

# Conventional Superconductivity at 203 Kelvin at High Pressures in the Sulfur Hydride System

Drozdov A.P., Erements M.I., Troyan I.A., Ksenofontov V., Shylin S.I.  
*Nature* **525**, 73-76 (03 September 2015)

Group 2

Huacheng Cai, Eli Chertkov, Sang Hyun Choi, Alexandra Cote

# Outline

**Background of superconductivity**

Experimental setup

Analysis of results

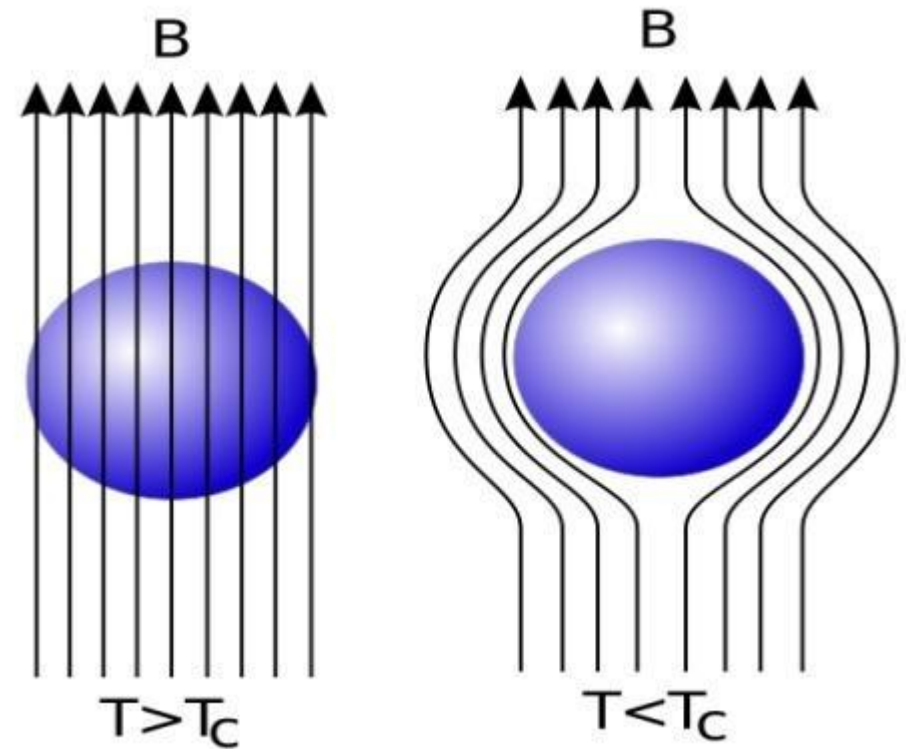
Impact and critique

# What is superconductivity?

## Observed phenomena:

Superconductors exhibit zero electrical resistivity

Superconductors exhibit an expulsion of magnetic field called the “Meissner effect”



1) <http://mri-q.com/superconductivity.html>,

2) "EfektMeisnera" by Piotr Jaworski <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EfektMeisnera.svg#/media/File:EfektMeisnera.svg>

