

General theory of quantum phase transitions applied to transport phenomena

- 1. Metal - insulator transitions, 3D and 2D**
- 2. Superconductor - insulator transitions**

The partition function $Z = \sum_i e^{-\varepsilon_i/T}$ determines probability p_i for state ε_i to exist

$$p_i = \frac{e^{-\varepsilon_i/T}}{Z}$$

and probability P_i for the system to be in the point q of the configurational space

$$P_i(q) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_i \varphi_i^*(q) \varphi_i(q) e^{-\varepsilon_i/T}.$$

Since $\int P(q) dq = 1$, the partition function is

$$Z = \sum_i \int \varphi_i^*(q) \varphi_i(q) e^{-\varepsilon_i/T} dq$$

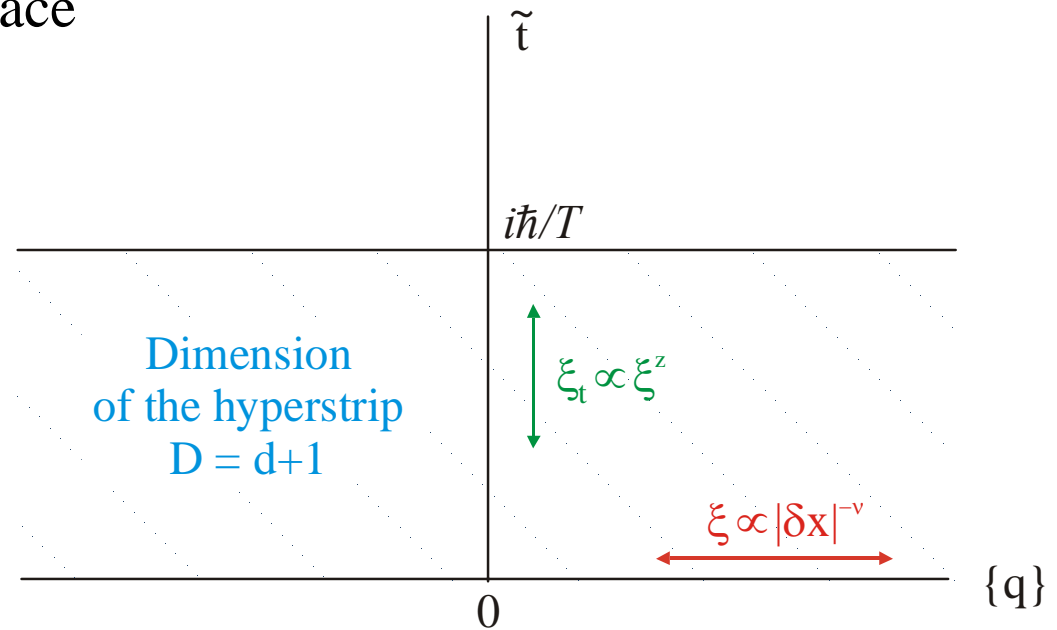
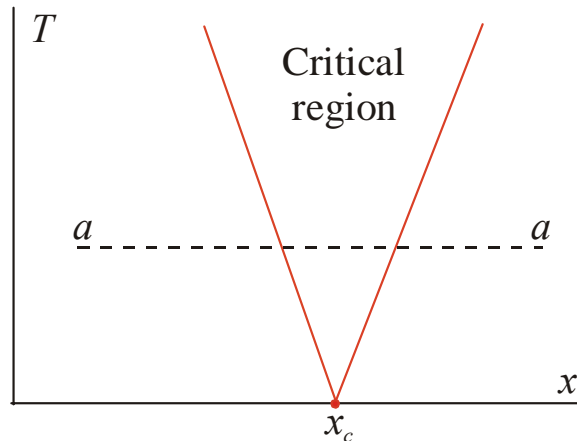
$$\tilde{t} = i \frac{\eta}{T}$$

Compare with time-evolution operator $\hat{S} = \exp(-\frac{i}{\eta} \hat{H}t)$ in quantum mechanics

and its diagonal matrix elements $\int \varphi_i^*(q) \varphi_i(q) e^{-i\varepsilon_i t/\eta} dq$

The mapping

of the quantum phase transition in d -space
to the classical phase transition in
 $D = d + 1$ – dimensional strip



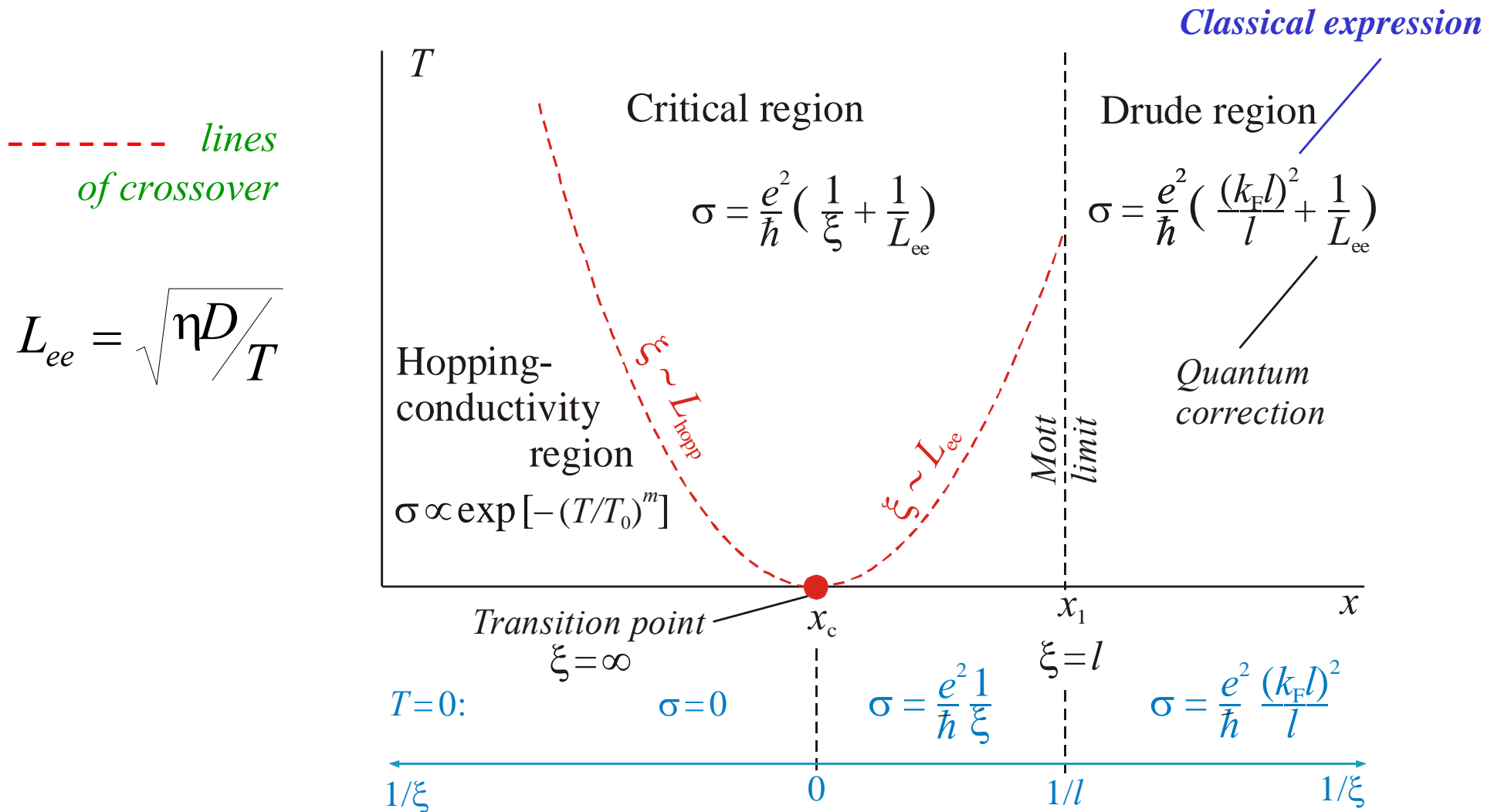
Two lengths: ξ and $L_\phi \propto \xi_t^{1/z} \propto (\eta/T)^{1/z}$

