

Crash Course in Materials Science of Superconductors

Stefan Bringuier

Materials Scientist

ORCID: [0000-0001-6753-1437](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6753-1437)

stefanbringuier@gmail.com

<https://stefanbringuier.info>

Sep 13, 2023

Crash Course in Materials Science of Superconductors

Table of contents

Some Comments	2
Whats all the fuss	2
Technological Interest	4
Backmatter	4
References	4
Outline	4

List of Figures

1 Original plot of Hg transition temperature to SC phase¹	3
--	---

Some Comments

! Important

These are working notes, so there are bound to be errors. Please keep this in mind while going through the notes. Feel free to email [me](#) if you want to provide corrections.

i Note

Much of the notes derived from various sources, please checkout the [references](#).

💡 Tip

If you prefer to view this in a report format, you can download a formatted PDF of this presentation [here](#).

Whats all the fuss

- Why did anyone care to begin with?
 - They didn't. Initially Heike Kamerlingh Onnes¹ and others were just interested in cryogenics.
 - Once they achieved liquid Helium, they asked why not study conductive metals at these temperatures.
 - In 1911 Kamerlingh Onnes started with elemental Mercury, the field of superconductivity (SC) was born.
- Physicist focused on measurement of other elemental solids and a theory.
- Observation of SC in Nb is really what begun technological use.

