

Russian Academy of Sciences
Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics

# Superconductor-metal/insulator transition in 2D electron systems with strong spin-orbit coupling

## Igor Burmistrov

in collaboration with

Igor Gornyi (Karlsruhe Inst. of Tech. & Ioffe Phys. Tech. Inst.) Alexander Mirlin (Karlsruhe Inst. of Tech. & Peterburg Nucl. Phys. Inst.)

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- amorphous Mo-Ge films (thickness  $b = 15 \div 1000$  Å)

[Graybeal, Beasley (1984)]

- Bi and Pb layers on amorphous Ge (b = 4 - 75 Å)

[Strongin et al. (1971); Haviland et al. (1989)]

- ultrathin Be films (b = 4 15 Å) [Bielejec et al. (2001)]
- amorphous thick In-O films (b = 100 2000 Å) [Shahar, Ovadyahu (1992);] [Gantmakher et al. (1996, 1998, 2000); Sambandamurthy et al. (2004); Sacépé et al. (2011)]
- thin TiN films [Baturina et al. (2007)]
- $Li_x ZrNCl$  powders

- [Kasahara et al. (2009)]
- $\sqrt{\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3}$  interface [Caviglia et al. (2008), Gariglio et al. (2009)]  $\sqrt{\delta}$ -doped Nb:SrTiO<sub>3</sub> films [Kim et al. (2012)] monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> [Ye et al. (2012, 2014); Taniguchi et al. (2012)]

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[Gantmakher et al. (1996, 1998)]

amorphous In-O film ( $b \approx 200$  Å): resistance vs temperature (left), perpendicular (middle) and parallel (right) magnetic field



#### spin-orbit splitting $\Delta_{so} \sim 0.2 \div 1 \cdot 10^2$ K (gate tunable)

 $\begin{array}{cccc} m_{*}/m_{e} = 3 & n \sim 10^{12} \div 10^{14} \ \mathrm{cm}^{-2} & \mu \sim 10^{3} \div 6 \cdot 10^{3} \ \mathrm{cm}^{2}/\mathrm{V} \cdot \mathrm{s} & \epsilon \sim 10^{4} \\ l \sim (0.7 \div 4.6) \cdot 10^{-6} \ \mathrm{cm} & \varkappa^{-1} \sim 10^{-8} \ \mathrm{cm} & E_{F} \sim 7.6 \div 760 \ \mathrm{K} & 1/\tau \sim 8.4 \div 12.6 \ \mathrm{K} \end{array}$ 

#### Motivation / experiments on SIT in $MoS_2$



Edel'stein (1989) Gor'kov, Rashba (2001) Dimitrova, Feigelman (2003,2007)

see recent review: "Non-centrosymmetric superconductors: Introduction and overview", Eds. E. Bauer and M. Sigrist, Springer 2012

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• nonmagnetic impurities do not affect s-wave superconductors Cooper-instability is the same for clean and diffusive electrons:



• mean free path l does not enter expression for  $T_c$ 

in the presence of spin-orbit coupling nonmagnetic impurities can affect  $T_c$  [see Samokhin (2012)]

#### Motivation / theory: suppression of $T_c$ due to Coulomb repulsion and disorder



diagrams for renormalization of attraction in the Cooper channel

Motivation / theory: suppression of  $T_c$  due to Coulomb repulsion and disorder

• perturbation theory

$$\frac{\delta T_c}{T_c^{BCS}} = -\frac{e^2}{6\pi^2\hbar} R_{\Box} \left( \ln \frac{1}{T_c^{BCS}\tau} \right)^3 < 0$$

[Ovchinnikov (1973); Maekawa, Fukuyama (1982); Takagi, Kuroda (1982)]

- RG theory (in the lowest order in disorder and Cooper-channel attraction)
- $T_c$  vanishes at the sheet resistance

$$R_{\Box} \sim \left( \ln \frac{1}{T_c^{BCS} \tau} \right)^{-2}$$



the problem: RG theory predicts infinite resistance at  $T_c$ !?