Scaling expression for conductance

$$\sigma \propto \xi^{2-d} f\left(\frac{L_\phi}{\xi}\right) \text{ contains}$$

two scaling variables : ξ and $u = L_\phi/\xi$

(x, T) – diagram, which follows from **AALR-1979**



The descriptoin includes **two** lenghts: ξ and L_{ee} ,
 both diverge in the transition point

Function $\sigma(T)$ in the critical region

In metal region at $T \neq 0$ $\sigma = \sigma_{03} + \frac{e^2}{\eta} \frac{1}{L_T}$ $L_T = \sqrt{\frac{D\eta}{T}},$

In the vicinity of the transition at $T = 0$ $\sigma = \frac{e^2}{\eta} \frac{1}{\xi}$

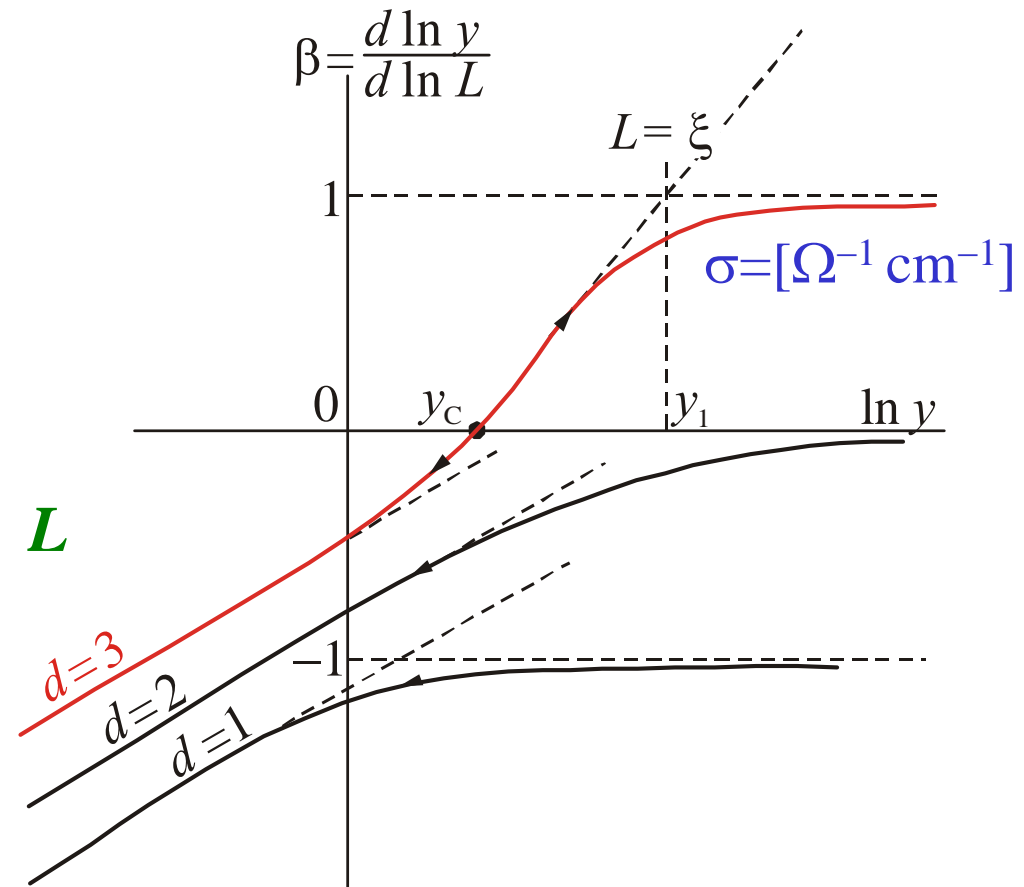
Interpolation $\sigma = \frac{e^2}{\eta} \left(\frac{1}{\xi} + \frac{1}{L_T} \right)$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sigma = \frac{e^2}{\eta} \left(\frac{1}{\xi} + \frac{1}{L_T} \right) \\ \sigma = e^2 g_F D \end{array} \right. \xrightarrow[\xi \rightarrow \infty]{} \sigma = \frac{e^2}{\eta} \left(\frac{1}{\xi} + (Tg_F)^{1/3} \right)$$

The Einstein relation

*E. Abrahams, P.W. Anderson,
D.C. Licciardello, and
T.W. Ramakrishnan,
Phys.Rev.Lett. 42, 673 (1979)
(AALR-1979)*

$y(L)$ is conductance of a cube of size L



With $d=3$,

1. at y_c the metal-insulator transition takes place;
2. the value of the three-dimensional conductivity of a rather large sample may be infinitesimal;
3. the metal--insulator transition is continuous.

Metal - insulator transition

Theoretical scheme

AALR

QPT

Driving factor

Disorder

Interaction

Features in common

Two lengths, ξ and L_φ , in the vicinity of the transition
Similar shape of the critical region

Scaling
expression

3D

$$\sigma \propto \frac{1}{\xi} + \frac{1}{L_\varphi}$$

$$\sigma \propto \frac{1}{\xi} f\left(\frac{L_\varphi}{\xi}\right) \quad f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x}$$

2D noninteracting electrons

Larkin and
Khmelnitskii,
1982

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sigma &= \sigma_{02} - \frac{e^2}{\eta} \ln \frac{L_T}{l} \\ \sigma_{02} &= \frac{ne^2 l}{\eta k_F} \approx \frac{e^2}{\eta} (k_F l) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Estimate of crossover temperature:

