

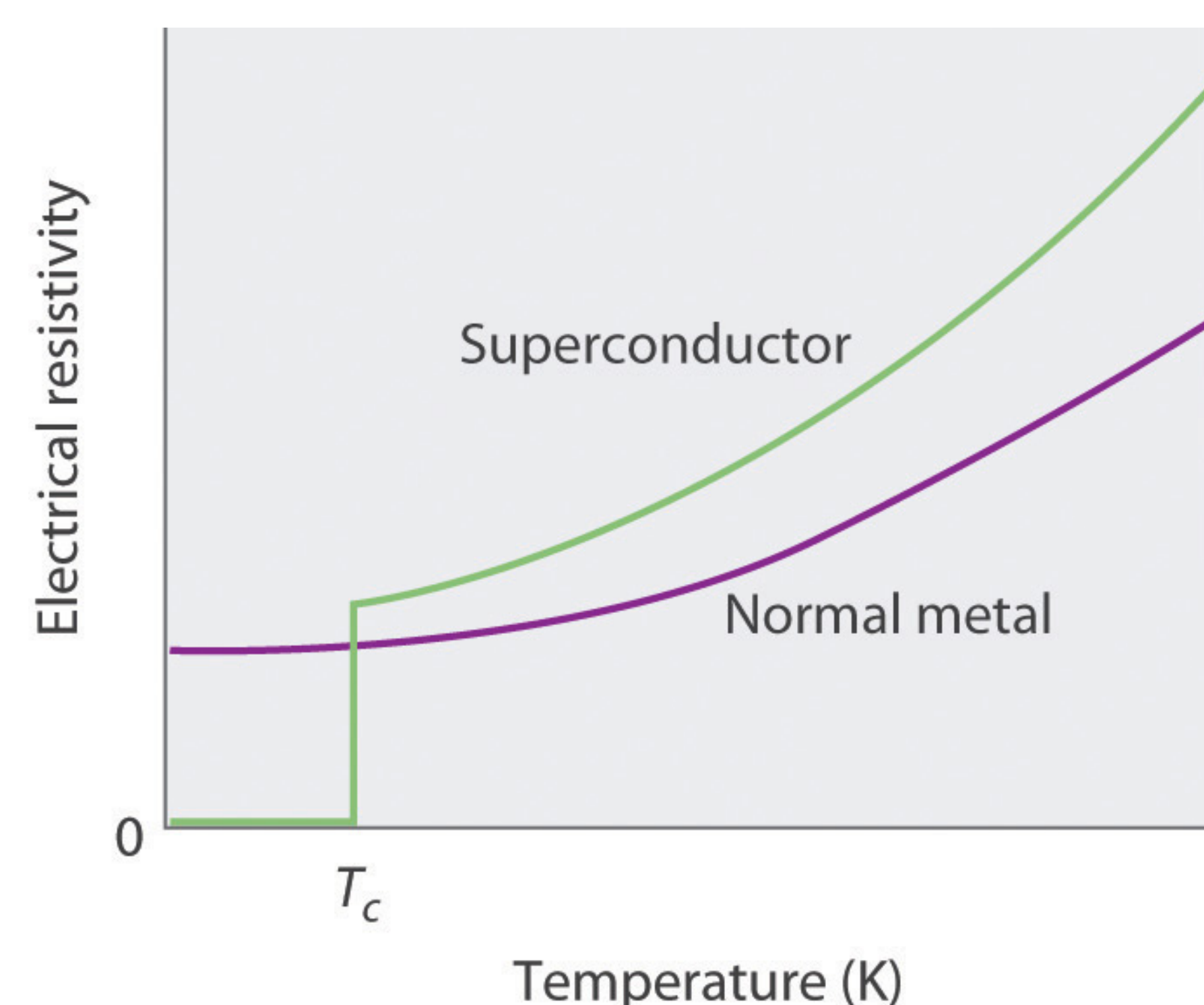


What is a superconductor?