Motivation / theory: enhancement of  $T_c$  without Coulomb repulsion due to disorder

• BCS model in the basis of electron states  $\phi_{\varepsilon}$  for a given disorder [Bulaevskii, Sadovskii (1984); Ma, Lee (1985); Kapitulnik, Kotliar (1985)] superconductivity survives as long as

 $T_c^{BCS} \gtrsim \delta_{\xi} \propto \xi^{-d}$ 

where  $\xi$  – localization length, d – dimensionality

• enhancement of  $T_c$  near Anderson transition  $\left(T_c^{BCS} \propto \exp(-2/\lambda)\right)$ 

$$T_c \propto \lambda^{d/|\Delta_2|}$$

[Feigelman, Ioffe, Kravtsov, Yuzbashyan (2007); Feigelman, Ioffe, Kravtsov, Cuevas (2010)]
[I.S.B., Gornyi, Mirlin (2012)]

where  $\Delta_2 < 0$  – multifractal exponent for inverse participation ratio

How resistance and magnetoresistance are described near the superconductor-metal/insulator transition within RG approach?

The model / hamiltonian  $H = H_0 + H_{dis} + H_{int}$ 

• free electrons in *d*-dimensions

$$H_0 = \int d^d \boldsymbol{r} \, \overline{\psi}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{r}) \left[ -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m} \right] \psi_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{r})$$

where  $\sigma = \pm 1$  is spin projection

• scattering off white-noise random potential

$$H_{\rm dis} = \int d^d \boldsymbol{r} \, \overline{\psi}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{r}) \, V(\boldsymbol{r}) \psi_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{r}), \qquad \langle V(\boldsymbol{r}) \, V(0) \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi\nu\tau} \delta(\boldsymbol{r})$$

where  $\nu$  denotes the thermodynamics density of states

• electron-electron interaction

$$H_{\rm int} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^d \boldsymbol{r_1} d^d \boldsymbol{r_2} \ U(|\boldsymbol{r_1} - \boldsymbol{r_2}|) \, \overline{\psi}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{r_1}) \psi_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{r_1}) \overline{\psi}_{\sigma'}(\boldsymbol{r_2}) \psi_{\sigma'}(\boldsymbol{r_2})$$

 The model / hamiltonian  $H = H_0 + H_{dis} + H_{int}$ 

• Coulomb repulsion with BCS-type attraction  $(\lambda > 0)$ :

$$U(\boldsymbol{R}) = \frac{e^2}{\epsilon R} - \frac{\lambda}{\nu_0} \delta(\boldsymbol{R})$$

• short-ranged repulsion with BCS-type attraction  $(\lambda > 0)$ :

$$U(\boldsymbol{R}) = u_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{R^2}{a^2} \right]^{\alpha/2} - \frac{\lambda}{\nu} \delta(\boldsymbol{R}), \qquad \alpha > d, \qquad u_0 > 0$$

• assumptions

$$\mu \gg \tau^{-1} \gg T$$

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where

- $\mu$  chemical potential
- $\tau$  transport mean-free time
- T temperature

#### The model / small momentum transfer

• particle-hole channel:

$$H_{\text{int}}^{\text{p-h}} = \frac{1}{2\nu} \int_{ql \leq 1} \frac{d^d \boldsymbol{q}}{(2\pi)^d} \sum_{j=0}^3 F_j(q) m_j(\boldsymbol{q}) m_j(-\boldsymbol{q})$$

where  $l = v_F \tau$  denotes mean-free path,  $m_j(q) = \int_k \bar{\psi}_\sigma(k+q) s_j^{\sigma\sigma'} \psi_{\sigma'}(k)$  and

$$F_0(q) = F_s, \qquad F_{1,2,3}(q) = F_t$$

• particle-particle channel:

$$H_{\rm int}^{\rm p-p} = -\frac{F_c}{\nu} \int_{ql \lesssim 1} \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \int \frac{d^d k_1 d^d k_2}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \bar{\psi}_{\sigma}(k_1) \bar{\psi}_{-\sigma}(-k_1+q) \psi_{-\sigma}(k_2+q) \psi_{\sigma}(-k_2)$$