$$\sigma \sim 0$$

$$k_F l = \ln \frac{L_T}{l} \quad L_T \equiv \xi = l \exp(k_F l)$$

Inserting

$$L_T = \sqrt{D\eta/T}$$

we get

$$T_\xi = D\eta/\xi^2$$

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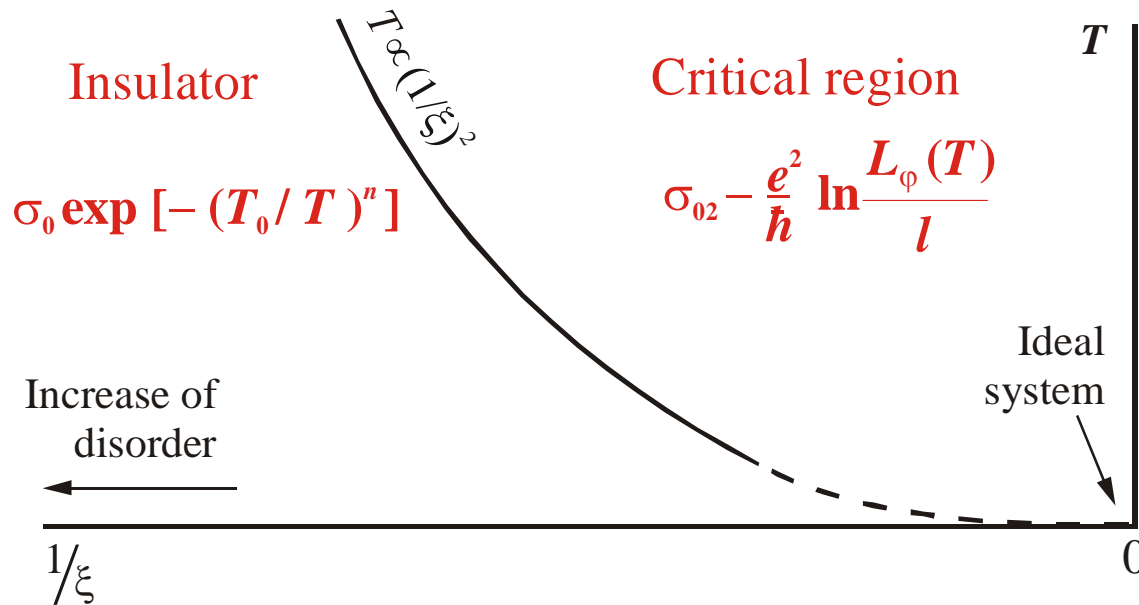
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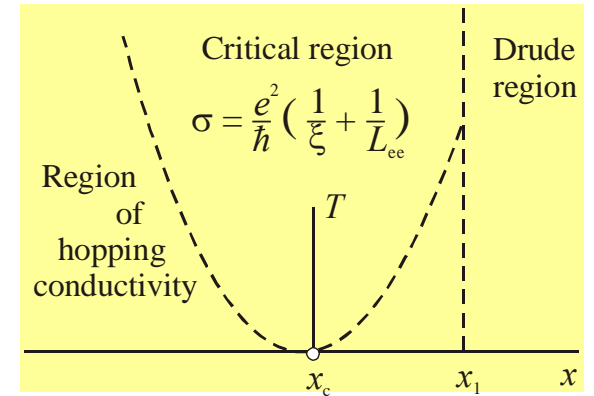
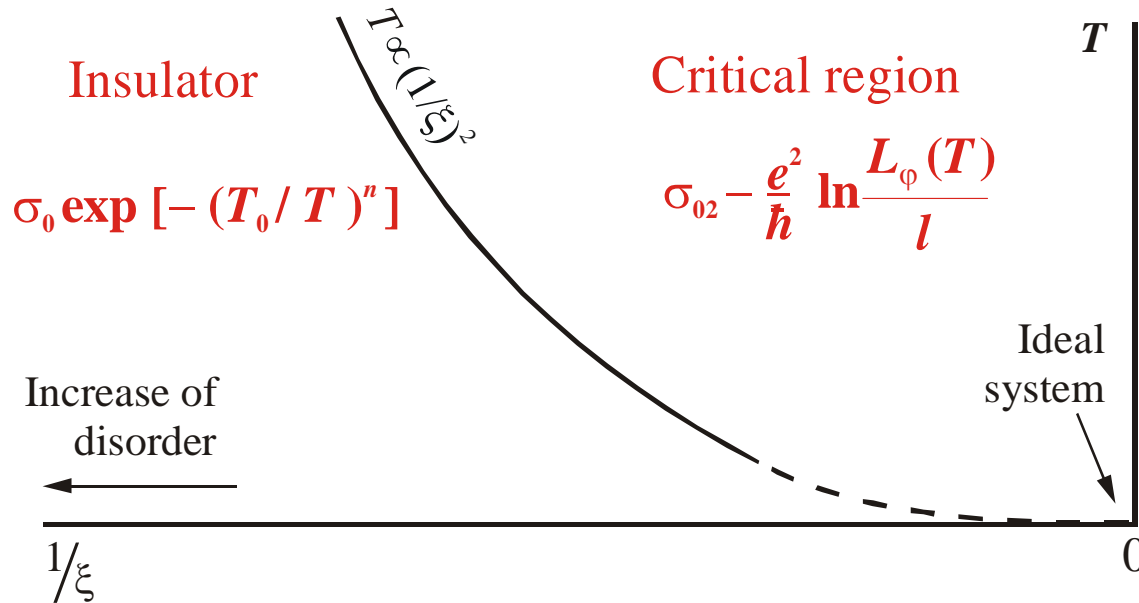
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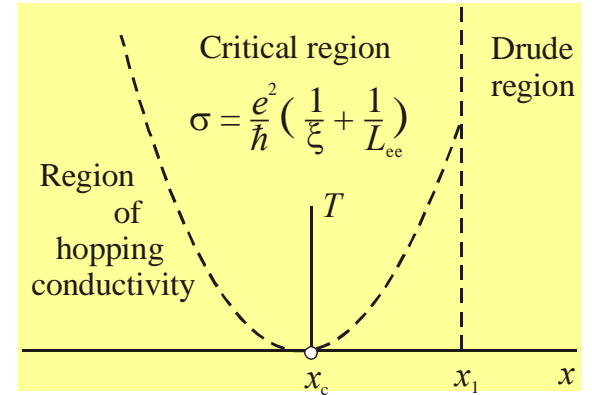
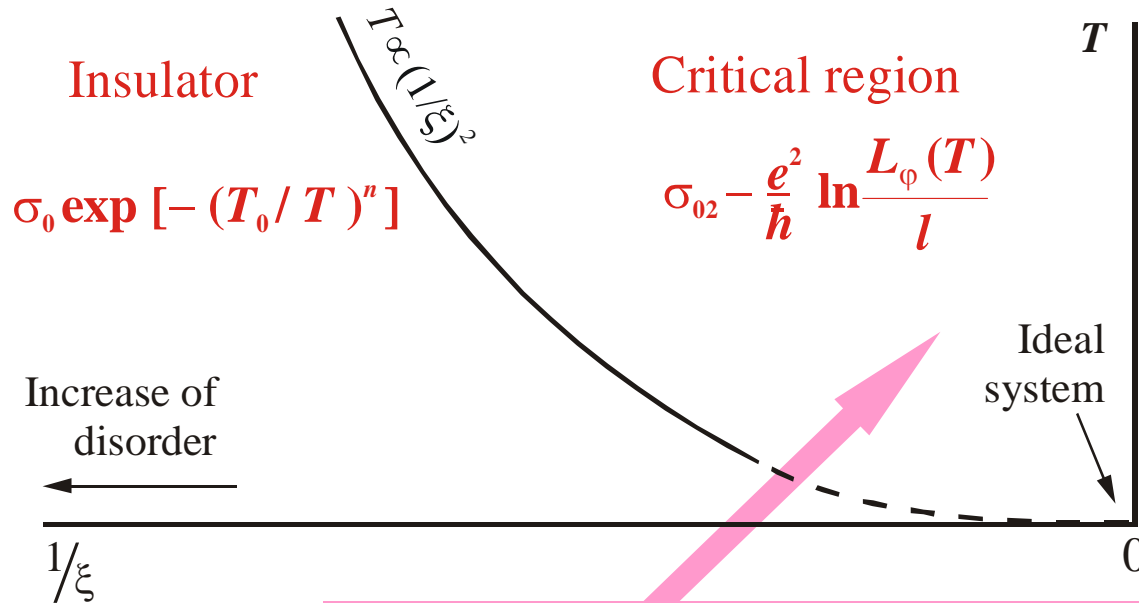
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$$k_F l - \ln \frac{L_T}{l} = k_F l - \ln \frac{L_T}{\xi \exp(-k_F l)} = \ln \frac{L_T}{\xi}$$

