



Quantum Criticality in Polar Materials I :

New Perspectives on Quantum Criticality from Polar Materials (pedagogical)

P. Chandra
(Rutgers)

- I. Title Unpacked
- II. Why ??
- III. Historical Perspectives and
Current Challenges

What does quantum critical mean?

Aren't quantum fluctuations only
important at $T = 0$?

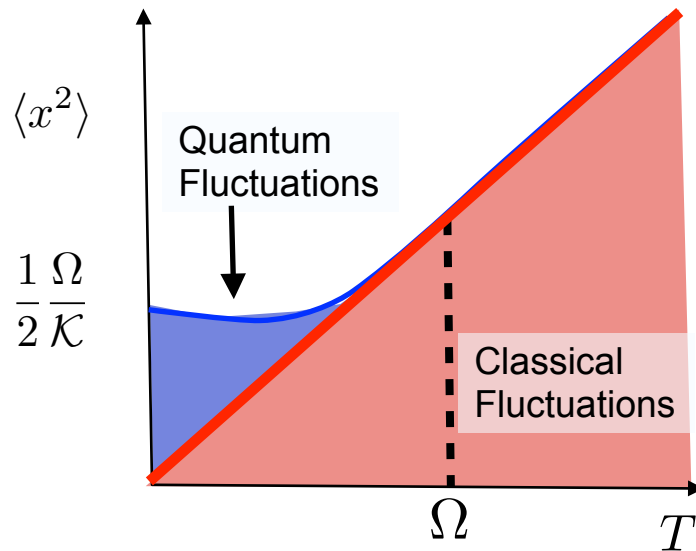


“The career of a young theoretical physicist consists of treating the harmonic oscillator in ever-increasing levels of abstraction.”

Sidney Coleman

Simple Harmonic Oscillator (1d)

Variance $\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{\Omega}{\mathcal{K}} \left\{ \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\Omega}{T}} - 1} + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \quad (\hbar = 1, k_B = 1)$



$\Omega < T$ Thermal (classical) Fluctuations

$0 < T < \Omega$ Thermal-Quantum Fluctuations

$T = 0$ Pure Quantum Fluctuations

$$\langle x^2 \rangle \sim \frac{T}{\mathcal{K}}$$

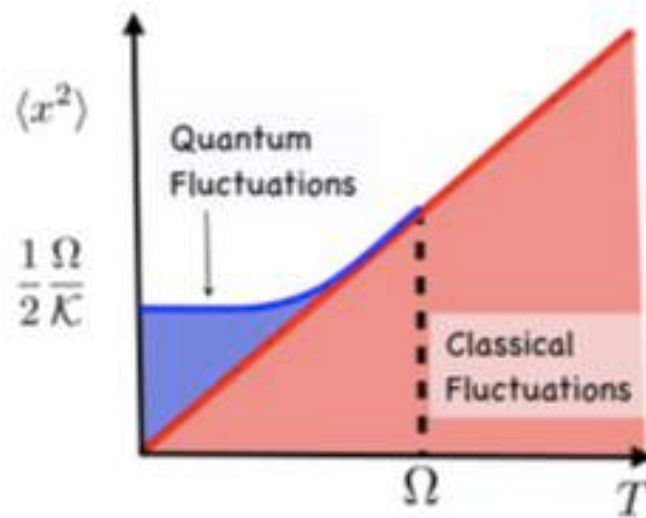
$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{\Omega}{2\mathcal{K}}$$

What does the behavior of a SHO
have to do with phase transitions
and criticality ?

Order Parameter Fluctuations

Variance of each of their Fourier Components,
a mode of wavevector q whose behavior can
be mapped onto a SHO



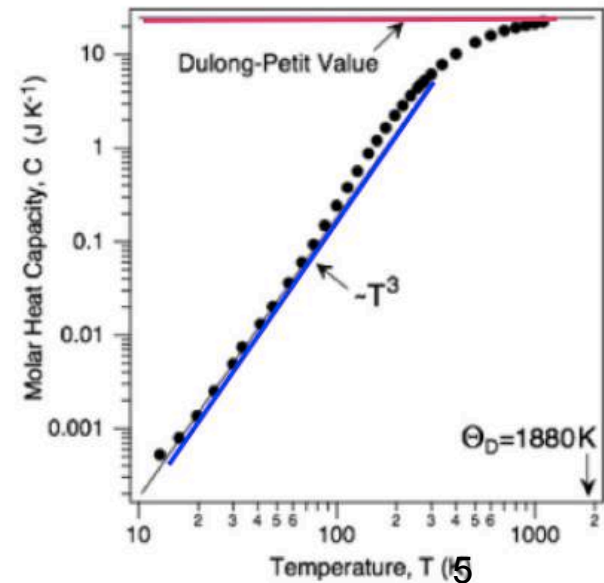


At a continuous phase transition

$$\mathcal{K} \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \langle x^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty$$

What about the specific heat ?

In diamond effects of quantum fluctuations present at room temperatures !



How to think about temperature near a quantum critical point?

- Temperature is NOT a tuning parameter
- Temperature is a **boundary** effect!

$$\Delta t \propto \frac{\hbar}{\Delta E} \rightarrow t_{dec} \propto \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

Fluctuations are Purely Quantum
up to this Time-scale

Back to the SHO

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \left\{ n_\Omega + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \Omega \chi \quad \chi = \frac{1}{\mathcal{K}} (= \text{Re } \chi_{\omega=0})$$

$$\text{Im } \chi_\omega = \frac{\pi}{2} \omega \chi \delta(\omega - \Omega) \quad (\omega > 0)$$

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty d\omega \left\{ n_\omega + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \text{Im } \chi_\omega$$

Nyquist Theorem

Generalization to all modes in the Brillouin Zone

$$\langle \delta\phi^2 \rangle = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_q \int_0^\infty d\omega \left\{ n_\omega + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \text{Im } \chi_{q\omega}$$

Scalar Order Parameter

$$\phi = \bar{\phi} + \delta\phi$$

↑
Average

$$\langle \delta\phi \rangle = 0$$

$$\text{Im } \chi_{q\omega} = \frac{\pi}{2} \omega \chi_q \delta(\omega - \omega_q) \quad (\omega > 0)$$

(propagating limit, simplest case)

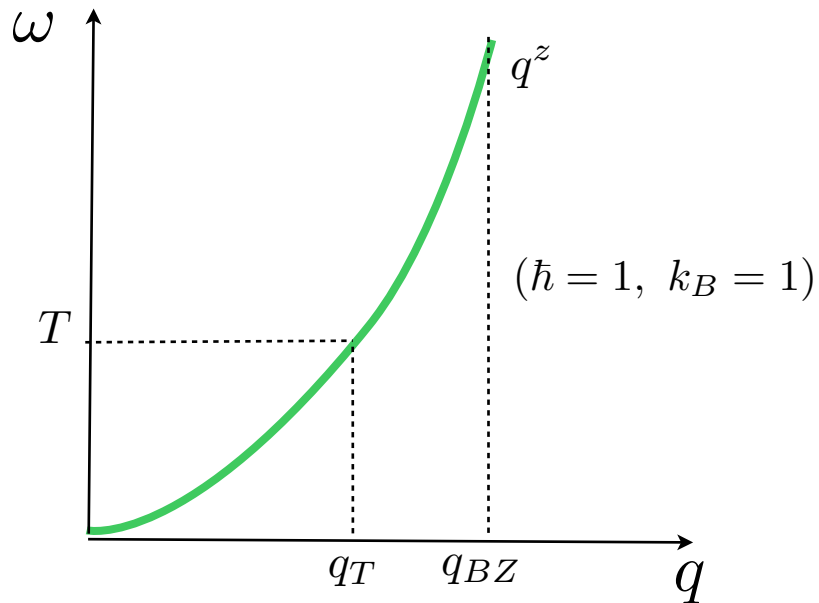
Generalization to all modes in the Brillouin Zone

$$\langle \delta \phi^2 \rangle = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_q \int_0^\infty d\omega \left\{ n_\omega + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \text{Im } \chi_{q\omega}$$

Our Focus: $\langle \delta \phi_T^2 \rangle$

Strongly Temperature-Dependent Contribution
Dominant in Determining Temperature-Dependence
of Observable Properties

Dispersion and Important Wavevectors



$$q_T \propto T^{\frac{1}{z}}$$

$$q_{BZ} < q_T$$

Purely Classical Fluctuations

$$q_{BZ} > q_T$$

Quantum Fluctuations Present

Generalization to all modes in the Brillouin Zone

$$\langle \delta \phi^2 \rangle = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_q \int_0^\infty d\omega \left\{ n_\omega + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \text{Im } \chi_{q\omega}$$