The model / estimates for interaction parameters in d = 2

$$\begin{split} F_s &= \nu U(q) + F_t & \text{singlet (p-h) channel} \\ F_t &= -\frac{\nu}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} U_{scr} \left( 2k_F \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right) & \text{triplet (p-h) channel} \\ F_c &= -\frac{F_t}{2} - \frac{\nu}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} U_{scr} \left( 2k_F \left| \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right| \right) = F_t & \text{singlet (p-p) channel} \end{split}$$

where  $U_{scr}(q) = U(q)/[1 + \nu U(q)]$  stands for the statically screened interaction

BCS attraction only  $(\lambda \ll 1)$ :  $-F_s = F_t = F_c = \lambda/2$ 

Coulomb interaction only  $(\varkappa/k_F \ll 1)$ :

$$F_s \to \infty, \quad F_t = F_c \approx -\frac{\varkappa}{4\pi k_F} \ln \frac{4k_F}{\varkappa}$$

where inverse static screening length  $\varkappa = 2\pi e^2 \nu$ 

nonlinear sigma-model action:

[Finkelstein(1983)]

$$\mathcal{S} = -\frac{g}{32}\operatorname{Tr}(\nabla Q)^2 + 4\pi T z \operatorname{Tr} \eta Q - \frac{\pi T}{4} \sum_{\alpha,n,r,j} \int_r \Gamma_{rj} \operatorname{tr}\left[t_{rj} J_{n,r}^{\alpha} Q\right] \operatorname{tr}\left[t_{rj} \left(J_{n,r}^{\alpha}\right)^T Q\right]$$

where the matrix field Q (Matsubara, replica, spin and particle-hole spaces) obeys

$$Q^2(\mathbf{r}) = 1,$$
 tr  $Q(\mathbf{r}) = 0,$   $Q(\mathbf{r}) = C^T Q^T(\mathbf{r}) C,$ 

- g conductivity in units  $e^2/h$ ,
- z Finkelstein's parameter
- $\Gamma_{rj}$  interaction parameters:

$$\Gamma = \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_s & \Gamma_t & \Gamma_t & \Gamma_t \\ \Gamma_c & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \Gamma_c & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \Gamma_s & \Gamma_t & \Gamma_t & \Gamma_t \end{pmatrix}$$

SU(4) generators in spin and particle-hole spaces ( $\tau_r$  and  $s_j$  are Pauli matrices)

$$t_{rj} = \tau_r \otimes s_j, \quad r, j = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

matrices involved:

$$\begin{split} & \Lambda_{nm}^{\alpha\beta} = \operatorname{sgn} n \, \delta_{nm} \delta^{\alpha\beta} \, t_{00}, \quad \eta_{nm}^{\alpha\beta} = n \, \delta_{nm} \delta^{\alpha\beta} \, t_{00} \\ & J_{n,0}^{\alpha} = J_{n,3}^{\alpha} = I_{n,-}^{\alpha}, \quad J_{n,1}^{\alpha} = J_{n,2}^{\alpha} = I_{n,+}^{\alpha} \\ & (I_{k,\pm}^{\gamma})_{nm}^{\alpha\beta} = \delta_{n\pm m,k} \delta^{\alpha\beta} \delta^{\alpha\gamma} \, t_{00} \end{split}$$

- convenient dimensionless interaction parameters:  $\gamma_{s,t,c} = \Gamma_{s,t,c}/z$
- initial values (at the energy scale  $\min\{\omega_D, \tau^{-1}\}$ ):

$$\gamma_{s0} = -\frac{F_s}{1 + F_s}, \qquad \gamma_{t0} = -\frac{F_t}{1 + F_t},$$
$$\gamma_{c0} = -\frac{F_c}{1 - F_c \ln \max\{1, \omega_D \tau\}} = -\frac{1}{\ln \frac{\min\{\omega_D, \tau^{-1}\}}{T_c^{BCS}}}$$

where  $T_c^{BCS} = \omega_D \exp(-1/F_c)$ 

- BCS attraction only  $(\lambda \ll 1, \omega_D \tau \ll 1)$ :  $\gamma_{c0} = \gamma_{t0} = -\gamma_{s0} = -\lambda/2$
- Coulomb interaction only  $(\varkappa/k_F \ll 1)$ :

$$\gamma_{s0} = -1, \quad \gamma_{t0} = \gamma_{c0} \approx \frac{\varkappa}{4\pi k_F} \ln \frac{4k_F}{\varkappa}$$