# Highlights of conventional superconductors

## BCS Theory

Formation of Cooper pairs

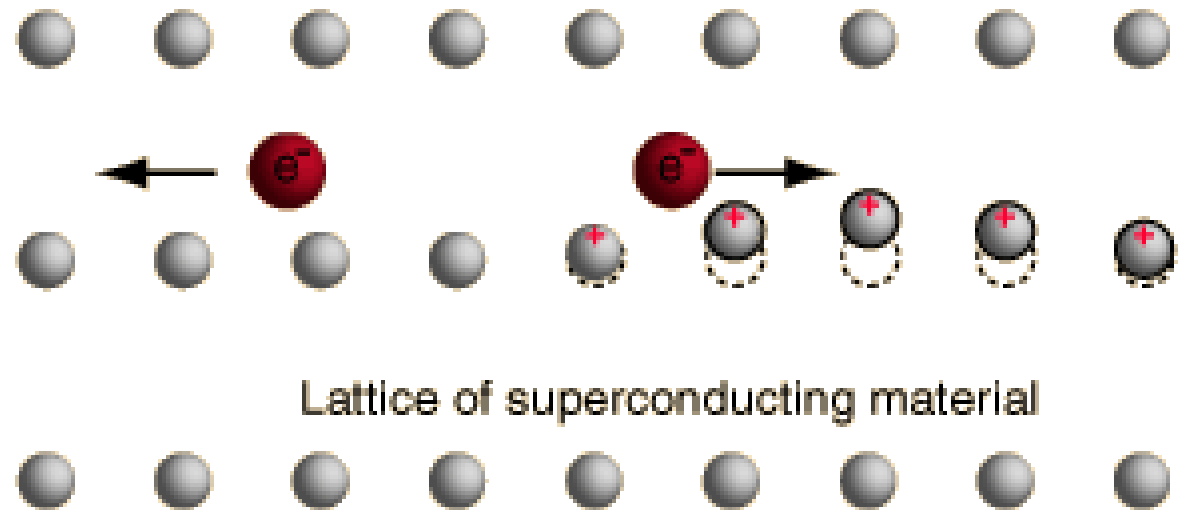
## Signatures of superconductivity

Instability of the Fermi surface

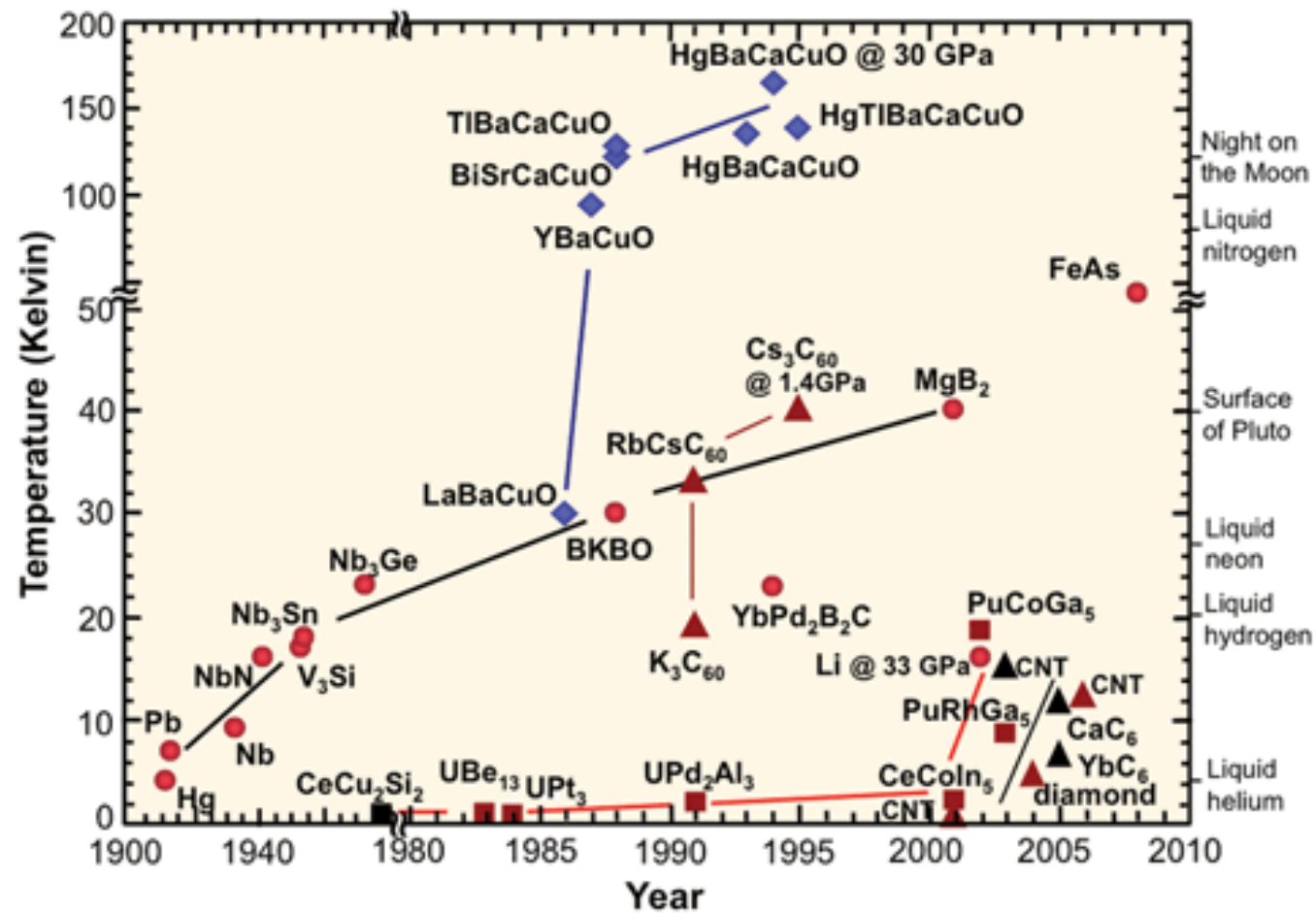
Isotope effect

Exponential rise in heat capacity near  $T_c$

Reduction of energy gap approaching  $T_c$



# Where is high $T_c$ now?



# What do we need for higher $T_c$ ?

- High-frequency phonons ✓
- Strong-electron phonon coupling ✓
- High electronic density of states ✓



# Outline

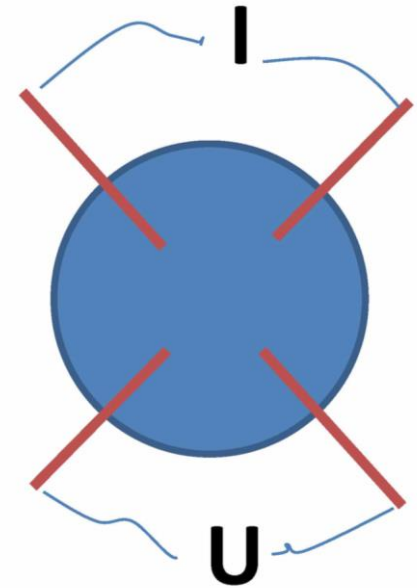
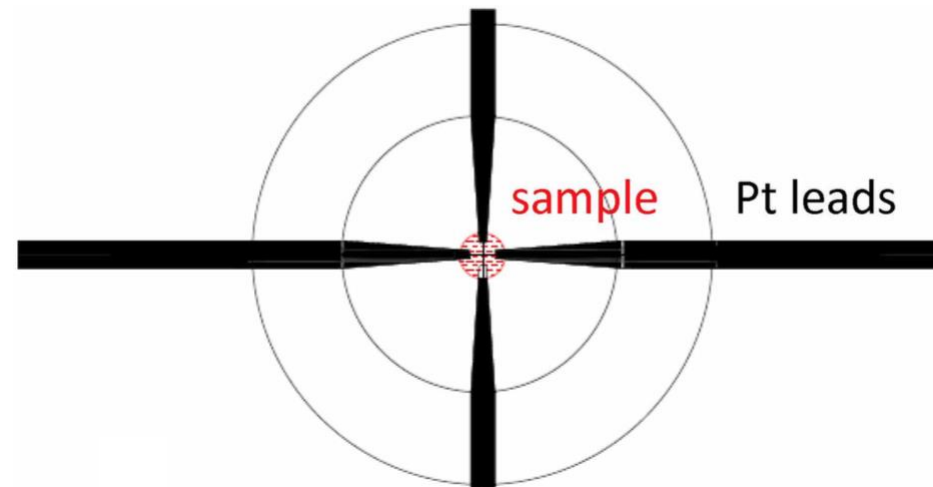
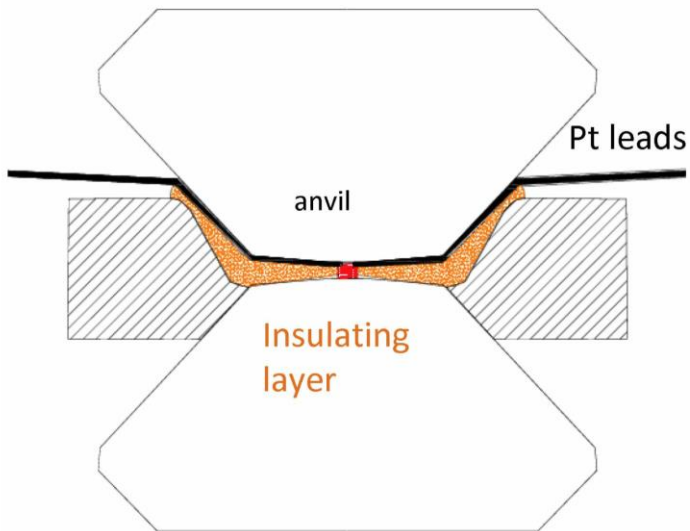
Background of superconductivity

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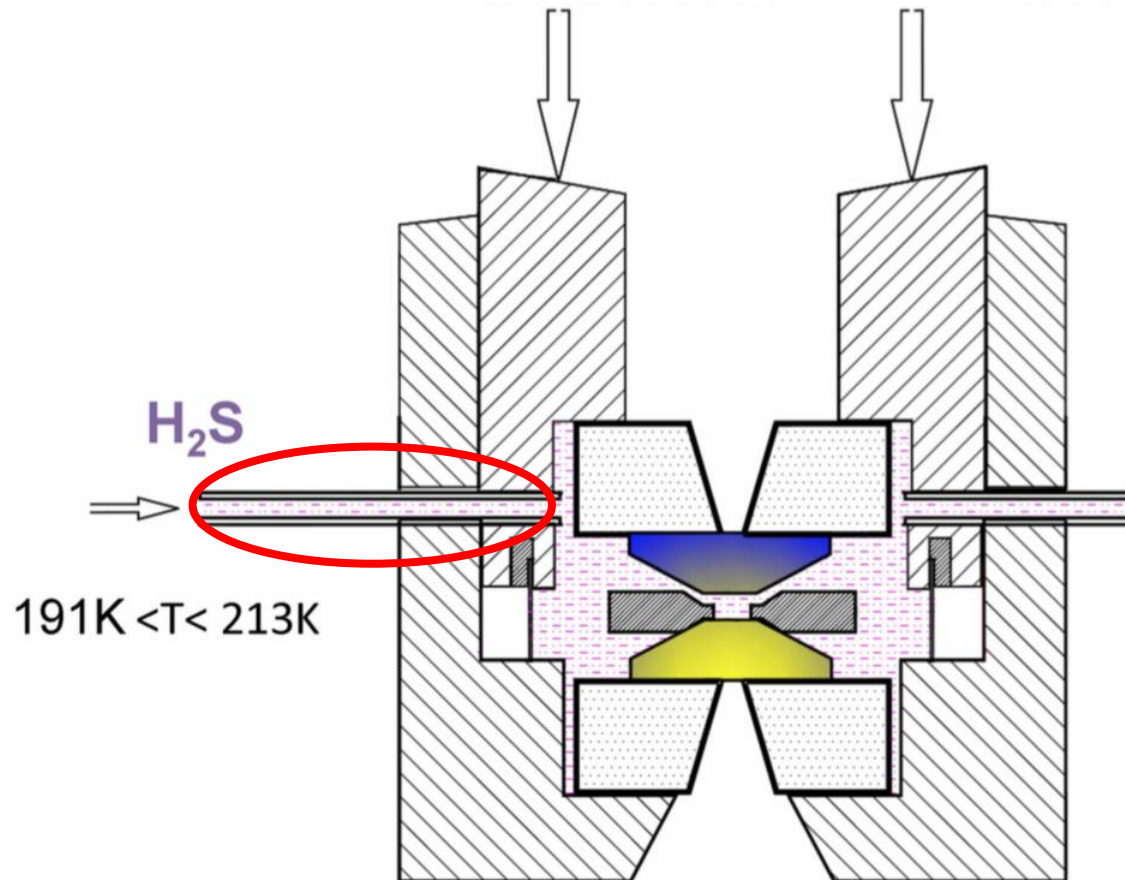
# Assembly of the experimental system