2D interacting electrons

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$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sigma &= \sigma_{02} - \frac{e^2}{\eta} \ln \frac{L_T}{l} \\ \sigma_{02} &= \frac{ne^2 l}{\eta k_F} \approx \frac{e^2}{\eta} (k_F l) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

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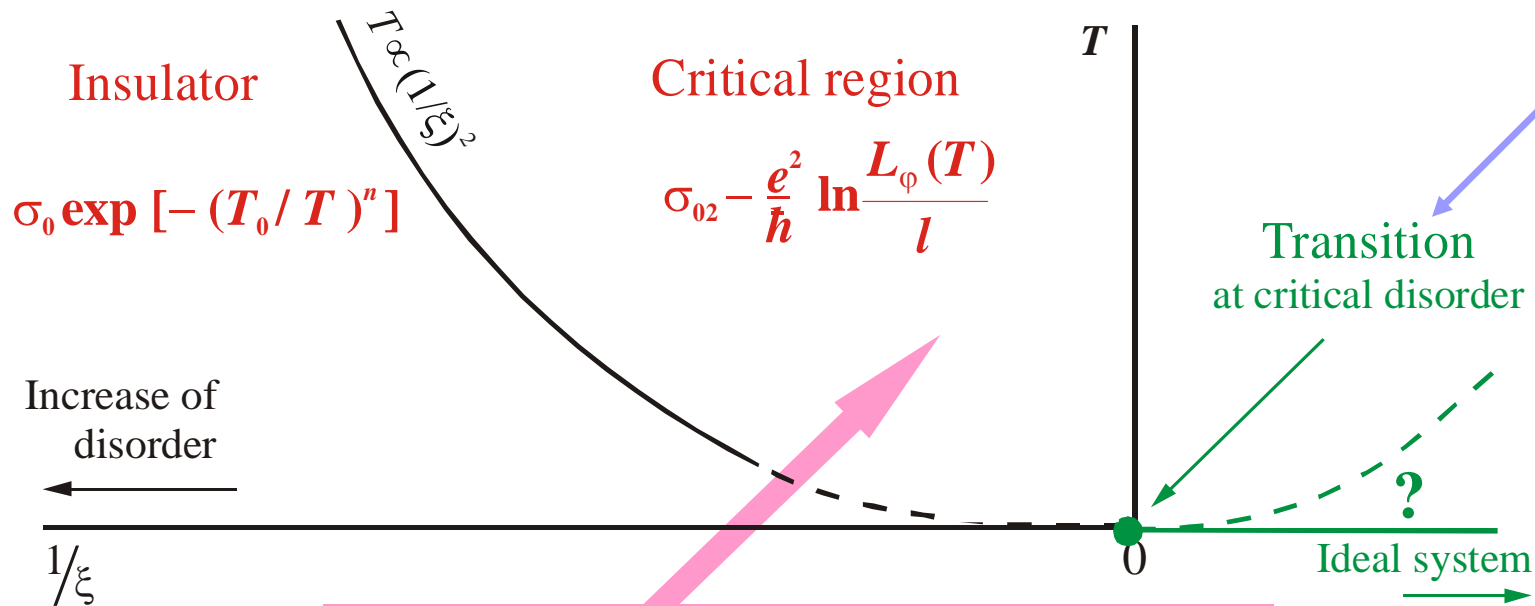
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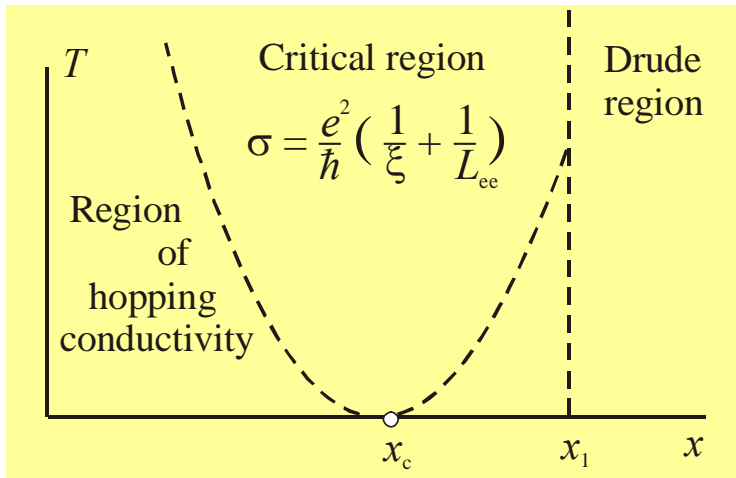
$$T_\xi = D\eta/\xi^2$$



A. Punnoose, A. Finkelstein, Science, 310, 289 (2005)

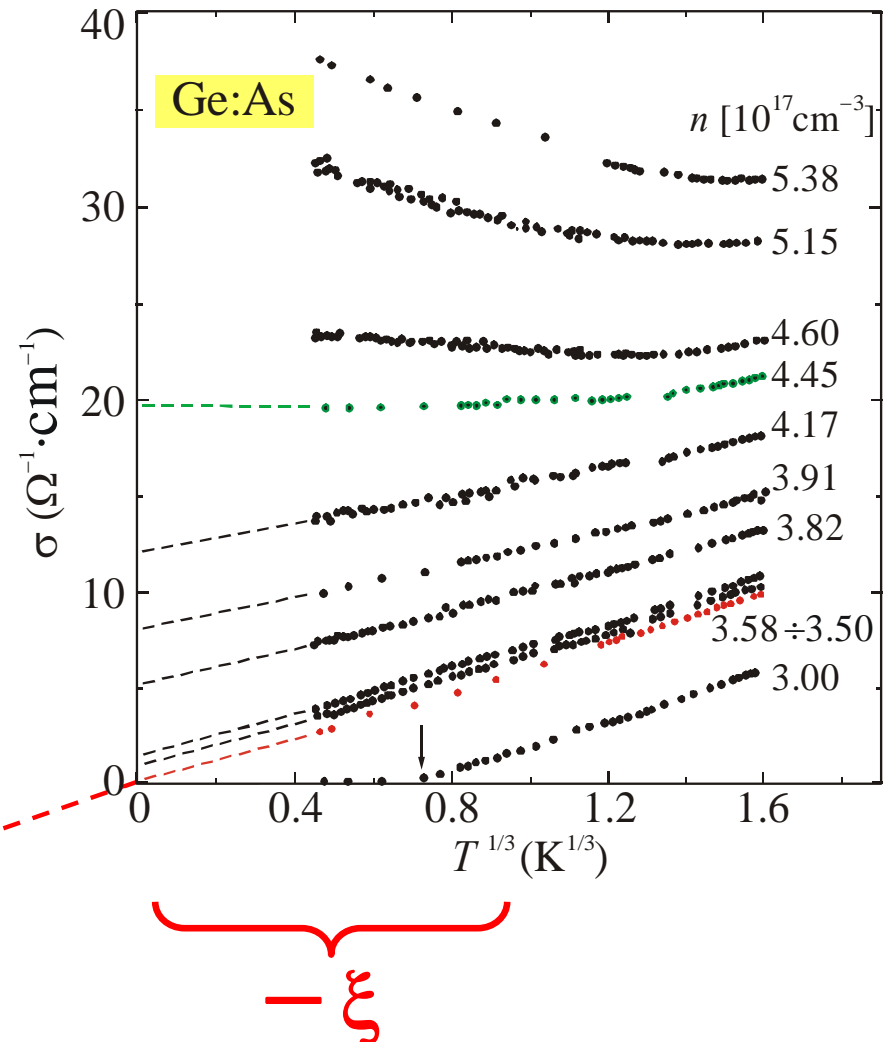
$$k_F l - \ln \frac{L_T}{l} = k_F l - \ln \frac{L_T}{\xi \exp(-k_F l)} = \ln \frac{L_T}{\xi}$$