#### Renormalization / lowest order in $t = 2/(\pi g)$ and $\gamma$ 's



where  $\Gamma_1 = (\Gamma_t - \Gamma_s)/2$  and  $\Gamma_2 = \Gamma_t$ 



 RG equations / lowest order in  $t = 2/(\pi g)$ , but exact in  $\gamma$ 's

$$\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \left[ \underbrace{\overbrace{n-1}^{WL/WAL}}_{2} + \underbrace{\overbrace{f(\gamma_s) + nf(\gamma_t)}^{A-A}}_{-\gamma_c} \underbrace{\overbrace{-2\gamma_c^2}^{P-L}}_{-2\gamma_c^2} \right]$$

$$\frac{d\gamma_s}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} (1+\gamma_s) \left( \gamma_s + n\gamma_t + 2\gamma_c \right)$$

$$\frac{d\gamma_t}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} (1+\gamma_t) \left( \gamma_s - [n(n-3)+1]\gamma_t - 2\gamma_c(1+2\gamma_t) \right)$$

$$\frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} \left[ (1+\gamma_c)(\gamma_s - n\gamma_t) - 2\gamma_c^2 + 2n\gamma_c \left(\gamma_t - \ln(1+\gamma_t)\right) \right] - 2\gamma_c^2$$

where running RG scale  $y = \ln L/l$  and  $f(x) = 1 - (1 + 1/x) \ln(1 + x)$ 

n = 3 - SU(2) spin-rotational symmetry preserved n = 1 – spin-rotational symmetry is broken down to U(1)n = 0 – spin-rotation symmetry is fully broken

lowest order in  $\gamma_c$ : Finkelstein (1984, 1985); Castellani, Di Castro, Forgacs, Sorella (1984); Ma, Fradkin (1986)

all orders in  $\gamma_c$  but seems to be wrong: Belitz, Kirkpatrick (1994); Dell'Anna (2013)

• surface-asymmetry induced spin-orbit coupling

$$H_{so} = \alpha [\boldsymbol{\sigma} \times \boldsymbol{k}]_z \implies \Delta_{so} = \alpha p_F$$

[Bychkov, Rashba (1984)]

• D'yakonov-Perel' spin relaxation (under assumption  $\Delta_{so} \ll \tau^{-1}$ ):

$$\frac{1}{\tau_s^x} = \frac{1}{\tau_s^y} = \frac{1}{2\tau_s^z} \sim \frac{1}{\tau_{so}} \sim \Delta_{so}^2 \tau \ll \frac{1}{\tau}$$

spin-relaxation length scale  $l_{so} \sim v_F / \Delta_{so} \gg l$ 

- spin-orbit skew scattering (from  $\boldsymbol{k}$  to  $\boldsymbol{k'}$ )  $H_{sos} = v_s [\boldsymbol{k} \times \boldsymbol{k'}]_z \sigma_z$
- spin-relaxation rates

$$\frac{1}{\tau_s^x} = \frac{1}{\tau_s^y} = 0, \qquad \frac{1}{\tau_s^z} \sim \nu \left\langle \left| v_s [\boldsymbol{k} \times \boldsymbol{k'}]_z \right|^2 \right\rangle$$

[Hikami, Larkin, Nagaoka (1980)] spin-relaxation length scale  $l_s^z \sim l\sqrt{\tau_s^z/\tau} \gg l$  (provided  $\tau_s^z \gg \tau$ )

