# Exciton Mechanism of Superconductivity

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My background:

#### Excitons in confined structures





My PhD supervisor Prof. E.L. Ivchenko

E.L.Ivchenko, A.V.Kavokin, Light Reflection from Quantum Well, Quantum Wire and Quantum Dot Structures, *Sov.Phys.Solid State* **34**, 1815-1822, (1992)

#### Since 1992 I worked in semiconductor optics...



#### High power lasers and low power lasers



I have chosen low power lasers... And this brought me to superconductivity!

## Syllabus of the course

- Bardeen-Cooper-Schriefer model
- Critical temperature for conventional superconductivity: ways to make it higher
- Band structure of semiconductors
- Wannier-Mott and Frenkel excitons
- Can excitons replace phonons in the BCS model?
- Retardation effect, problem of Coulomb repulsion
- Research on the Bose-Einstein condensation of excitons
- Exciton-polaritons in microcavities
- Hybrid metal-semiconductor structures
- Superconductivity mediated by a Bose-Einstein condensate of excitons
- Exciton-electron interaction potential
- Bardeen-Pines model
- Electron-electron attraction and repulsion
- Gap equation
- Bogolyubov approach to the solution of gap equation
- Predictions of critical temperature
- Strong coupling regime: quatrons
- Perspectives for experimental observation of the exciton-mediated superconductivity

# Part 1 (overview of conventional superconductivity) 1911: discovery of superconductivity



- Discovered by Kamerlingh Onnes in 1911 during first low temperature measurements to liquefy helium
- Whilst measuring the resistivity of "pure" Hg he noticed that the electrical resistance dropped to zero at 4.2K
- In 1912 he found that the resistive state is restored in a magnetic field or at high transport currents

#### Zero resistance



# 1933: Meissner-Ochsenfeld effect



• The Meissner-Ochsenfeld effect (1933)

Magnetic field does not penetrate the sample.

Ideal conductor! Ideal diamagnetic!







# The superconducting elements

Li	<b>Be</b> 0.026	Transition temperatures (K)						В	С	Ν	0	F	Ne		
Na	Mg	Critical magnetic fields at absolute zero (m i )					<b>AI</b> 1.14 10	Si	Ρ	S	CI	Ar			
K	Са	Sc	Ti V Cr		(iron	) K	Ni	Cu	<b>Zn</b> 0.875 5.3	<b>Ga</b> 1.091 5.1	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	(Niobium)	(at 20GPa)			Pd	Ag	<b>Cd</b> 0.56 3	<b>In</b> 3.4 29.3	<b>Sn</b> 3.72 30	Sb	Те	I	Хе
Cs	Ва	<b>La</b> 6.0 110	I <sub>c</sub> =9K H <sub>c</sub> =0.2T ₽	<b>Re</b> 1.4 20	<b>Os</b> 0.655 16.5	<b>lr</b> 0.14 1.9	Pt	Au	<b>Hg</b> 4.153 41	<b>TI</b> 2.39 17	<b>Pb</b> 7.19 80	Bi	Ро	At	Rn

Transition temperatures (K) and critical fields are generally low

Metals with the highest conductivities are not superconductors

The magnetic 3d elements are not superconducting

... or so we thought until 2001

# Superconductivity in alloys



# 1935: Brothers London theory $\partial (\Lambda f)/\partial t = E$ .





H  
H=0  

$$H = H_0 \exp(-x/\delta),$$
  
 $j_y = (cH_0/4\pi\delta) \exp(-x/\delta).$ 

# 1937: Superfluidity of liquid He<sub>4</sub>





Рис. 5.3. Зависимость теплоемкости жидкого гелия (кал/г·К) от температуры.

Представлены результаты, полученные Кеезомом и Клузиусом; квалратнки — теплоемкость при постоянном объеме, кружки — теплоемкость при постоянном двале нии насшенных паров гелия. Крестиками отмечены результаты ранних намерений теплоемкости при давлении насыщенных паров гелия, выполненных Даном и Камерлинг-Опнесом [Соттин. Phys. Lab. Units. Leiden, № 219е (1932), стр. 51, рис. 3].







