Hydrostatic-Pressure Tuning of Magnetic, Nonmagnetic and Superconducting States in Annealed Ca(Fe_{1-x}Co_x)₂As₂

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Iron-pnictide family



most extensively studied

 $AFe_2As_2 \rightarrow A = Ba, Sr, Ca, Eu$

- large, high-quality single crystals available
- control substitutions: model systems
- *A* = Ca: high sensitivity to pressure

 \rightarrow pressure tuning





Phase diagrams



S. Nandi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 104, 057006 (2010)

homogeneous coexistence of SC and AFM: competing for the same electrons



Phase diagrams & pairing symmetry





So far: phase diagrams T vs. x

implying effects of disorder, inhomogenities etc.



 \rightarrow *P* – studies provide more direct information







N. Ni et al., Phys. Rev. B 78, 014523 (2008).

- strongly coupled transitions at $T_s = T_N = 170 \text{ K}$
- hysteresis of several K
 - \Rightarrow first-order phase transition,
 - cf. 2nd order phase transition in Co-doped BaFe₂As₂

Sensitivity to pressure & non-hydrostatic conditions





⇒ Solidification of oil: Strain-stabilized SC due to non-hydrostatic conditions



Helium as pressure-transmitting medium

- low solidification temperature
- soft solid
 van-der-Waals-bondings
- constant pressure conditions



2 K < T < 300 K





CaFe₂As₂: Role of annealing and Co-substitution

New approach: growth of crystals out of FeAs-flux

S. Ran *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **83**, 144517 (2011).

->thermal treatment: annealing (quenching) at T_{anneal} (⇔ solubility of FeAs)



 \rightarrow T_{anneal} = 350°C: strain-free crystals

→ speculation: $T_{anneal} \equiv$ hydrostatic pressure in CaFe₂As₂



SC achieved by Co-substitution & annealing



S. Ran et al., Phys. Rev. B 85, 224528 (2012).

s there a
$$\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{anneal}} \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{P}$$
 analogy ?



$Ca(Fe_{1-x}Co_x)_2As_2$, x = 0.028, $T_{anneal} = 350^{\circ}C$



E. Gati et al., Phys. Rev. B 86, 220511(R) (2012).







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$Ca(Fe_{1-x}Co_x)_2As_2$, x = 0.028, T_{anneal} = 350°C









$Ca(Fe_{1-x}Co_x)_2As_2$, x = 0.028, $T_{anneal} = 350^{\circ}C$





















- no coexistence of o/afm and sc
- *T*_{s,N} remains 1st order!
- huge pressure coefficient dT_{s.N}/dP = -(110 ± 5) K/kbar !







- T_{cT}^{cool} line truncates T_{c} line at critical pressure 165 MPa
- no coexistence of sc and cT
- experiment limited by (i) He-solidification (ii) vanishingly small signal in χ_{cT}

 \rightarrow Use sample with higher T_{anneal} (pre-stressed)

first indications for cT-phase



Annealing-pressure-analogy bulk sc at ambient Γ_{anneal} = 400°C $x = 0.029 \pm 0.0016$ pressure (Ran et al., Phys. Rev. B 85, 224528 (2012)) 100 1.2 90 1.0 80 70 0.8 60 сТ ∑ 50 ⊢ **0.6** ^μ/_μ 40 0.4 30 20 ⁴He solidification 0.2 10 -SC 0.0 0 25 50 200 0 75 100 125 150 175 P [MPa]



Annealing-pressure-analogy



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Summary & implications





1st ordercoexistence

- non-coexistence
 1st order character of phase transition
 fluctuations important for sc
- no coexistence of sc and cT
- large pressure dependencies \rightarrow Ca 122 is close to an instability

Outlook







Thank you for your attention!