RG equations / lowest order in  $t = 2/(\pi g)$ , but exact in  $\gamma$ 's

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dt}{dy} &= t^2 \left[ \frac{n-1}{2} + f(\gamma_s) + nf(\gamma_t) - \gamma_c - 2\gamma_c^2 \right] \\ \frac{d\gamma_s}{dy} &= -\frac{t}{2} (1+\gamma_s) \left( \gamma_s + n\gamma_t + 2\gamma_c \right) \\ \frac{d\gamma_t}{dy} &= -\frac{t}{2} (1+\gamma_t) \left( \gamma_s - [n(n-3)+1]\gamma_t - 2\gamma_c(1+2\gamma_t) \right) \\ \frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} &= -\frac{t}{2} \left[ (1+\gamma_c)(\gamma_s - n\gamma_t) - 2\gamma_c^2 + 2n\gamma_c \left( \gamma_t - \ln(1+\gamma_t) \right) \right] - 2\gamma_c^2 \end{aligned}$$

assumption:  $1/\tau_{so} \ll 1/\tau_s^z \ll 1/\tau$ 

$$n = 3 \quad \tau_{so}^{-1} \ll 1/\tau_s^z \ll T \quad L \ll l_s^z \ll l_{so}$$
$$n = 1 \quad \tau_{so}^{-1} \ll T \ll 1/\tau_s^z \quad l_s^z \ll L \ll l_{so}$$
$$n = 0 \quad T \ll \tau_{so}^{-1} \ll 1/\tau_s^z \quad l_s^z \ll l_{so} \ll L$$

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#### RG equations / spin-rotational symmetry is fully broken, $L \gg l_{so}$

$$\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \left[ -\frac{1}{2} + f(\gamma_s) - \gamma_c - 2\gamma_c^2 \right]$$
$$\frac{d\gamma_s}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} (1 + \gamma_s) (\gamma_s + 2\gamma_c)$$
$$\frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} \left[ (1 + \gamma_c)\gamma_s - 2\gamma_c^2 \right] - 2\gamma_c^2$$

where  $f(x) = 1 - (1 + 1/x) \ln(1 + x)$ 

superconducting phase:  $\gamma_c \to -\infty, t \sim -1/\gamma_c \to 0$ 

(noninteracting) supermetallic phase: t = 0,  $\gamma_s = \gamma_c = 0$ 

insulating phase:  $t = \infty$  (within one-loop RG it is not possible)

### $\operatorname{RG}$ equations / Coulomb interaction

$$\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \left[ -\frac{1}{2} + 1 - \gamma_c - 2\gamma_c^2 \right]$$
$$\frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} = \frac{t}{2} \left[ 1 + \gamma_c + 2\gamma_c^2 \right] - 2\gamma_c^2$$





resistance vs temperature

for  $\gamma_{c0} = -0.2$  and  $t_0 = 0.05 \div 0.75$ 

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#### RG equations / short-ranged interaction



#### RG equations / short-ranged interaction

$$\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \Big[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1 + \gamma_s}{\gamma_s} \ln(1 + \gamma_s) - \gamma_c - 2\gamma_c^2 \Big]$$
$$\frac{d\gamma_s}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} (1 + \gamma_s) \big(\gamma_s + 2\gamma_c\big)$$
$$\frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} \Big[ (1 + \gamma_c)\gamma_s - 2\gamma_c^2 \Big] - 2\gamma_c^2$$





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[I.S.B., Gornyi, Mirlin (2012)]

 $|\gamma_{s0}| \lesssim |\gamma_{c0}| \ll t_0 \ll 1$ 

$$\frac{dt}{dy} \approx -\frac{t^2}{2} \qquad \frac{d\gamma_s}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} (\gamma_s + 2\gamma_c) \qquad \frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} \gamma_s - 2\gamma_c^2$$

three-step RG:

(i) from  $t = t_0$  to  $t \approx t_0/2$ : approaching BCS-like line  $\gamma_c = -\gamma_s = \gamma$ (ii) increase of  $|\gamma|$  from  $|\gamma_{c0}|$  to  $|\gamma_*| \sim \sqrt{|\gamma_{c0}|t_0}$ :

$$\frac{d|\gamma|}{dy} = \frac{t}{2}|\gamma| \quad \Longrightarrow \quad |\gamma| \sim \frac{|\gamma_{c0}|t_0}{t} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad |\gamma_*| \sim t_* \sim \sqrt{|\gamma_{c0}|t_0}$$

