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Miniworkshop on Strong Correlations in Materials and Atom Traps

4 - 15 August 2008

Theory and experimental overview of the Iron Based Pnictides

HAULE Kristjan
*Rutgers State University
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
136 Frelinghuysen Road
NJ 08854-8019 Piscataway
U.S.A.*

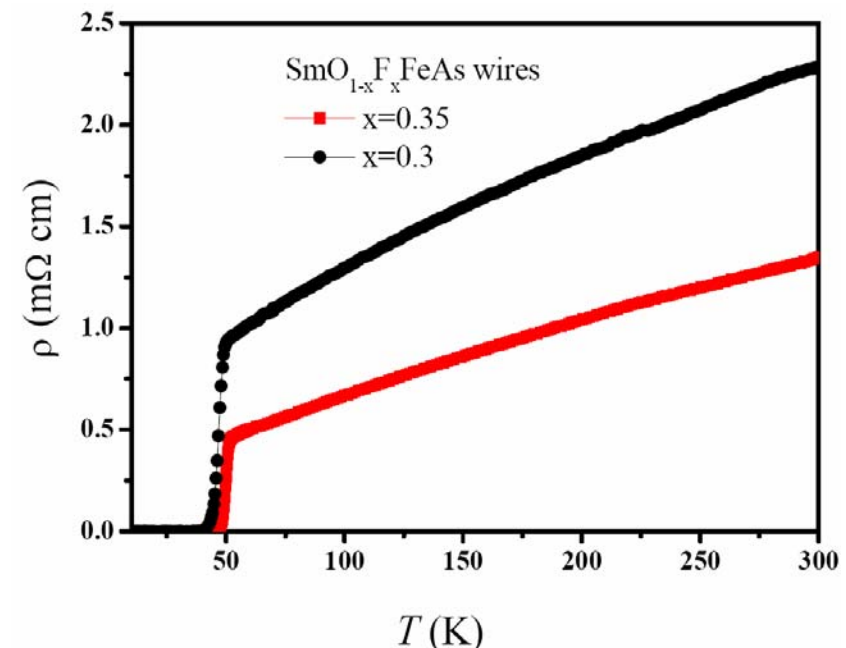
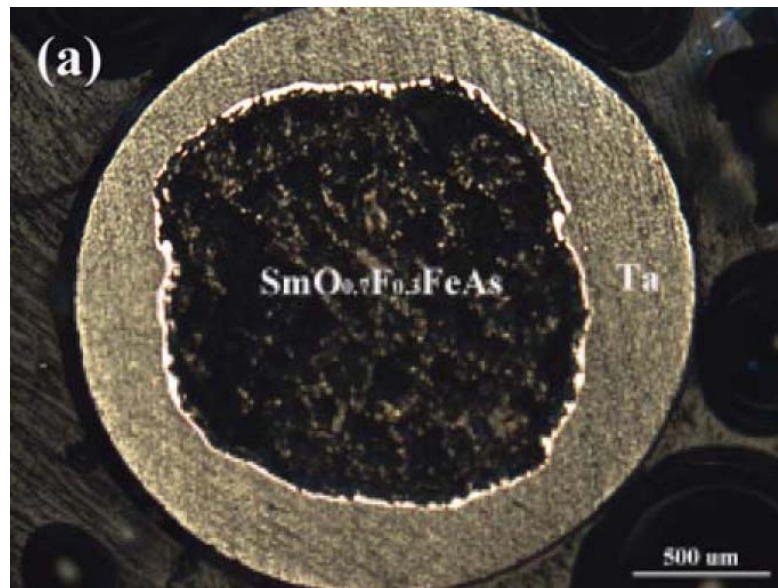
Iron based high temperature superconductors

K Haule, Rutgers University



Technologically relevant

Wires fabricated by the powder-in-tube (PIT) method:



Zhaoshun Gao, et.al., arXiv 0806.2451

J_c up to 2×10^5 A/cm²

(H_{c2}) up to 120 T

More three-dimensional than cuprates

How it all started....

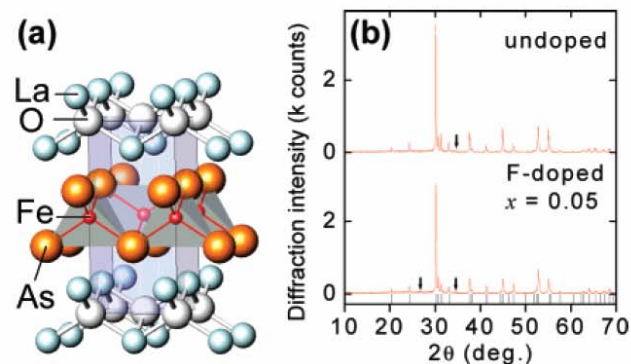
Iron-Based Layered Superconductor $\text{La}[\text{O}_{1-x}\text{F}_x]\text{FeAs}$ ($x = 0.05-0.12$) with $T_c = 26$ K

Yoichi Kamihara,^{*,†} Takumi Watanabe,[‡] Masahiro Hirano,^{†,§} and Hideo Hosono^{†,‡,§}

ERATO-SORST, JST, Frontier Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mail Box S2-13, Materials and Structures Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mail Box R3-1, and Frontier Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mail Box S2-13, 4259 Nagatsuta, Midori-ku, Yokohama 226-8503, Japan

Received January 9, 2008; E-mail: hosono@msl.titech.ac.jp

Discovery of the copper-based superconductor $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{CuO}_4$ ¹ with a high transition temperature (T_c) triggered extensive research with the intention of developing new transition-metal-based superconductors.^{2,3} Currently, high T_c superconductors are limited to layered perovskites that contain CuO_2 structural units as the conduction layers. However, the T_c of the non-Cu-based superconductors in this category has remained low, although spin triplet superconductivity has been found in UPt_3 ($T_c \sim 0.54$ K)⁴ and $\text{Sr}_2\text{-RuO}_4$ ($T_c \sim 1.4$ K).^{5,6} Here, we report a layered iron-based compound, LaOFeAs , which undergoes superconducting transition under doping with F^- ions at the O^{2-} site. Its T_c exhibits a



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And exploded....



more than 23 cond-mat's in March 2008

arXiv:0803.0128v2

Superconducting properties of Fe-based layered superconductor $\text{LaO}_{0.9}\text{F}_{0.1-x}\text{FeAs}$

G. F. Chen,¹ Z. Li,¹ G. Li,¹ J. Zhou,¹ D. Wu,¹ J. Dong,¹ W. Z. Hu,¹ P. Zheng,¹ Z. J. Chen,¹ H. Q. Yuan,^{2,3} J. Singleton,² J. L. Luo,¹ and N. L. Wang¹

¹Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

²National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, MS-E536,

Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA

³Department of Physics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, China

We have employed a new route to synthesize single phase F-doped LaOFeAs compound and confirmed the superconductivity above 20 K in this Fe-based system. We show that the superconductor has a rather high upper critical field of over 50 T. A clear signature of superconducting gap opening below T_c was observed in the far-infrared reflectance spectra, with $2\Delta/k_B T_c \approx 2.5$. Furthermore, we show that the new superconductor has electron-type conducting character and a rather low carrier density.

Nodal Gap in Fe-Based Layered Superconductor $\text{LaO}_{0.9}\text{F}_{0.1-x}\text{FeAs}$ Probed by Specific Heat Measurements

Gang Mu, Xiyu Zhu, Lei Fang, Lei Shan, Cong Ren and Hai-Hu Wen

National Laboratory for Superconductivity, Institute of Physics and Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.O. Box 603, Beijing 100190, People's Republic of China

We report the specific heat measurements on the newly discovered Fe-based layered superconductor $\text{LaO}_{0.9}\text{F}_{0.1-x}\text{FeAs}$ with the onset transition temperature $T_c \approx 28$ K. A nonlinear magnetic field dependence of the electronic specific heat coefficient $\gamma(H)$ has been found in the low temperature limit, which is consistent with a nodal superconductor. The maximum gap value $\Delta_0 \approx 3.4 \pm 0.5$ meV was derived by fitting the data based on the d-wave model. We also detected the electronic specific heat difference between 90 and 180 K temperature region, a specific heat anomaly can be clearly observed near T_c . The Debye temperature was determined to be about 315.7 K. Our results suggest an unconventional mechanism for superconductivity in this layered superconductor.

74.20.Rp, 74.25.Bt, 65.40.Ba, 74.70.Dd

arXiv:0803.0429v2

$\text{LaFeAsO}_{1-x}\text{F}_x$: A low carrier density superconductor near itinerant magnetism

D.J. Singh and M.-H. Du

Materials Science and Technology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6114

(Dated: July 9, 2008)

Density functional studies of 26K superconducting $\text{LaFeAs}(\text{O},\text{F})$ are reported. We find a low carrier density, high density of states, $N(E_F)$ and modest phonon frequencies relative to T_c . The high $N(E_F)$ leads to proximity to itinerant magnetism, with competing magnetic fluctuations and the balance between these controlled by the F content. This system is in a unique class of high T_c superconductors: high $N(E_F)$ ions.