Focus: $\langle \delta \phi_T^2 \rangle$

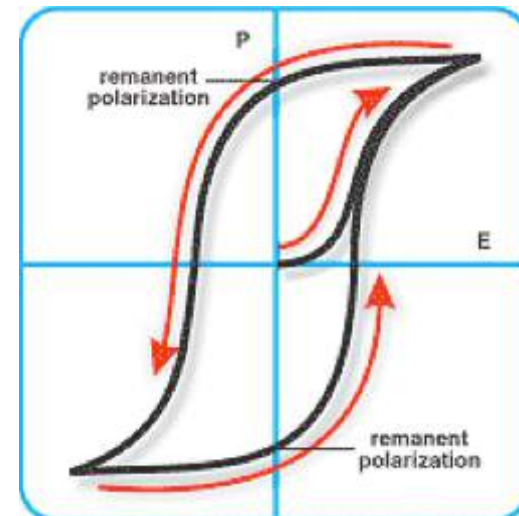
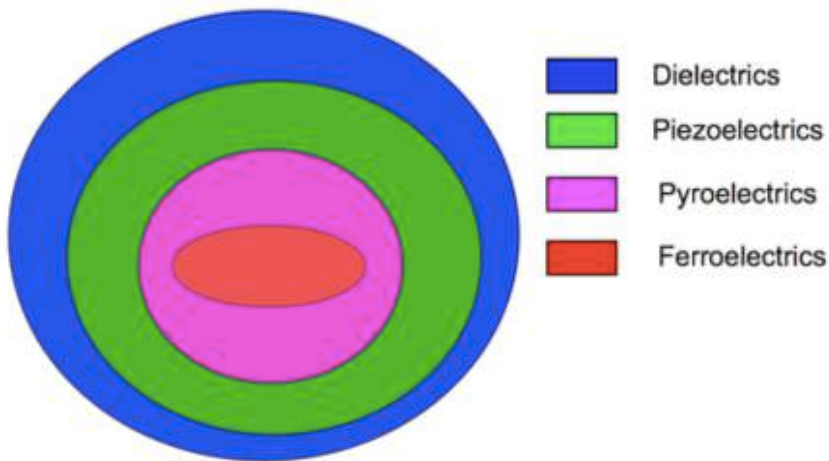
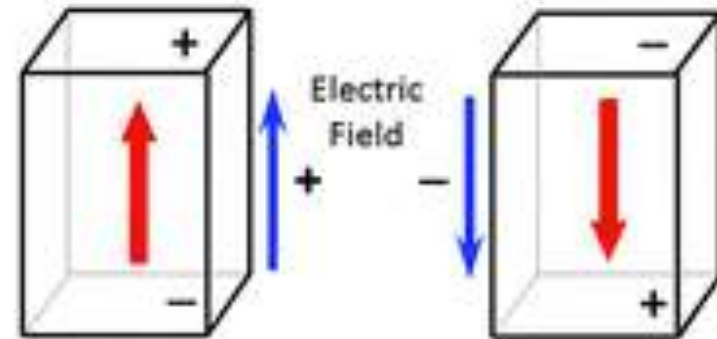
$$\langle \delta \phi_T^2 \rangle \approx T \sum_{q < q_{BZ}} \chi_q \quad (T \gg \omega_q \quad \text{for } q < q_{BZ})$$

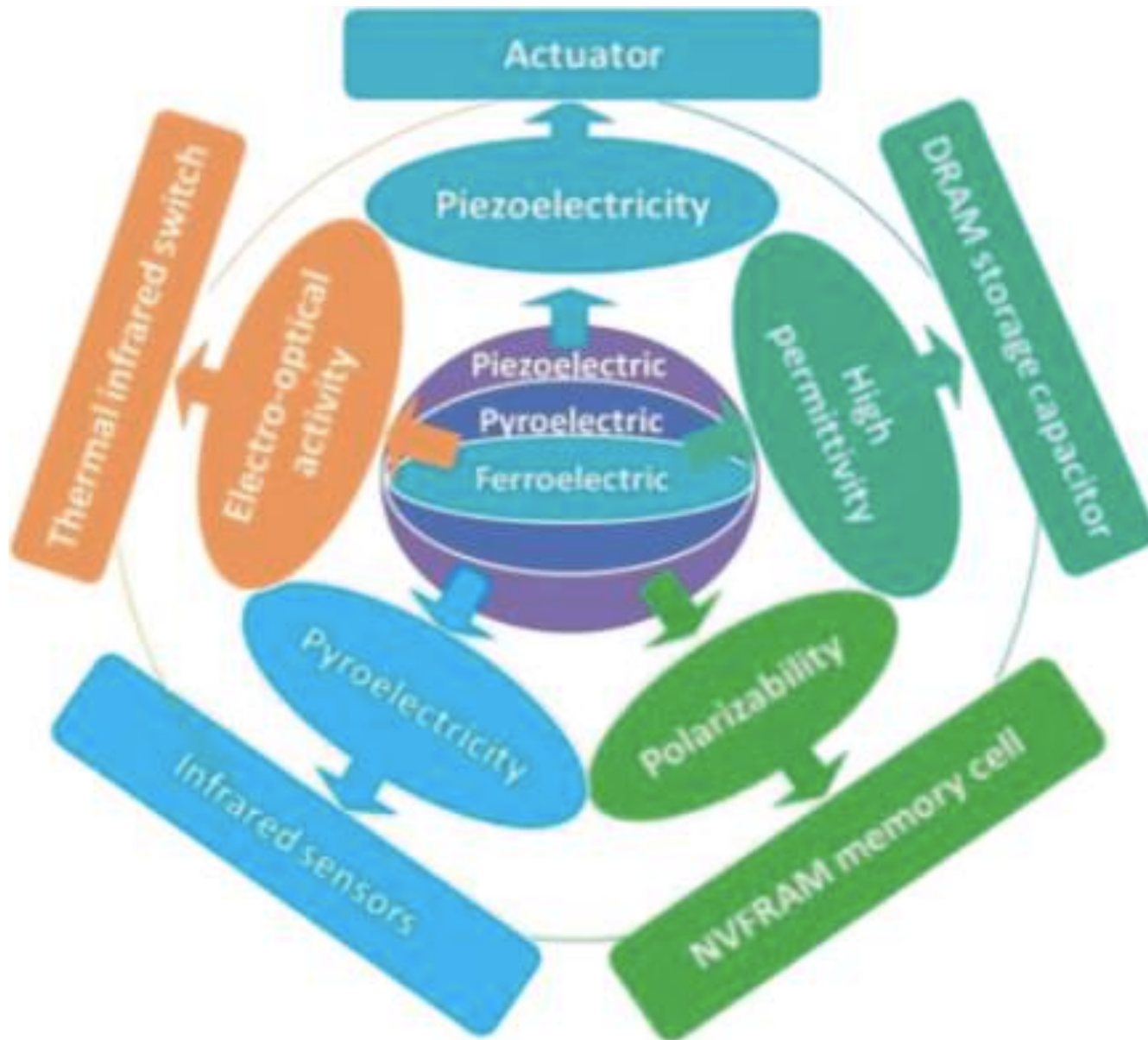
$$\langle \delta \phi_T^2 \rangle \approx T \sum_{q < q_T} \chi_q \quad (T \ll \omega_q \quad \text{for } q < q_T)$$

$$(\chi_q^{-1} \propto \kappa^2 + q^2) \qquad (\chi^{-1} \propto \kappa^2)_{11}$$