- Insulating gasket:  $\text{CaSO}_4$  (do not react with  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ )
- Pt leads sputtered on diamond anvil cell (DAC)
- Van der Pauw methods (for 2-D sample, electrodes on perimeter)

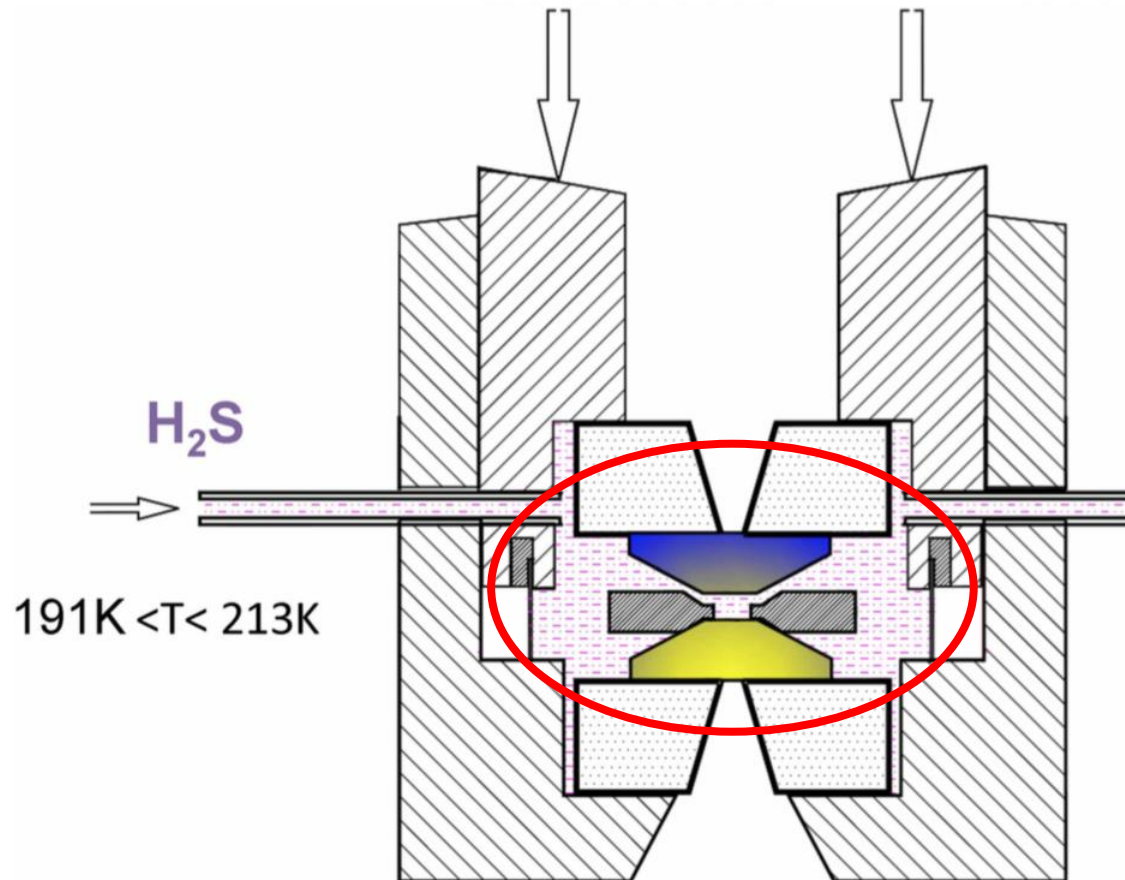


# Loading the H<sub>2</sub>S sample



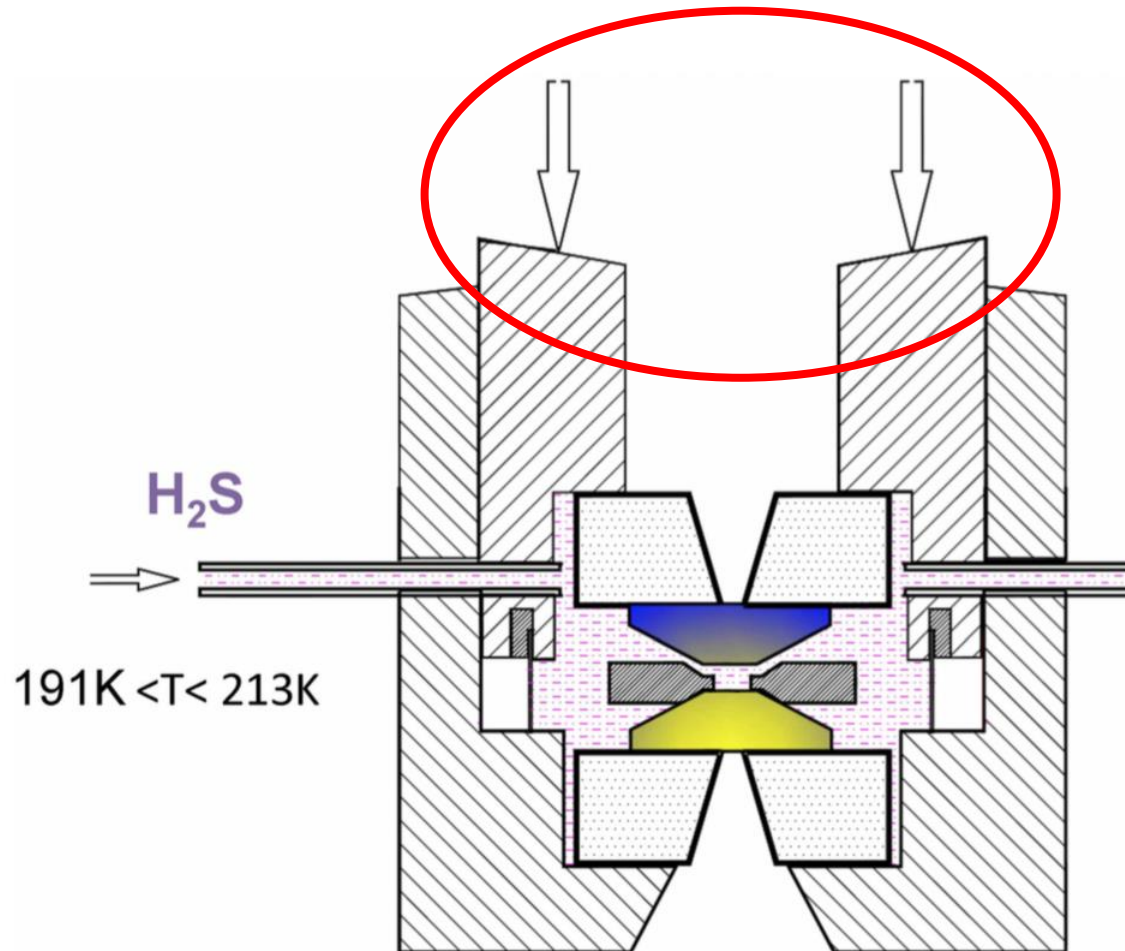
1. Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>S passed through the capillary in to a rim