Рис. 5.6. Схема опыта Капицы по измерению вязкости жидкого гелия [Доклады АН СССР, 1938, т. XVIII, № 1, с. 22].



# Landau theory of 2<sup>nd</sup> order phase transitions





1950: Ginzburg-Landau Phenomenology Ψ-Theory of Superconductivity Order parameter? Hint: wave function of Bose condensate

(complex!) Inserting  $|\Psi_0|^2$  and using the energy conservation law

2003

 $\mathcal{G}_s - \mathcal{G}_n = \frac{(\alpha \tau)^2}{2b} = \frac{H_c^2}{8\pi}.$ 

How one can describe an inhomogeneous state?

One could think about adding  $|\nabla \Psi|^2$  . However, electrons are charged, and one has to add a gauge-invariant combination

$$\left|-i\hbar \nabla + rac{2e}{c}\vec{A}
ight|^2$$
 where  $\vec{H} = \operatorname{curl}\,\vec{A}$ 

## Thus the Gibbs free energy acquires the form

$$\delta \mathcal{G} = \int dV \left\{ \alpha \tau |\Psi|^2 + \frac{b}{2} |\Psi|^4 + \frac{1}{4m} \left| \left( -i\hbar \nabla + \frac{2e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) \Psi \right|^2 + \frac{H^2}{8\pi} \right\}$$

Ginzburg-Landau functional

To find distributions of the order parameter  $\Psi$  and vector-potential A one has to minimize this functional with respect to these quantities, i. e. calculate variational derivatives and equate them to 0. Minimizing with respect to  $\Psi^*$ 

$$(1/4m)\left[-i\hbar\nabla + (2e/c)\mathbf{A}\right]^{2}\Psi + \alpha\tau\Psi + b|\Psi|^{2}\Psi = 0$$

Minimizing with respect to A:

curl curl A = curl H = 
$$\frac{4\pi}{c}$$
 j Maxwell equation  
 $\mathbf{j} = (ie\hbar/2m)(\Psi^*\nabla\Psi - \Psi\nabla\Psi^*) - (2e^2/mc)|\Psi|^2\mathbf{A}$ 

The expression for the current indicates that the order parameter has a physical meaning of the wave function of the superconducting condensate.

# 1957: BCS- Microscopic theory of superconductivity







1972

$$\langle V_{\rm ph} + V_{\rm coul} \rangle < 0$$
,

 $T_{c} = (2\hbar\omega_{D}\gamma/\pi) \exp\left[-\frac{2}{(g\nu)}\right].$ 

# 1950:Electron phonon attraction







# Cooper pairing in metals

# Frölich Hamiltonian

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{q},\alpha} M(\mathbf{q}) \sigma_{\mathbf{k},\alpha}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q},\alpha} (b_{-\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} + b_{\mathbf{q}})$$



# BCS model:

retarded interaction

$$\vec{k} - \vec{q} \qquad \vec{k'} + \vec{q}$$

$$\vec{q} \qquad \vec{k'}$$

# Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS): Critical temperature:



Alı

Ca

Ch

Co

Go

Iro

Le

Ma

Nic



#### Debye temperatures:

uminium 428 K	Platinum 240 K
dmium 209 K	Silicon 645 K
romium 630 K	Silver 225 K
pper 343.5 K	Tantalum 240 K
ld 165 K	Tin (white) 200 K
n 470 K	Titanium 420 K
ad 105 K	Tungsten 400 K
inganese 410 K	Zinc 327 K
ckel 450 K	Carbon 2230 K
	Ice 192 K



# $\lambda << 1$

in conventional superconductors,

which is why the critical temperature is very low!



# Part 2 Semiconductors

 $\Psi_{\text{bonding}} = (\psi_1 + \psi_2) / \sqrt{2}$ (a) (b) (C) What happens with electrons if we put atoms close to each other? (d)

## Nearly free electrons: crystal bands. Tight binding model: crystal bands



#### Band structure: metals, semiconductors, dielectrics



What happens if we heat them?