Correlated electronic structure of $\text{LaO}_{1-x}\text{F}_x\text{FeAs}$

K. Haule, J. H. Shim, and G. Kotliar

Department of Physics, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA

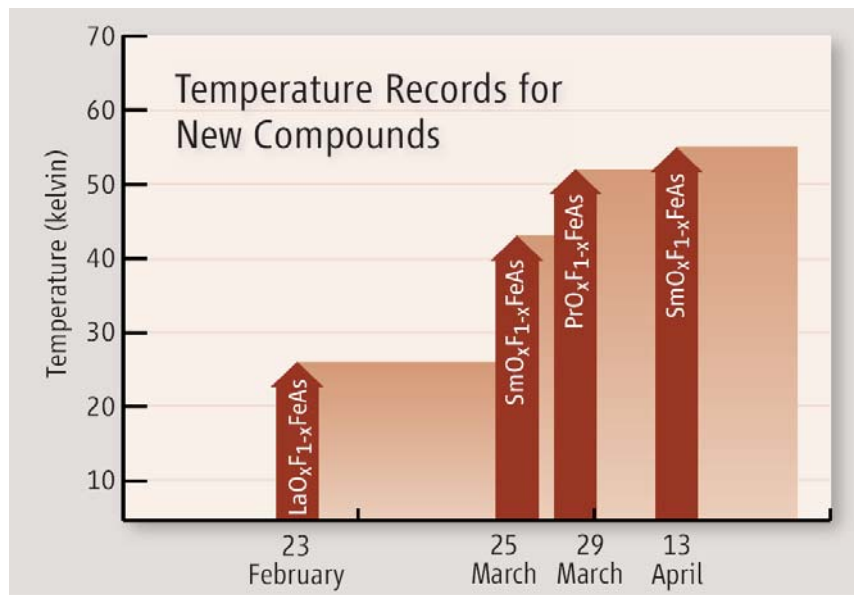
(Dated: July 11, 2008)

We compute the electronic structure, momentum resolved spectral function and optical conductivity of the new superconductor $\text{LaO}_{1-x}\text{F}_x\text{FeAs}$ within the combination of the Density functional theory and the Dynamical Mean Field Theory. We find that the compound in the normal state is a strongly correlated metal and the parent compound is a bad metal at the verge of the metal insulator transition. We argue that the superconductivity is not phonon mediated.

>260 preprints at the end of July

mostly from China!

First family of SC



- a) Y. Kamihara et.al., Tokyo, JACS
- b) X.H. Chen, et.al., Beijing, arXiv: 0803.3790
- c) Zhi-An Ren, Beijing, arXiv: 0803.4283
- d) Zhi-An Ren, Beijing, arXiv: 0804.2053.

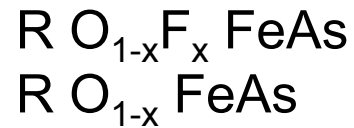
Smaller c

SmF _x O _{1-x} FeAs x~0.2 d)	T _c =55K, cm/0803.3603 a=3.933Å, c=8.4287Å
PrF _x O _{1-x} FeAs c)	T _c =52K, cm/0803.4283 a=3.985Å, c=8.595Å
CeF _x O _{1-x} FeAs b)	T _c =41 K, cm/0803.3790 a=3.996Å, c=8.648Å
LaF _x O _{1-x} FeAs a)	T _c =26 K, JACS-2008 a=4.036Å, c=8.739 Å
La _{1-x} Sr _x OFeAs	T _c =25K, cm/0803.3021, a=4.035Å, c = 8.771Å

Rare earth's:

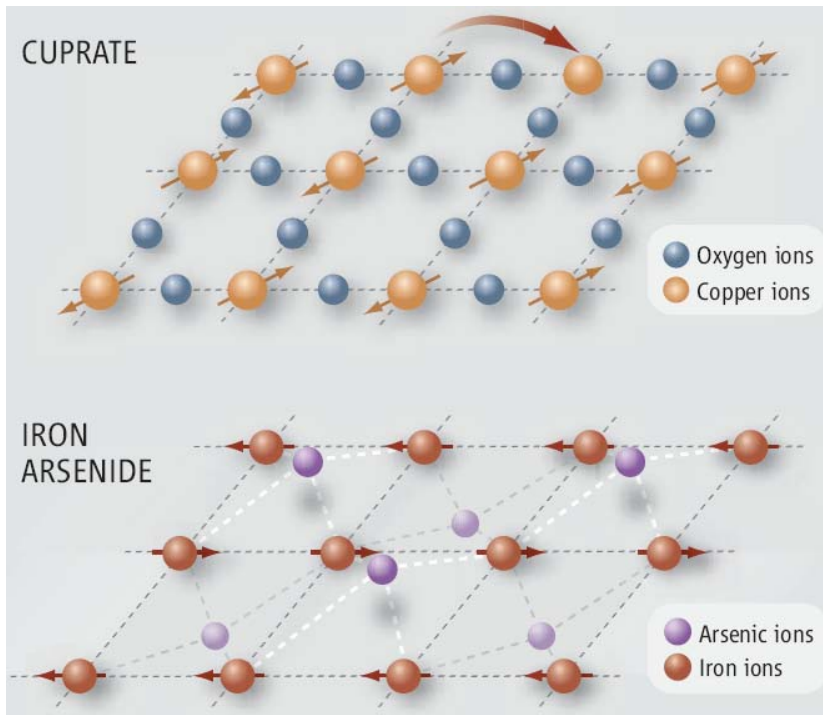
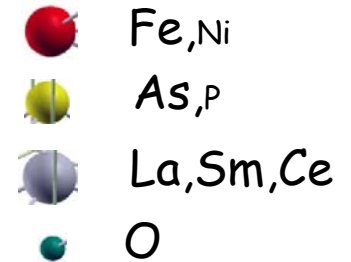
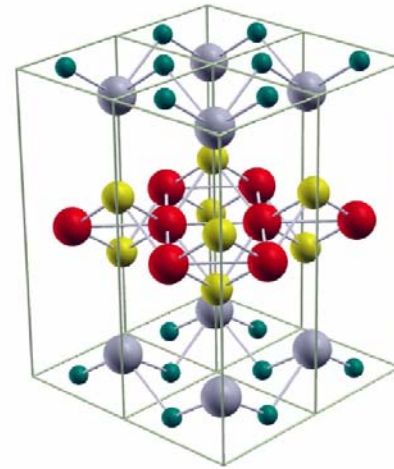
57 La 138.90	58 Ce 140.11	59 Pr 140.90	60 Nd 144.24	61 Pm (145)	62 Sm 150.36	63 Eu 151.96
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Crystal Structure: Tetragonal $I4/mmm$

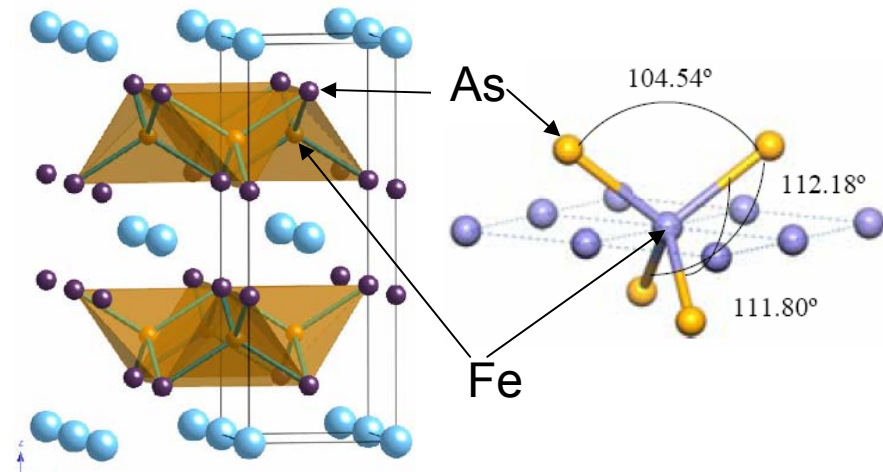


F not important, vacancy fine

- 2D square lattice of Fe
- Fe - magnetic moment
- As-similar then O in cuprates

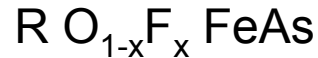


But As not in plane!

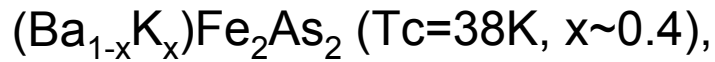


Perfect tetrahedra 109.47°

Variety of materials

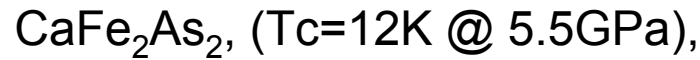


electron doped

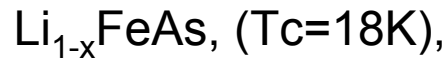


hole doped (not electron doped)