The phenomenon of superconductivity, in which the electrical resistance of certain materials completely vanishes at low temperatures, is a fascinating and sophisticated area of condensed matter physics. The temperature at which the resistance goes to zero is called a critical temperature (T_c). Superconductivity was first discovered by the Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes in 1911. Since then, there have been hundreds of new superconductors found with the critical temperature reaching as high as $T_c \sim 200$ K.

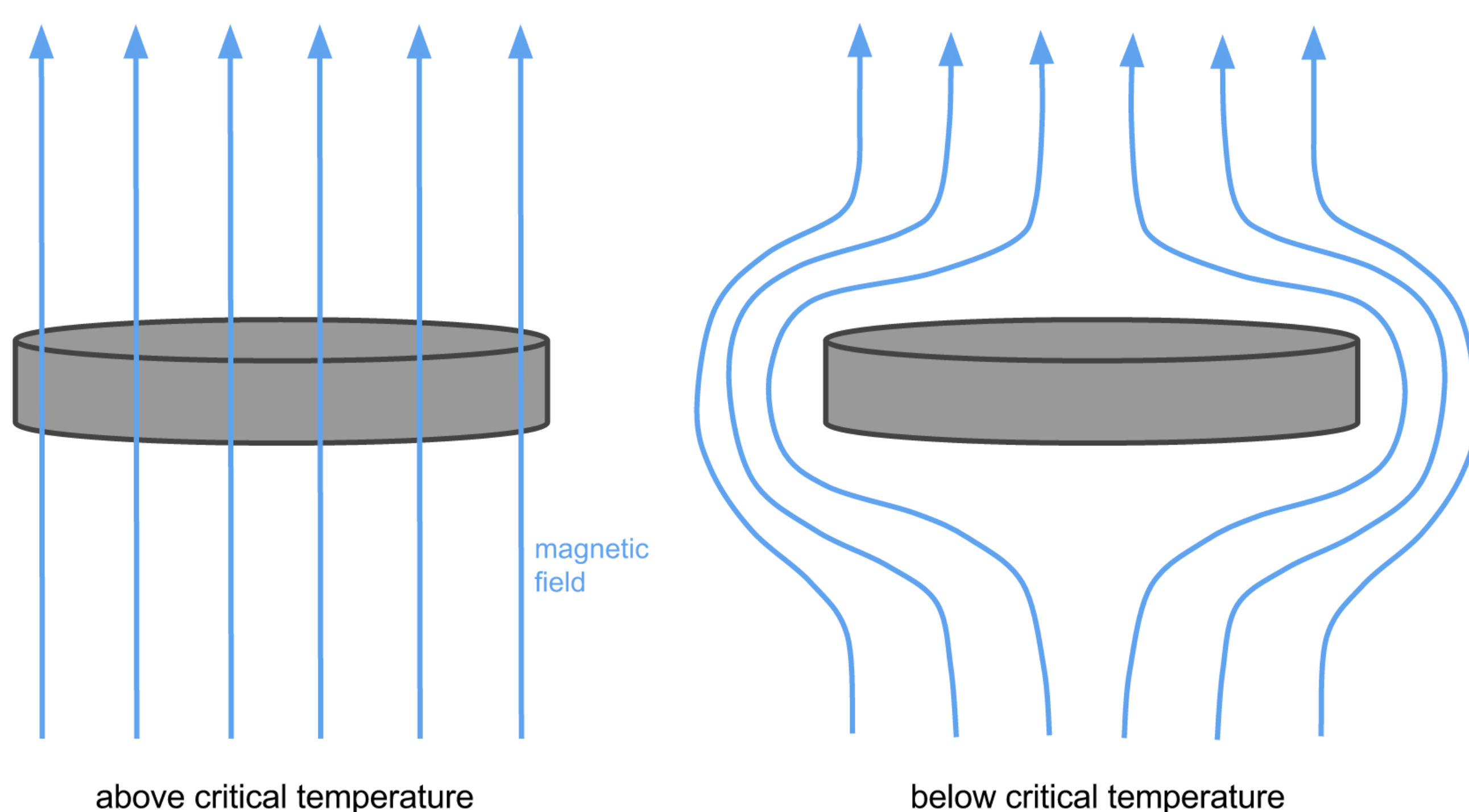
(1) Zero Electrical Resistance

A superconductor has zero electrical resistance.

