



SUPERCONDUCTIVITY
SOLID STATE PHYSICS - IV

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– What are superconductors?

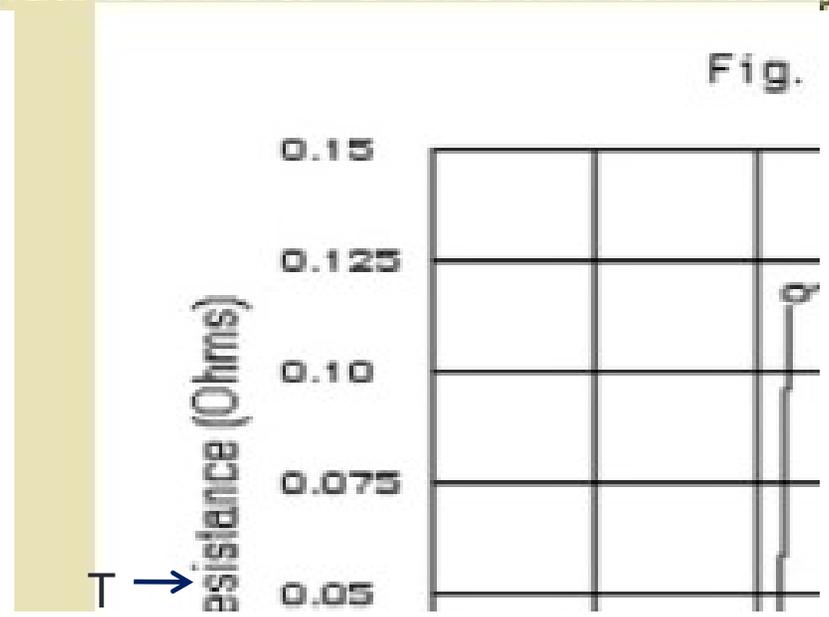
- *Superconductors are the material having zero resistivity and behave as diamagnetic.*
zero resistivity and behave as diamagnetic.
the superconducting transitioning temperature.
- *Superconductivity is the flow of electric current without resistance in certain metals, alloys and ceramics at temperatures near absolute zero.*

Superconductivity

- Superconductivity was first discovered in 1911 by the Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes. He found that as the temperature of mercury was lowered, there would be a leveling off as the resistance approached some ill-defined minimum value allowing the flow with little or no resistance.



i.e. Extremely good conductor of electricity -
- SUPERCONDUCTIVITY



Important Factors to define Superconducting State

- The superconducting state is defined by three v important factors:
 1. critical temperature (T_c)
 2. critical field (H_c)
 3. critical current density (J_c).

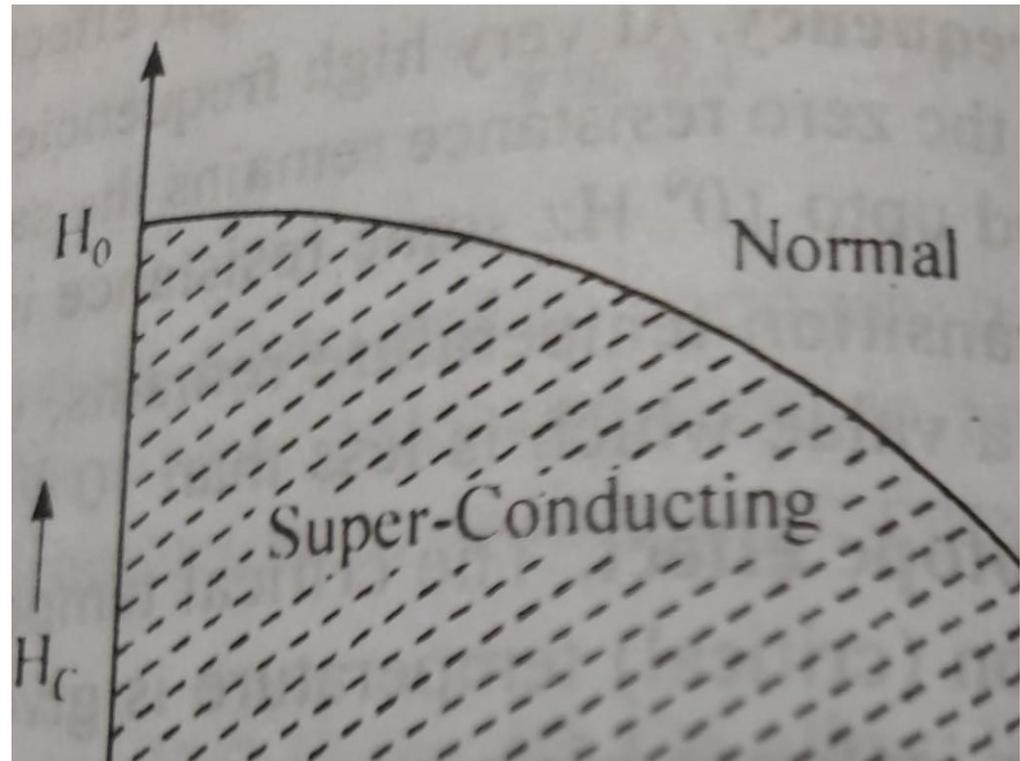
CRITICAL TEMPERATURE

- The temperature at which material electrical resistivity drops to absolute zero is called the Critical Temperature or Transition Temperature.
- Below critical temperature material is said to be in superconducting and above this temperature the material is said to be in normal state. Superconductors also exhibit

Metal
Aluminum
Tin
Mercury
Niobium



- **Critical magnetic field (H_c)** Above this value externally applied magnetic field a superconductor becomes non-superconducting. This minimum magnetic field to destroy the superconducting state is called the critical magnetic field.