*I. Shlimak, M. Kaveh, R. Ussyshkin, et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 77, 1103 (1996);
J.Phys.:Cond.Matt. 9, 9873 (1997)*



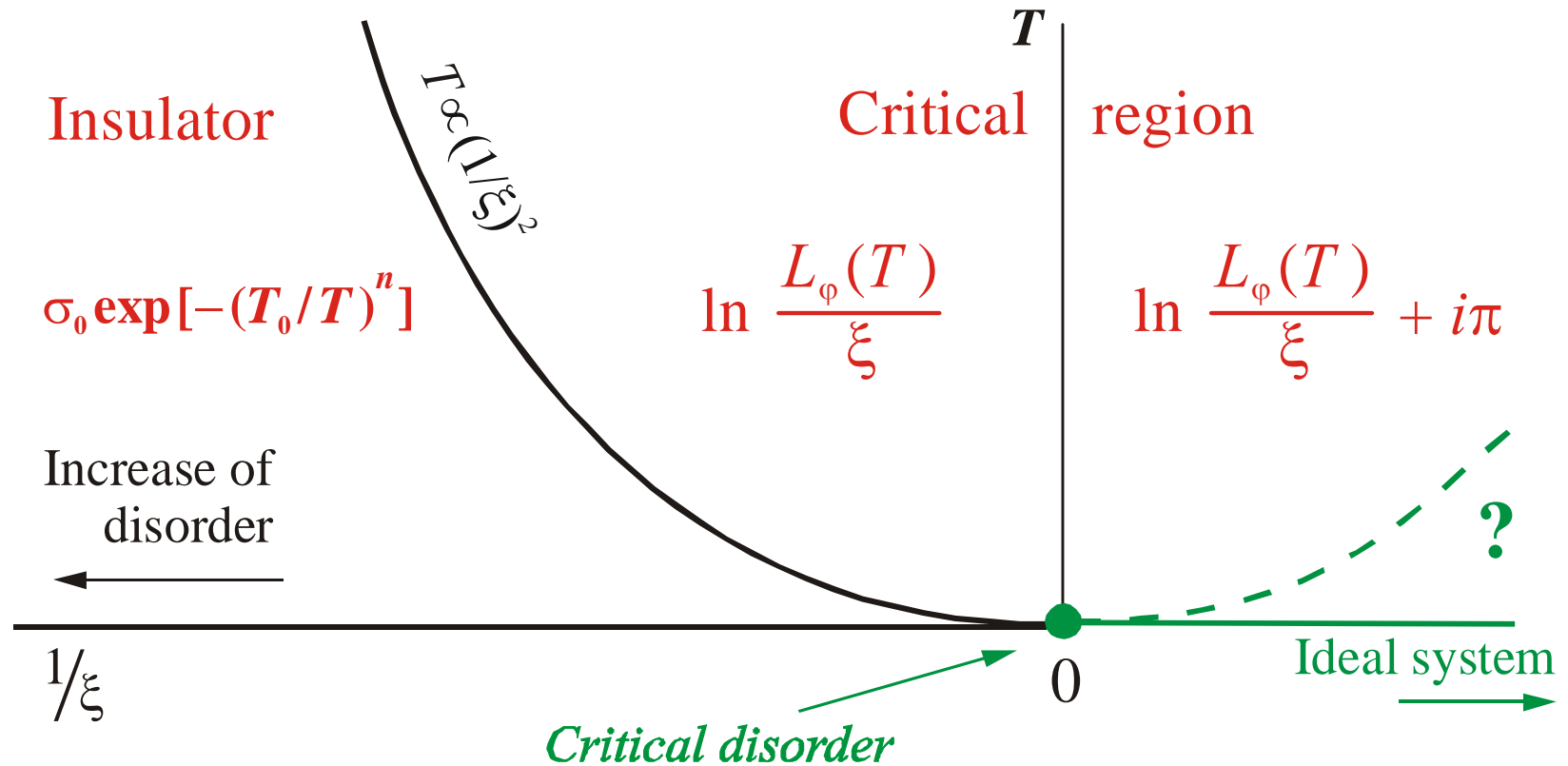
Critical region

$$\sigma = \frac{e^2}{\eta} \left(\pm \frac{1}{\xi} + (g_F T)^{1/3} \right)$$



Transition

2D interacting electrons (hypothetical phase diagram)



*H. Fröhlich,
Proc. R. Soc.
221, 296 (1954)*

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$$\sigma \propto \frac{1}{\xi} f\left(\frac{L_\varphi}{\xi}\right) \quad f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x}$$

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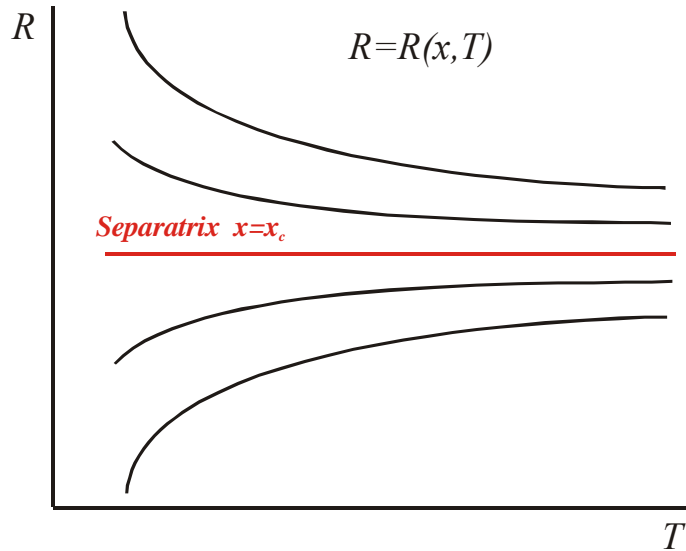
$$\sigma \propto \frac{1}{\xi} f\left(\frac{L_\phi}{\xi}\right) \quad f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x}$$

