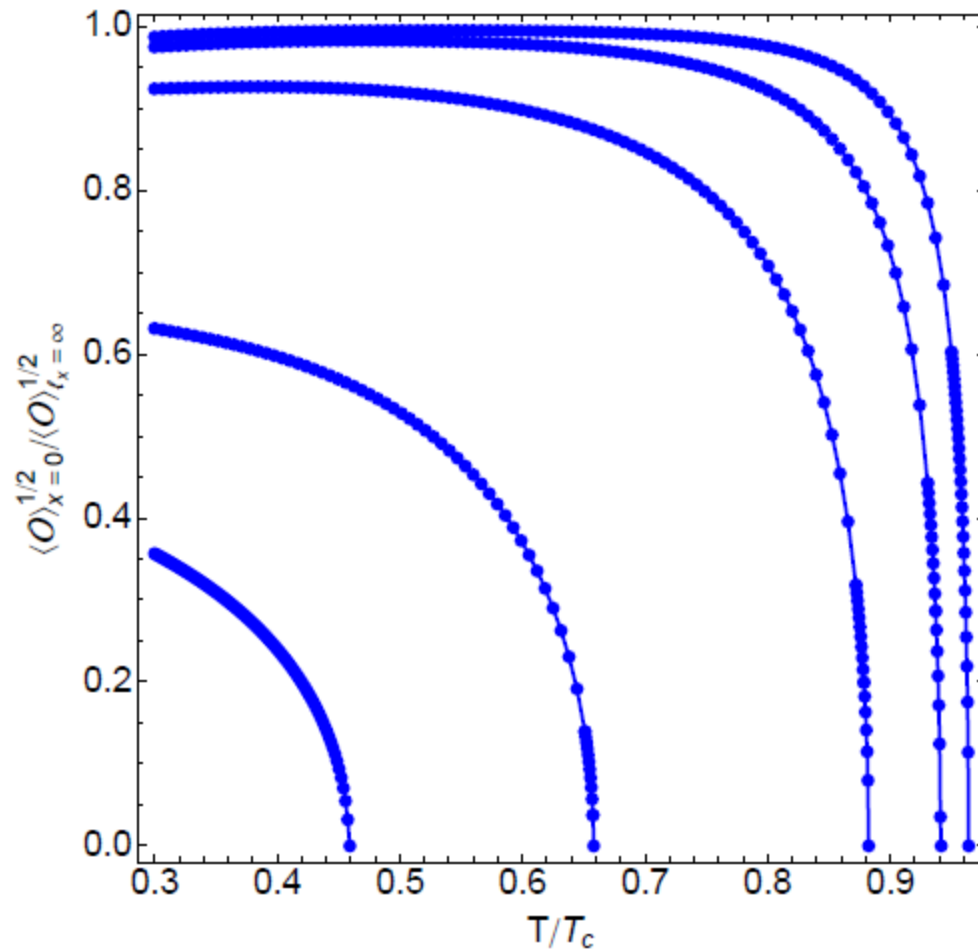
$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \sqrt{2} \psi^{(2)}$$



“Superconductivity” only for $I < I_C$

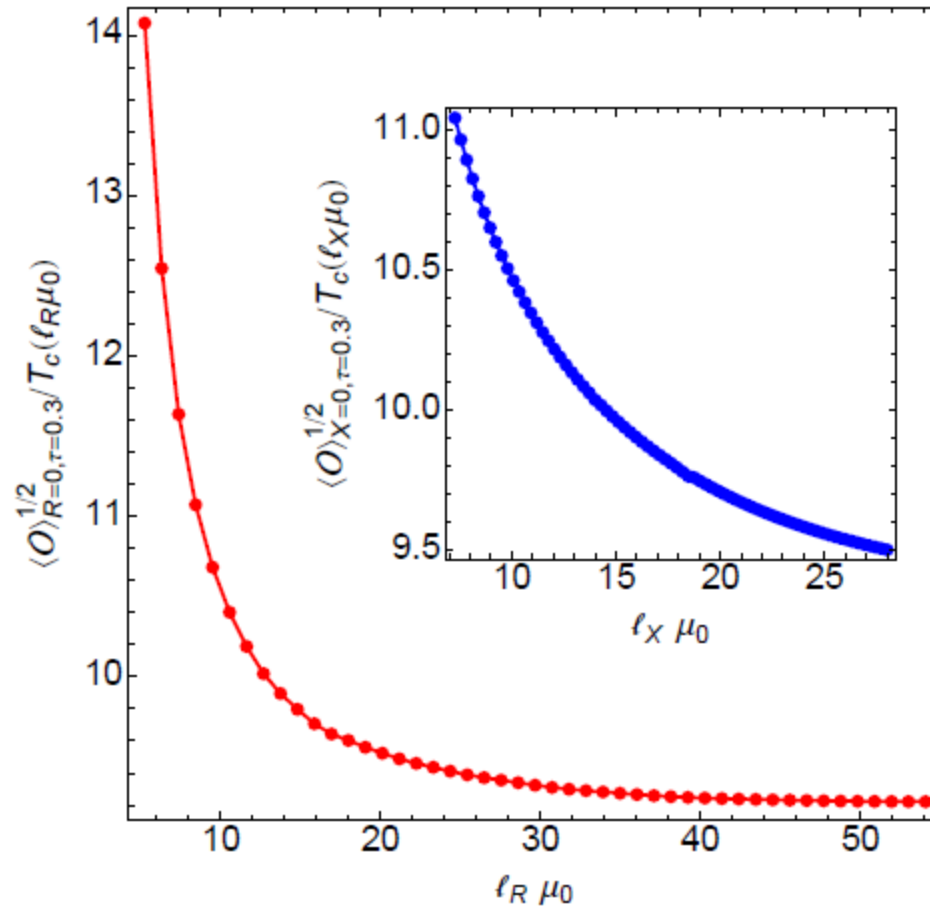
Mean field behavior

Fluctuations?



No thermal fluctuations

Large N artefact



Interactions depends on system size!

PRB, 86, 064526 (2012)

Next

Theory

Heterostructures
Collections of grains

Topology

Non-equilibrium

Experiments

Control on high T_c
heterostructures

Control on grains
arrangements

Substantial enhancement of T_c

CONTROL

Theory



**PREDICTIVE
POWER**



Enhancement = $\$10^6$

THANKS!

感谢您的关注