Marianne Rotter et.al., arXiv:0805.4630



Milton S. Torikachvili, arXiv:0807.0616v2



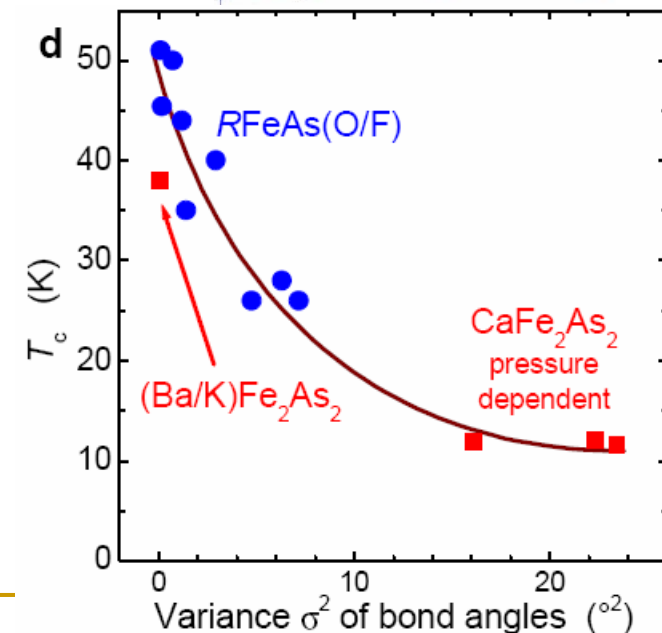
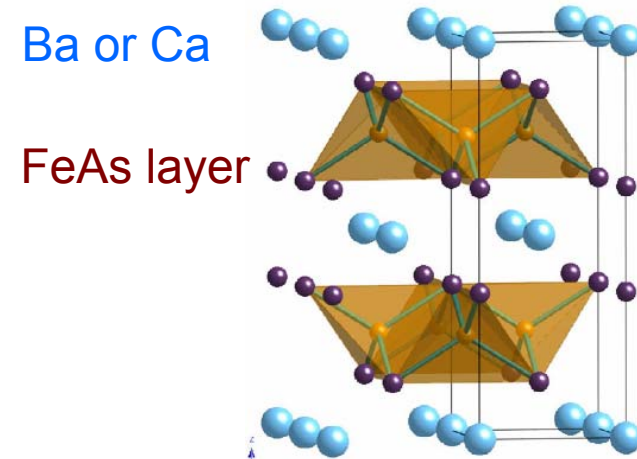
X.C.Wang et.al., arXiv:0806.4688



Yoshikazu Mizuguchi et.al., arXiv: 0807.4315

A. Kreyssig, [arXiv:0807.3032](https://arxiv.org/abs/0807.3032)

Bond angle seems to matter most.
Perfect tetrahedra (109.47°) -> higher T_c



What is the glue?

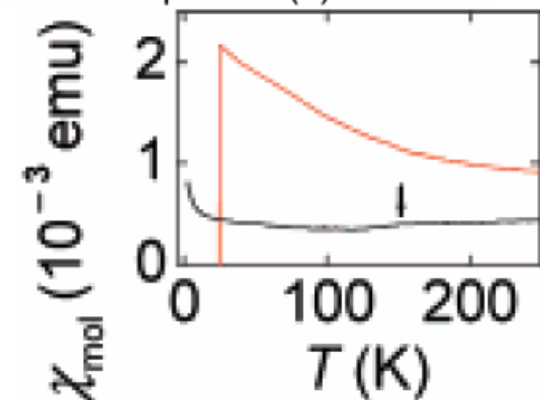
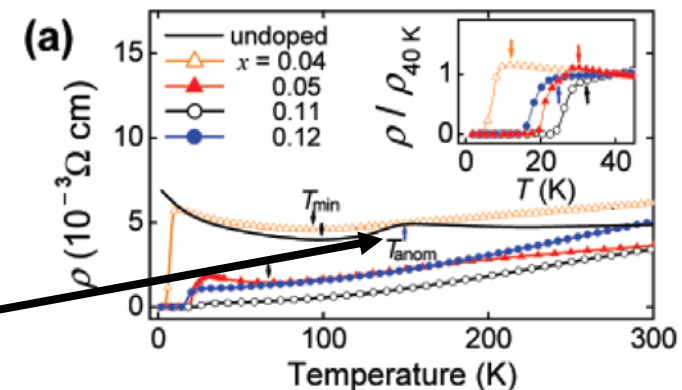
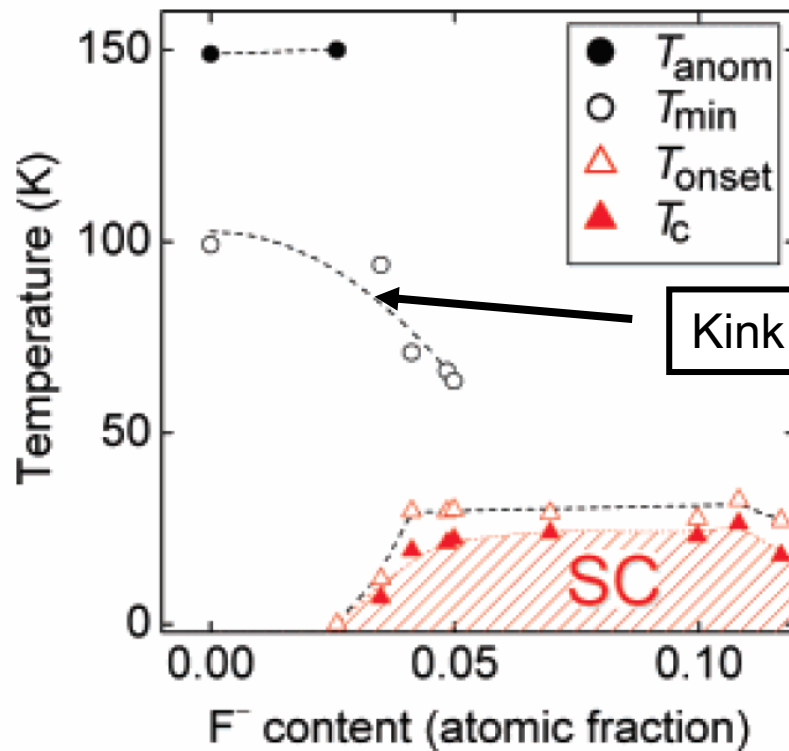
KH, J.H. Shim, G. Kotliar, cond/mat 0803.1279
 (PRL. 100, 226402 (2008)):

Phonons give $T_c < 1K$

L. Boeri, O. V. Dolgov, A. A. Golubov arXiv:0803.2703
 (PRL, 101, 026403 (2008)):

$\lambda < 0.21$, $T_c < 0.8K$

Not conventional superconductors!



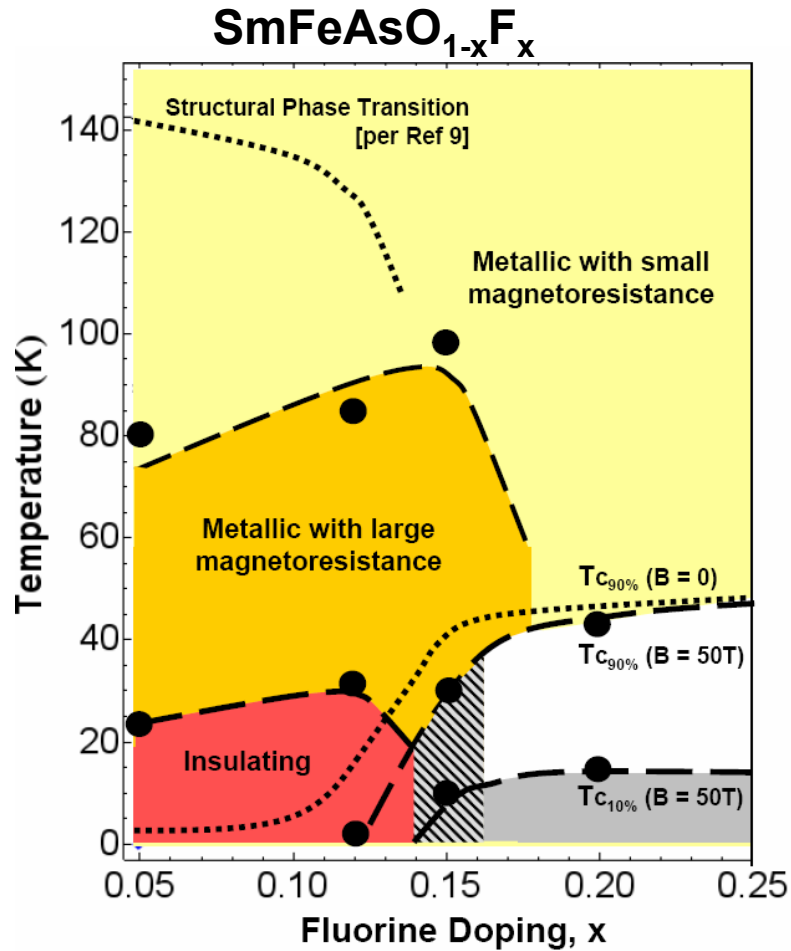
Y. Kamihara et al.,

J. Am. Chem. Soc. 130, 3296 (2008).

Huge spin susceptibility (50 x Pauli)