# Loading the H<sub>2</sub>S sample



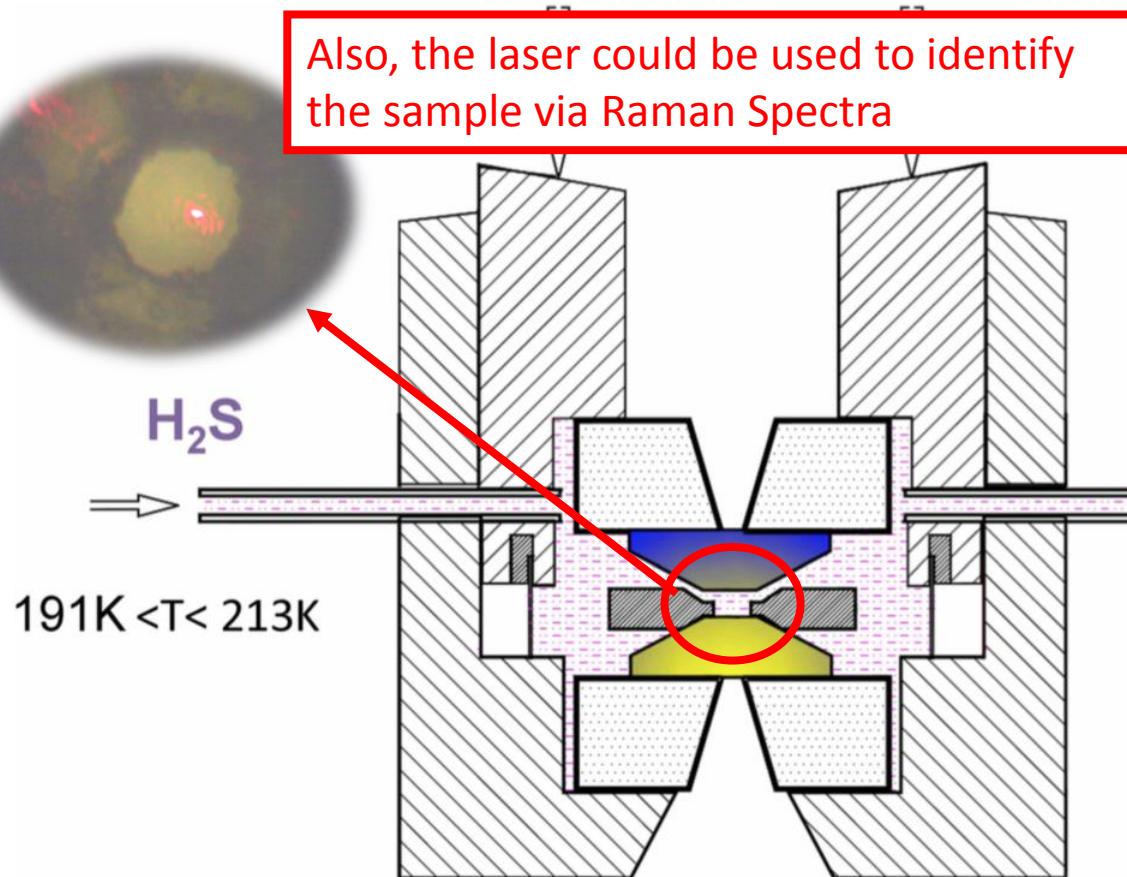
1. Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>S passed through the capillary in to a rim
2. Cool down, sample liquefies in temperature about 200K

# Loading the H<sub>2</sub>S sample



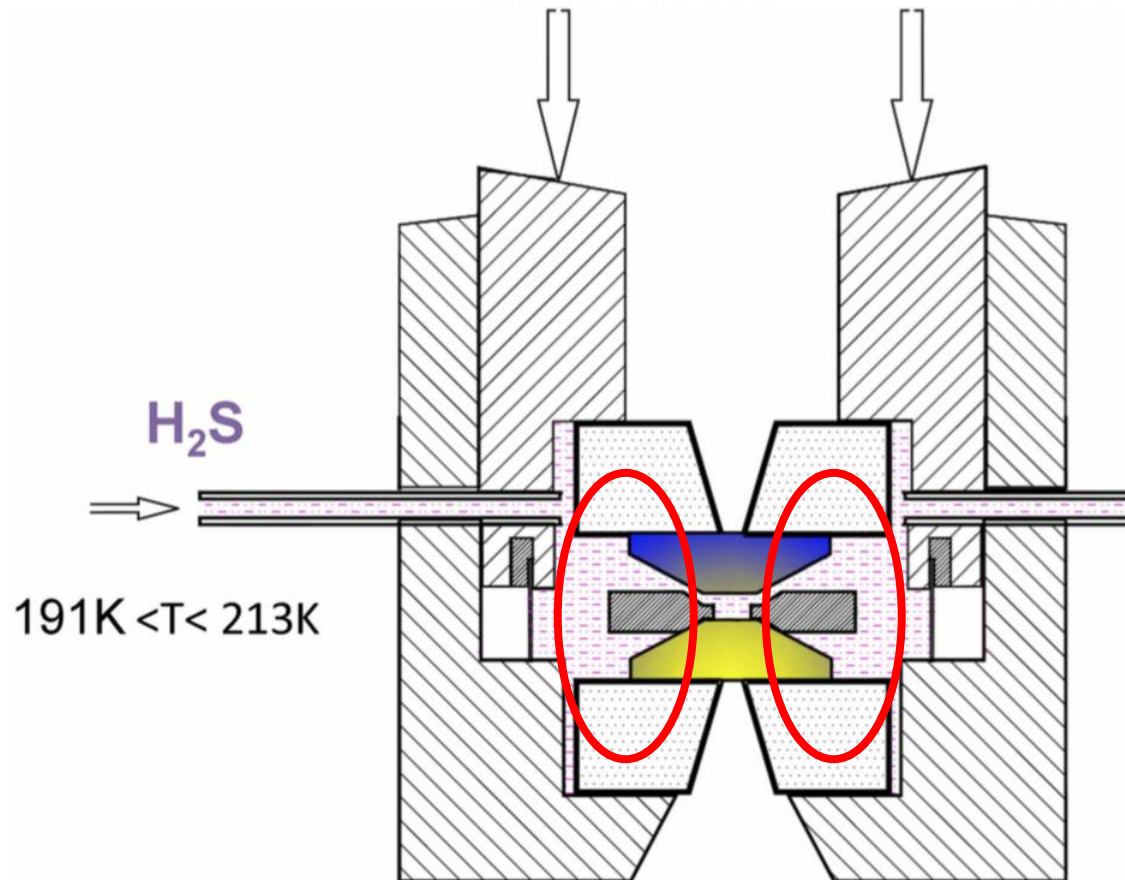
1. Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>S passed through the capillary in to a rim
2. Cool down, sample liquefies in temperature about 200K
3. The piston was pushed by screws, to clamp the sample