# Quasiparticles in crystals



## 5. Semiconductors





#### because their bandgaps may be within the visible light spectrum !

## A transistor



All modern electronics is based on semiconductor devices!



#### Part 3 Excitons in semiconductors

**EXCITON**: an artificial positronium **ATOM** made from an electron and a hole



## Theoretical concept of excitons





Yakov Il'ich Frenkel (1894–1952), Sir Nevill. Francis Mott (1905–1996) and Grégory Wannier (1911– 1983) gave their name to the two main categories of excitons.

## Organic molecular crystals

#### Inorganic semiconductor crystals

## Discovery of Wannier-Mott excitons: E.F. Gross, 1956



## Exciton-polaritons: mixed exciton-photon states



## LIGHT-MATTER COUPLING IN SOLIDS

## Maxwell equations

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_0}, \qquad \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \partial_t \mathbf{B}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \qquad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0 c^2} \partial_t \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t \mathbf{D}$$



$$\mathbf{D} = \varepsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathbf{E}$$





#### and Lorentz oscillator model





2<sup>nd</sup> Hopfield equation

Dispersion of bulk exciton-polaritons in the limit  $M_x \to \infty \quad \gamma \to 0$ 



## Part 4 Polaritonics

## Polaritons in microcavities



#### Concept of polariton lasing:

#### A. Imamoglu, et al, Phys. Lett. A 214, 193 (1996).



Photon mode dispersion

$$\frac{\omega}{c}n = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}\right)^2 + k_{\parallel}^2}$$

Optically or electronically excited exciton-polaritons relax towards the ground state and Bose-condense there. Their relaxation is stimulated by final state population. The condensate emits spontaneously a coherent light



Exciton-polaritons: very light effective mass  $\Rightarrow$  very high crytical temperature for BEC!

# ARTICLES

# Bose-Einstein condensation of exciton polaritons

J. Kasprzak<sup>1</sup>, M. Richard<sup>2</sup>, S. Kundermann<sup>2</sup>, A. Baas<sup>2</sup>, P. Jeambrun<sup>2</sup>, J. M. J. Keeling<sup>3</sup>, F. M. Marchetti<sup>4</sup>, M. H. Szymańska<sup>5</sup>, R. André<sup>1</sup>, J. L. Staehli<sup>2</sup>, V. Savona<sup>2</sup>, P. B. Littlewood<sup>4</sup>, B. Deveaud<sup>2</sup> & Le Si Dang<sup>1</sup>



#### Images of polariton condensates in real space



Metallic stripes on the top of the cavity create a superlattice potential

C.W. Lai et al., Nature 450, 529 (2007)

Science **326**, 974 (2009); DOI: 10.1126/science.1177980



# **Observation of Half-Quantum Vortices** in an Exciton-Polariton Condensate

K. G. Lagoudakis,<sup>1</sup>\* T. Ostatnický,<sup>2</sup> A. V. Kavokin,<sup>2,3</sup> Y. G. Rubo,<sup>4</sup> R. André,<sup>5</sup> B. Deveaud-Plédran<sup>1</sup>



Phase map of a microcavity sample

#### Phase diagrams for BEC of exciton-polaritons in different model cavities



Solid lines show the critical concentration  $N_c$  versus temperature of the polariton KT phase transition. Dotted and dashed lines show the critical concentration  $N_c$  for quasi condensation in 100 µm and 1 meter lateral size systems, respectively.

# Kavokin A, Malpuech G, Gil B, Semiconductor microcavities: towards polariton lasers, MRS Internet Journal of Nitride Semiconductor Research **8** (3): 3 (2003)

#### Build-up of the condensate in a GaN microcavity at 300 K



J. J. Baumberg, A. V. Kavokin, S. Christopoulos, A. J. Grundy, R. Butté, G. Christmann, D. D. Solnyshkov, G. Malpuech, G. Baldassarri Höger von Högersthal, E. Feltin, J.-F. Carlin, and N. Grandjean, Spontaneous Polarization Buildup in a Room-Temperature Polariton Laser, **Phys. Rev. Lett. 101**, 136409 (2008).