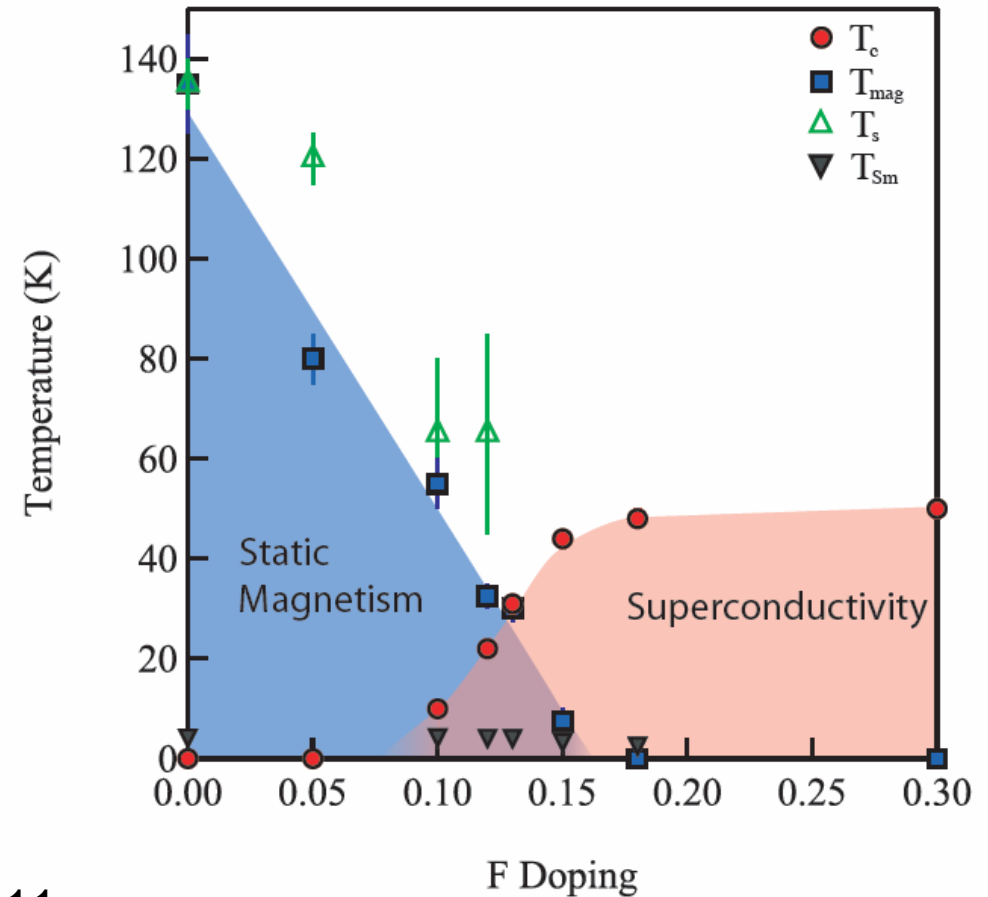
Phase diagrams $\text{SmFeAsO}_{1-x}\text{F}_x$

magneto-transport experiments



[S.C. Riggs et.al., arXiv: 0806.4011](#)

muon spin rotation

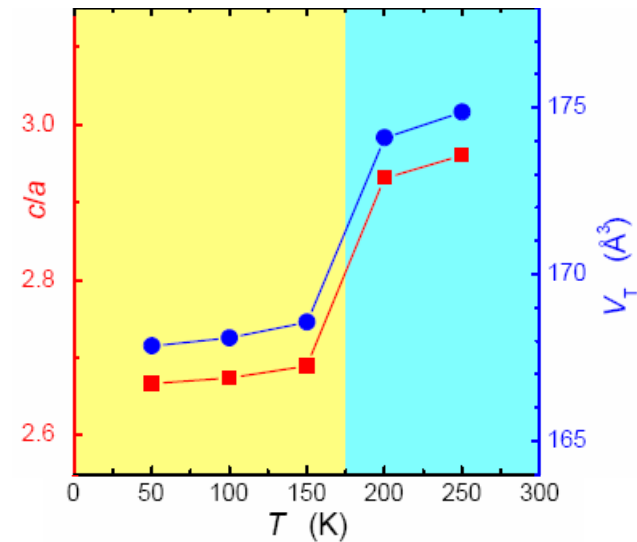
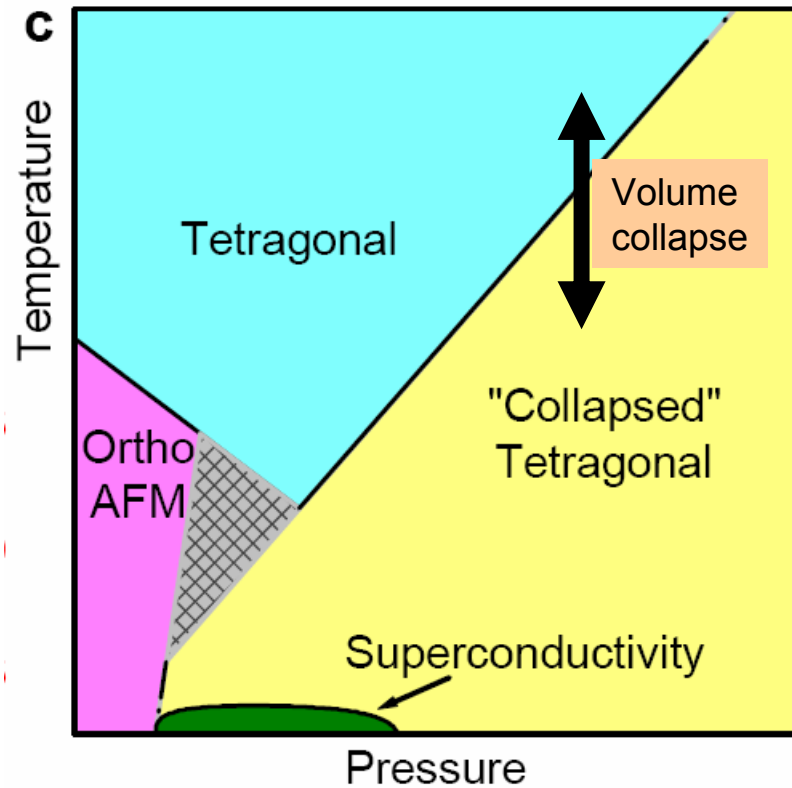


[A. J. Drew et.al., arXiv:0807.4876.](#)

- Very similar to cuprates, log(T) insulator due to impurities

Phase diagrams

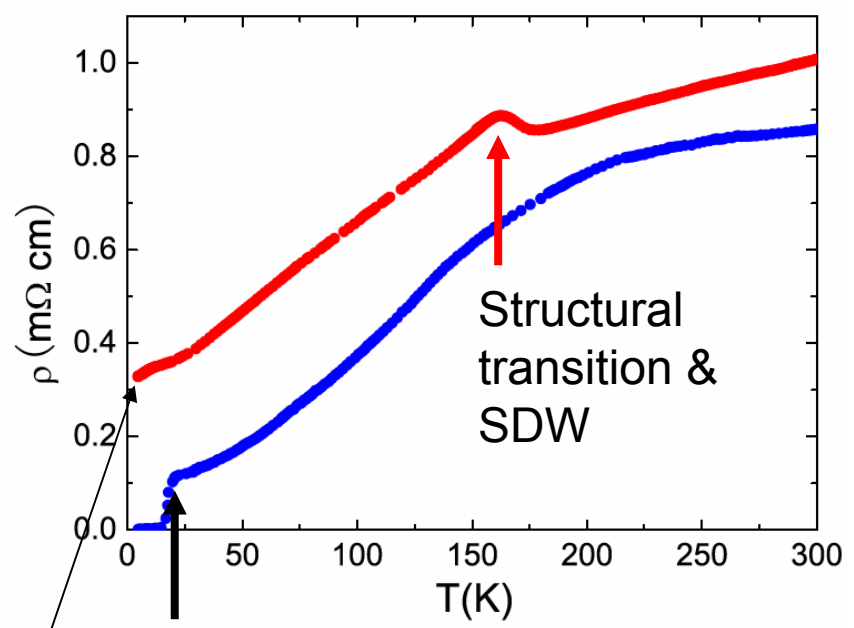
CaFe₂As₂ under pressure Stoichiometric compound



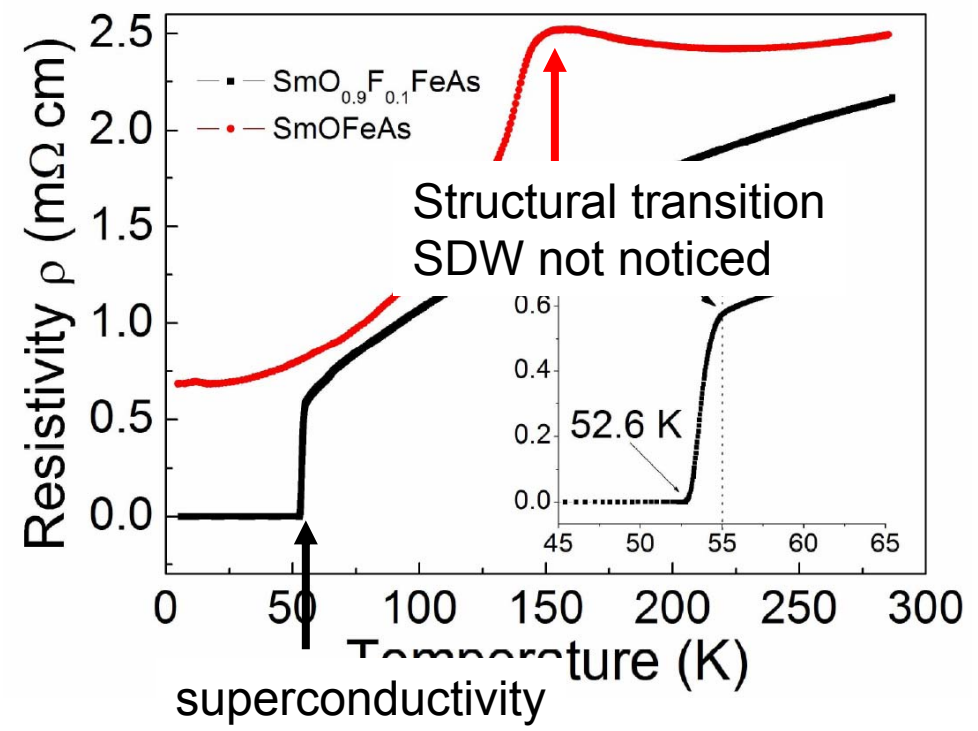
[A. Kreyssig et.al, arXiv: 0807.3032](#)