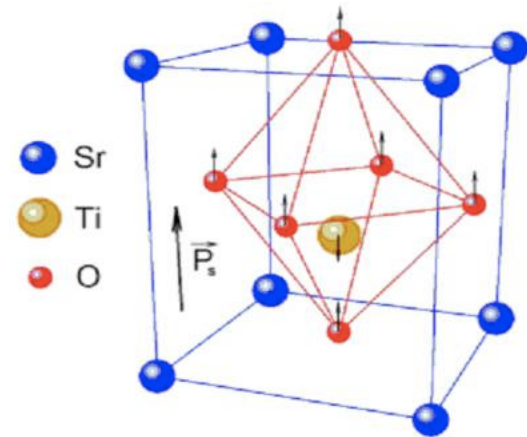
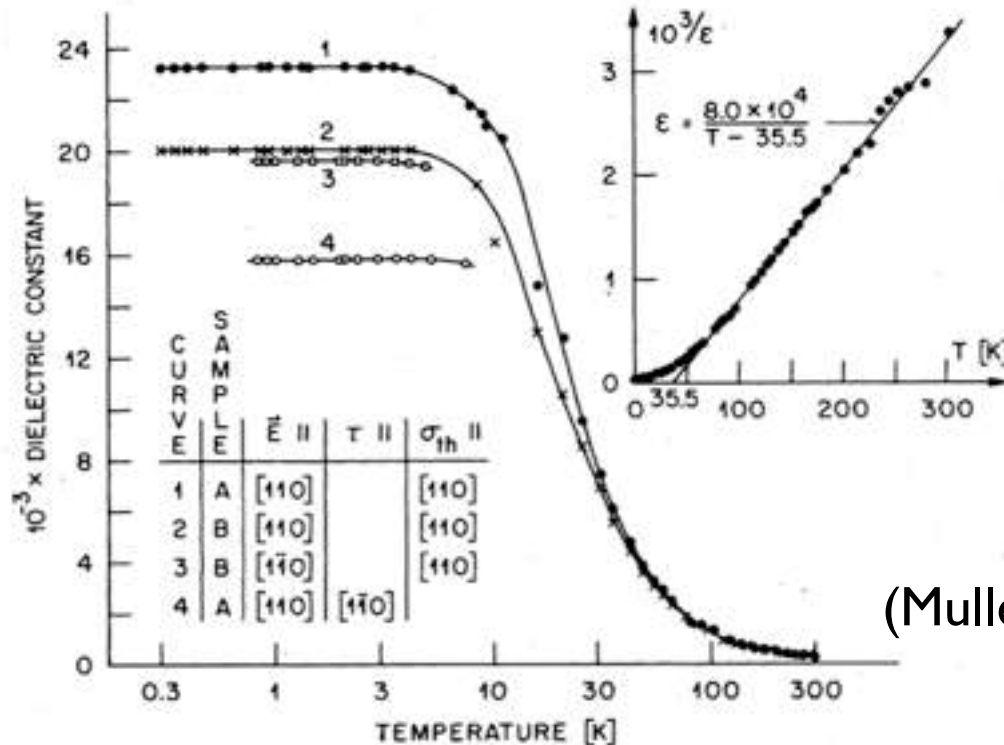
Ferroelectrics: The Simplest Polar Materials

A FE is a material that has a spontaneous polarization that is switchable by an electric field of practical magnitude





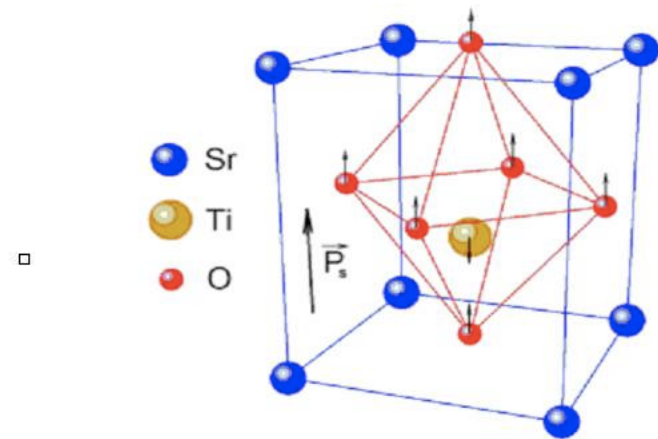
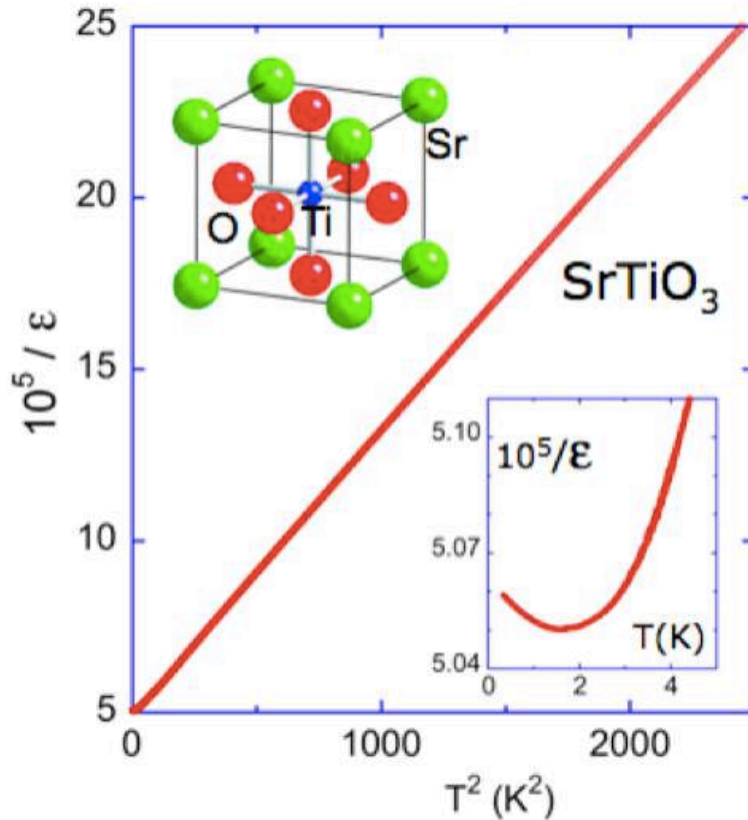
SrTiO₃ - Almost a Ferroelectric



(Muller and Burkhard 79)

Ferroelectricity induced by
Uniaxial Stress, Ca and O-18 Substitution

SrTiO₃ - Almost a Ferroelectric



(Rowley et al. 14)

□ Ferroelectricity induced by
 □ Uniaxial Stress, Ca and O-18 Substitution

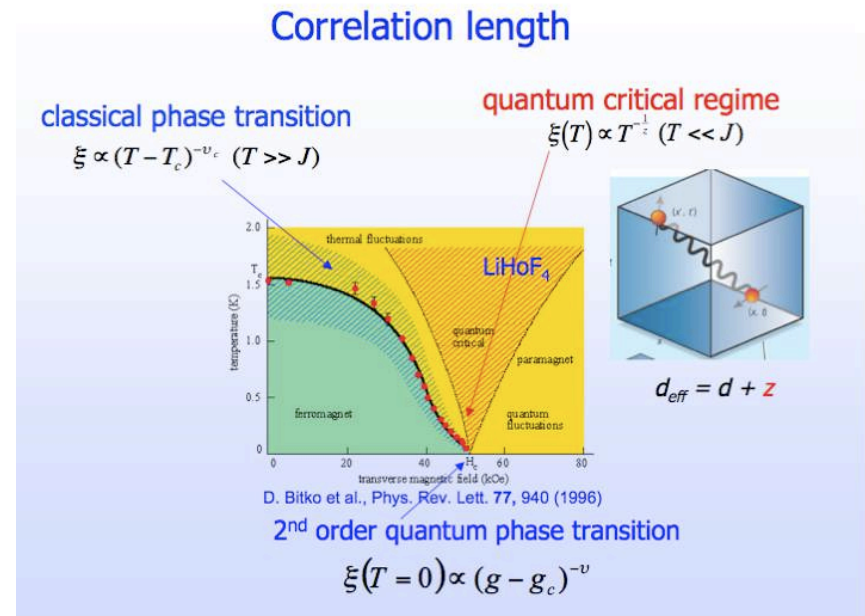
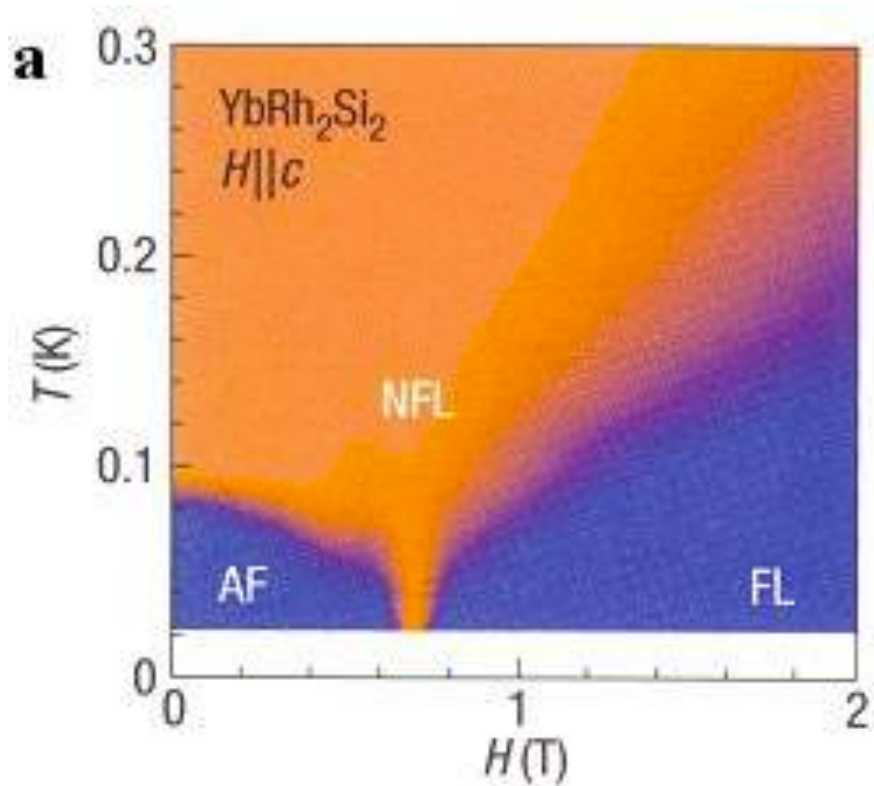
What do FEs have to do with
Quantum Criticality ?

