The Application of MuSR on the Study of Quantum Materials



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Outline

- Introduction of MuSR
- The application in studying quantum materials
 - ✓ Superconductivity
 - ✓ Quantum spin liquid
 - ✓ Heavy fermion

Two important principals of surface muon

- Nearly 100% spin polarized muon
- Muon decay positron is preferentially emitted to muon spin direction





Principle of MuSR



- Measuring the anisotropic distribution of the decay positrons from a bunch of muons deposited at the same condition
- Statistical average direction of the spin polarization (*P*) of the muon ensemble
- P(t) depends on the spatial distribution and dynamical fluctuations of the muon magnetic environment





Transverse Field

Zero Field

Crucial Technique on studying Magnetism and Superconductivity

Advantage, Uniqueness, Irreplaceability

Extreme sensitivity to small internal magnetic fields (0.1 G)

Magnetic order, volume fraction

Can measure magnetic fluctuation rates in the range 10⁴ to 10¹² Hz, complementary to NMR, neutron scattering...

Muon can be implanted into any material (gas, liquid or solid), a large variety of environments (low temperature, high magnetic field, electric fields, high pressure, irradiated with light, applied RF pulses ...)

Single crystals, polycrystalline samples and thin films



Muon Source and beam lines are going to be built at CSNS!

AD. Hillier...L. Shu...et. al., "Muon spin spectroscopy", Nature Reviews Methods Primers 2022 殳蕾、倪晓杰、潘子文, "MuSR 技术在凝聚态物理中的应用", 物理 2021 Z. H. Zhu and L. Shu, "Muon Spin Relaxation Studies on Quantum Spin Liquid Candidates", Progress in Physics 2020

Superconductivity

MuSR on Superconductors

- Magnetic penetration depth (superfluid density)
- Knight shift
- Detect extremely small magnetic field (0.1 G)
- Magnetic order? Volume fraction

Superconducting gap symmetry

Time-reversal symmetry

The relation between superconductivity & magnetism

Superconducting mechanism

Number of literatures on superconductivity studied by MuSR



Magnetic penetration depth (superfluid density)



J. E. Sonier et al., Review of Modern Physics 72, 769 (2000)

- Absolute value of penetration depth λ
- Superfluid density $\rho \sim 1/\lambda^2$
- Superconducting pairing symmetry $\rho(T)$

Only MuSR can directly measure the magnetic penetration depth

Symmetry of the Superconducting gap

LaO_{0.5}F_{0.5}BiS **s+s**



J. Zhang..L. Shu* PRB 2016

 $La_2(Cu_{1-x}Ni_x)_5As_3O_2$ s+d



s+d

Normalized Superfluid Density

1.0

0.8

0.6

0.2

0.0

0.4 - 90.6

0.0



C. Tan..L. Shu* PRB 2018

S+S

μ₀H=5 mT // ab

s+s-wave d-wave

wave d.l

1.0

BaNi₂As₂



2. 11. 2110...12. 0110 1101 202

Pr₃Cr_{10-x}N₁₁ *p*?



Q. Wu...L. Shu* PRB 2023

K. W. Chen...L. Shu* PRB 2024

0.5

= 50 mK

30

Reduced Temperature T/T_c

10 20 μ₀Η (mT)

C. S. Chen...L. Shu* npj QM 2024

Time-reversal symmetry superconductivity

Time-reversal symmetrybreaking superconductivity in Sr₂RuO₄

G. M. Luke*, Y. Fudamoto*, K. M. Kojima*, M. I. Larkin*, J. Merrin*, B. Nachumi*, Y. J. Uemura*, Y. Maeno†, Z. Q. Mao†, Y. Mori†, H. Nakamura‡ & M. Sigrist§

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Although the properties of most superconducting materials are well described by the theory¹ of Bardeen, Cooper and Schrieffer (BCS), considerable effort has been devoted to the search for exotic superconducting systems in which BCS theory does not apply. The transition to the superconducting state in conventional BCS superconductors involves the breaking of gauge symmetry

lan Publishers Ltd 1998

NATURE VOL 394 6 AUGUST 1998



G. M. Luke et al., Nature 394, 558 (2000)

Time-reversal symmetry superconductivity



- The temperature-dependent superfluid density is consistent with a *p*-wave pairing symmetry.
- A time-reversal symmetry broken superconducting transition,
- A candidate of *p*-wave superconductor which breaks time-reversal symmetry.