Common features of the parent compound

CaFe_2As_2 and $\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$



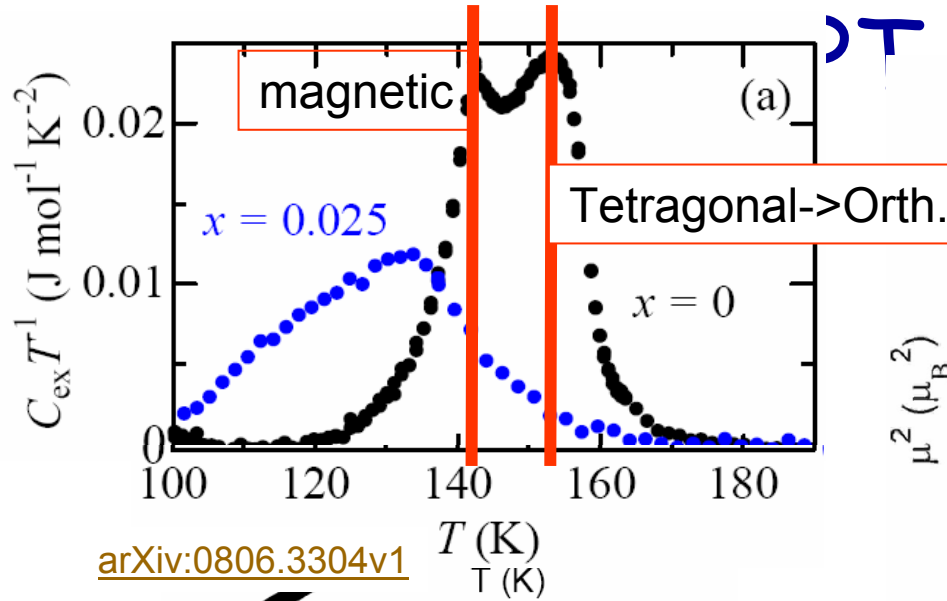
SmOFeAs



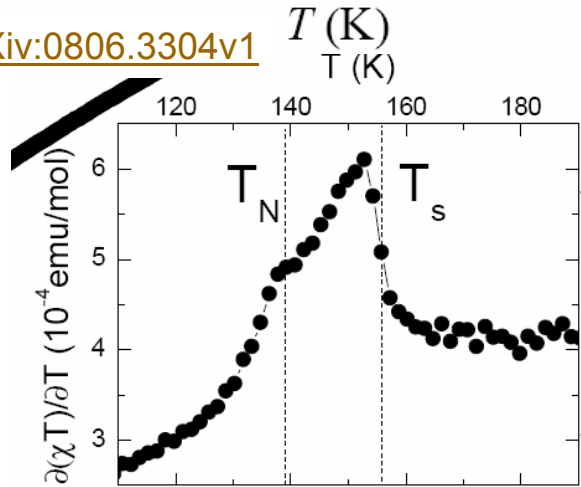
Very unusual

Enormous normal state resistivities!

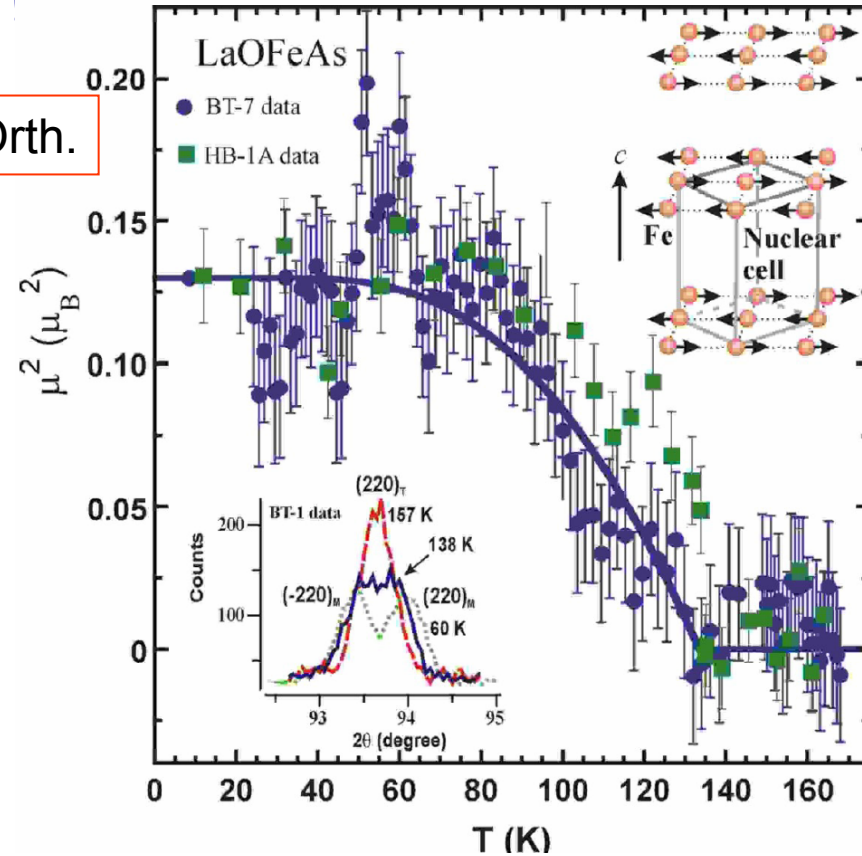
Magnetic and structural



[arXiv:0806.3304v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/0806.3304v1)



R. Klingeler et al., [arXiv:0808.0708v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/0808.0708v1)



Clarina de la Cruz, Nature 453, 899 (2008).

In single crystals of 122 seems T_M and T_S close or the same

Fe magnetism ?

Weak structural distortion ~ 150 K: from tetragonal to orthorhombic

SDW (stripe AFM) at lower T Neutrons by: Clarina de la Cruz et.al, Nature 453, 899 (2008).

SDW temperature and magnetic moment vary strongly between compounds:

LaFeAsO: $T_{SDW} \sim 140$ K $\mu \sim 0.3-0.4 \mu_B$ (a)

NdFeAsO: $T_{SDW} \sim 1.96$ K $\mu \sim 0.9 \mu_B/Fe$ (b)

BaFe₂As₂: $T_0 \sim T_{SDW} \sim 100$ K $\mu \sim 0.9 \mu_B/Fe$ (c)

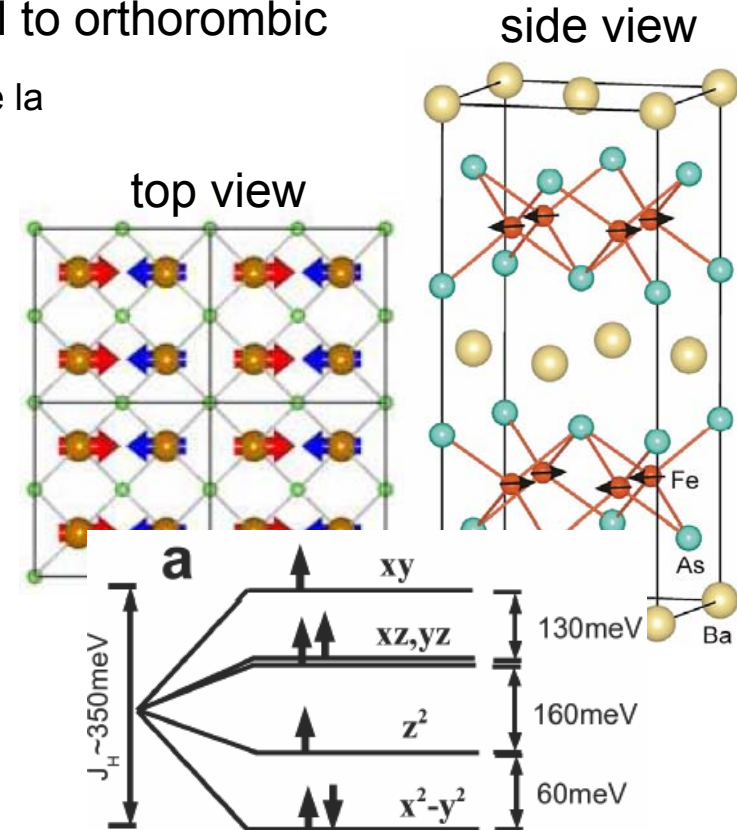
SrFe₂As₂: $T_0 \sim T_{SDW} \sim 205$ K $\mu \sim 1.01 \mu_B/Fe$ (d)

(a) Clarina de la Cruz et.al, Nature 453, 899 (2008).

(b) Jan-Willem G. Bo, et.al., arXiv:0806.1450

(c) Huang, Q. *et al.*, arXiv:0806.2776

(d) K. Kaneko et.al., arXiv: 0807.2608



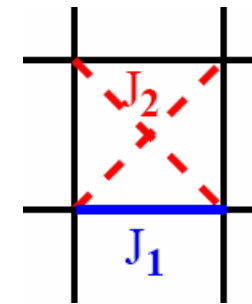
But Iron Fe²⁺ has 6 electrons, **[Ar] 3d⁶ 4s⁰** and spin S=2.