Insulators (link to novel metals
and superconductivity?) !?

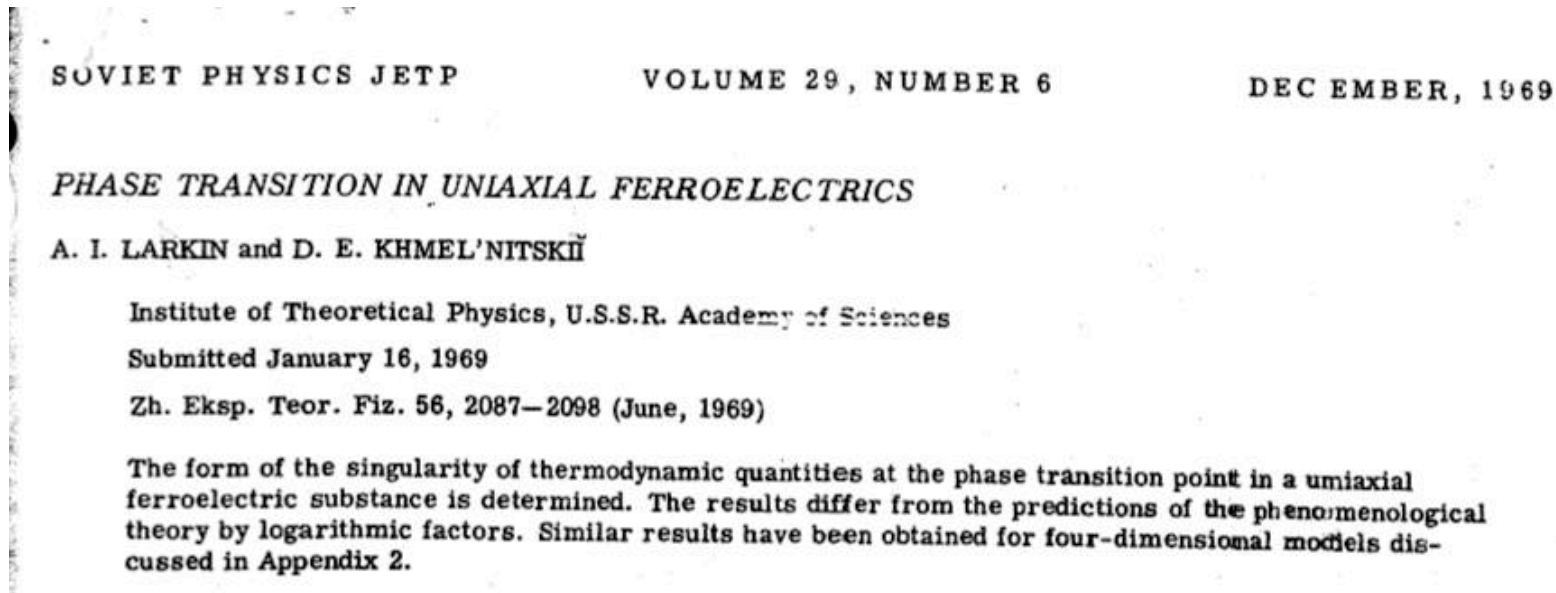
Classical FE transitions usually
1st order !?



Many, many (magnetic) settings to study quantum criticality....
why do we need more ??



Important Role in (Classical) Critical Phenomena



First Calculation of
Logarithmic Corrections to
Mean-Field Theory in $d=d^*$!!

Uniaxial Ferroelectric

$$d_{eff}^{space} = d + 1$$

All dipoles in z direction

$$W(q) \propto \frac{q_z^2}{q^2}$$

TO phonon dispersion

$$\omega^2(q) = c^2 q^2 + \Delta^2 + \beta \frac{q_z^2}{q^2} \quad (1)$$

Application of Simple Scaling

$$q^2 \approx q_x^2 + q_y^2$$

$$\tilde{q}_{x(y)} = \frac{q_{x(y)}}{b}, \quad \tilde{q}_z = \frac{q_z}{b^k}, \quad b, k > 1 \quad (2)$$

Simultaneous Satisfaction of (1) and (2) \longrightarrow **k=2**

q_z “counts” for effectively **two** dimensions

Why Study FE Quantum Criticality ?

Quest for Universality

Simplicity

Controlled Additional Degrees of Freedom
(and maybe novel metals and exotic superconductors)

(Possible Applications)



CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEORY OF SECOND-ORDER PHASE TRANSITIONS
AT LOW TEMPERATURES

A. B. RECHESTER

L. D. Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics, USSR Academy of Sciences

Submitted August 21, 1970

Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz. 60, 782-796 (February, 1971)

Quantum effects are investigated in second-order phase transitions at low temperatures. The temperature dependence of the gap in the spectrum of the critical optical phonons is calculated in first approximation of perturbation theory and in the "parquet" approximation. The results are compared with the experimental data for SnTe and KTaO₃. The transition at $T = 0$ is also investigated.

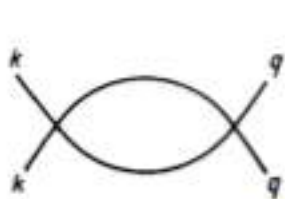


FIG. 8

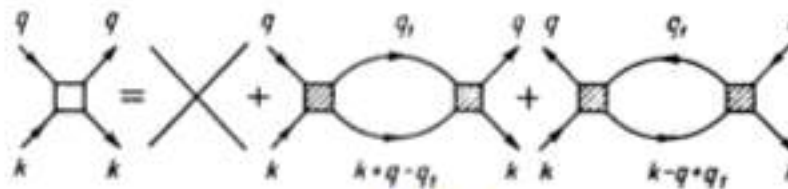
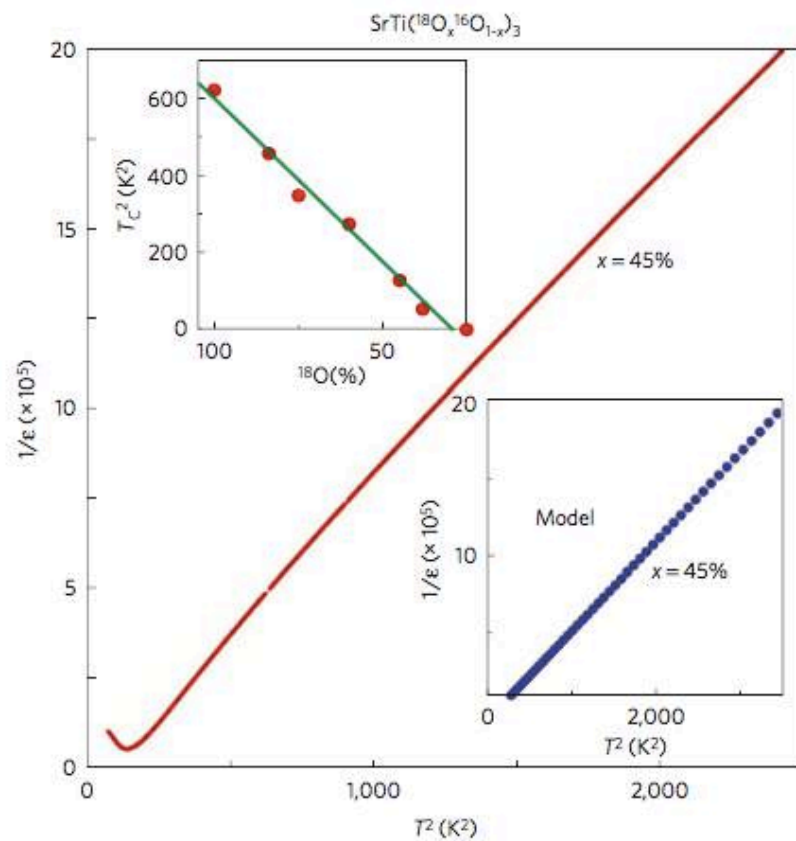
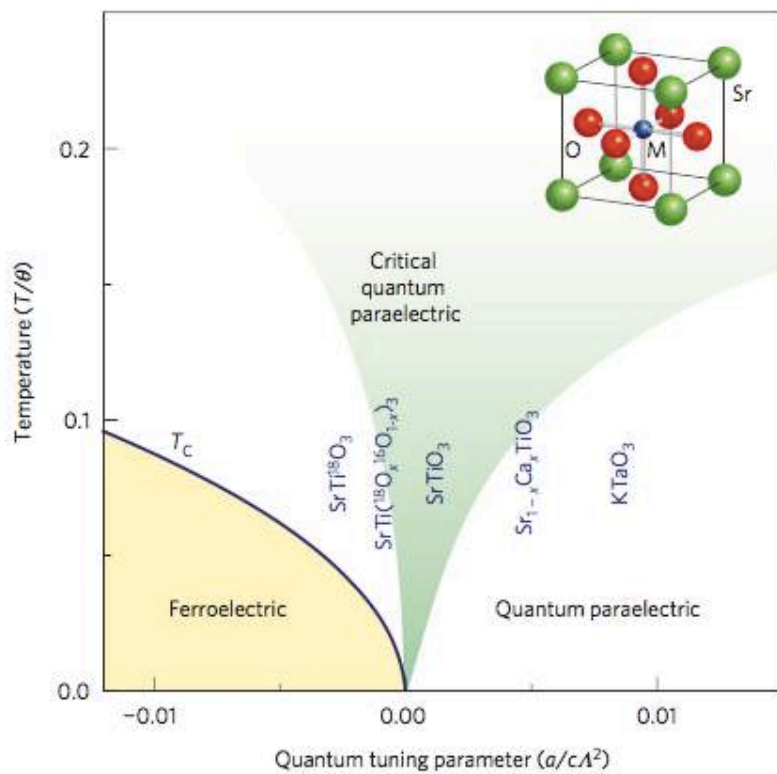


