

# High Temperature Superconductivity: The Secret Life of Electrons in Cuprate Oxides



Erica W. Carlson



# Metals

- Shiny
- Smooth
- Malleable
- Carry current  
(conduct electricity)

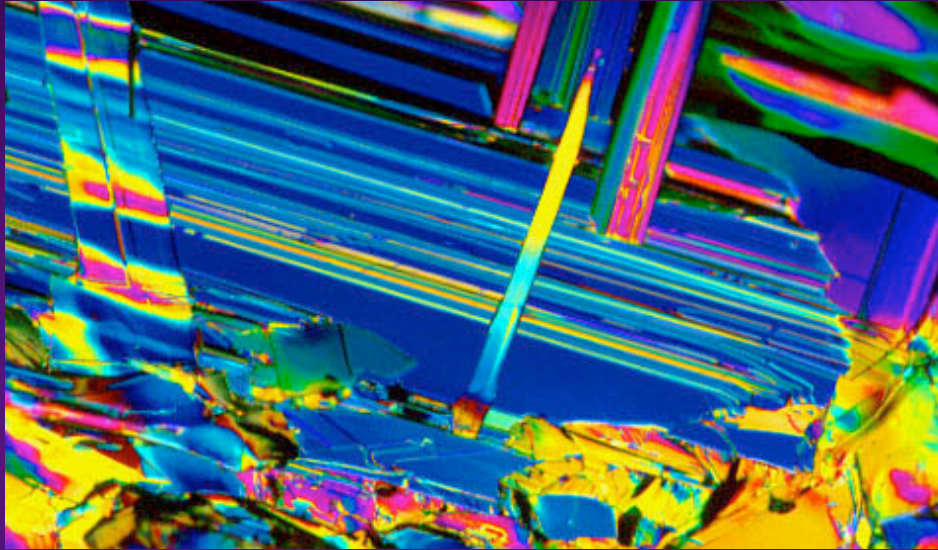


# Metals and Current



- $V = IR$
- Resistance
- Wires radiate power away as heat
- You pay for more electricity than you receive!
- Electrons “scatter” off lattice, and lose energy