**Why is not μ larger?
Why it varies so much?**

Itinerancy & Frustration

The undoped compound is metal (although very bad one $\sim 1\text{m}\Omega\text{cm}$),
hence moment is partially screened

Magnetic exchange interaction is very frustrated
(Qimiao Si, Elihu Abrahams, arXiv:0804.2480)



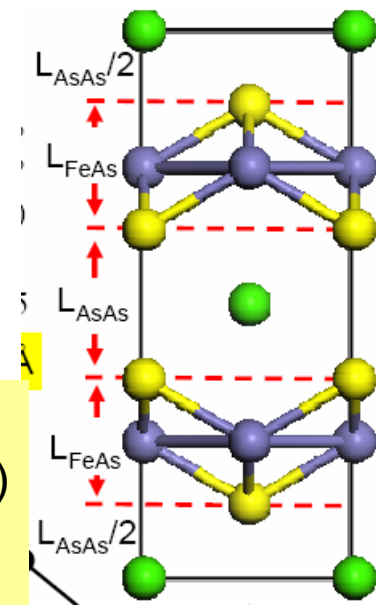
Exchange interactions are such that $J_2 \sim J_1/2$, very strong frustration,
(KH, G. Kotliar, arXiv: 0805.0722)

For the doped compound, LDA structural optimization
fails for non-magnetic state!
(It is very good if magnetism is assumed)

For non-magnetic state, LDA predicts 1.34Å shorter
FeAs distance (10.39 instead of 11.73).
One of the largest failures of LDA.

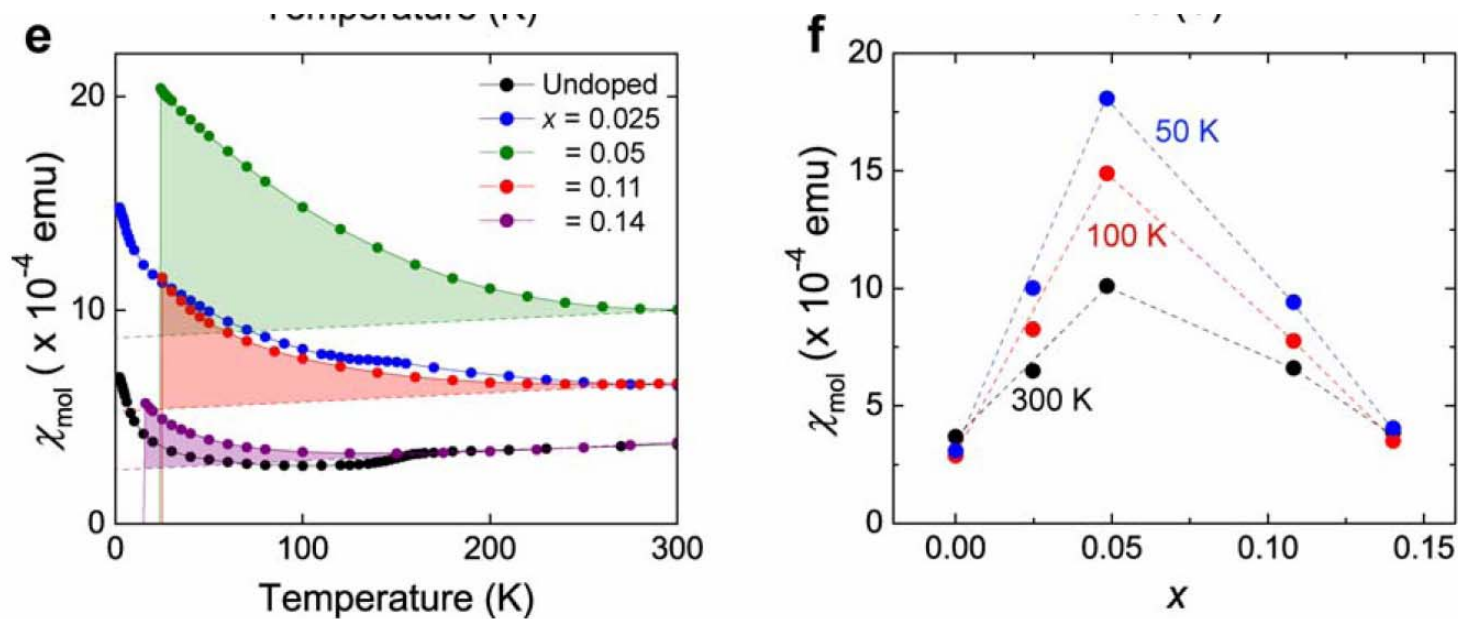
T. Yildirim, arXiv: 0807.3936

Paramagnetic state
must have (fluctuating)
magnetic moments
not captured in LDA



Signatures of moments

Doped LaOFeAs



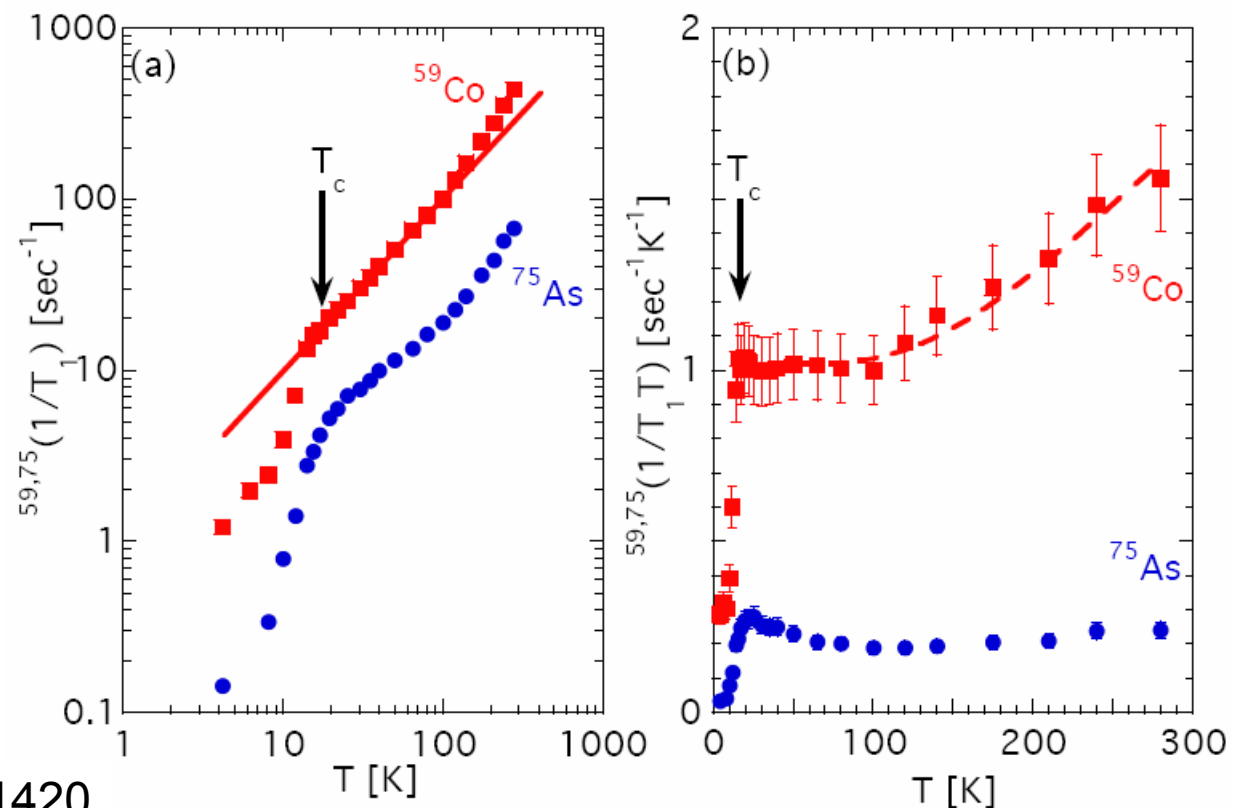
Susceptibility 50x larger than Pauli LDA

T. Nomura et.al., 0804.3569

Nonmagnetic impurities not detrimental to SC

- Fe replaced by Co
- Impurities do not destroy SC (like Zn doping in cuprates)
- No signature of Curie-Weiss susc.

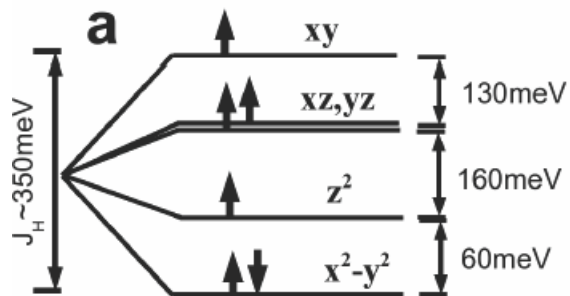
$\text{BaFe}_{1.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{As}_2$: $T_c \sim 22\text{K}$



Band structure of LaOFeAs

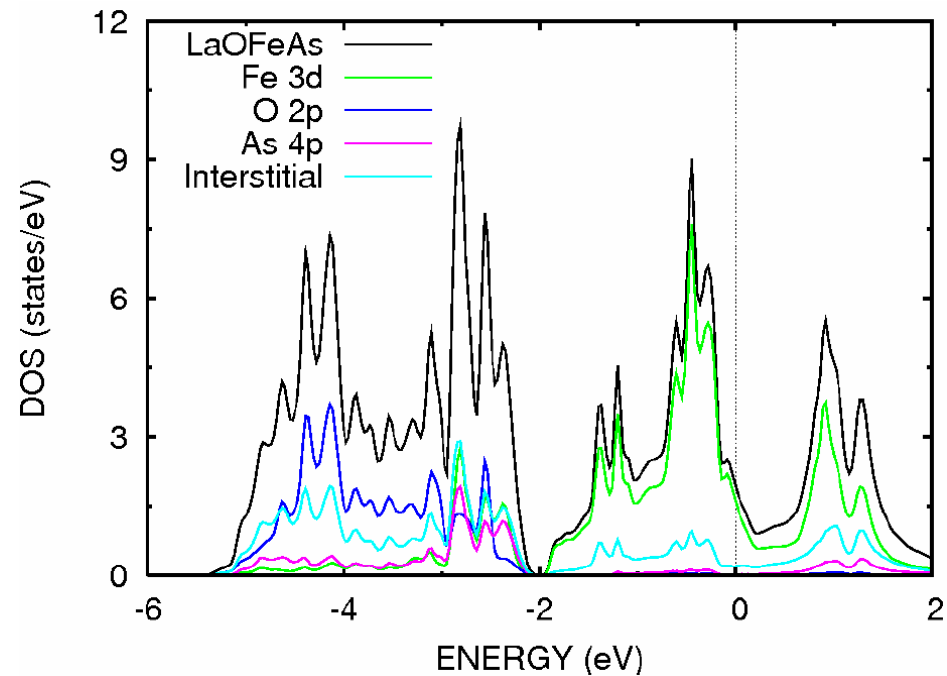
LDA: Mostly iron bands at EF
(correlations important)