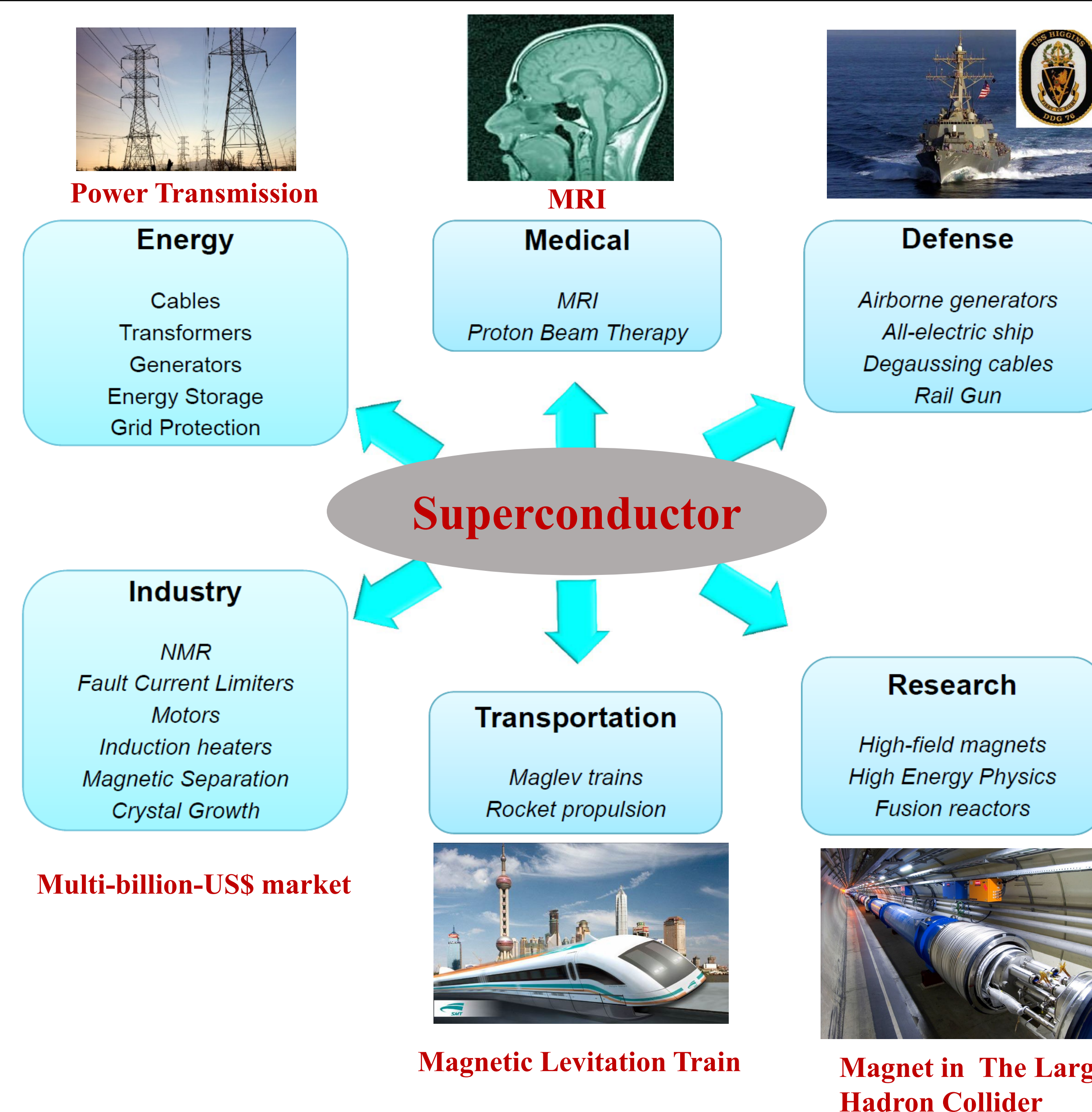


(2) Repel Magnetic Field

A superconducting material repels magnetic field below T_c .



Why is a superconductor important?