# Loading the H<sub>2</sub>S sample



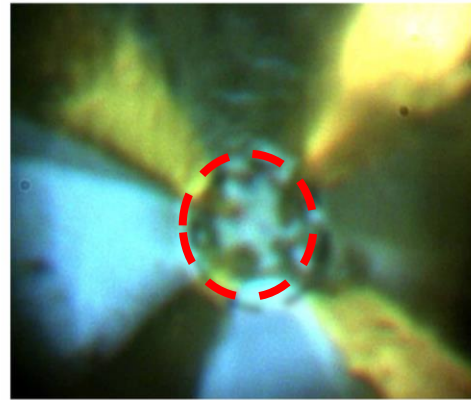
1. Gaseous H<sub>2</sub>S passed through the capillary in to a rim
2. Cool down, sample liquefies in temperature about 200K
3. The piston was pushed by screws, to clamp sample
4. Use the interference fringes to adjust the thickness

# Experimental setup: Load

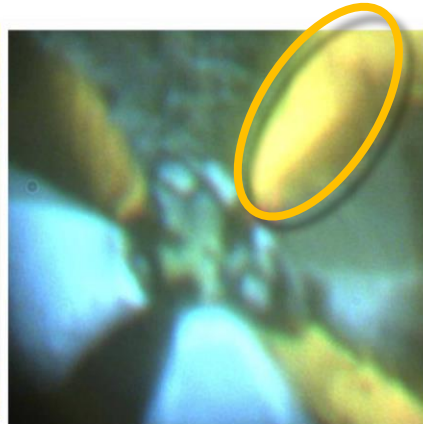


1. Gaseous  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  passed through the capillary in to a rim
2. Cool down, sample liquefies in temperature about 200K
3. The piston was pushed by screws, to clamp sample
4. Use the interference fringes to adjust the thickness
5. Heat the diamond anvil to evaporate the rest of the sample. Afterwards increase the pressure.

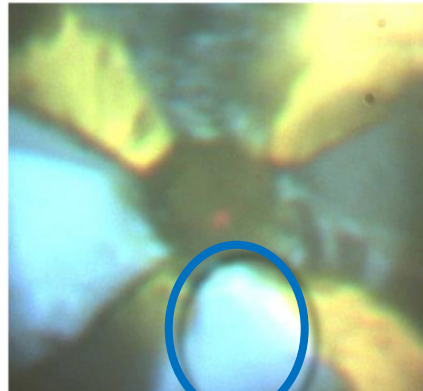
# Viewing pressure effects on H<sub>2</sub>S




9 GPa



11 GPa



79 GPa

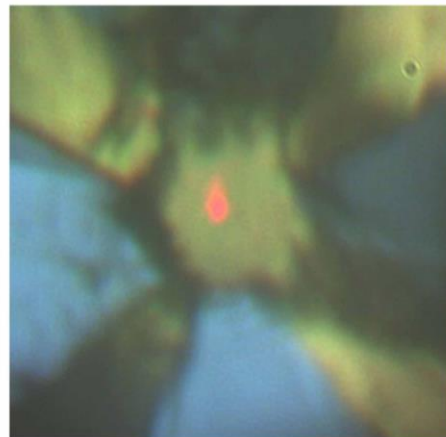
 Insulating gasket

 Electrodes

 Sample



92 GPa



154 GPa

The view get opaque when the pressure increase  
(a visible reflective of pressure control)

# Outline

Background of superconductivity

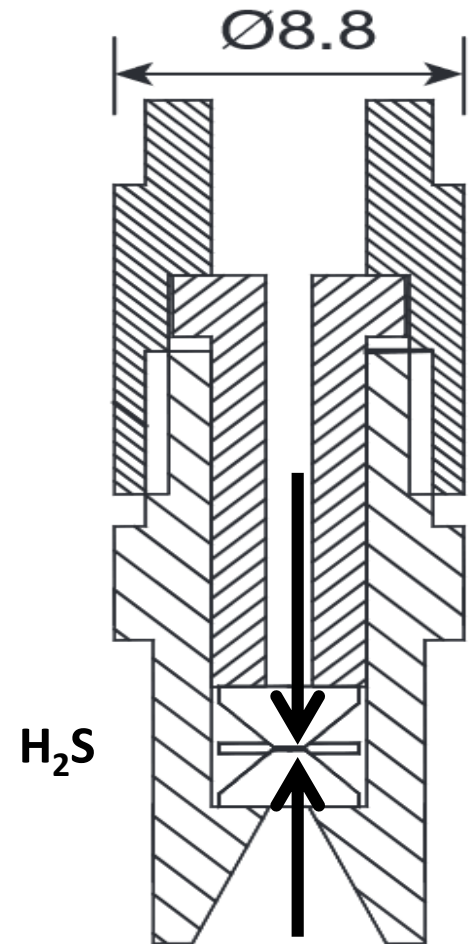
Experimental setup

**Analysis of results**

Impact and critique

# What to look for in high pressure hydrogen sulfide

- What is the effect of pressure on critical temperature?
- Is there evidence of conventional (BCS) superconductivity?
  - Does the sample exhibit an isotope effect?
  - Does the sample respond to a magnetic field (type I or II superconductivity)?