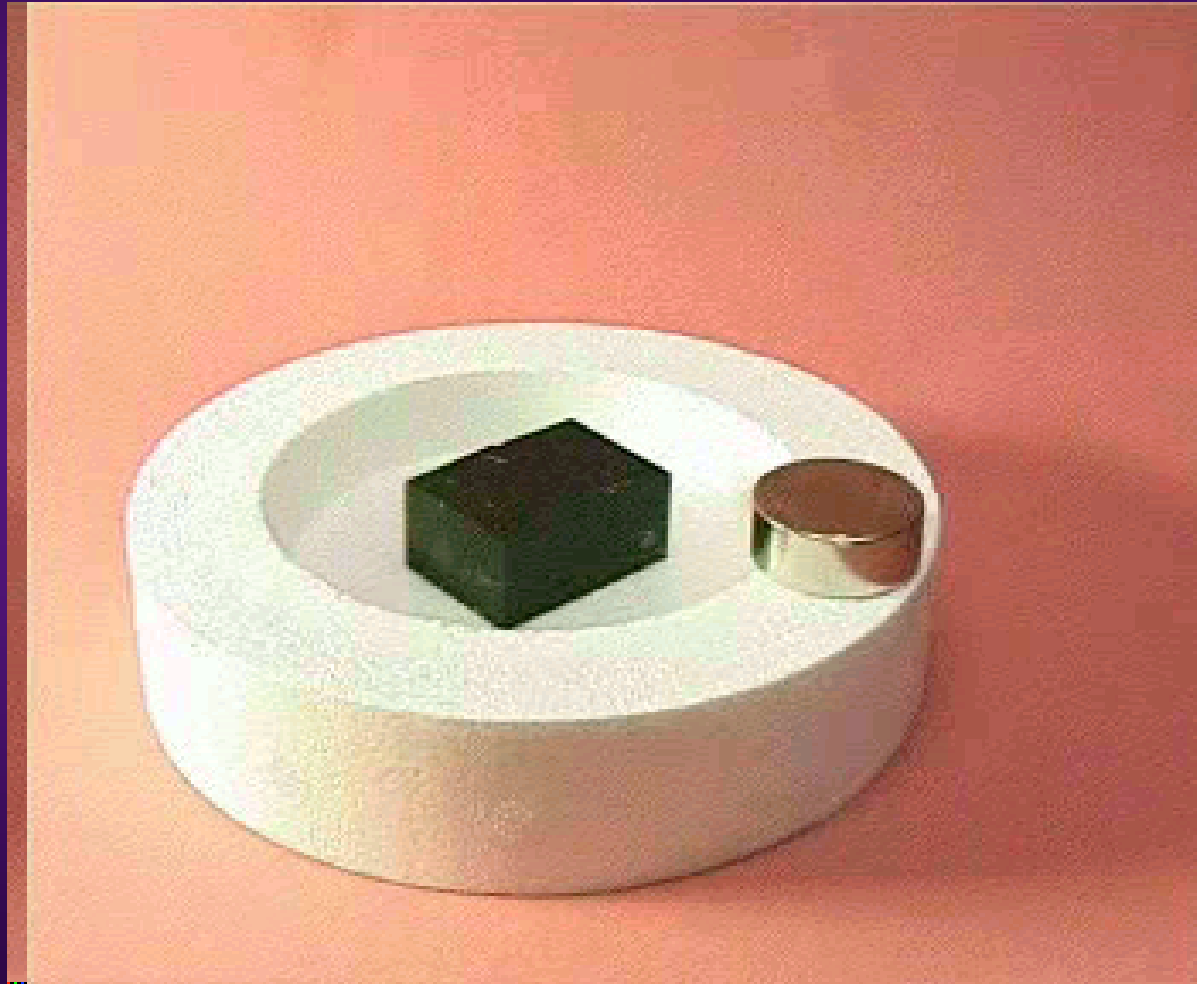
# Superconductors



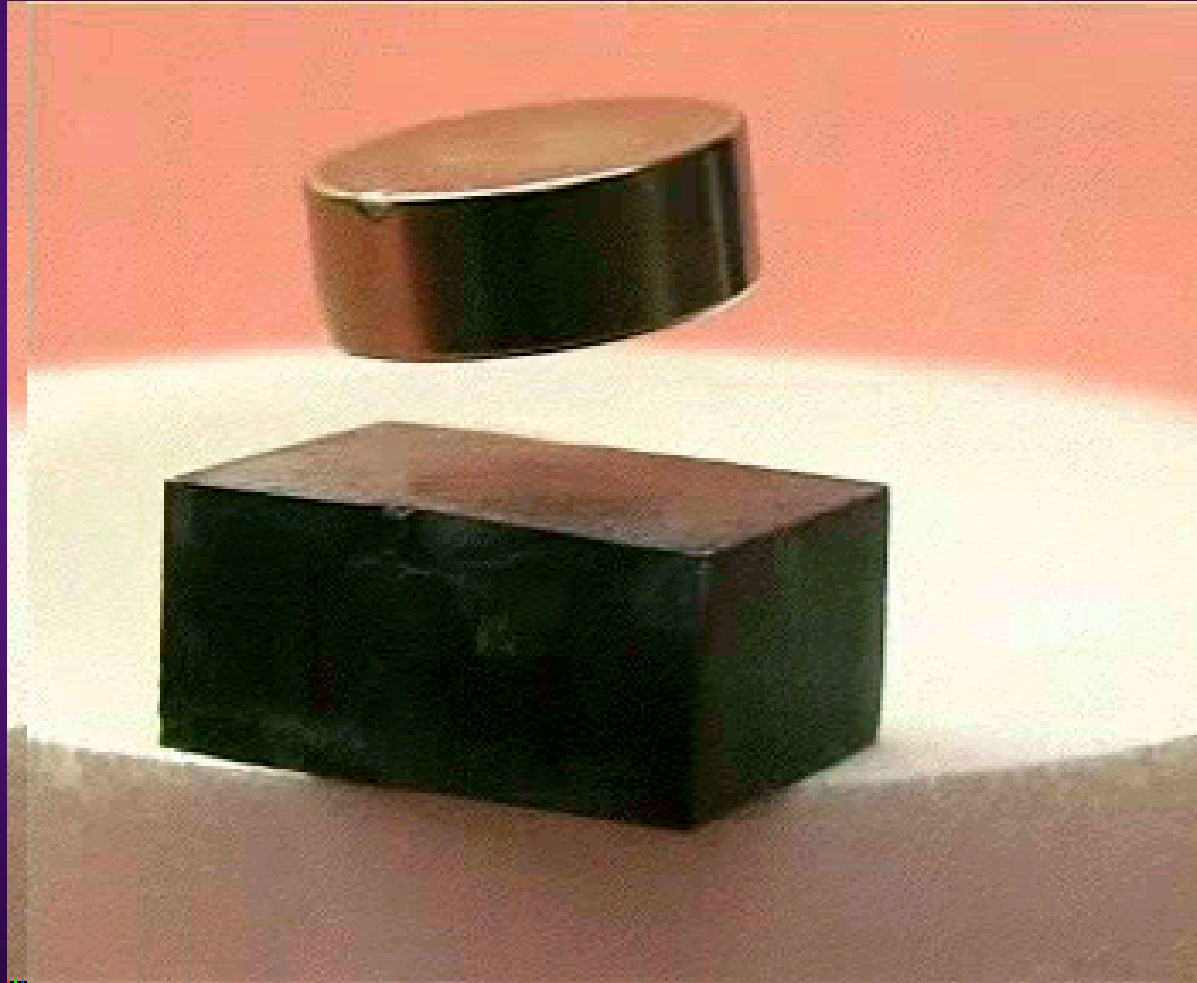
<http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu>

- Carry current perfectly
- Do not lose energy
- Current in a loop will run *forever*
- Expel magnetic fields (Meissner effect)

# Levitation



# Levitation





# 浮いた 土佐ノ海

## TOSANOUMI (Sumo Wrestler)

Height of Tosanoumi	186cm
Weight of Tosanoumi	142kg
Weight of disk	60kg
Total weight	202kg

As of February '90

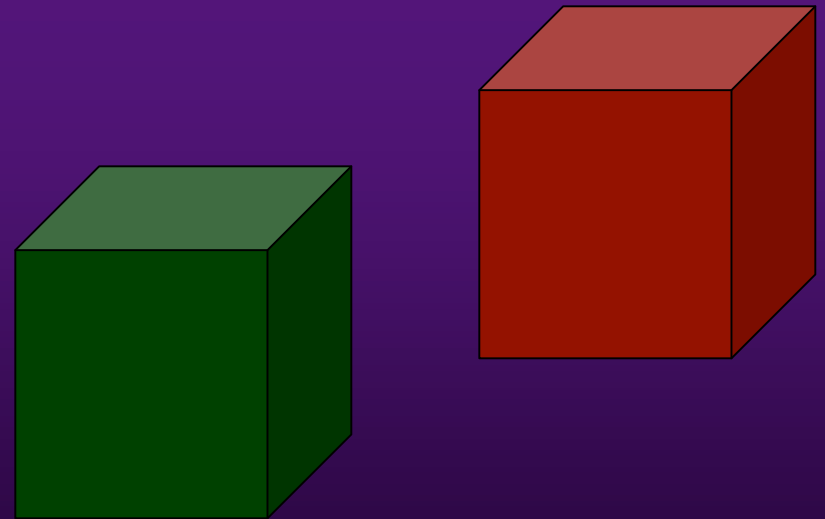
How does it happen?



# Matter

No two pieces of matter may  
occupy the same space at the  
same time

(Only half true)



# Two kinds of particles

## Fermions

(spin  $1/2$ ,  $3/2$ ,  $5/2$ , etc.)

- Cannot occupy the same space at the same time
- Pauli exclusion principle

Antisocial

## Bosons

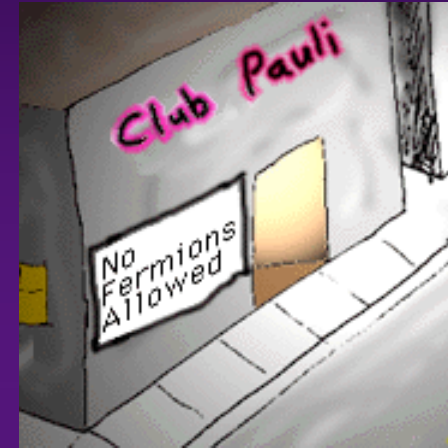
(spin 0, 1, 2, etc.)