FIG. 9

$$\chi^{-1} \propto T^2$$

Simpler way to get this result ??



S. Rowley, L. Spalek, R. Smith, M. Dean, M. Itoh, J.F. Scott, G.G. Lonzarich and S. Saxena,
Nature Physics 10, 367-72 (2014)

Self-consistent Landau Approach

$$f = \frac{1}{2}\alpha\phi^2 + \frac{1}{4}\beta\phi^4 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma|\nabla\phi|^2 - \mathcal{E}\phi$$

Minimization

$$\mathcal{E} = \alpha\phi + \beta\phi^3 - \gamma\nabla^2\phi$$

Observed moment requires fluctuation-averaging
(due to coarse-graining over q_T)

$$\phi \rightarrow \bar{\phi} + \delta\phi$$

$$\mathcal{E} = (\alpha + 3\beta\langle\delta\phi^2\rangle)\bar{\phi} + \gamma\nabla^2\bar{\phi}$$

We can Fourier transform in the limit $\phi, \mathcal{E} \rightarrow 0$
to obtain

$$\chi_q^{-1} = (\alpha + 3\beta \langle \delta \phi^2 \rangle) + q^2$$

Most probable vs. average values...coarse-graining over q_T !

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} \kappa^2 \propto \langle \delta \phi_T^2 \rangle$$

$$\kappa^2 \propto \sum_{q < q_T} \frac{T}{\kappa^2 + q^2} \approx T \int_{\kappa}^{q_T} \frac{q^{d-1}}{q^2} \approx T q_T^{d-2} \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{\kappa}{q_T} \right)^{d-2} \right\}$$

Temptation...

$$\chi^{-1} \propto \kappa^2 \propto T^{\frac{(d+z-2)}{z}}$$

When is this approach valid ?

$$\left(\frac{\kappa}{q_T}\right)^2 \propto T^{\frac{(d+z-4)}{z}} \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{\kappa}{q_T}\right)^{d-2} \right\}$$

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\kappa}{q_T}\right) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{if} \quad d_{eff} \equiv d + z > 4$$

Ferroelectrics $d = 3, z = 1$

$$\chi^{-1} \propto \kappa^2 \propto T^{\frac{(d+z-2)}{z}} = T^2 \quad (\text{log terms})$$



Agrees with previous calculation by different methods

Finite-Size Scaling in Space and T

- Space (near CCP) $\xi \sim t^{-\nu}$

$$\chi \sim t^{-\gamma} \Phi \left(\frac{L}{\xi} \right) \sim t^{-\gamma} \Phi \left(\frac{L}{t^{-\nu}} \right)$$

$$\text{For } L \ll \xi \quad \chi = \chi(L)$$

$$\chi \sim t^{-\gamma} \left(\frac{L}{\xi} \right)^p \sim t^{-\gamma} \Phi \left(\frac{L}{t^{-\nu}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\nu}} \sim L^{\frac{\gamma}{\nu}}$$

- Time

(near QCP)

$$\xi \sim g^{-\nu} \longrightarrow \xi_\tau \sim g^{-z\nu}$$

$$L_\tau = \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

$$(\omega \propto q^z \rightarrow [\xi_\tau] = [\xi^z])$$

$$\chi \sim g^{-\gamma} \Phi \left(\frac{L_\tau}{\xi_\tau} \right) \sim g^{-\gamma} \Phi \left(\frac{L_\tau}{g^{-z\nu}} \right)$$

$$\text{For } L_\tau \ll \xi_\tau \quad \chi = \chi(L_\tau)$$

$$\chi \sim g^{-\gamma} \left(\frac{L_\tau}{\xi_\tau} \right)^p \sim g^{-\gamma} \Phi \left(\frac{L_\tau}{g^{-z\nu}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{z\nu}} \sim L_\tau^{\frac{\gamma}{z\nu}} \sim T^{-\frac{\gamma}{z\nu}}$$

(near FE-QCP)

$$\chi^{-1} \propto T_{27}^2 \quad \text{😊}$$

(here $z = 1, \nu = 1/2, \gamma = 1 \rightarrow \frac{\gamma}{z\nu} = 2$)

Gruneisen Ratio $\Gamma = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial U} = \frac{\alpha_{Th}}{c_P}$ Zhu et al (13)

$$F(\delta\phi, \delta V) = \frac{\alpha}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{a}{2}\delta V^2 - \eta(\delta V)(\delta\phi^2)$$

Minimization + Fluctuation-Averaging

$$\Gamma_{FE} = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial U} \propto \frac{\langle \delta\phi^2 \rangle}{\delta U}$$

Near Classical Phase Transition

$$\Gamma_{CFE}(T \rightarrow T_c) \propto (T - T_c)^0$$

(supported by experiment)

Gruneisen Ratio $\Gamma = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial U} = \frac{\alpha_{Th}}{c_P}$ Zhu et al (13)

$$F(\delta\phi, \delta V) = \frac{\alpha}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{a}{2}\delta V^2 - \eta(\delta V)(\delta\phi^2)$$

Minimization + Fluctuation-Averaging

$$\Gamma_{FE} = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial U} \propto \frac{\langle \delta\phi^2 \rangle}{\delta U}$$

In the vicinity of a (d=3) FE-QCP

$$\Gamma_{QFE} \propto \left(\frac{\langle \delta\phi_T^2 \rangle}{\delta U} \right) \propto \frac{\chi^{-1}}{T q_T^d} = \frac{T^2}{T^4} = \frac{1}{T^2}$$

Scaling Approach to the Gruneisen Ratio

$$\Gamma = \frac{\alpha}{c_P} = -\frac{1}{V_m T} \frac{\partial S / \partial V}{\partial S / \partial T}$$

Dimensionally

$$[\Gamma] = \left[\frac{1}{g} \right]$$

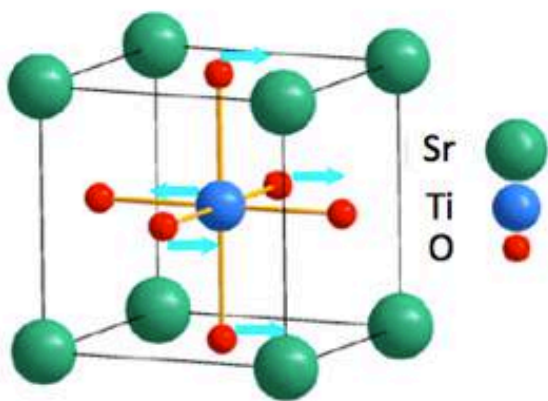
Near a (FE)-QCP

$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{g} \Phi \left(\frac{L_\tau}{\xi_\tau} \right) = \frac{1}{g} \Phi \left(\frac{L_\tau}{g^{-z\nu}} \right) = \tilde{\Gamma}_0 L_\tau^{\frac{1}{z\nu}} = \Gamma_0 T^{-\frac{1}{z\nu}}$$