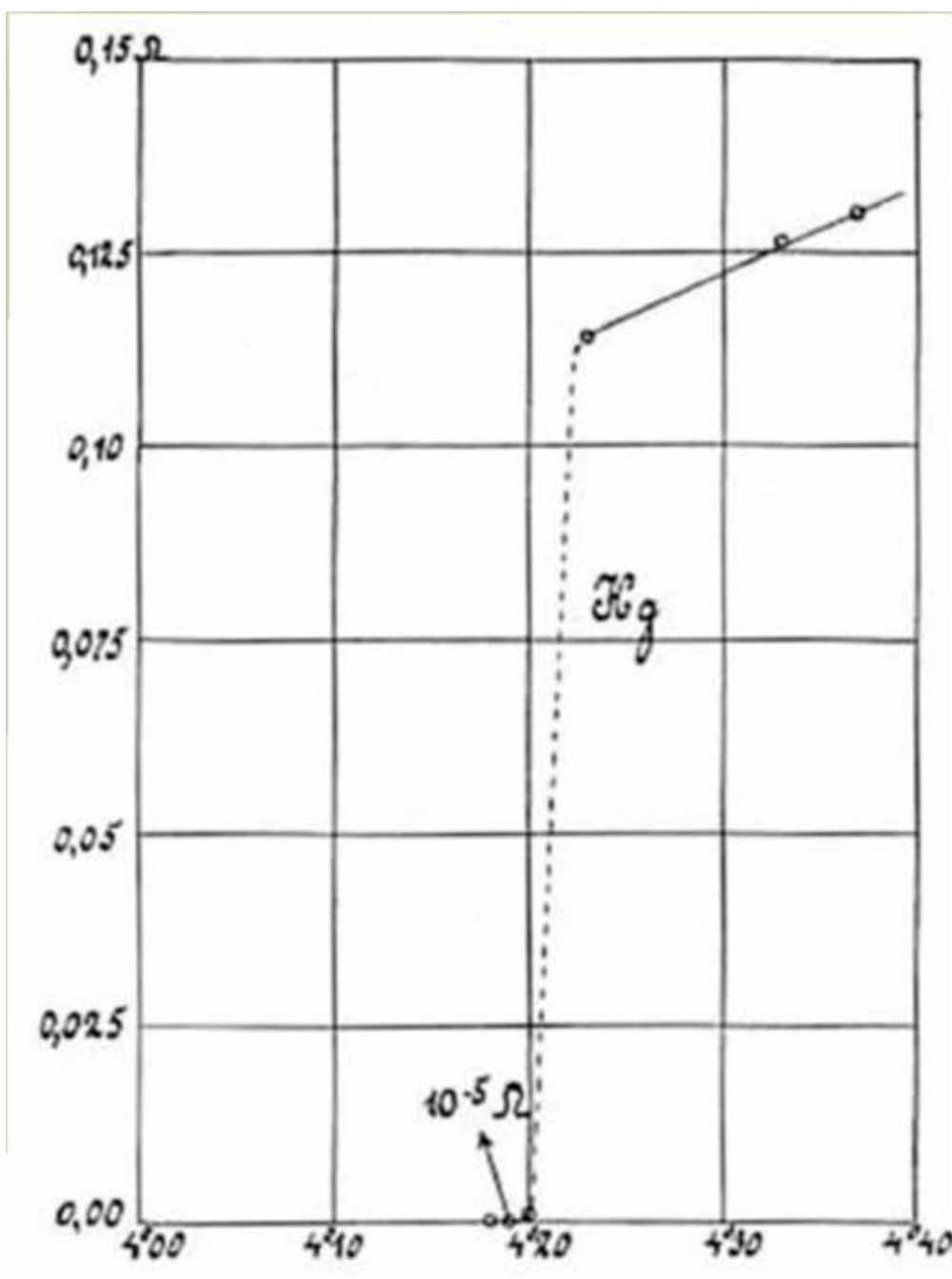


Figure 1: Original plot of Hg transition temperature to SC phase¹

SC: Supercon-
ductivity Nb:
Niobium

Technological Interest

Backmatter



stefanbringuier@gmail.com



Note

This presentation can be viewed online at <https://stefanbringuier.github.io/BayesianOptNotes>.

To export `revealjs` presentations to pdf, press ‘e’ then ‘ctrl-p’ ‘save as pdf’

Tip

A report formatted PDF of this presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

References

1. Delft, D. van & Kes, P. [The discovery of superconductivity](#). *Physics Today* **63**, 38–43 (2010).
2. Speller, S. *A materials science guide to superconductors and how to make them super*. (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Outline

- Slide 4: Importance of Superconducting Materials
- Slide 5: Brief History of Superconductivity
- Applications: Magnetism and Wires
 - MRI Machines
 - Maglev Trains
 - Energy Grids

- Superconducting Coils
 - Limitations in Applications
- Basics of Superconductivity (Theory)
 - Cooper Pairs
 - Meissner Effect
 - BCS Theory Overview
 - Zero Electrical Resistance
 - Critical Temperature
- Thermodynamics and Phases
 - Type I and Type II Superconductors
 - Critical Fields
 - Diamagnetic Response
 - Phase Diagrams
 - Energy Gaps
- Flux Pinning and Levitation
 - Vortex Lattices
 - Flux Tubes
 - Levitation Applications
 - Pinning Centers
 - YBaCuO Examples
- Niobium-Titanium (NbTi) Alloys
 - Composition and Structure
 - Magnetic Properties
 - Mechanical Properties
 - Applications
 - Processing Challenges
- Quantum Effects
 - Quantum Tunneling
 - Josephson Junctions
 - Macroscopic Quantum Phenomena
 - SQUIDs
 - Quantum Computing Applications
- Microstructure and Grain Boundaries
 - Grain Boundary Impact on Properties
 - Microstructure Analysis
 - Sintering Methods

- Weak Links
 - Influence on Flux Pinning
- Mechanical Properties
 - Tensile Strength
 - Brittleness
 - Fatigue
 - Thermal Expansion
 - Composite Superconductors
- High-Temperature Superconductors (HTSC)
 - YBaCuO and Other Cuprates
 - Iron-based Superconductors
 - Challenges and Advantages
 - Applications
 - Current Research Trends
- Recent Trends and Future Directions
 - MgB₂ Developments
 - Supposedly Room-Temperature Superconductors
 - Topological Superconductors
 - Commercialization Challenges
 - Research Funding and Outlook
- Conclusion and Summary
 - Summary of Key Points