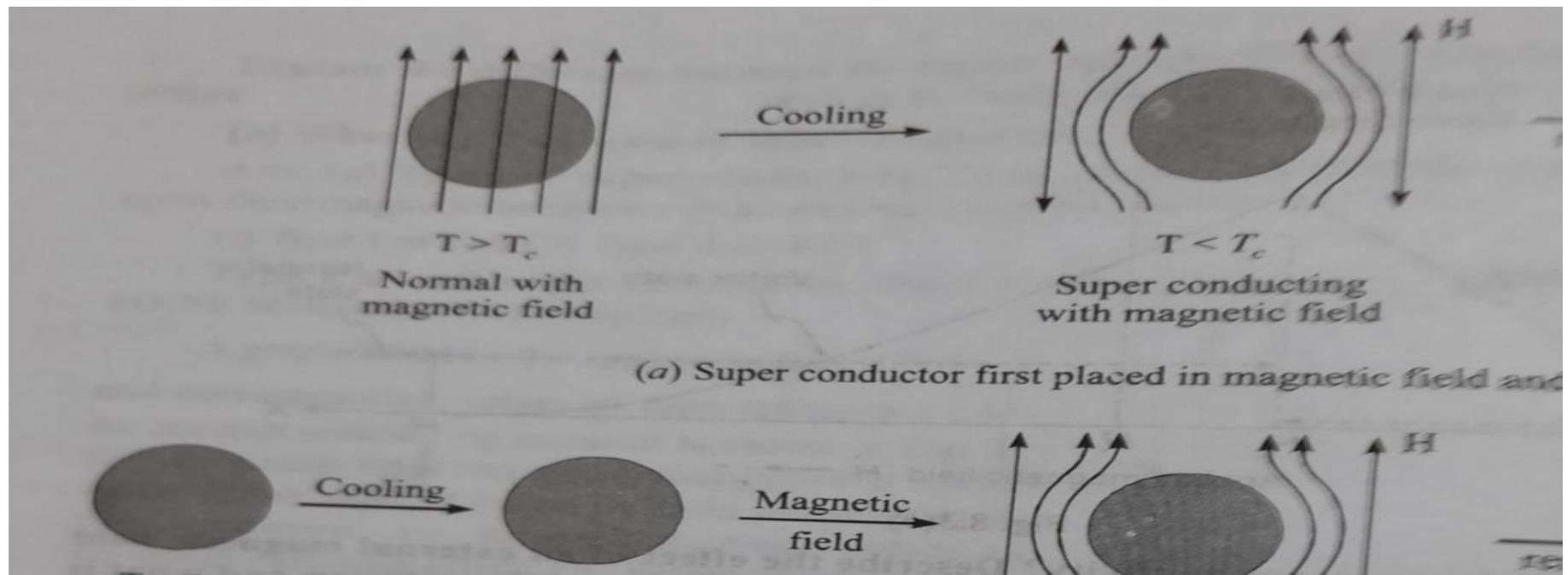
Critical Current Density:

An important consequence of the existence of critical magnetic field is that there is also a critical strength of current flowing in the super conductor. If the strength of the current is exceeded, there is a disturbance of super conductivity.