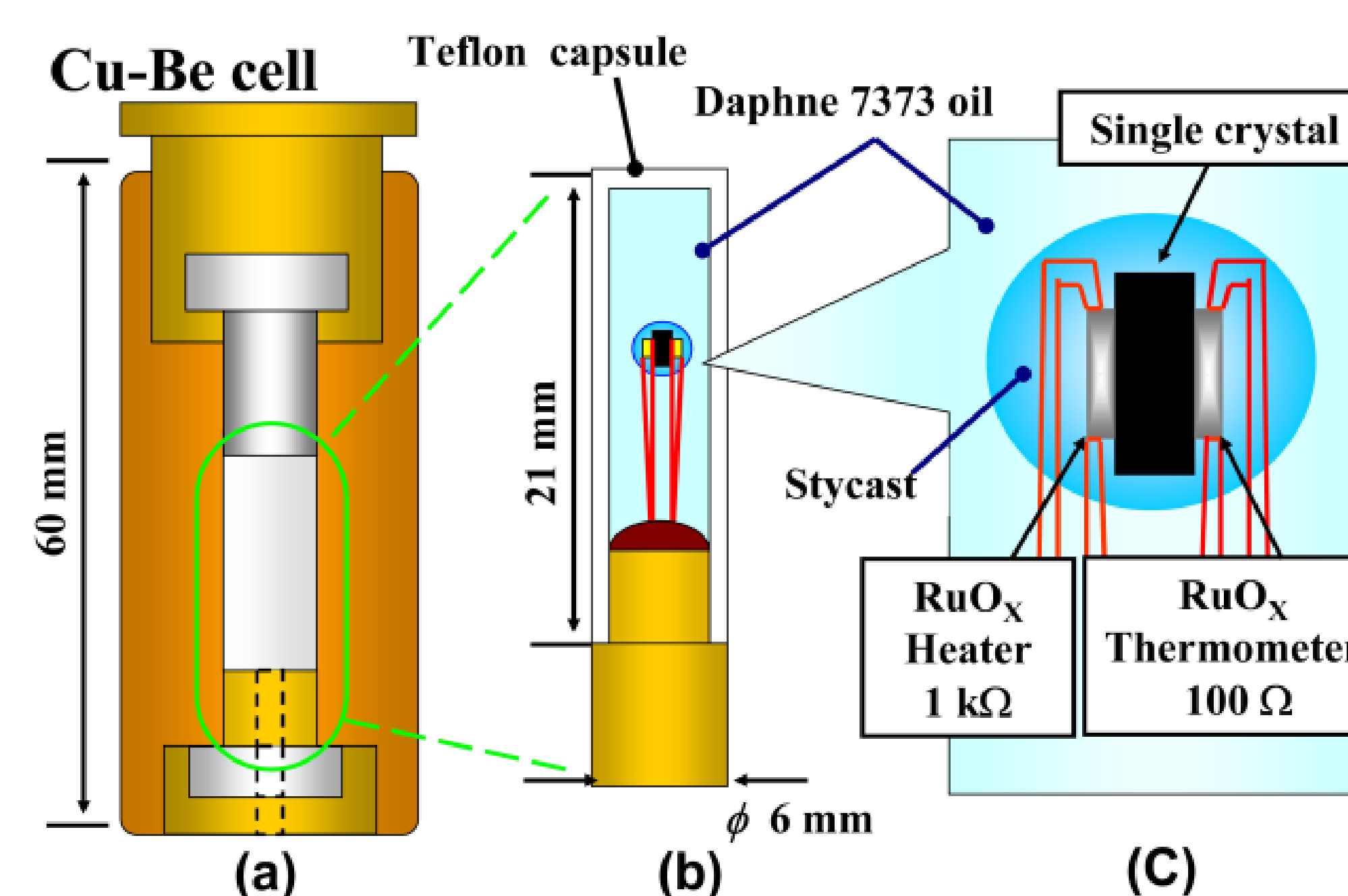


A search of a new kind of material that shows superconductivity at room temperature is important for technological use.