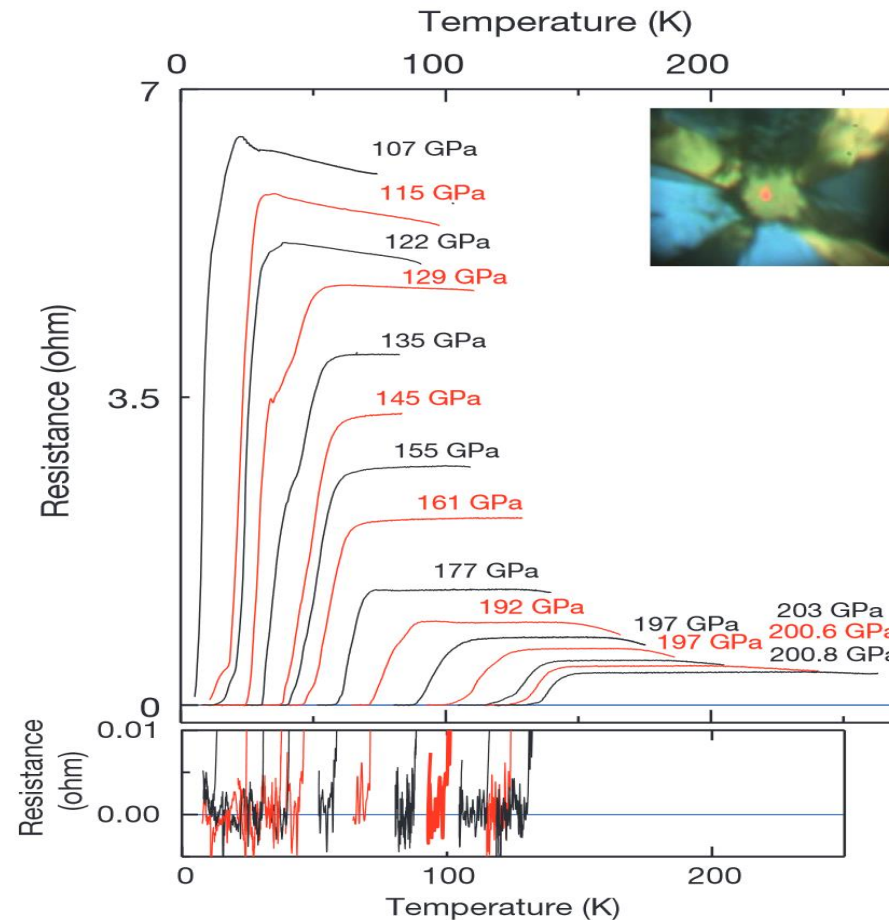


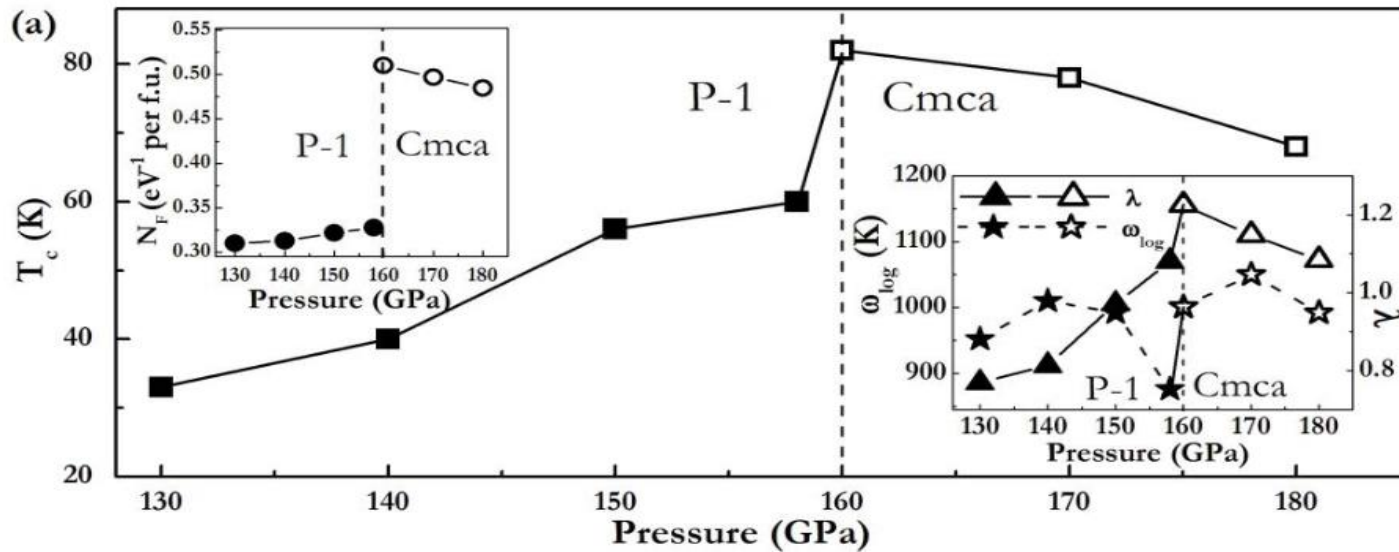


# Critical temperature increases with pressure

Main points:

- The sample exhibits a drop in resistivity below a critical temperature
- The peak resistance decreases with pressure



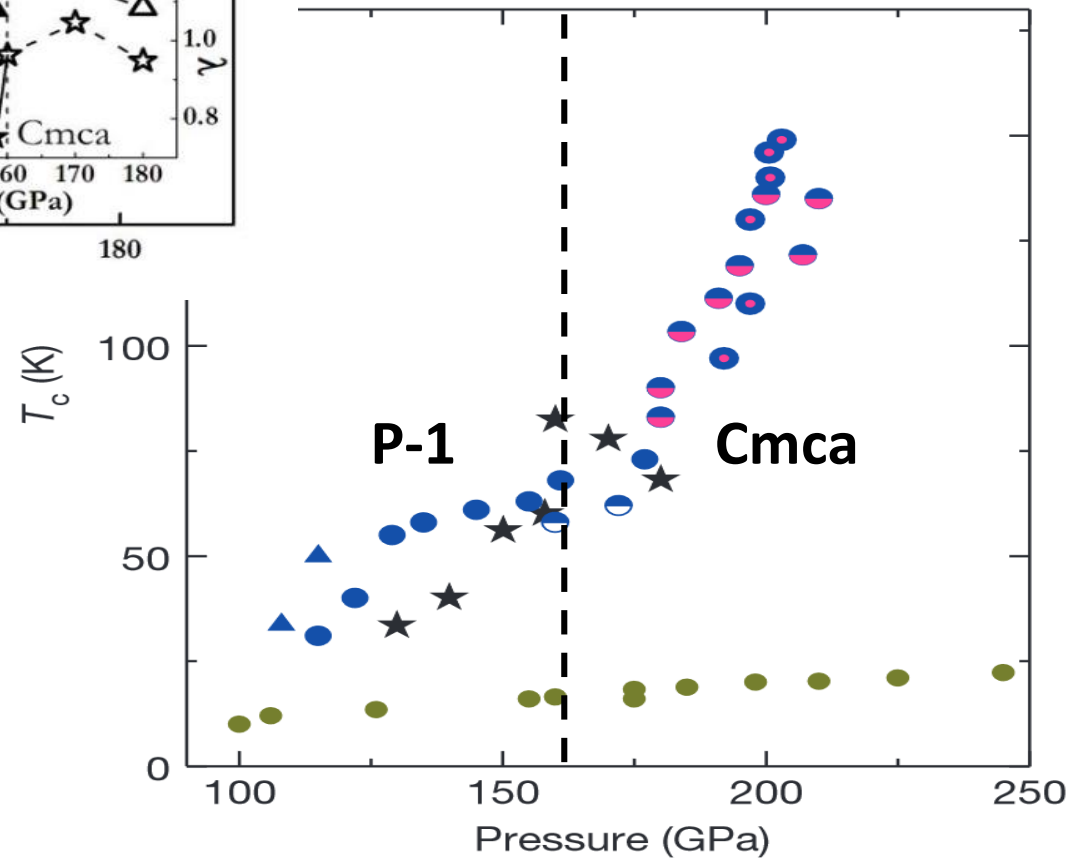


Critical temperatures measured for Hydrogen Sulfide (previous plot) by Drozdov et. al.

Numerically calculated critical temperatures from Li et al. (2014).

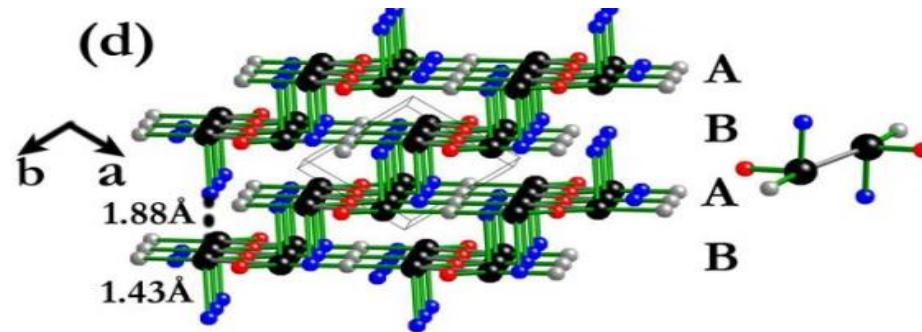
- Superconducting transitions estimated for different crystal structures of hydrogen sulfide.
- Plotted points transition from P-1 to Cmca crystal structures.

Critical temperatures measured for pure sulfur with the same experimental apparatus.