Meissner

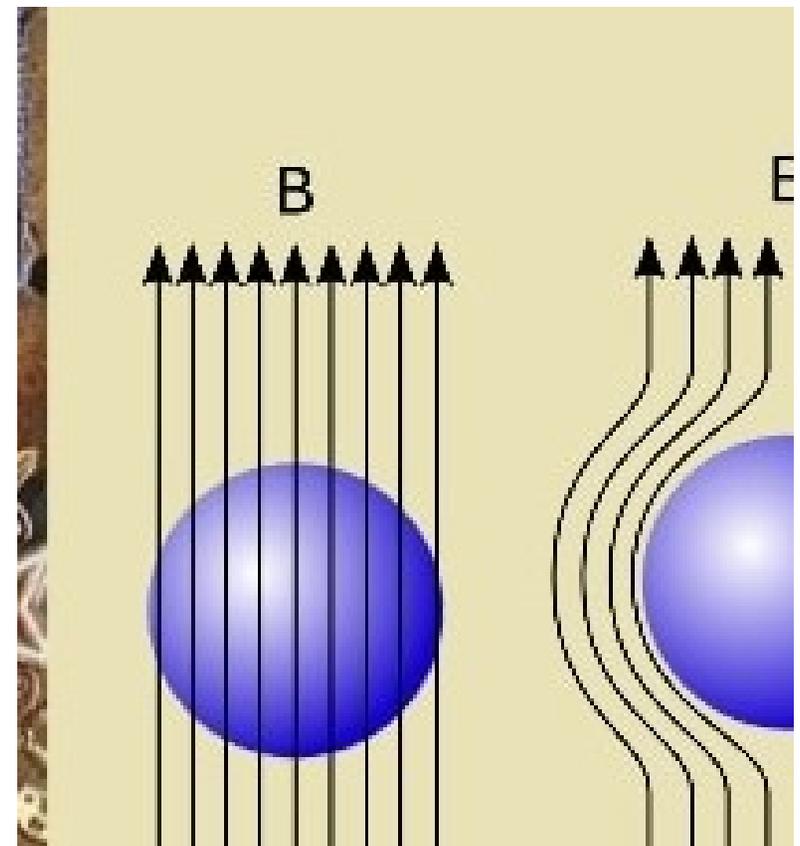
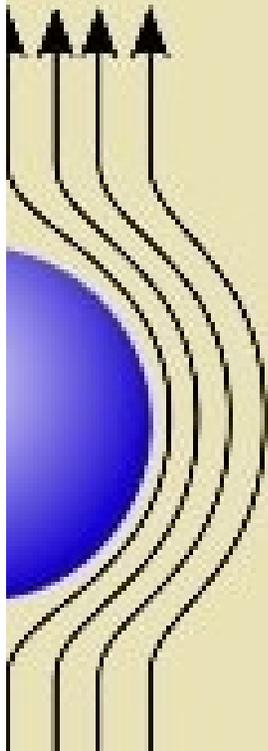
If a super conductor ($T > T_c$) is cooled in a magnetic Field H below the Transition Temperature T_c , then at the transition the lines of magnetic flux are pushed out of the specimen. The flux does not penetrate the material and super conductor behaves as perfect diamagnetic.

As soon as the magnetic field is removed the super conductor resumes its normal state.



Meissner

- ◆ Normal state:
- ◆ Superconduct
- ◆ $T < T_c$
- ◆ The Meissner
- ◆ distinct chara
- ◆ a supercondu
- ◆ normal perfec
- ◆ In addition, th
- ◆ exhibited by t
- ◆ superconduct



Meissner

We know that if an external magnetic field H is applied and intensity of induced magnetic field is M , then the total magnetic field inside the material is

$$B = \mu_0 (H + M)$$

Meissner effect shows that in an external applied magnetic field H the super conductor behaves as if inside the material the value of $B = 0$ (at T_c). Thus

$$H = -M$$

Susceptibility,

$$\chi = M/H = -1$$

i.e. the material has a negative susceptibility and behaves as perfect diamagnetic.

The complete expulsion of all magnetic field from a superconducting material is called "Meissner effect".

TYPES OF SUPERCONDUCTOR

There are two types of super conductors depending upon their magnetic behaviour in an external magnetic field.

a) **Type - I or Soft super conductor**: These super conductors are perfectly diamagnetic and exhibit Meissner effect completely.

b) **Type - II or Hard super conductor**: These super conductors have large magnetic hysteresis.

TYPES OF SUPERCONDUCTORS

TYPE I

- Soft superconductors are those which can tolerate impurities without affecting the superconducting properties.
- Also called **SOFT SUPERCONDUCTORS**.
- Only one critical field exists for these superconductors.
- Critical field value is very low.
- Exhibits perfect and complete Meissner effect.
- The current flows through the surface only.
- These materials have limited

TYPE II

- Hard superconductors which cannot tolerate impurities, i.e., the impurity affects the superconducting properties.
- Also called **HARD SUPERCONDUCTORS**.
- Two critical fields exist: H_{c1} (lower) and H_{c2} (upper) for these superconductors.
- Critical field value is very high.
- Don't exhibit perfect Meissner effect.
- It is found that current flows throughout the material.
- These materials have

TYPES OF SUPERCONDUCTOR

TYPE 1

TYPE 2

Type I Superconductor

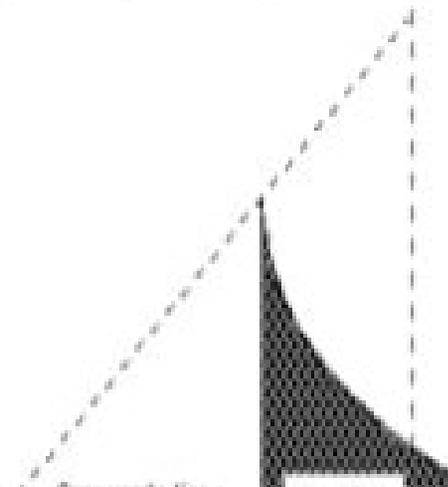
Applied Magnetic Field



Normal State

Type II Superconductor

Applied Magnetic Field





THANK YOU

ALL THE BEST