6 electrons in 5 Fe bands:
Filling 6/10 \rightarrow large spin



The 5-band Hubbard-type model
As(p)-Fe(d) hybridization weak

LDA DOS



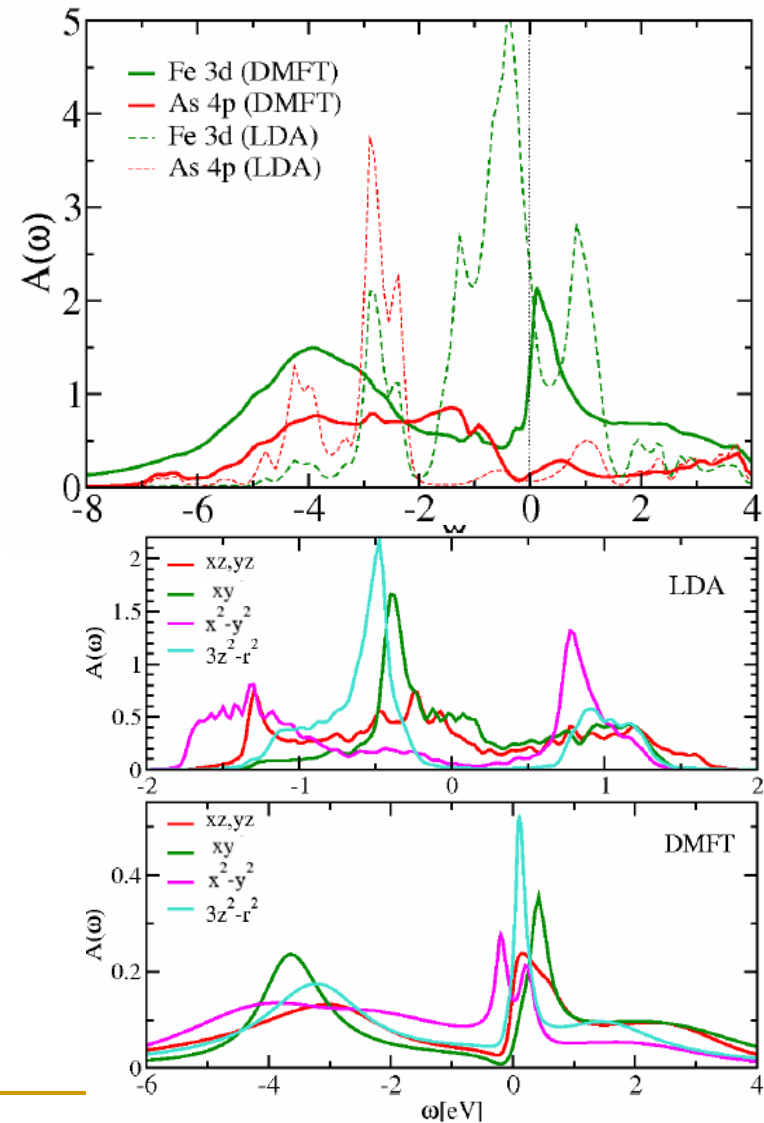
KH, J.H. Shim, G. Kotliar, cond/mat 0803.1279
(PRL. 100, 226402 (2008)):

DMFT for $\text{LaF}_x\text{O}_{1-x}\text{FeAs}$

LDA+DMFT: LaOFeAs is at the verge
of the metal-insulator transition
(for realistic $U=4\text{eV}$, $J=0.7\text{eV}$)
For a larger ($U=4.5$, $J=0.7\text{eV}$) semiconducting
insulator

Not a one band model: all 5 bands important
(for $J>0.3$)

Need to create a singlet out of spin and orbit

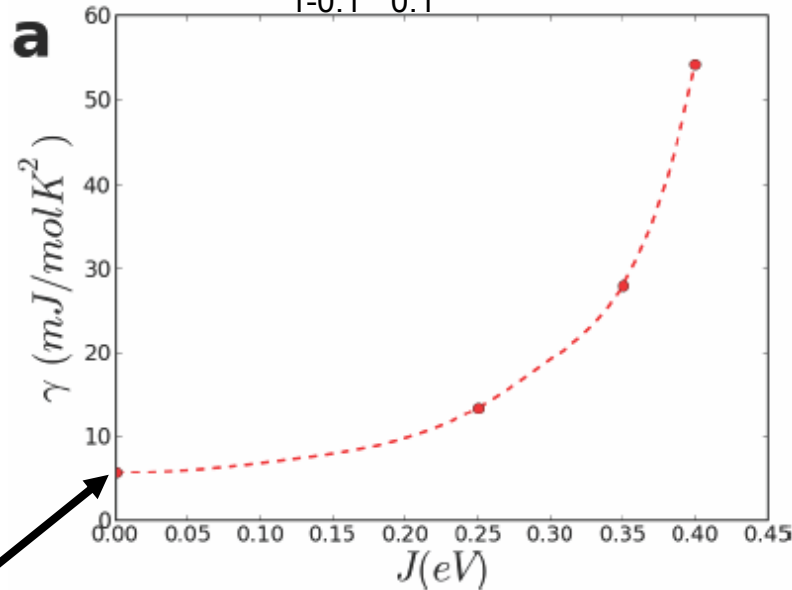


Importance of Hund's coupling

Hubbard U is not the “relevant” parameter.

The **Hund's coupling** brings correlations!

Specific heat within LDA+DMFT for $\text{LaO}_{1-0.1}\text{F}_{0.1}\text{FeAs}$ at $U=4\text{eV}$

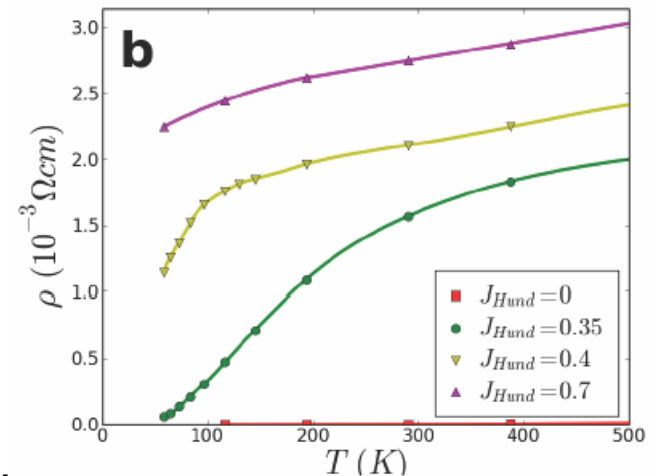
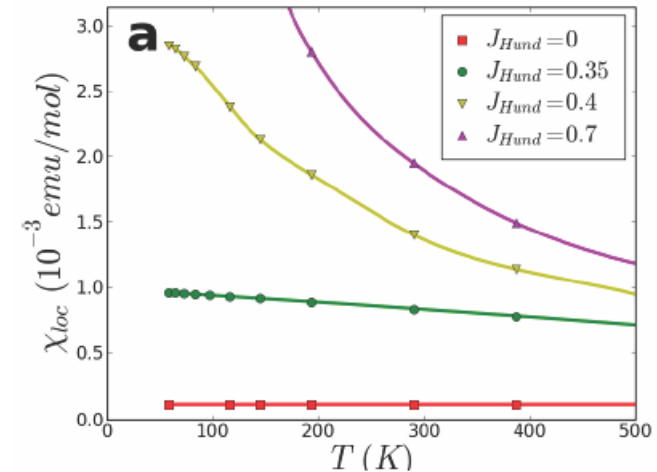


LDA value

For $J=0$ there is negligible mass enhancement at $U \sim W$!

The coupling between the Fe magnetic moment and the mean-field medium (As-p, neighbors Fe-d) becomes ferromagnetic for large Hund's coupling!