# Room temperature polariton lasing



Nonlinear emission peaked at  $k_{//} = 0$ 

Linearly polarized emission above threshold (polarization degree: 80%)

Emission still in the strong coupling regime

Polarization splitting: ~150 μeV

G. Christmann et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 93, 051102 (2008)

#### POLARITONICS in 2011 (recent achievements)



#### Polariton spin switches



Involved: LKB, LPN, Madrid, Sheffield, Cambridge

Publications in Science, Nature, Nature Physics, Nature Photonics 2009-2011

15

30

Ay (distance from the defect; um

Superfluidity, vortices, solitons...

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в

Polarition density (arb. units)

Δv = 36 ur

Δx (μm)

LPN, Southamoton, Clermont-Fd

Ó

Y(µm)

Polariton condensation in

P= 1.5 P.

0

 $k_y (\mu m^{-1})$ 

4 -4

×20

 $P = 15 P_{e}$ 

0 k<sub>y</sub> (µm<sup>-1</sup>)

4 -4

0.01

100

50

stripes

= 15 R

Ó

 $k_{y}(\mu m^{-1})$ 

P = 2.5 Pm

50

) ଅ ଅ

1576

1,590

1,580

Energy (meV)

Ener

Nature Physics 2010

LKB, Southampton, EPFL

Nature Photonics 2010



David Allender, James Bray, and John Bardeen epartment of Physics and Materials Research Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801 (Received 7 August 1972)





#### Part 5 Excitons and Superconductivity



(REDUCED ZONE)

FIG. 4. Illustration of the exciton scattering process. illustrated in Fig. 4. A metal electron  $k_1 + is$ FIG. 1. Metal-semiconductor interface.  $E_c$  and  $E_v$  shown to scatter to  $k_2$  by exciting a semiconductor gap  $k_c$  and creating a virtual exciton. The paired electron  $-k_1 +$  then absorbs the exciton and scatters into the state  $-\vec{k}_2 \downarrow$ . Conservation of wave vector requires that  $\vec{q} = \vec{k}_2 - \vec{k}_1 = \vec{k}_v - \vec{k}_c + \vec{K}$ , where  $\vec{K}$  is a reciprocal lattice vector. In general,  $\vec{q}$  may lie outside of the first Brillouin zone, and thus there are several values of  $\vec{K}$  and of  $\vec{k}_v - \vec{k}_c$  that satisfy this condition. We stress that the exciton scattering is conceptually identical to the scattering of electrons though the exchange of phonons.



- •An exciton mechanism may be realised in 2D metal-dielectric sandwiches (higher  $\lambda$  ).
- •Non-equilibrium superconductivity has a great future

#### BUT IT NEVER WORKED ! WHY ?

- 1) Exciton-electron interaction still weak;
- 2) Excitons are too fast (reduced retardation effect), consequently:
- 3) Coulomb repulsion becomes important.



#### We consider the following model structures:

#### a heavily n-doped layer embedded between two neutral QWs in a microcavity



#### or a thin layer of metal on the top of biased coupled quantum wells

F.P. Laussy, A.V. Kavokin and I.A. Shelykh, Exciton polariton mediated superconductivity, Physical Review Letters, **104**, 106402 (2010).

F.P. Laussy, T. Taylor, I.A. Shelykh, A.V. Kavokin, Superconductivity with excitons and polaritons, unpublished

#### Electrons + exciton-polariton BEC: interaction Hamiltonian



Polariton-polariton interactions

## Interactions:

#### Electron-exciton interaction:

$$V_{dir}(q) = \frac{e^2}{2\epsilon_0 \epsilon A} \frac{e^{-qL}}{q} \left\{ \frac{e^{\beta_e ql}}{\left[1 + (\beta_e q a_B/2)^2\right]^{3/2}} - \frac{e^{-\beta_h ql}}{\left[1 + (\beta_h q a_B/2)^2\right]^{3/2}} \right\}$$

$$\beta_e = \frac{m_e}{m_e + m_h} \qquad \qquad \beta_h = \frac{m_h}{m_e + m_h}$$