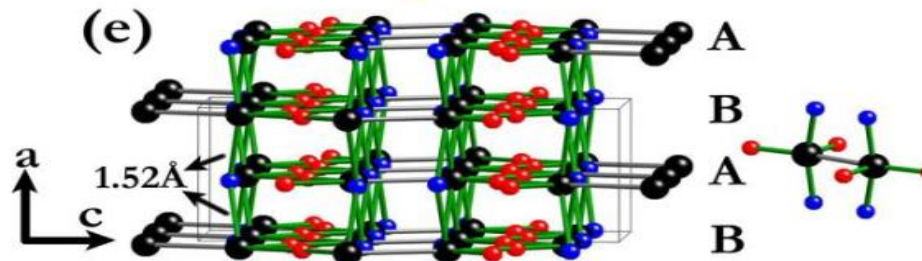


# Possible crystal structures of hydrogen sulfide

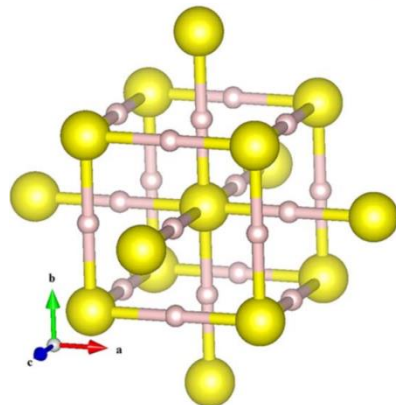
P-1



Cmca



Im-3m



Y. Li, J. Hao, Y. Li, Y. Ma. The metallization and superconductivity of dense hydrogen sulfide. *J. Chem. Phys.* 140, 174712 (2014).

D. Duan, Y. Liu, F. Tian, et. al. Pressure-induced metallization of dense  $(H_2S)_2H_2$  with high- $T_c$  superconductivity. *Scientific Reports.* 4, 6968 (2014).

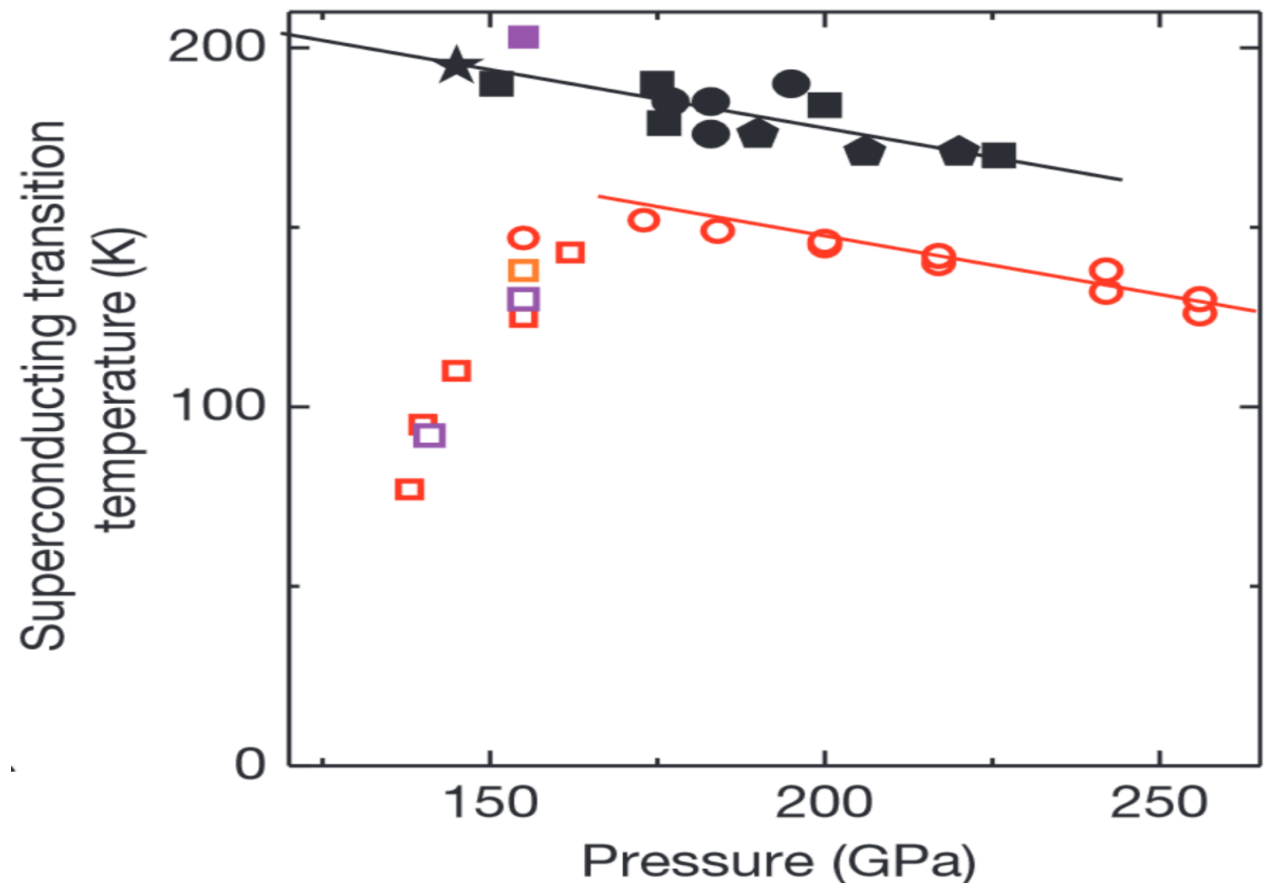
# Hydrogen sulfide under pressure exhibits an isotope effect

## Sulfur hydride

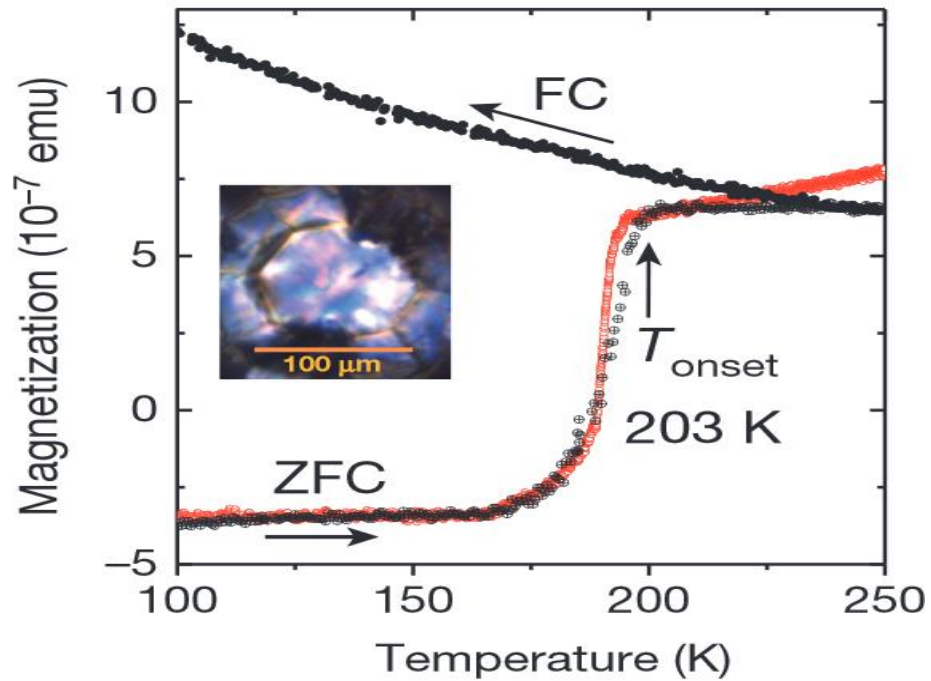
## Sulfur deuteride

The larger mass analog of sulfur hydride has lower energy phonon modes and so has worse coupling to the electron modes, leading to lower  $T_C$ .