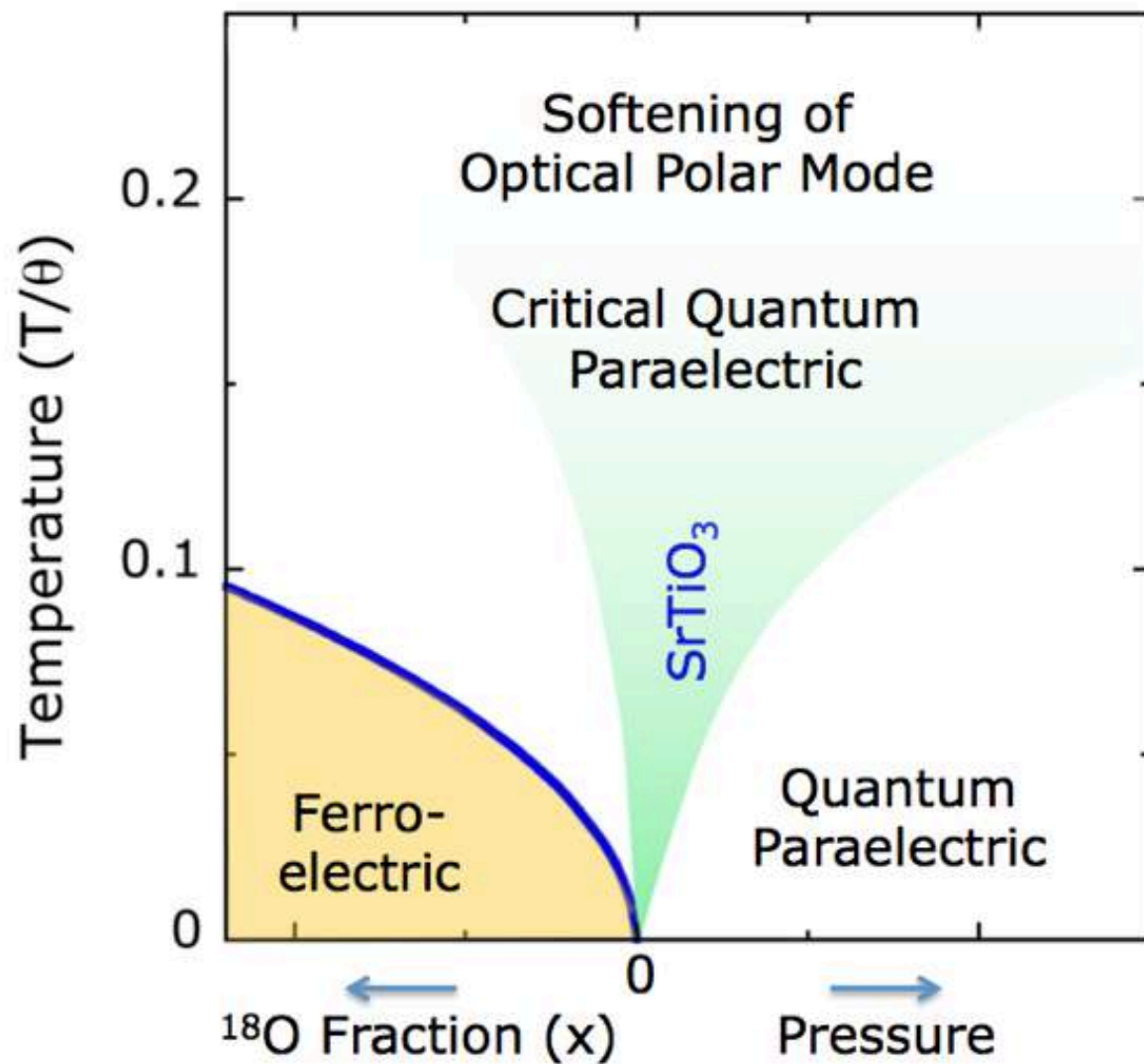
$$\Gamma^{-1} \propto T^2$$



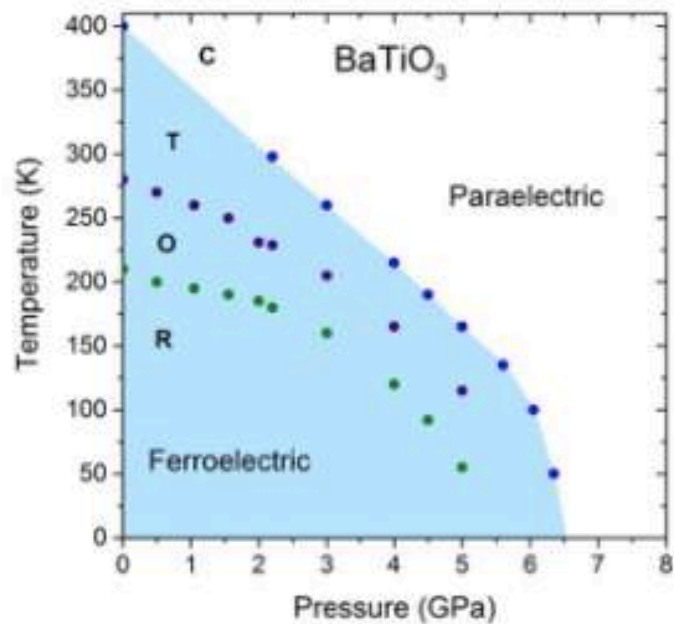
$$(z = 1, \nu = \frac{1}{2})$$



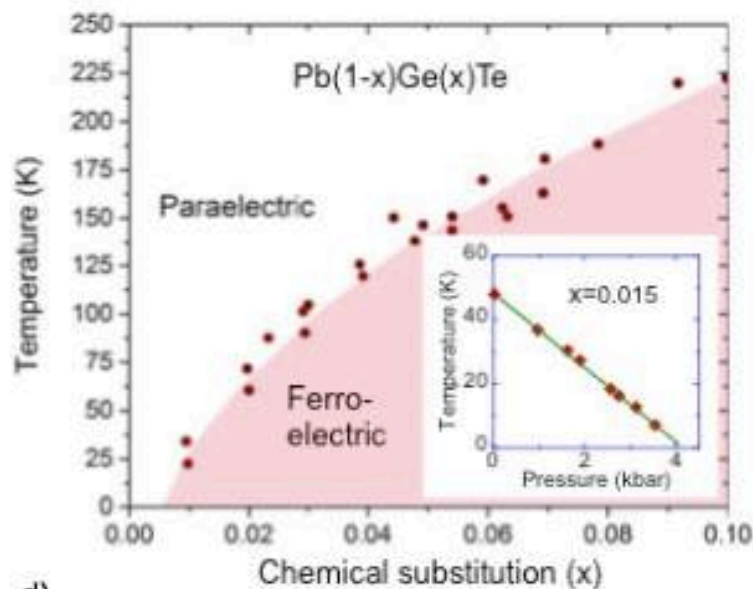
Optical Polar Mode



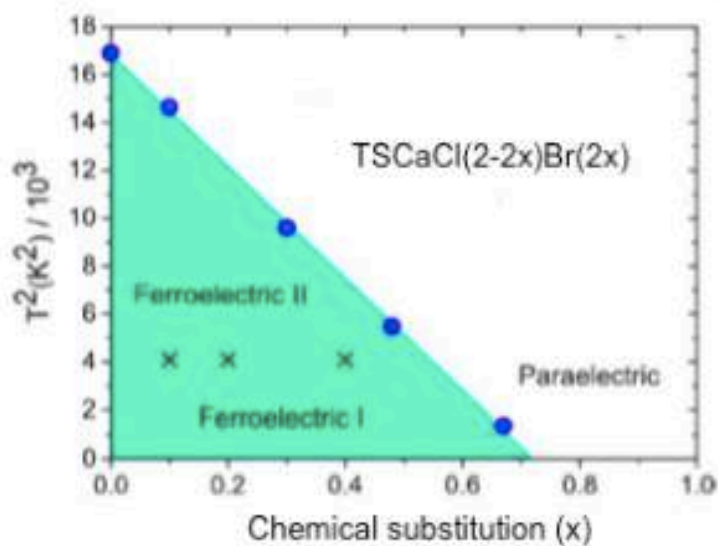
a)



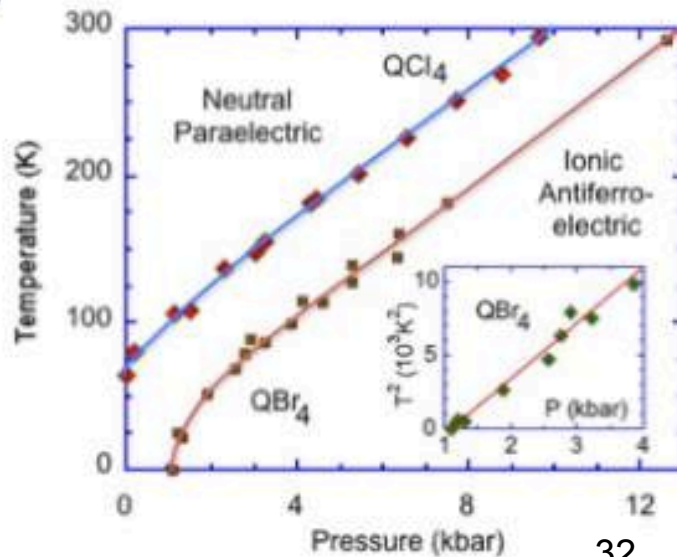
b)



c)



d)



Why Study Ferroelectric Quantum Criticality?