Electron-electron interaction:

$$V_{\rm C}(\mathbf{q}) = e^2 / [2\epsilon A(|\mathbf{q}| + \kappa)]$$

2DEG	electrons	holes
4		

Boglyubov transformation:

$$a_{q} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - A_{q}^{2}}} \left( b_{q} + A_{q} b_{-q}^{+} \right)$$
$$a_{-q}^{+} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - A_{q}^{2}}} \left( b_{-q}^{+} + A_{q} b_{q} \right)$$

$$a_{k_1+q}^+ a_{k_1} \approx \langle a_{k_1+q}^+ \rangle a_{k_1} + a_{k_1+q}^+ \langle a_{k_1} \rangle = \sqrt{N_0} \left( \delta_{k_1+q} a_{-q} + \delta_{k_1} a_q^+ \right)$$

$$\begin{split} \widehat{H} &= \sum_{k} E_{el}(k) c_{k}^{+} c_{k} + \sum_{k} E_{bog}(k) b_{k}^{+} b_{k} + \sqrt{N_{0}} \sum_{k,q} \overline{M}(q) c_{k}^{+} c_{k+q}(b_{-q}^{+} + b_{q}) \\ \\ \overline{M}(q) &= V(q) \sqrt{\frac{1+A_{q}}{1-A_{q}}} \end{split}$$
Concentration of exciton-polaritons

$$A_q = U^{-1} \left[ -E_{pol}(q) - UN_0 + \sqrt{(E_{pol}(q) + UN_0)^2 - (UN_0)^2} \right]$$

$$E_{\text{bog}}(\mathbf{k}) = \sqrt{\tilde{E}_{\text{pol}}(\mathbf{k})}(\tilde{E}_{\text{pol}}(\mathbf{k}) + 2UN_0A)$$

#### Matrix element of electron-electron interaction



Electron – electron interaction potential:

$$U_0(\omega) = \frac{A\mathcal{N}}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} [V_A(q, \omega) + V_C(q)] d\theta,$$

$$V_C(\mathbf{q}) = e^2 / [2\epsilon A(|\mathbf{q}| + \kappa)]$$
 — Coulomb repulsion

BCS neglected this term, but we cannot!



#### Comparison with BCS

$$T_c = W \exp(-1/\lambda)$$

#### We have:

- Much stronger attraction; 1)
- Similar Debye temperature 2)
- 3) Peculiar shape of the potential

#### Solving the gap equation within the Bogolyubov approximation

$$\Delta(\xi,T) = -\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{U_0(\xi-\xi')\Delta(\xi',T)\tanh(E/2k_{\rm B}T)}{2E}d\xi'$$

$$E = \sqrt{\Delta(\xi', T)^2 + \xi'^2}$$

Model GaN cavity



we obtain the superconducting gap which vanishes at the critical temperature

# Part 6 Realisation of exciton-mediated superconductivity

Indirect excitons or exciton-polaritons?

Huge dipole moment

Long life time, low losses

Hard to have a condensate at high temperatures

Difficult to measure conductivity in microcavities

Need of metal-semiconductordielectric structures

Direct optical control at high temperatures



How to detect the Optically induced superconductivity?



What should one try to observe:



#### Temperature

Now we know what may happen to fermions,

But what will happen to bosons??



Rotons in a Hybrid Bose-Fermi System Ivan A. Shelykh, Thomas Taylor, and Alexey V. Kavokin Phys. Rev. Lett. **105**, 140402 (2010) Suppression of the Bose-Einstein condensation and superfluidity

$$n_s = n - n_n(T_{BKT})$$

$$T_{BKT} = \frac{\pi \hbar^2 n_s(T_{BKT})}{2M}$$



Conclusions to these lectures:

- In Bose-Fermi systems with direct repulsive interaction of bosons and fermions:
- 1. Fermions attract fermions which results in Cooper pairing
- 2. Excitons are bosons whose concentration may be controlled optically
- 3. Light-induced superconductivity may lead to the increase of critical temperature in conventional superconductors
- 4. Bosons attract bosons which results in formation of the roton minimum and suppression of BEC