Objective

- Use the high pressure technique to induce superconductivity
- $\text{Eu}_x\text{Ca}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$ sample (collaboration with Chemistry)
- Study the pressure-temperature phase diagram

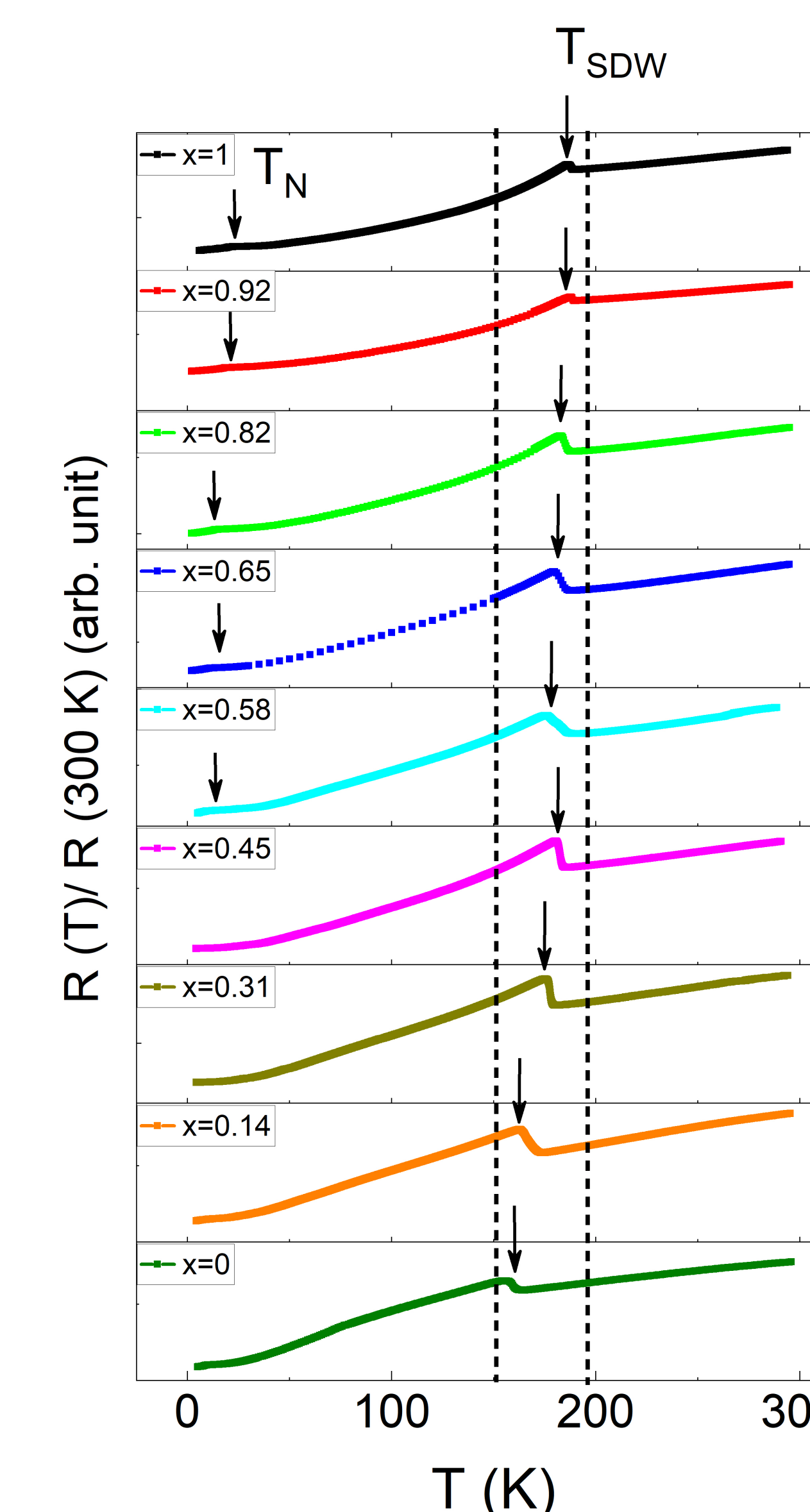
High-Pressure Technique



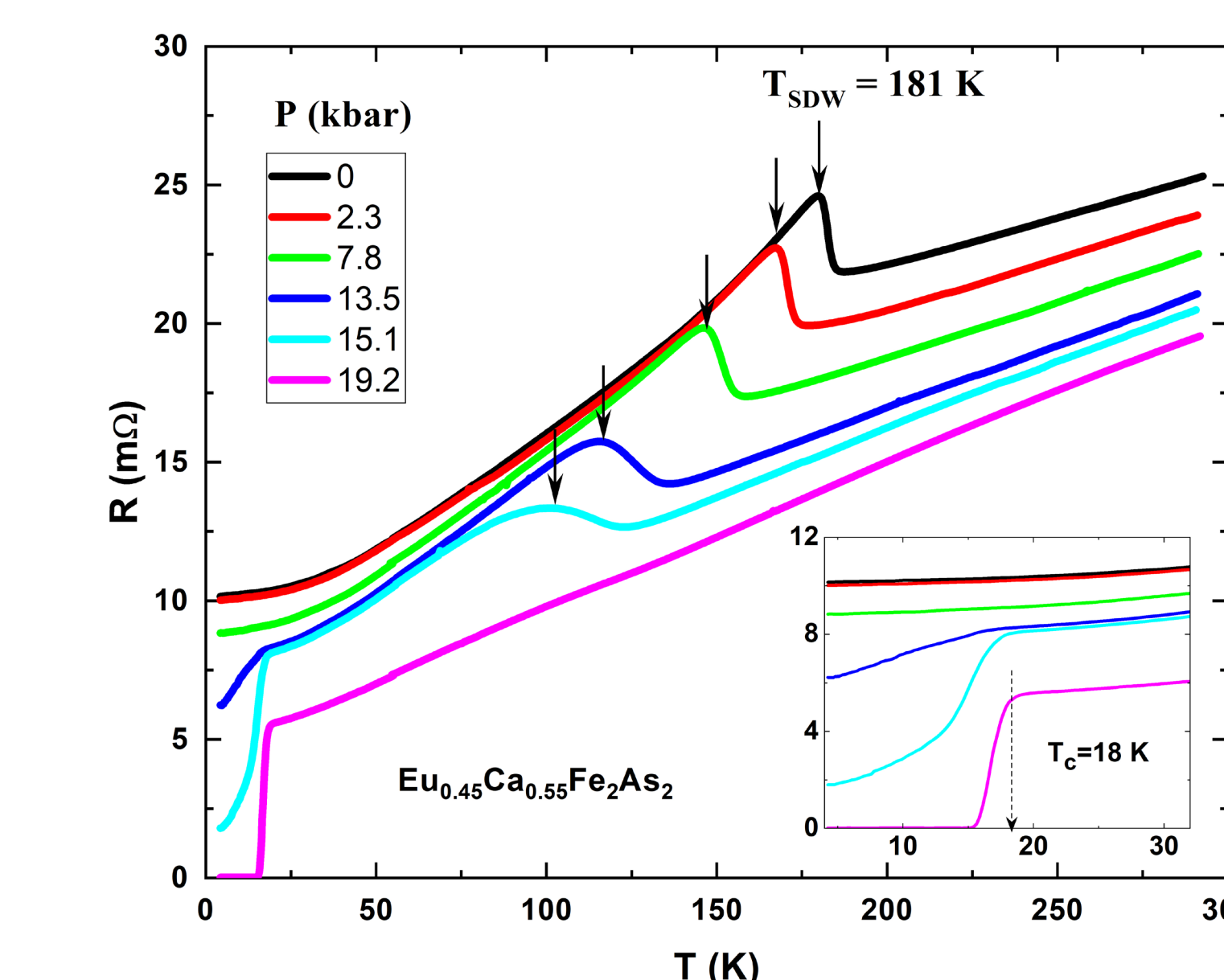
Pressure Range ~ 20 kbar ($20,000 \times$ pressure in sea level)