Otherwise, the  $T_C$  scaling with pressure is identical.

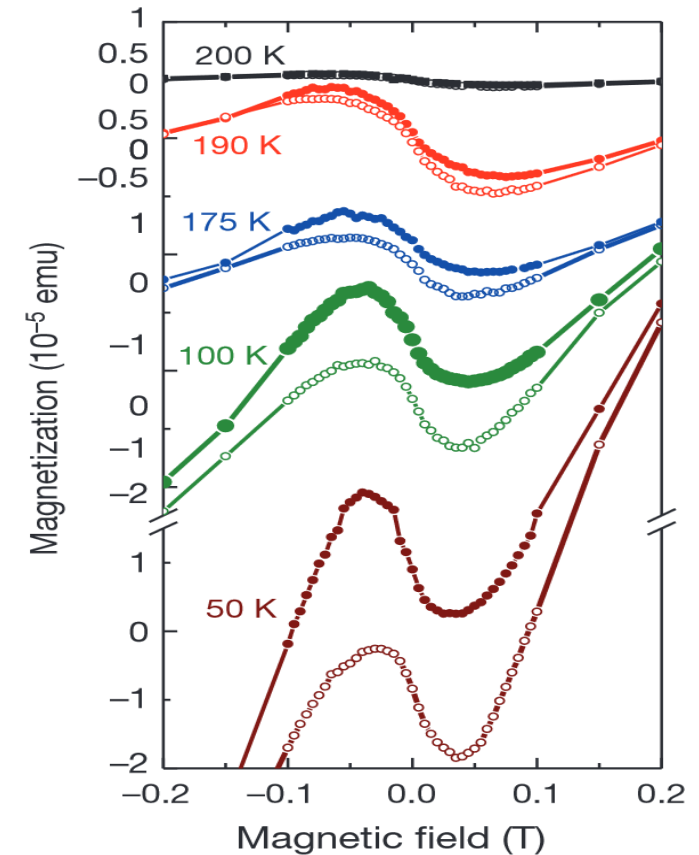


# Response to magnetic field



Zero-field cooled (ZFC) and 20 Oe field cooled (FC) magnetization measurements.

Rescaled resistivity measurements for comparison.



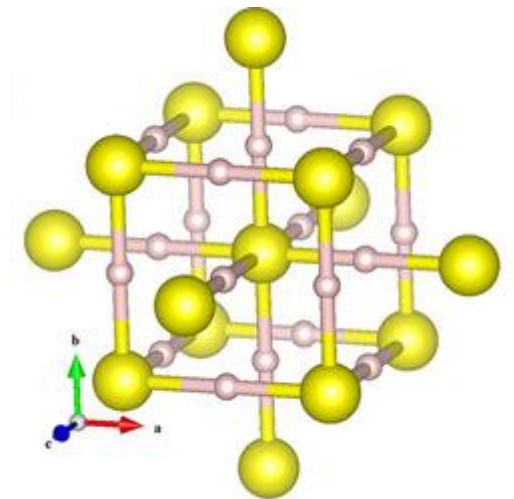
Hysteresis loops like this indicate a Type II BCS superconductor

# Summary

- Observed conventional superconductivity at 203 K at 155 GPa
- The superconductivity is most likely from  $H_3S$  having the  $Im\bar{3}m$  structure

Future research prospect:

Room-temperature superconductivity  
at ambient pressure



# Outline

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**Conventional superconductivity at 203 kelvin at high pressures in the sulfur hydride system**  
 Search within citing articles

**Superconductivity above 100 K in PH<sub>3</sub> at high pressures** [PDF] from arxiv.org  
AP Drozdov, MI Eremets, IA Troyan - arXiv preprint arXiv:1508.06224, 2015 - arxiv.org  
Abstract: Following the recent discovery of very high temperature conventional superconductivity in sulfur hydride (critical temperature  $T_c$  of 203 K, Ref1) we searched for superconductivity in other hydrides and found that a covalent hydride phosphine (PH<sub>3</sub>) ...  
Cited by 3 Cite Save

**Lifshitz transitions and zero point lattice fluctuations in sulfur hydride showing near room temperature superconductivity** [PDF] from arxiv.org  
A Bianconi, T Jarlborg - arXiv preprint arXiv:1507.01093, 2015 - degruyter.com  
Abstract: Emerets's experiments on pressurized sulfur hydride have shown that H<sub>3</sub>S metal has the highest known superconducting critical temperature  $T_c = 203$  K. The Emerets data show pressure induced changes of the isotope coefficient between 0.25 and 0.5, in ...  
Cited by 3 Cite Save

**Crystal Structure of 200 K Superconducting Phase of Sulfur Hydride System** [PDF] from arxiv.org



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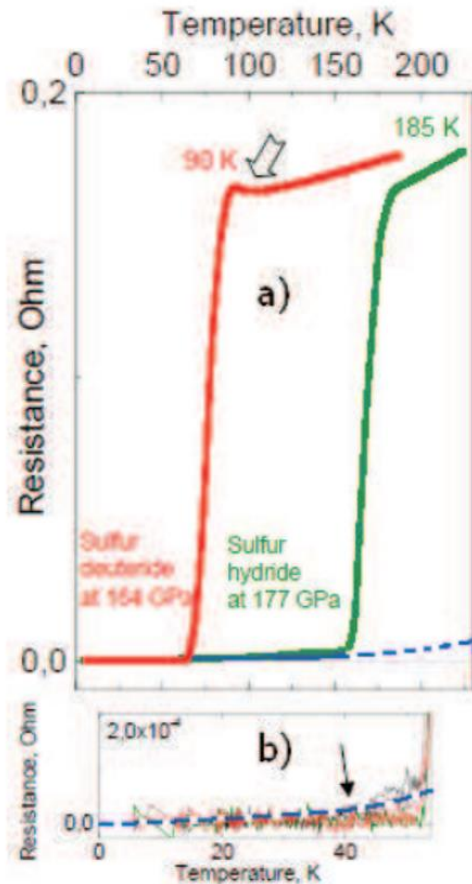
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<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Effects of pressure and distortion on superconductivity in Ti <sub>2</sub> Ba <sub>2</sub> CaCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> + $\delta$		Zhang, J.-B., Struzhkin, V.V., Yang, W., (...), Wang, N.-L., Chen, X.-J.	2015 Journal of Physics Condensed Matter	0
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<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Anomalous superconductivity and superfluidity in repulsive fermion systems		Kagan, M.Y., Mitskan, V.A., Korovushkin, M.M.	2015 Physics-Uspekhi	0
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# Critique of the paper



Commentary paper by Mazov  
(arXiv:1510.00123)

Sharp drop in resistance is caused by **the disappearance of AF spin-fluctuation**

Superconducting phase transition happens after magnetic phase transition  $T_c < T_D$

Estimated genuine  $T_c \sim 40K$

# Our evaluation of the paper

## Good

- Clearly stated the importance of their work
- Proposed explanation for their observation

## Bad

- Not clear about the pressure from which  $T_c = 203K$  was obtained
- Not discussing experimental error in detail
- They don't know what the material really is
- Questionable proposed crystal structure

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a laboratory instrument, likely a microscope or spectrometer. A bright, rectangular light source is visible in the center, creating a strong glow and casting shadows on the surrounding components. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and purples, with the white text providing a sharp contrast.

# Thank you!