Scaling
expression
2D

—

$$\sigma \propto \ln\left(\frac{L_\phi}{\xi}\right)$$

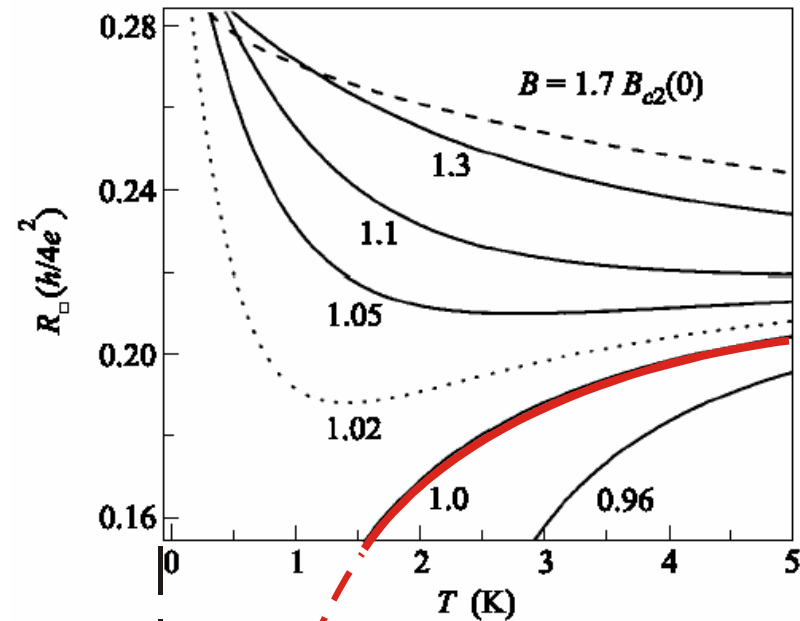
2D superconductor-insulator transition (theoretical aspect)



Scaling variable in **2D** is

$$\frac{L_\phi}{\xi} \rightarrow \frac{\Delta x}{T^{1/z\nu}} \equiv u \quad \text{and} \quad R = R_c f(u)$$

Along the separatrix $u = \text{const} = 0$ and
 $R = R_c f(0) = R_c$



Rigid calculations of the superconducting fluctuations

at $T \ll T_{c0}$ in magnetic field

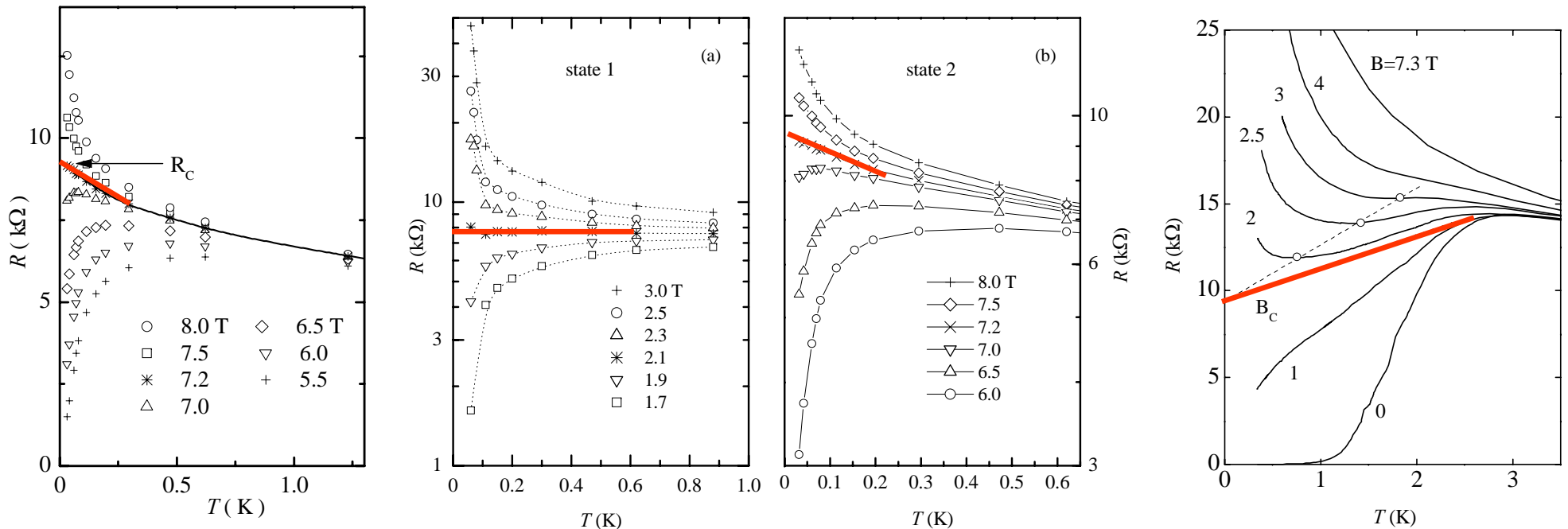
Separatrix
 $B=B_{c2}(0)$

V.M. Galitski and A.I. Larkin, Phys.Rev. B 63, 174506 (2001)

S.L.Sondhi, S.M.Girvin, J.P.Carini, D.Shahar, Rev. Mod. Phys. 69, 315 (1997)

2D superconductor-insulator transition (experimental aspect)

