Presented by
Shivkumar P. Bias
Asst. Prof.
Department of Physics

• Dr. H.N.Sinha College Patur



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### The Three Hallmarks of Superconductivity





## Zero Resistance





Temperature Kelvin The Kamerlingh Onnes resistance measurement of mercury. At 4.15K the resistance suddenly dropped to zero



# Perfect Diamagnetism

Magnetic Fields and Superconductors are not generally compatible





#### What are the Limits of Superconductivity?





## BCS Theory of Superconductivity

Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS)



Cooper Pair

s-wave ( $\ell = 0$ ) pairing

Spin singlet pair



Second electron is attracted to the concentration of positive charges left behind by the first electron

First electron polarizes the lattice

 $T_c \cong \Omega_{Debye} e^{-1/NV}$ 

 $\Omega_{Debye}$  is the characteristic phonon (lattice vibration) frequency N is the electronic density of states at the Fermi Energy V is the attractive electron-electron interaction

A many-electron quantum wavefunction  $\Psi$  made up of Cooper pairs is constructed with these properties:

An energy  $2\Delta(T)$  is required to break a Cooper pair into two quasiparticles (roughly speaking)

Cooper pair size:  $\xi = v_F \cdot \frac{\hbar}{\Delta}$ 



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#### Where do we find Superconductors?



Also:

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Nb-Ti, Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn, A<sub>3</sub>C<sub>60</sub>, NbN, MgB<sub>2</sub>, Organic Salts  $((TMTSF)_2X, (BEDT-TTF)_2X)$ , Oxides (Cu-O, Bi-O, Ru-O,...), Heavy Fermion (UPt<sub>3</sub>, CeCu<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>,...), Electric Field-Effect Superconductivity (C<sub>60</sub>, [CaCu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4</sub>, plastic), ...

Most of these materials, and their compounds, display spin-singlet pairing



#### The High-T<sub>c</sub> Cuprate Superconductors

Layered structure – quasi-two-dimensional Anisotropic physical properties Ceramic materials (brittle, poor ductility, etc.) Oxygen content is critical for superconductivity

Spin singlet pairing d-wave ( $\ell = 2$ ) pairing







YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7-δ</sub>

Tl<sub>2</sub>Ba<sub>2</sub>CaCu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

Two of the most widely-used HTS materials in applications