Results and Discussion

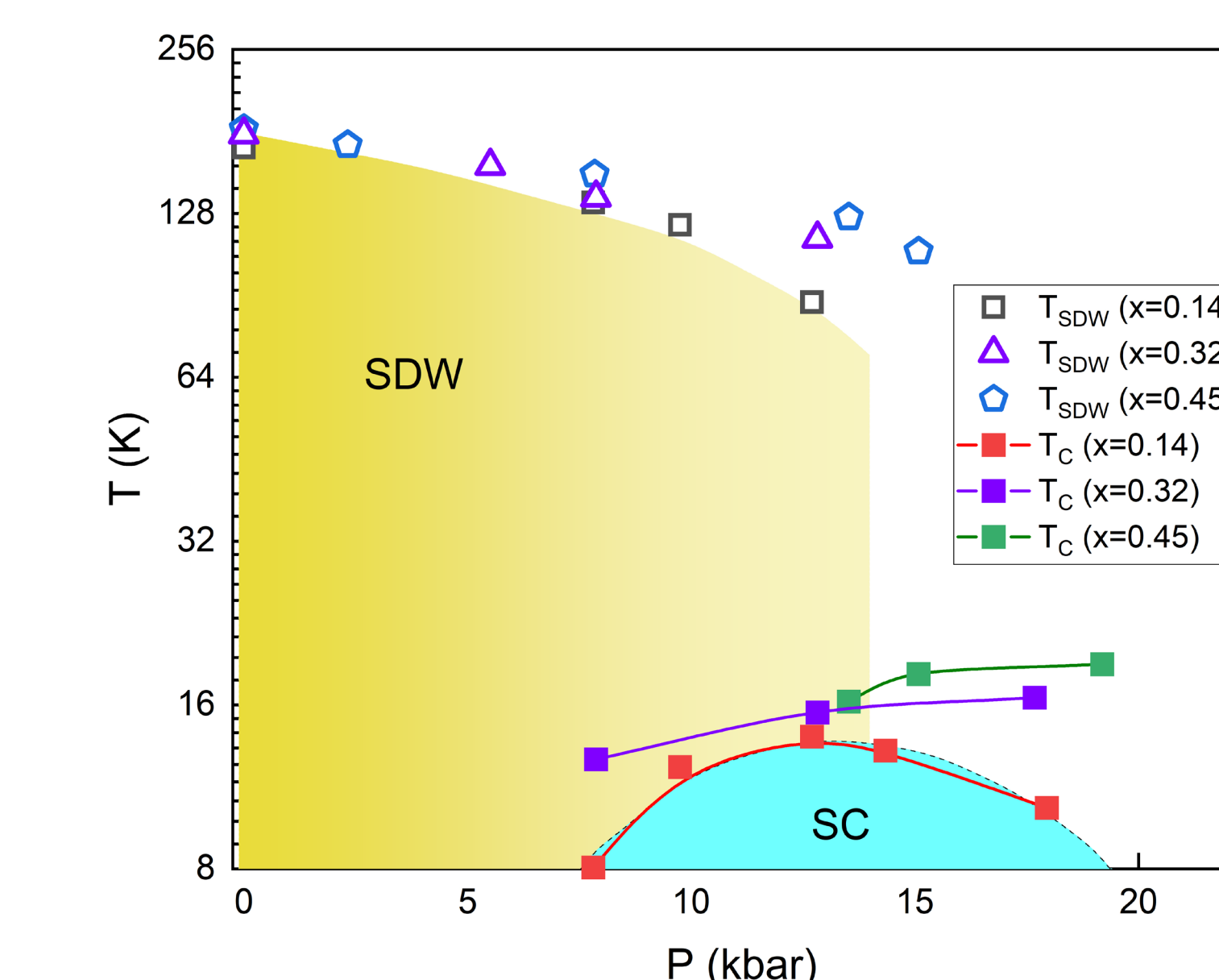
(1) Resistance versus Temperature



(2) Resistance Under High-Pressure



(3) The P-T Phase diagram



Take Home Messages:

- Magnetic transition (Spin-density wave) at high-T
- None of the samples show superconductivity ($R \neq 0$) at ambient pressure.
- Pressure induces superconductivity
- Show an interesting pressure-temperature phase diagram

Acknowledgements

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