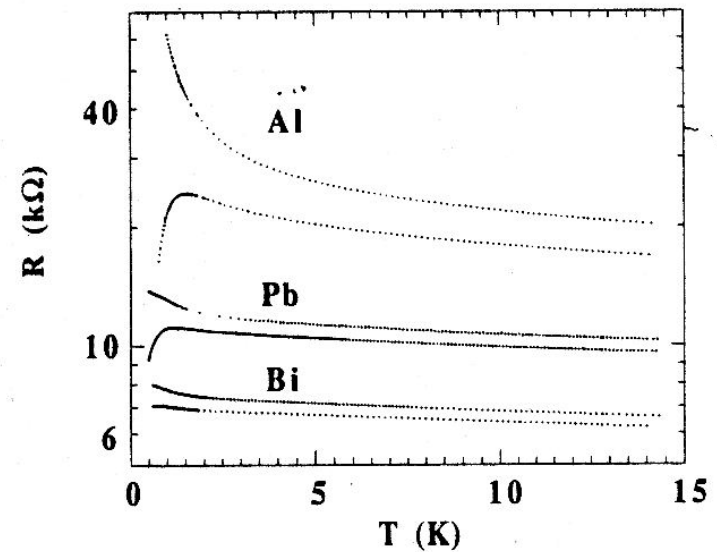
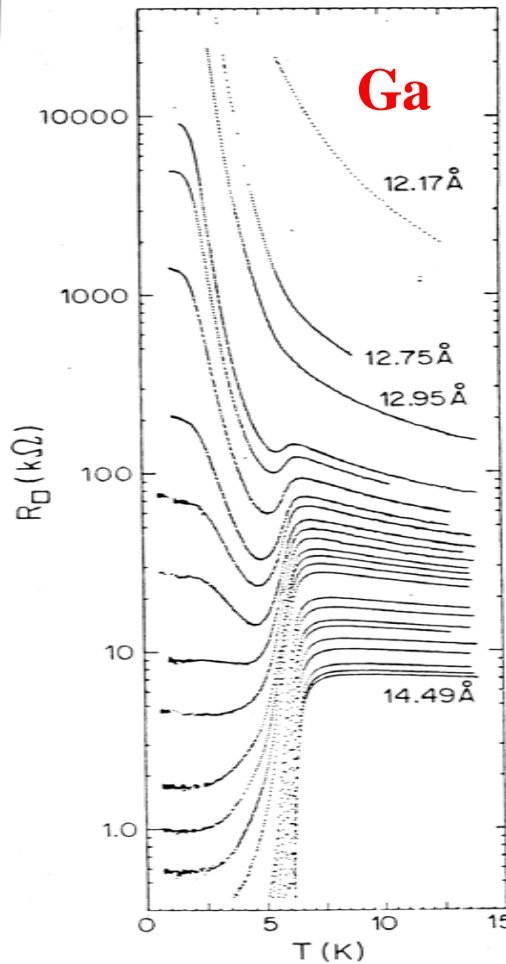
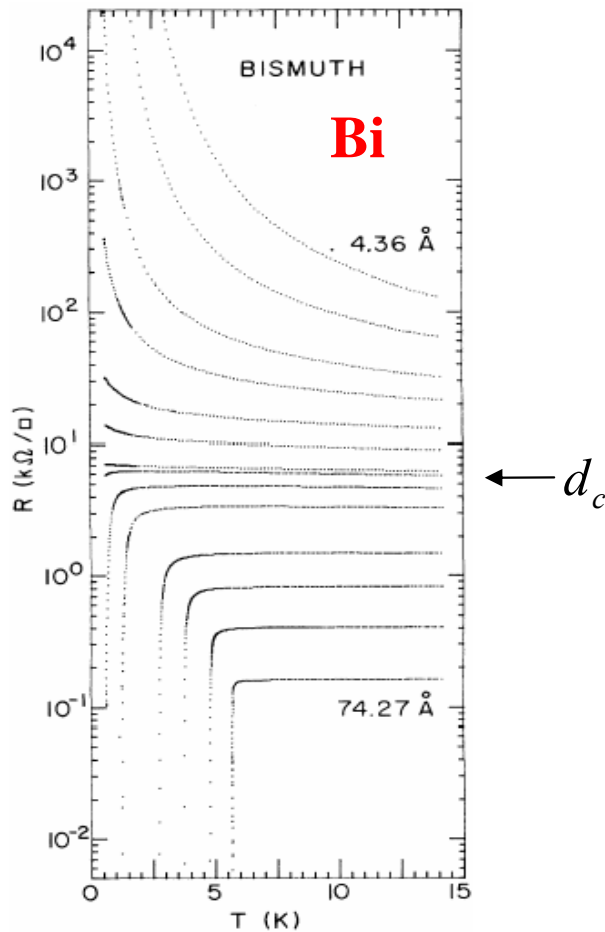
Superconductor-insulator transition in In-O



The separatrix may have non-zero slope

Superconductor-insulator transition in ultrathin films

$d < d_c$: Insulator



$d > d_c$: Superconductor

D.B.Haviland, A.M.Goldman, et al.

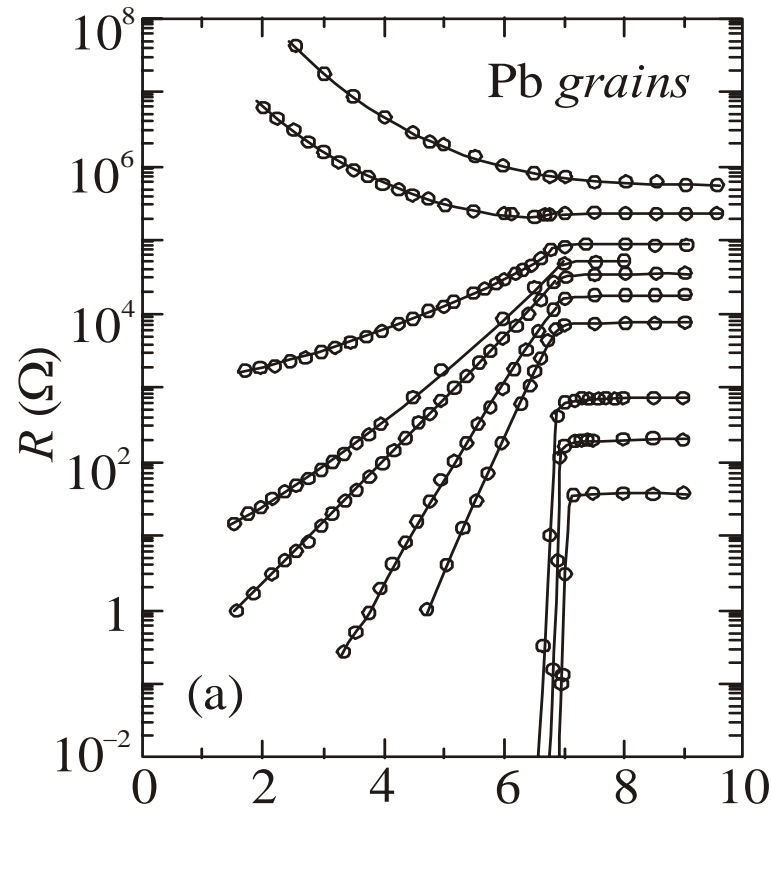
PRL, 1989

PRL, 1986

PRB, 1993

2D superconductor-insulator transition (experimental aspect)

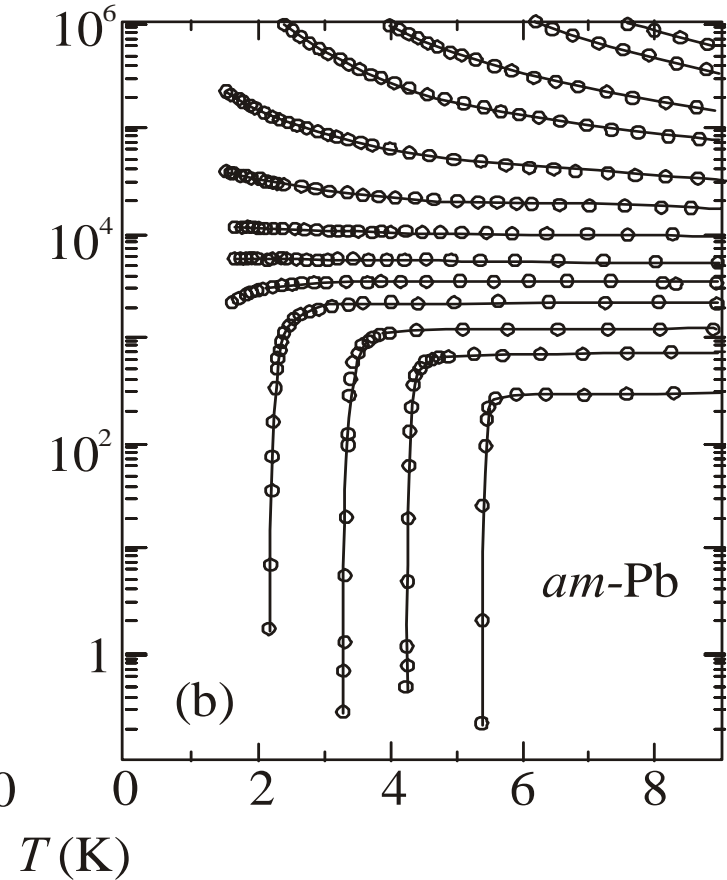
A. Frydman,
Physica C
391, 189 (2003)