- Can occupy the same space at the same time

All Follow the Crowd

# Electrons are Fermions

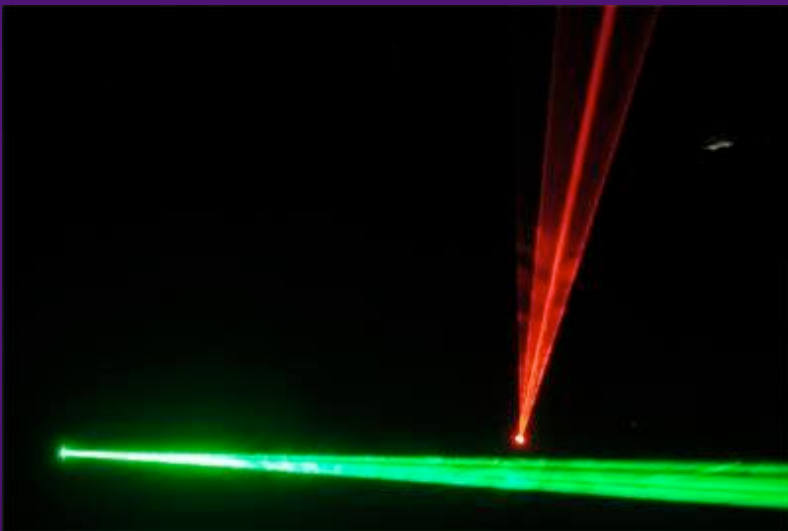
Pauli exclusion principle



Why most matter cannot  
occupy the same space  
at the same time

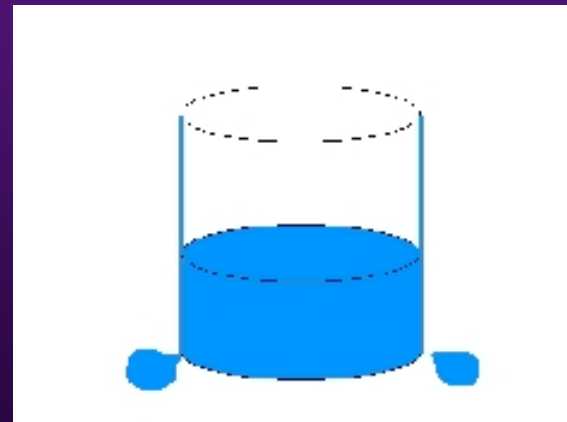
# Bosons

Can occupy the same space at the same time



Photons are bosons  
→ lasers

Helium is a boson  
→ superfluidity



# Bose condensation

- At low temperature, bosons flock to the lowest level
- Very stable state!
- Dissipationless flow
- Superfluidity (Helium)
- Superconductivity (metals at low temperature)

# Superconductivity

- Pair electrons  $\rightarrow$  form *bosons*
- Bosons condense into the lowest orbital
- Quantum mechanics! Very stable state
- Dissipationless current flow



## Conventional Superconductivity

Based on an *instability* of the simple metallic state

# Superconductors Have Zero Resistance?

- Metals: electrons “scatter” off lattice and lose energy → resistance
- Superconductor: electrons pair
- Bosonic electron pairs in lowest state already
- There’s no lower state for them to scatter into
- Same as why atoms are stable