Quest for Universality in Quantum Criticality

Simple Examples: Few Degrees of Freedom
and Non-Dissipative Dynamics

Reside in marginal dimension allowing for
detailed interplay between experiment
and theory

Additional Degrees of Freedom (e.g. Spin and
Charge) can be added Systematically

Open Questions for Future Research

Specific FE/PE materials for Study at low T

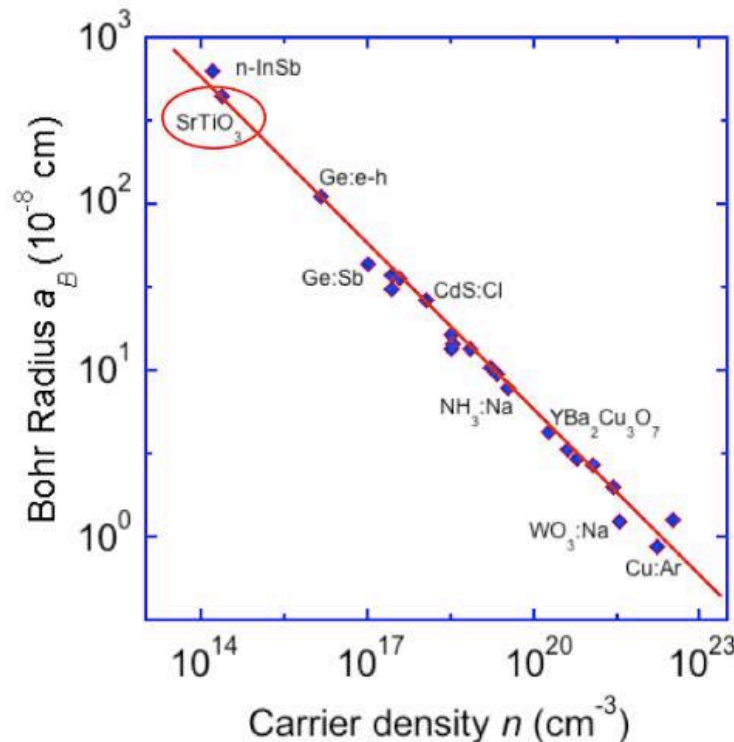
Add Spin: A Multiferroic QCP

Add Charge: An Exotic Metal and an
Unexpected Superconductor!

Thoughts on n-doped STO

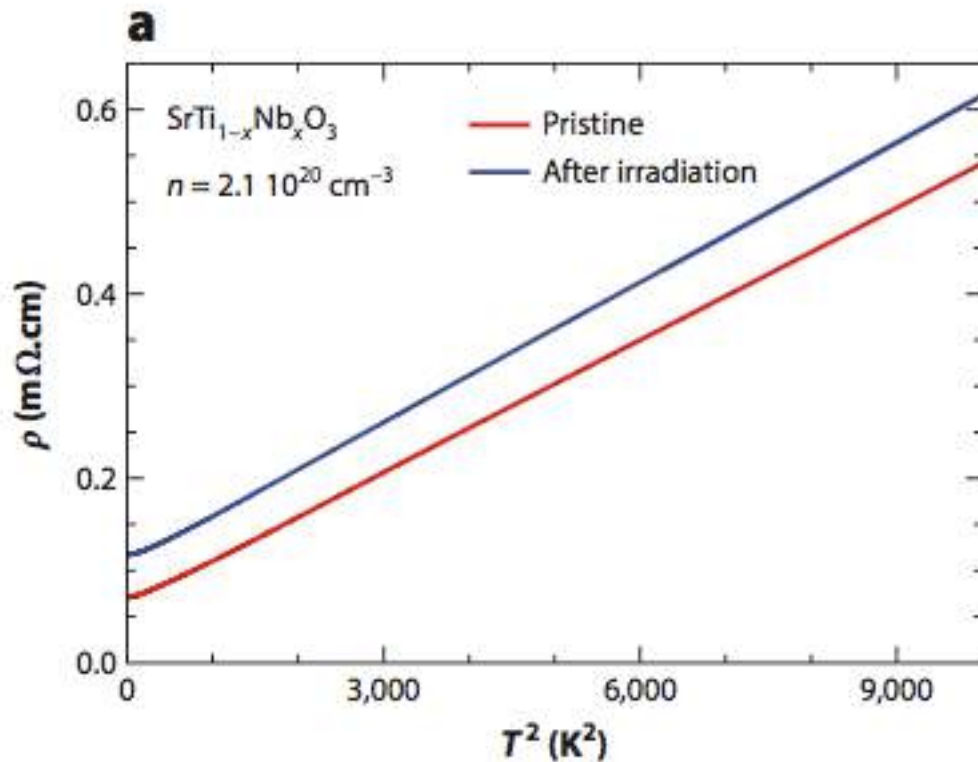
Mott criterion for doped semiconductors

$$n_c^{\frac{1}{3}} a_B^* \approx 0.26 \quad \left(a_B^* = \frac{\epsilon \hbar^2}{m^* e^2} \right)$$



Transport in n-doped STO

$$\rho = \rho_0 + AT^2 \quad A = f(n)$$



Origin of this
Robust
T-Dependence ??

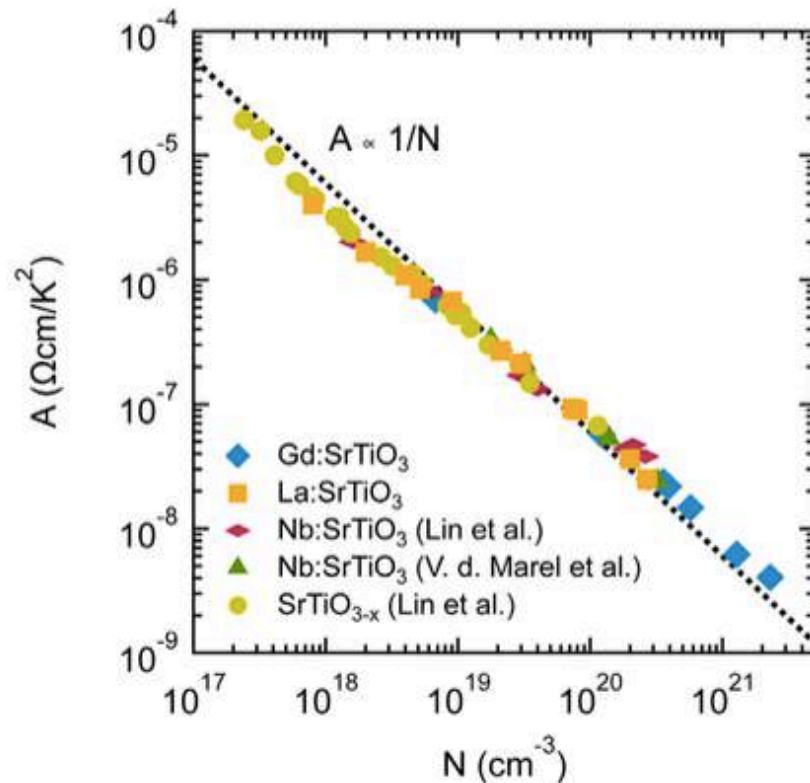


Figure 3. Carrier density dependence of the A -coefficient of the T^2 resistivity term for 3D electron gases in SrTiO_3 doped with different dopants (see legend). Data is from thin films (La:SrTiO_3 and Gd:SrTiO_3) grown by MBE and bulk single crystal data from [44, 45]. The A -coefficient approximately follows a $1/N$ dependence on the carrier density N over orders of magnitude in N , as can be seen by comparison with the black dotted line. Slight deviations from the $1/N$ behavior are expected even if the scattering rate is independent of the carrier density, because the carrier mass also changes as higher lying bands are filled. Reprinted from [56]. CC BY 4.0.

$$\rho = \rho_0 + AT^2$$

Drude Model

$$AT^2 = \frac{m^*}{Ne^2} \frac{1}{\tau}$$

Energy Scales

$$T \propto k_F^2 \propto n^{\frac{2}{3}} \qquad V \propto \frac{1}{r} \propto n^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$r_s \propto \frac{V}{T} \propto \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{3}} a_B^*} \approx 10^{-2} \quad \text{weak electron-electron interactions}$$