Pseudogap in cuprate YBa₂Cu₃O_y

Previous experiments show (at *T**): Broken time-reversal symmetry Broken spatial-rotation and inversion symmetries



TRSB: left in skepticism

Local magnetic fields expected for such an order **not** observed in MuSR or NMR experiments

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•MuSR, NMR: longer time scales (\sim 10^{-5} s) >> other technique (\sim 10^{-10} s)
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•The local magnetic fields may be motionally narrowed by fluctuations (finite-size domains of ordered phase with different field orientations)

• New MuSR experiment: to test the possibility of dynamic relaxation, to obtain the fluctuation time scale and value of local magnetic fields.

remanence



图 2.1-3 μSR 实验能有效填补多种实验对磁场频率覆盖的空白。图片由 A Yaouanc 和 P. Dalmas De Réotier 所著专著^[68]中第一章图 1.5 重新绘制。

张建,博士学位论文 2020

Pseudogap in cuprate YBa₂Cu₃O_y



Table 1. Correlation times τ_c and rms muon local fields B_{loc}^{rms} from muon spin relaxation rates in YBa ₂ Cu ₃ O _y .			
у	Temperature (K)	$\tau_{c}(ns)$	B ^{rms} (mT)
6.72	80	5(2)	0.92(19)
6.77	85	10(3)	0.87(10)
6.83	93	25(10)	0.37(6)

• A magnetic field with rms width of larger than 1 mT fluctuating about 10⁸ Hz has been discovered, setting in consistently at $T_{mag} = T^*$

• Critical slowing down of fluctuations at T_{mag} expected near time-reversal symmetry breaking transitions.

J. Zhang...L. Shu*, Science Advances 4 eaao5235 (2018) Z. H. Zhu...L. Shu*, Phys. Rev. B 103 134426 (2021)

Quantum Spin Liquid

Quantum Spin Liquid

FM, AFM Quantum Spin Liquid







Broholm et al., Science 367, eaay0668 (2020)

REVIEW

QUANTUM MATERIALS Quantum spin liquids

C. Broholm¹, R. J. Cava², S. A. Kivelson³, D. G. Nocera⁴, M. R. Norman⁵*, T. Senthil⁶

Spin liquids are quantum phases of matter with a variety of unusual features arising from their topological character, including "fractionalization"—elementary excitations that behave as fractions of an electron. Although there is not yet universally accepted experimental evidence that establishes that any single material has a spin liquid ground state, in the past few years a number of materials have been shown to exhibit distinctive properties that are expected of a quantum spin liquid. Here, we review theoretical and experimental progress in this area.



Absence of magnetic long range order down to zero temperature; Highly entangled spin system

What can you measure with µSR

- Magnetic orders (long/short range, spin glass, weak magnetism)
- Spin dynamics *T*₁





$Lu_3Sb_3Cu_2O_{14}$



Possible QSL ground state: a \mathbb{Z}_2 QSL

Persistent spin dynamics and absence of spin freezing

Intrinsic properties of spin-liquids due to very high purity

Z. F. Ding... L. Shu* PRB 2018

Z. F. Ding... L. Shu* PRB 2020

Y. X. Yang...L. Shu*, arXiv:2102.09271

Yb(BaBO₃)O₃



Quantum magnet, dipole-dipole interaction dominant

C. Y. Jiang...L. Shu* PRB 2022



Fluctuating magnetic droplets immersed in a sea of quantum spin liquidZ. H. Zhu...L. Shu*, the Innovation 2023

Heavy fermion

Renormalization of superfluid density in a heavy fermion



 Non-Fermi liquid in the normal state, Landau Fermi liquid still applies to the thermal dynamical and transport behaviors in the superconducting state



Thank you!



http://www.physics.fudan.edu.cn/tps/people/leishu/GroupHomepage.html