John Bardeen



Leon Cooper



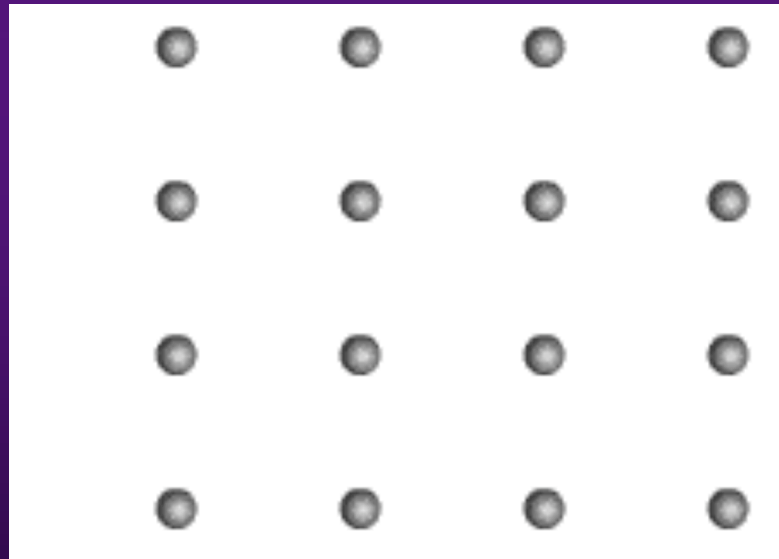
Bob Schrieffer

## Conventional Superconductivity

- BCS Theory
- *Instability* of the metallic state

# Cooper Pairing

- Electrons in Metal Can Pair via the lattice



**BCS Haiku:**

祢

安

***Instability***

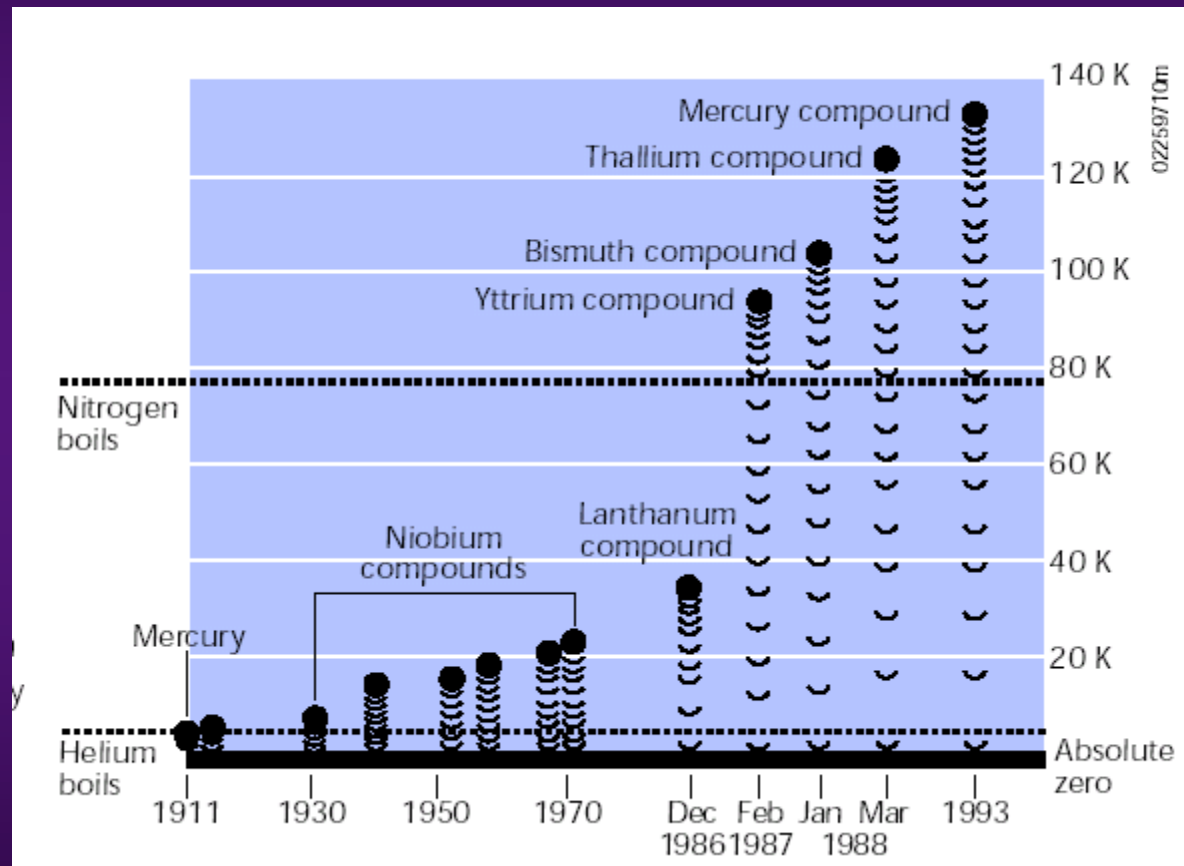
***Of A Tranquil Fermi  
Sea—***

夢

美

***Broken Symmetry***

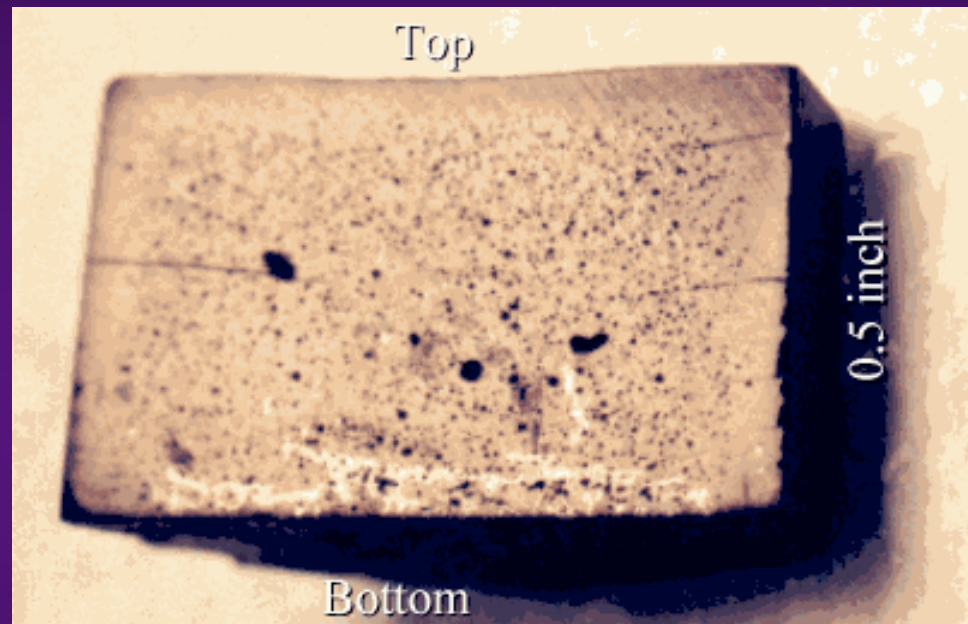
# And then there was 1986



<http://www.eere.energy.gov/superconductivity/pdfs/frontiers.pdf>

# A Ceramic Superconductor?

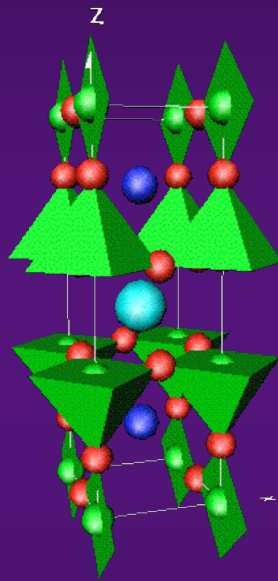
- Brittle
- Ceramic
- Not Shiny
- Not metallic



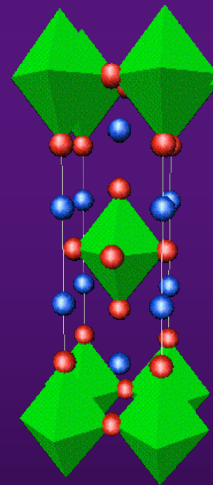
<http://www.superconductivecomp.com/>

- Why do they conduct at all?