(iii) superconducting instability with initial attraction  $\gamma_*$ 

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dy} = -2\gamma^2 \implies \ln \frac{1}{T_c \tau} \sim (|\gamma_{c0}| t_0)^{-1/2} \implies T_c \gg T_c^{BCS}$$

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$$L \gg l_H = \sqrt{\frac{\phi_0}{H_\perp}}$$

• parallel field  $H_{\parallel}$  suppresses copperons at scales

$$L \gg l_Z = \frac{l_H}{\sqrt{2\pi g_L (1+\gamma_{t0}) t_0}}$$

• RG equations at  $L \gg \min\{l_H, l_Z\}$  $\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \Big[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1 + \gamma_s}{\gamma_s} \ln(1 + \gamma_s) \Big], \qquad \frac{d\gamma_s}{dy} = -\frac{t}{2} (1 + \gamma_s) \gamma_s$ 

the smooth dependence of  $T_c$  on H as well as dependence of initial parameters  $\gamma_{c0}$ ,  $\gamma_{s0}$ and  $t_0$  on H are not taken into account RG at lengthscales  $L \ll l_{HZ}$ 

$$\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \gamma_c - \frac{\gamma_c^2}{2} \right]$$
$$\frac{d\gamma_c}{dy} = \frac{t}{2} \left[ 1 + \gamma_c + 2\gamma_c^2 \right] - 2\gamma_c^2$$

RG at length scales  $L \gg l_{HZ}$ 

$$\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2$$



resistance vs T for fixed H for  $\gamma_{c0} = -0.15$  and  $t_0 = 0.08$ 



resistance vs H for fixed  $T < T_c$ 

for  $\gamma_{c0} = -0.04$ ,  $\gamma_{s0} = -0.02$  and  $t_0 = 0.4$ 

RG at lengthscales  $L \ll l_{HZ}$ RG at lengthscales  $L \gg l_{HZ}$  $\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 \left[ -\frac{1}{2} + f(\gamma_s) - \gamma_c - \frac{\gamma_c^2}{2} \right]$  $\frac{dt}{dy} = t^2 f(\gamma_s)$  $\frac{d\gamma_s}{du} = -\frac{t}{2}(1+\gamma_s)\big(\gamma_s + 2\gamma_c\big)$  $\frac{d\gamma_s}{du} = -\frac{t}{2}(1+\gamma_s)\gamma_s$  $\frac{d\gamma_c}{du} = -\frac{t}{2} \left[ (1+\gamma_c)\gamma_s - 2\gamma_c^2 \right] - 2\gamma_c^2$ 0.3 ~ 0.1 0.2 H 0.1 H  $H_{I}$  $ln \frac{H}{H^{BCS}}$ resistance vs T for fixed Hresistance vs H for fixed  $T < T_c$ 

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- superconducting transition in 2D is of Berezinsky-Kosterlitz-Thouless type
- our (mean-field)  $T_c$  is the upper estimate for  $T_c^{BKT}$
- the description of BKT transition within nonlinear sigma-model approach is needed (in progress)

Remark II / long- vs short-ranged interaction in experiments

- LaAlO<sub>3</sub>/SrTiO<sub>3</sub>: the effective dielectric constant is about 10<sup>4</sup> (due to SrTiO<sub>3</sub>),
- if static screening length  $\varkappa^{-1} < l$ , effective singlet-channel interaction is universal with  $\gamma_s = -1$  (long-ranged)
- if static screening length  $l < L_{T_c} < \varkappa^{-1}$ , effective singlet-channel interaction is short-ranged

- one-loop RG equation but exact in the Cooper-channel interaction are derived
- the transition to the superconducting phase is analyzed
- in the case of broken spin-rotational symmetry monotonous magnetic-field dependence of resistance at  $T < T_c$  is found