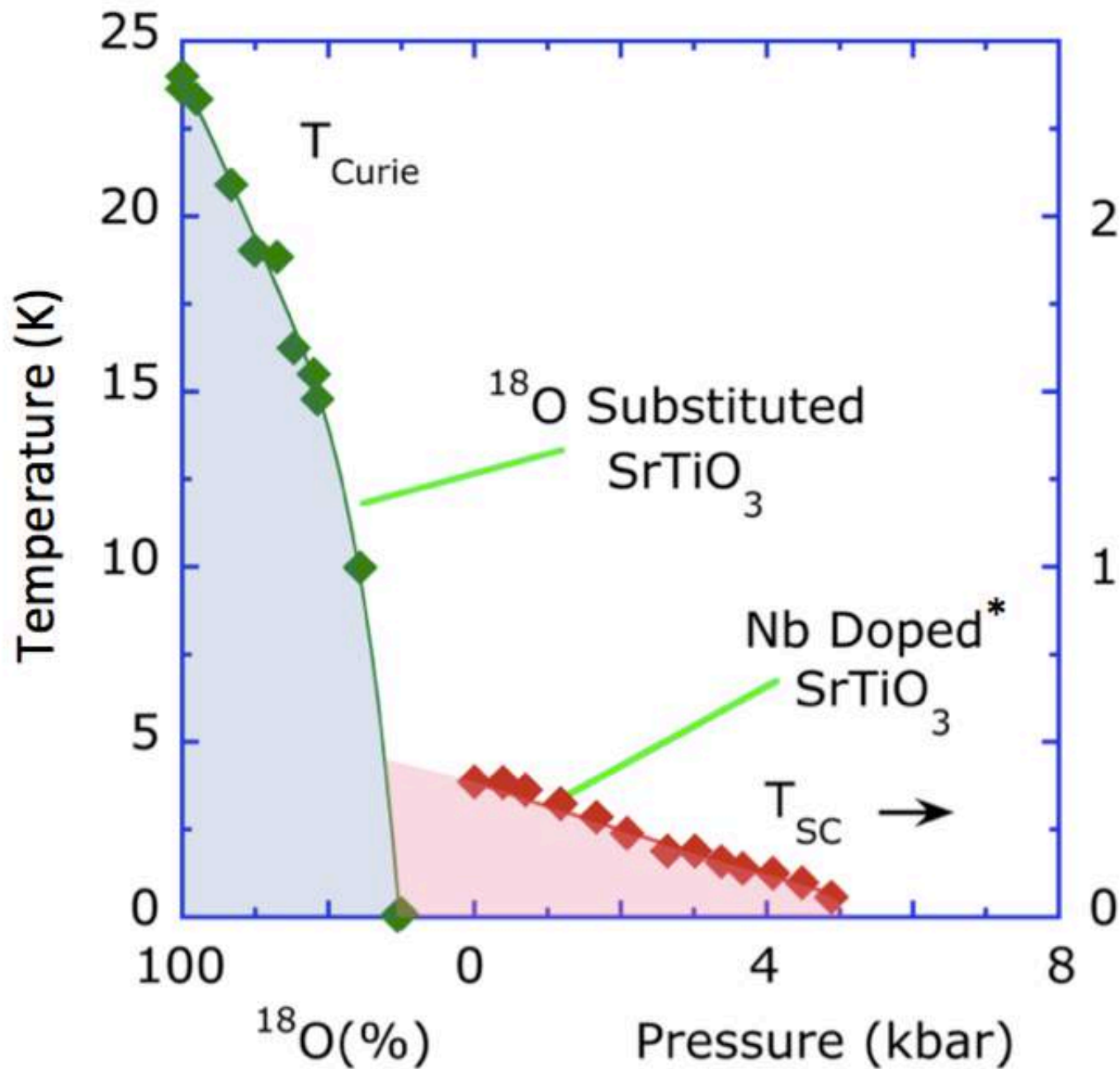
$$n = 5.5 \times 10^{17} \text{cm}^{-3}$$

$$T_F \sim 13K$$

$$T_D \sim 400K$$

$$T_F \ll T_D$$

Slow Electrons and Fast Phonons !



(S. Rowley et al.,
arXiv:1801.08121)

Isotope effect in superconducting n-doped SrTiO₃

A. Stucky, G. W. Scheerer, Z. Ren, D. Jaccard, J.-M. Poumirol, C. Barreteau, E. Giannini & D. van der Marel

Sc. Reports 2016

$$\alpha = -\frac{d(\ln T_C)}{d \ln M} = -10 \quad (\alpha = 0.5 \quad \text{BCS})$$

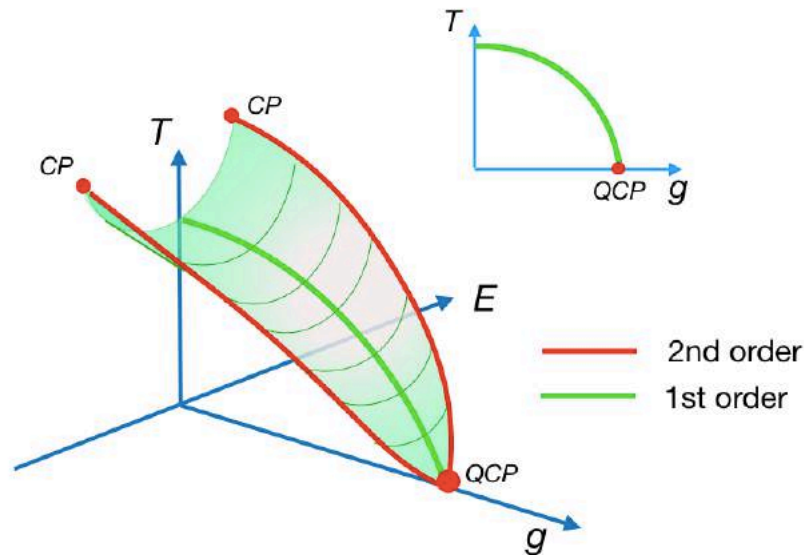
Quantum critical fluctuations enhance superconductivity ???

Soft TO phonons (very weak coupling to charge density)

Plasmons (much fine-tuning required)

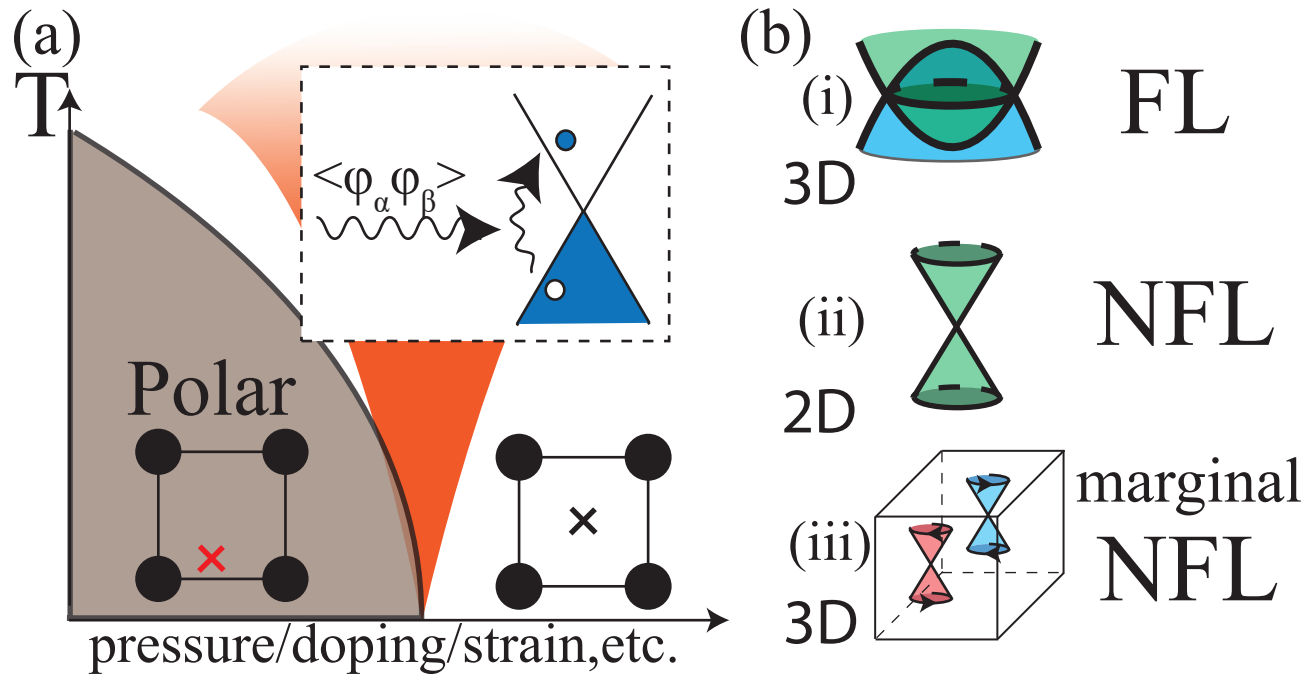
Wanted: How to get (s-wave) Cooper pairing without retardation!!

Next Time: A Flavor for Two Current Research Projects



Can quantum fluctuations “toughen” a system against macroscopic instabilities resulting in a line of classical first-order transitions ending in a quantum critical point ?

Next Time: A Flavor for Two Current Research Projects



When do metals close to polar quantum critical points develop strongly interacting novel phases ??