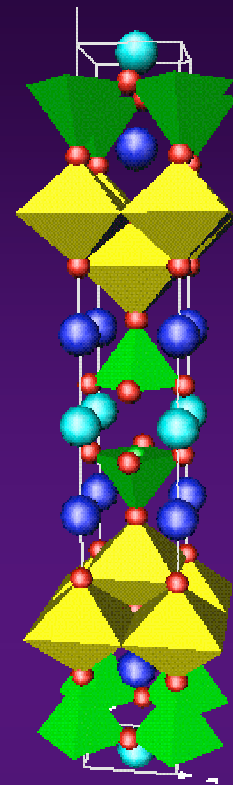
# High Temperature Superconductors



YBCO<sub>7</sub>

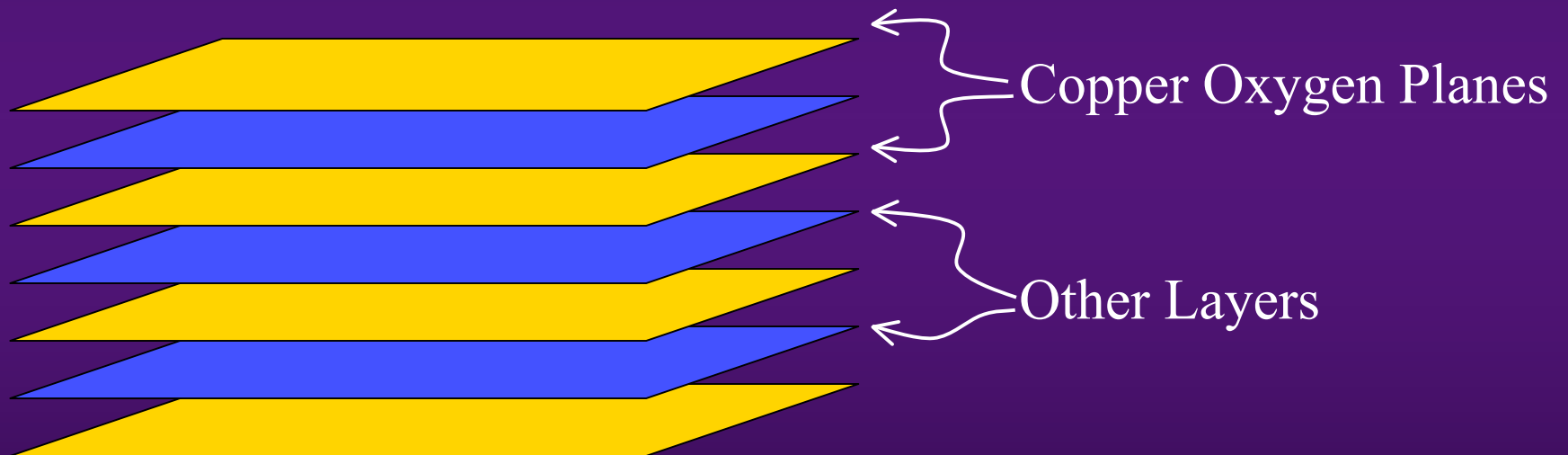


LSCO



HgCuO

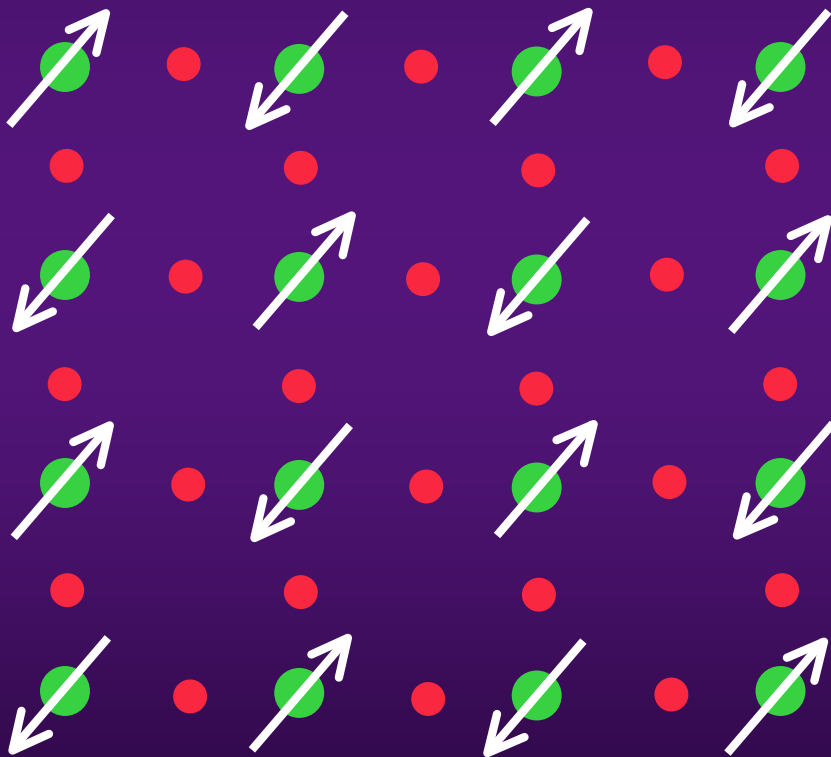
# High Temperature Superconductors



Layered structure  $\rightarrow$  quasi-2D system



# High Temperature Superconductors



Copper-Oxygen Planes  
Important

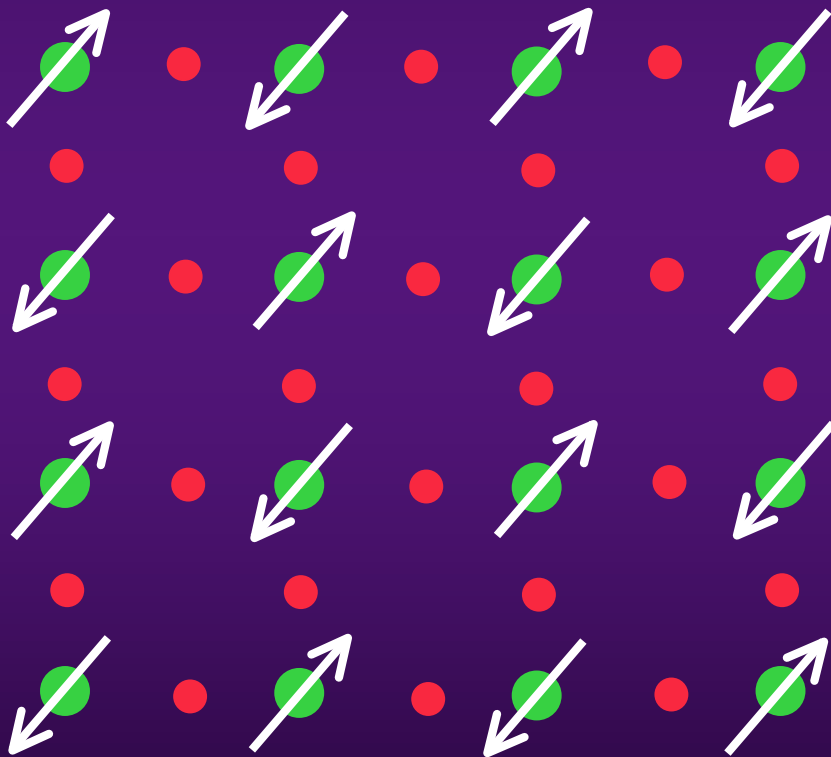
“Undoped” is half-filled

Antiferromagnet

Naive band theory fails

Strongly correlated

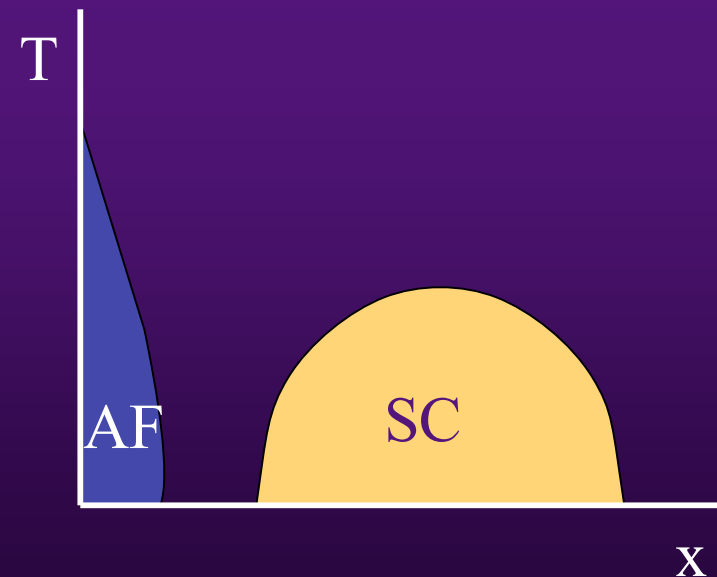
# High Temperature Superconductors



● Oxygen ● Copper

Dope with holes

Superconducts at certain dopings



# Mysteries of High Temperature Superconductivity

- Ceramic! (Brittle)
- Not a simple metal
- Magnetism nearby (antiferromagnetism)
- Make your own (robust)  
<http://www.ornl.gov/reports/m/ornlm3063r1/pt7.html>
- BCS inadequate!