Granular system

$$\delta\varepsilon = (g_F a^3)^{-1} < \Delta_{sc}$$

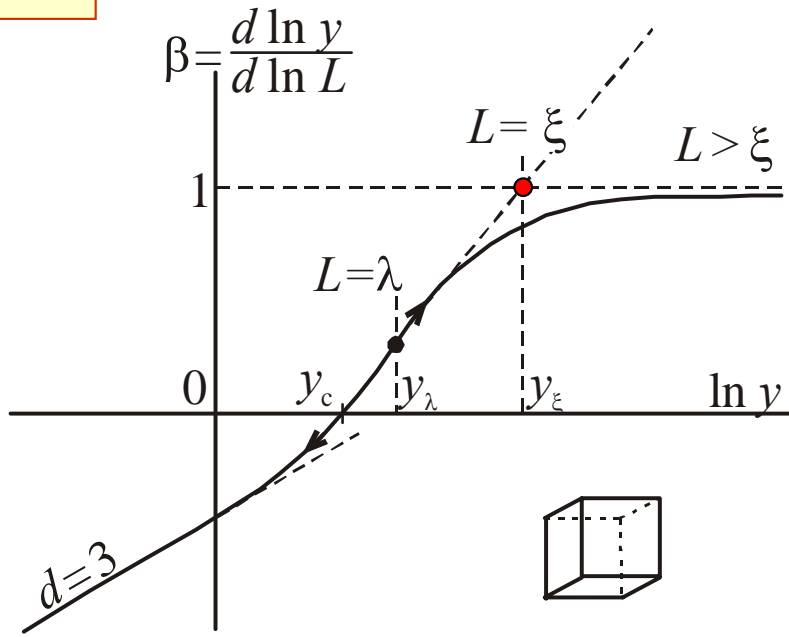
Level spacing



Homogeneously disordered system

$$\delta\varepsilon = (g_F a^3)^{-1} > \Delta_{sc}$$

$d = 3$



Equation of the straight line

$$\frac{d \ln y}{d \ln L} = s \ln \frac{y}{y_c}$$

$u = \ln y, \quad x = \ln L$

$$\frac{du}{dx} = s(u - u_c)$$

$$u - u_c = Ue^{sx}$$

Solution

$$\ln \frac{y}{y_c} = \left(\frac{L}{\lambda} \right)^s \ln \frac{y_\lambda}{y_c}$$

In the point • $\beta=1$ and $\ln y_\xi / y_c = 1/s$.

Hence

$$\ln y_\xi = \ln y_c + \frac{1}{s} = \text{const} \quad \longrightarrow \quad y_\xi = A \quad \longrightarrow \quad Y_\xi = A \frac{e^2}{\eta} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \sigma = \left(A \frac{e^2}{\eta} \right) \frac{1}{\xi}$$

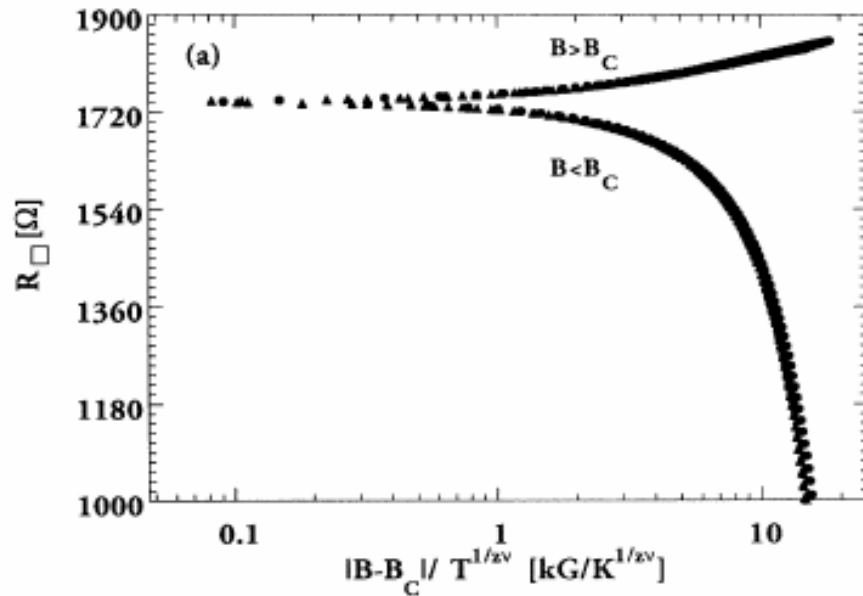
Quantity ξ may be written with the help of λ

$$\xi \approx \lambda \left(s \ln \frac{y_\lambda}{y_c} \right)^{-1/s}, \quad \text{i.e. } \left(\begin{array}{l} \xi \rightarrow \infty \\ \text{as } y_\lambda \rightarrow y_c \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow$$

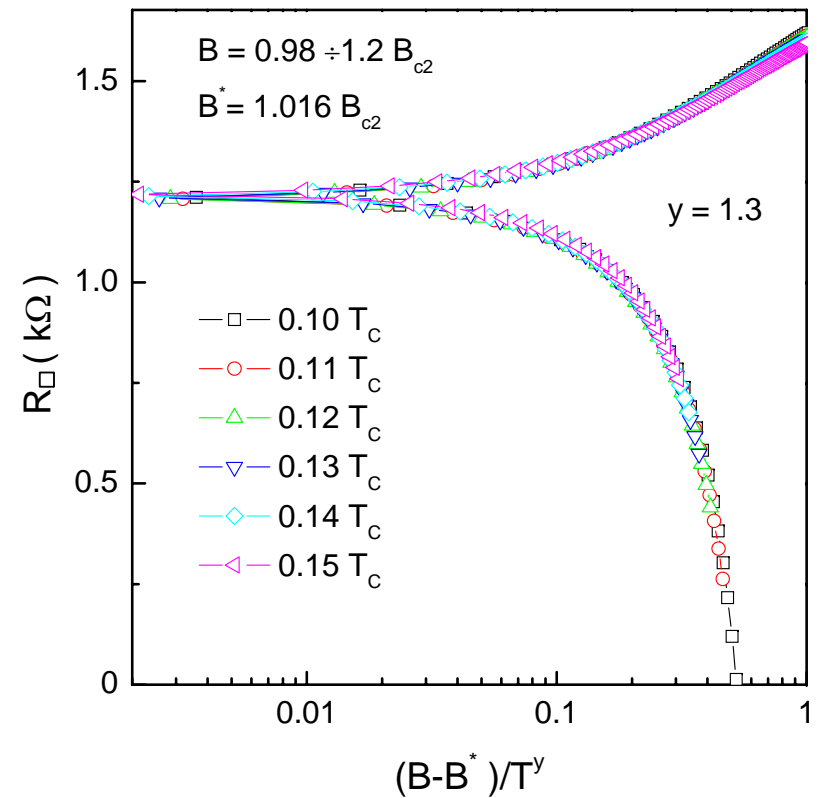
Conductance σ may be infinitesimally small

Scaling

A. Yazdani and A. Kapitulnik (1995)



$T_C = 0.15 \text{ K}$ $B_C = 4.19 \text{ kG}$
 $T = 0.08 \div 0.11 \text{ K}$ $B - B_C < 1 \text{ kG}$
 $z\nu = 1.36$



Theoretical expression does not contain scaling properties, but in restricted temperature interval scaling presentation looks credible