# Two Ingredients for Superconductivity

Pairing

Single Particle Gap

Condensation

Superfluid Density

BCS is a mean field theory in which pairing precipitates order

Material	$T_{\text{pair}}[\text{K}]$	$T_c[\text{K}]$	$T_\theta[\text{K}]$
Pb	7.9	7.2	$6 \times 10^5$
Nb <sub>3</sub> Sn	18.7	17.8	$2 \times 10^4$
UBe13	0.8	0.9	$10^2$
BaKBiO	17.4	26	$5 \times 10^2$
K <sub>3</sub> C <sub>60</sub>	26	20	$10^2$
MgB <sub>2</sub>	15	39	$1.4 \times 10^3$

Phase Fluctuations  
Important in Cuprates

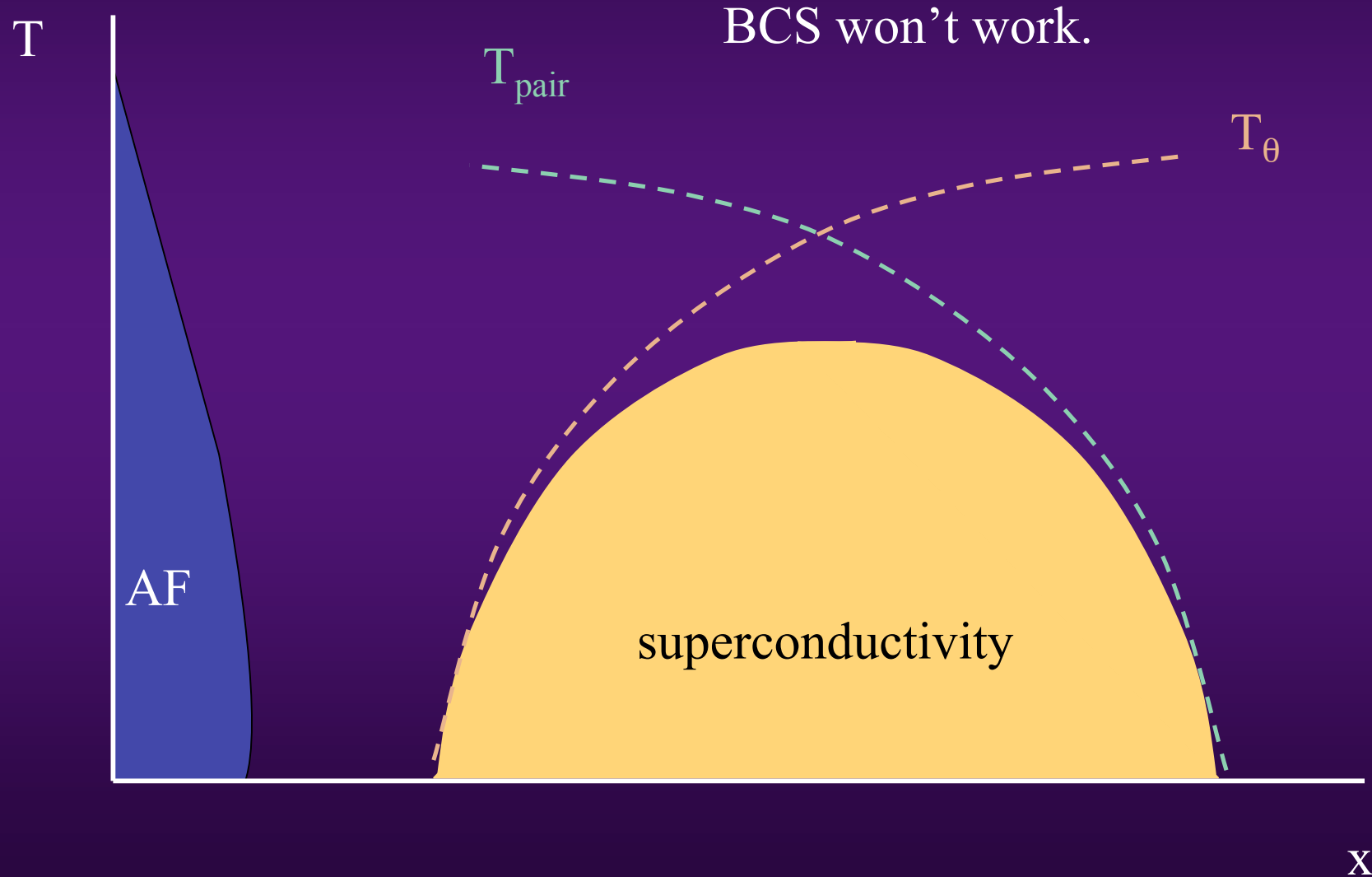


Material	$T_{\text{pair}}[\text{K}]$	$T_c[\text{K}]$	$T_\theta[\text{K}]$
LSCO (ud)	75	30	47
LSCO (op)	58	38	54
LSCO (od)		20	100
Hg-1201 (op)	192	96	180
Hg-1212 (op)	290	108	130
Hg-1223 (op)	435	133	130
Tl-2201 (op)	122	91	
Tl-2201 (od)		80	160
Tl-2201 (od)	26	25	
Bi-2212 (ud)	275	83	
Bi-2212 (op)	220	95	60
Bi-2212 (od)	104	62	
Y-123 (ud)		38	42
Y-123 (op)	116	90	140
Y-123 (od)	55	140	

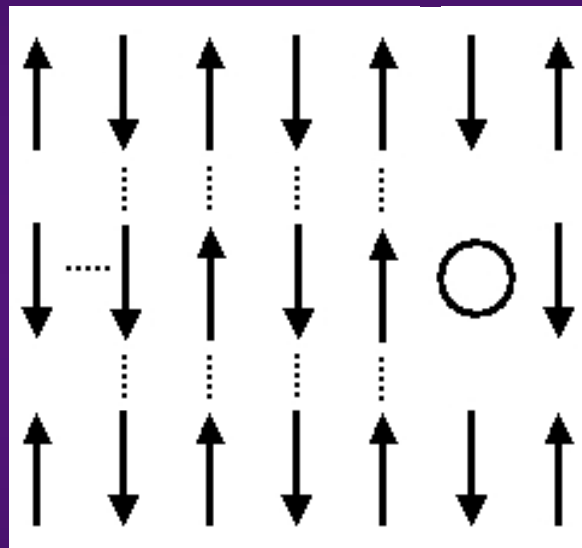
Emery, Kivelson, Nature, **374**, 434 (1995)

EC, Kivelson, Emery, Manousakis, PRL **83**, 612 (1999)

# $T_c$ and the two energy scales



# Doped Antiferromagnets



Hole Motion is Frustrated



# Doped Antiferromagnets

- Compromise # 1: Phase Separation
- Relieves some KE frustration



The diagram consists of two adjacent rectangular boxes. The left box has a gray and white checkerboard pattern and contains the text 'Pure AF'. The right box is solid white and contains the text 'Hole Rich'.

**Pure  
AF**

**Hole  
Rich**

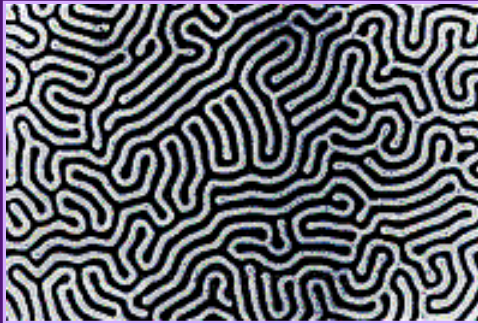
Like Salt Crystallizing  
From Salt Water,  
The Precipitate (AF) is Pure

# Coulomb Frustrated Phase Separation

- Long range homogeneity
- Short range phase separation
- Compromise # 2: *mesoscale structure*
- Patches interleave
- quasi-1D structure – stripes ?



# Competition often produces stripes



Ferrofluid  
confined between  
two glass plates  
Period  $\sim 1\text{cm}$



Ferromagnetic  
garnet film  
Faraday effect  
Period  $\sim 10^{-5}\text{ m}$



Ferromagnetic  
garnet film  
Period  $\sim 10^{-5}\text{ m}$



Block copolymers  
Period  $\sim 4 \times 10^{-8}\text{ m}$

# What's so special about 1D?

→ *solitons*

Disturbances in 3D:

dissipate as  $\sim 1/R^2$

Like the intensity  
of light

Disturbances in 2D:

dissipate as  $\sim 1/R$

Like a stone thrown  
in a pond

Disturbances in 1D:

“dissipate” as  $\sim 1$

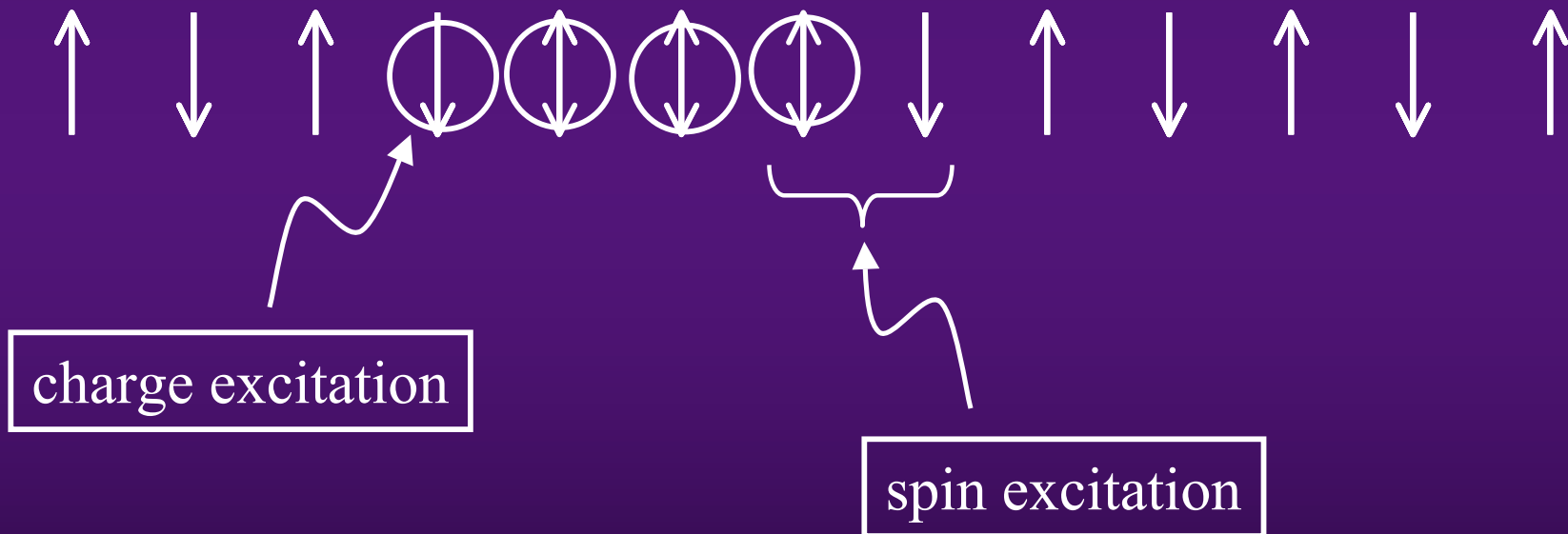
Like a wave  
in a canal







# 1D: Spin-Charge Separation



Spin Charge Separation  
Electron No Longer Exists!

# Fermi Liquid

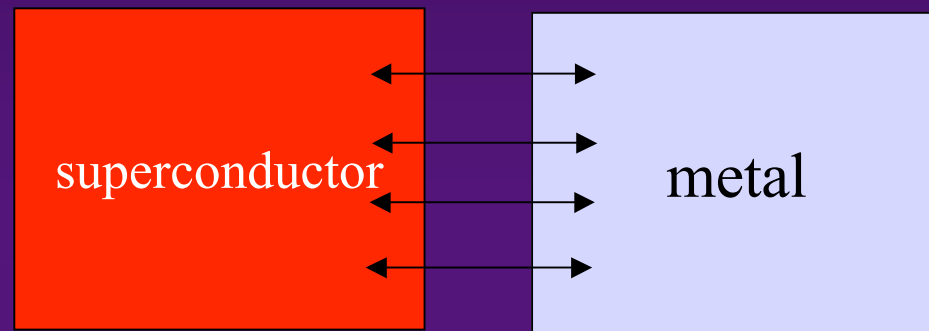
- k-space structure
- Kinetic energy  
is minimized
- Pairing is potential energy  
driven

# Strong Correlation

- Real space structure
- Kinetic energy (KE)  
is highly frustrated
- System works to relieve KE  
frustration
- Look for KE driven pairing

# Kinetic Energy Driven Pairing?

→ Proximity Effect



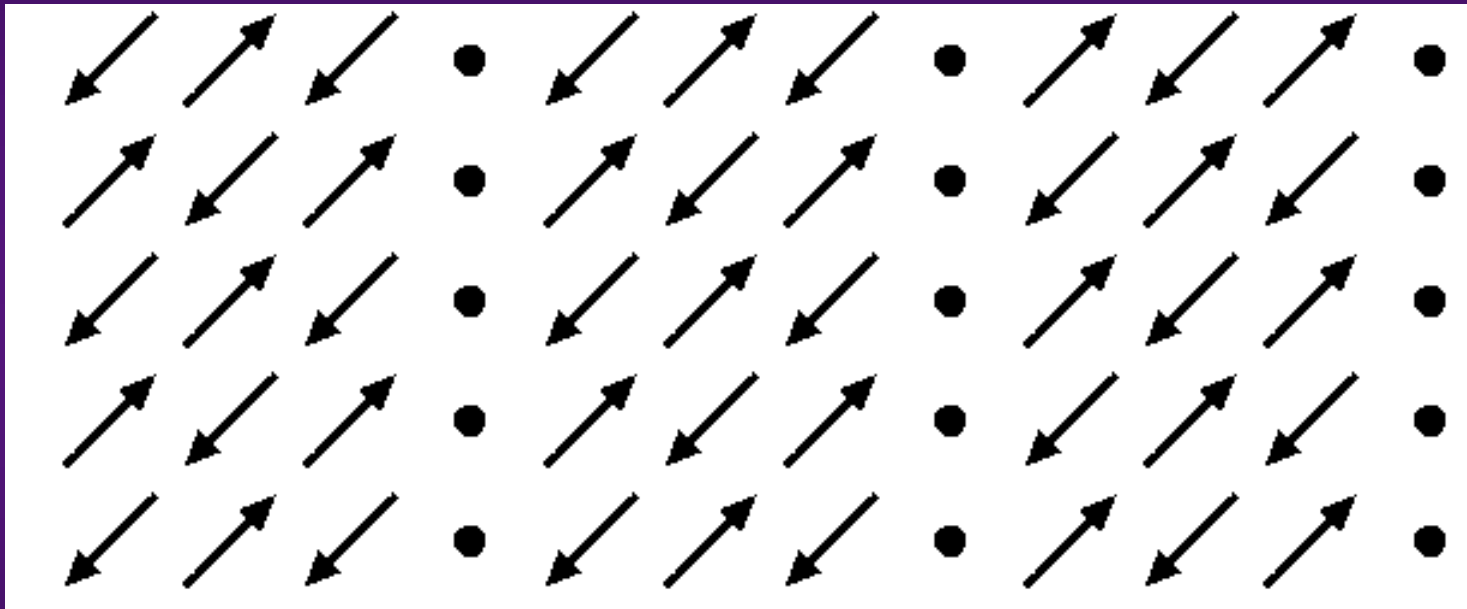
Individually, free energies minimized

Metal pairs (at a cost!) to minimize kinetic energy across the barrier



# Stripey Proximity Effect

Kinetic energy driven pairing in a quasi-1D superconductor



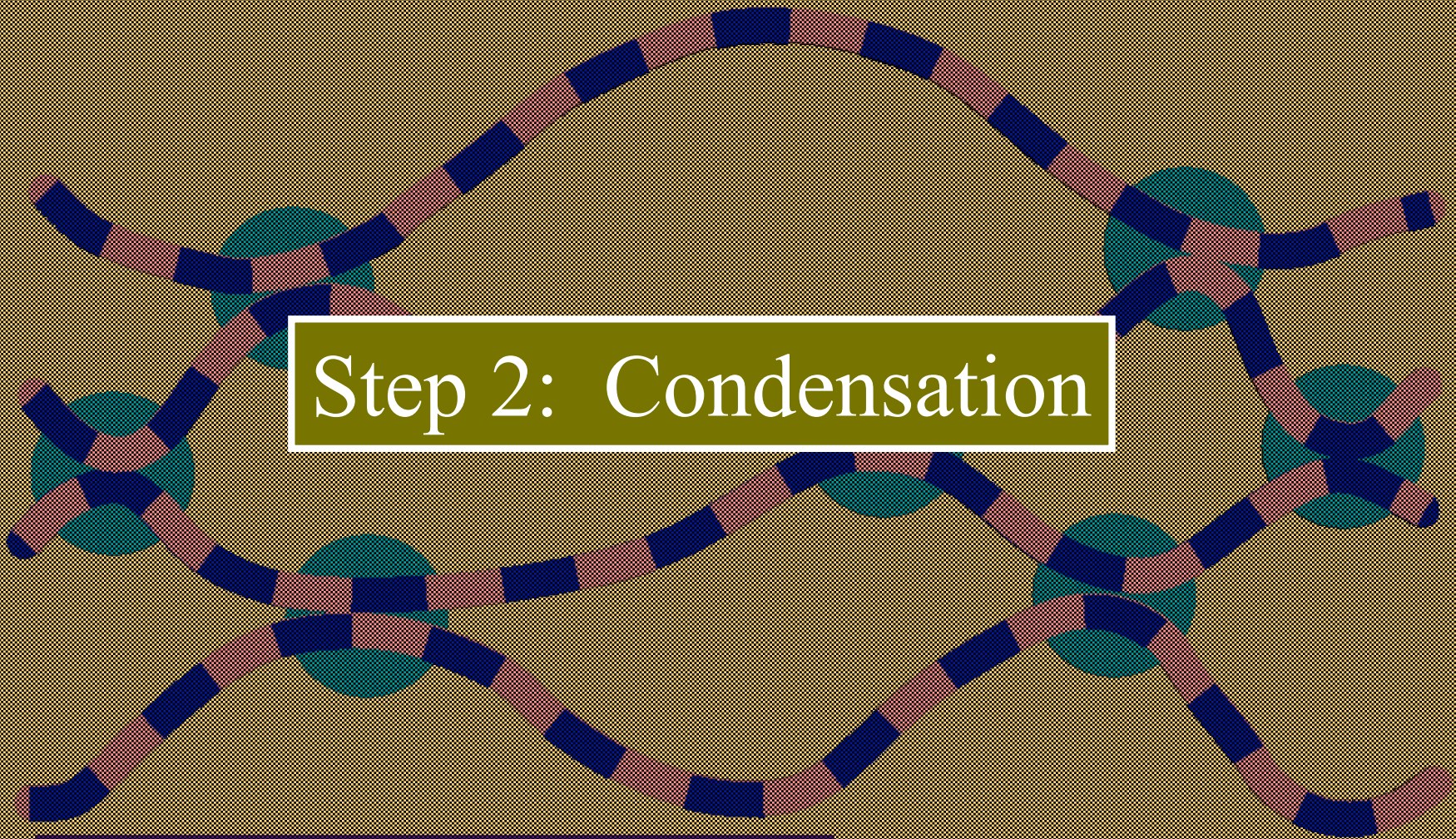
Metallic charge stripe acquires gap (forms pairs) through communication with gapped environment

Step 1: Pairing

# Stripe Fluctuations

Step 2: Condensation

Stripe fluctuations  
Encourage Condensation



# Summary

- Superconductivity
  - Fermions pair to form Bosons
  - Bosons condense → superfluid
  - Very stable phase of matter
  - Zero resistance
- Conventional (BCS) superconductivity:
  - Instability of the simple metallic state
- High Temperature Superconductors
  - Don't follow BCS theory
  - Ceramic – not metallic
  - Stripes: new mechanism
    - Pairing by proximity
    - Coherence by fluctuations
    - → Relieve kinetic energy frustration of strongly correlated system