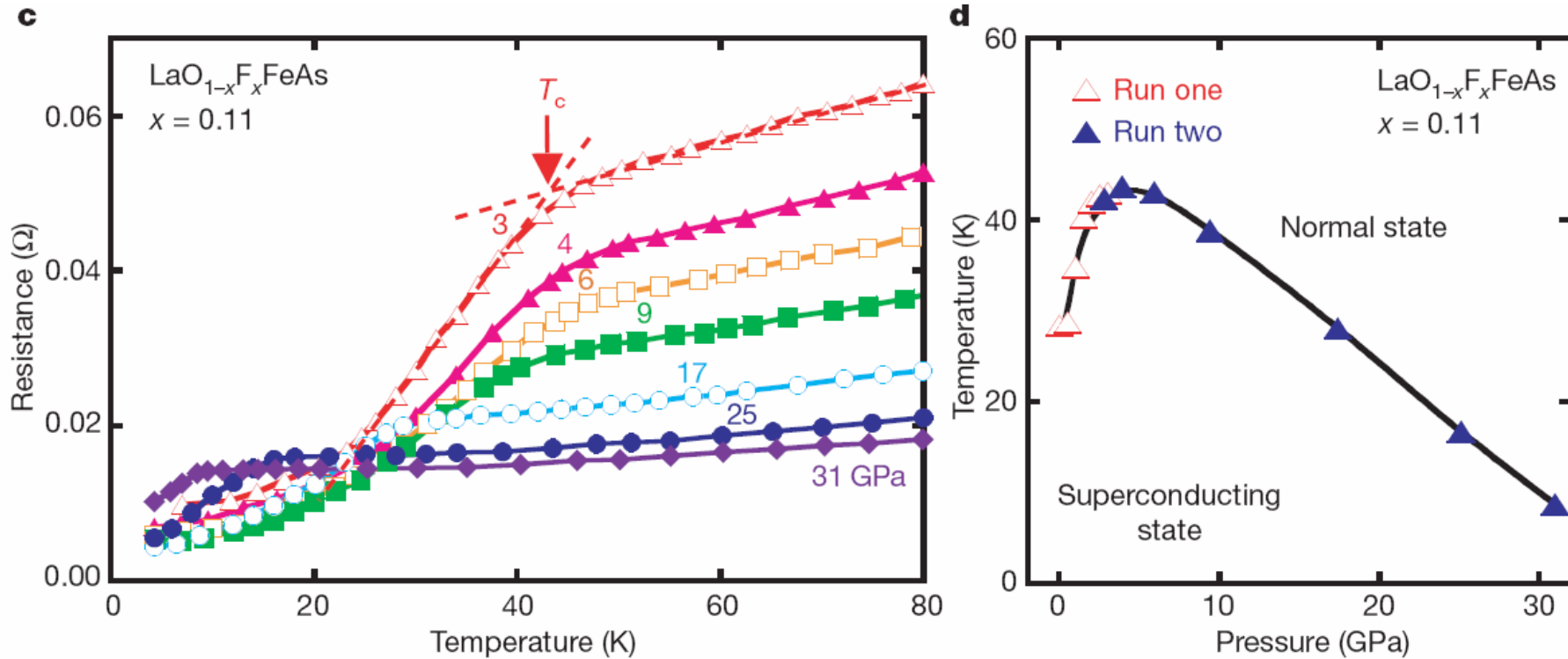
$\text{LaO}_{1-0.1}\text{F}_{0.1}\text{FeAs}$



$J \sim 0.35$ gives correct order of Magnitude for both χ and ρ .

LaOFeAs under pressure

$T_c \sim 43\text{K}$



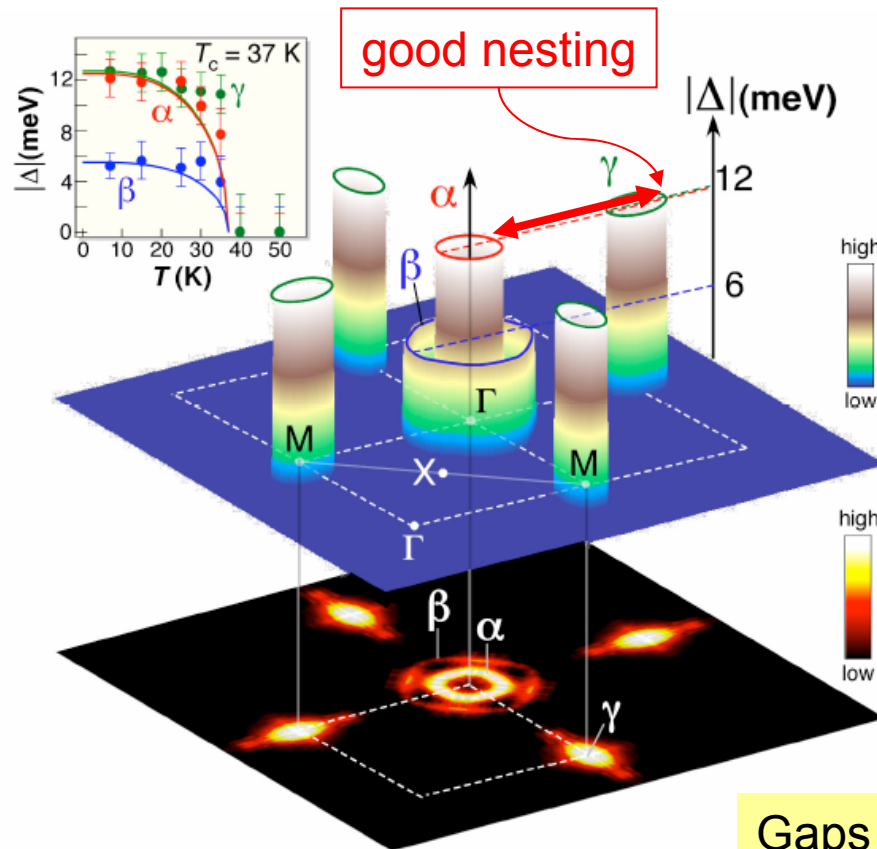
Hiroki Takahashi et.al., *Nature* **453**, 376-378 (2008)

Very incoherent in normal state (large resistivity)

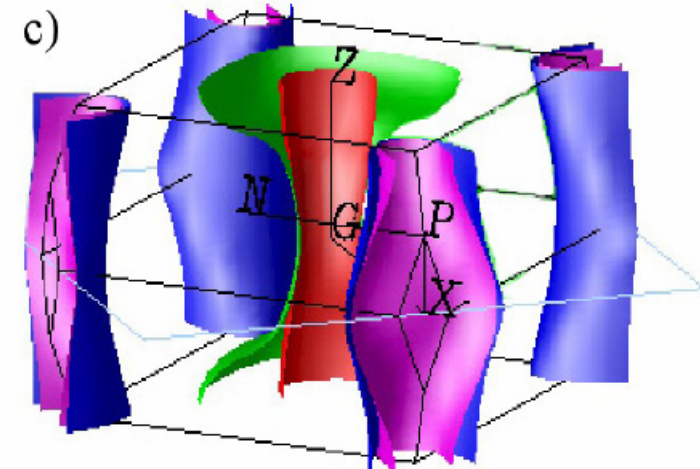


High T_c

ARPES on $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{K}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$



LDA(LAPW) calculation



C. Liu, et.al., arXiv: 0806.3453

Gaps on the two FS around Γ are very different

H. Ding et.al., arXiv:0807.0419

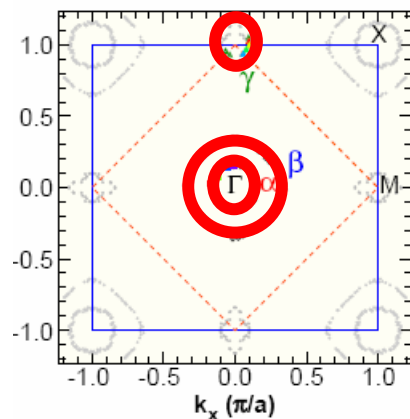
Large gap in the inner Γ and M

Small gap in the outer Γ pocket

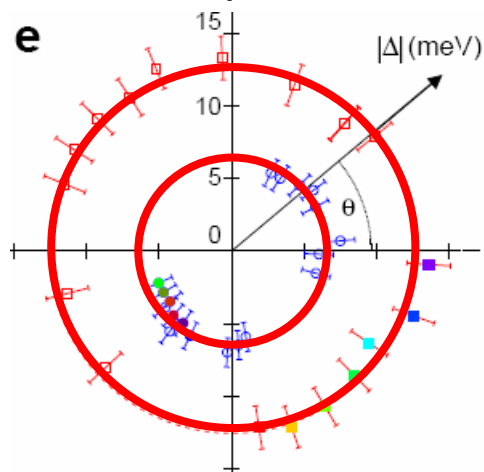
Anisotropy of the gap

H. Ding et.al., arXiv:0807.0419

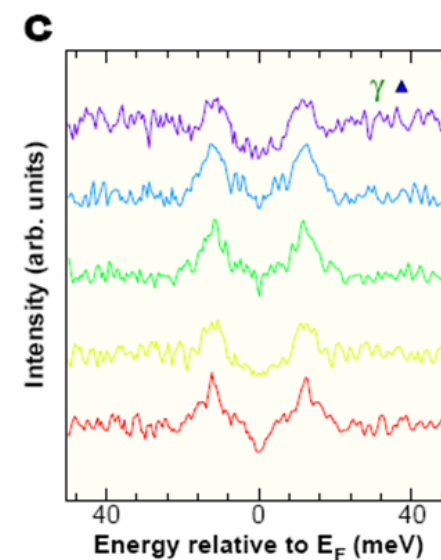
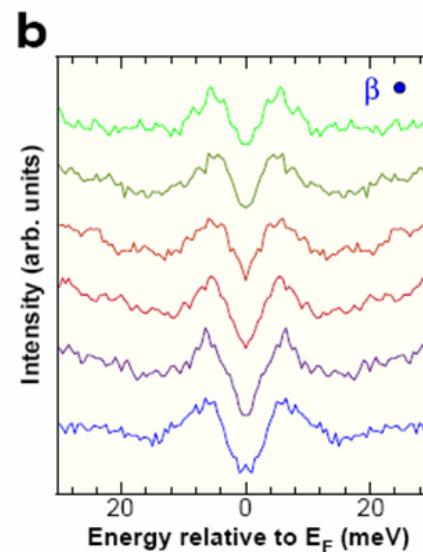
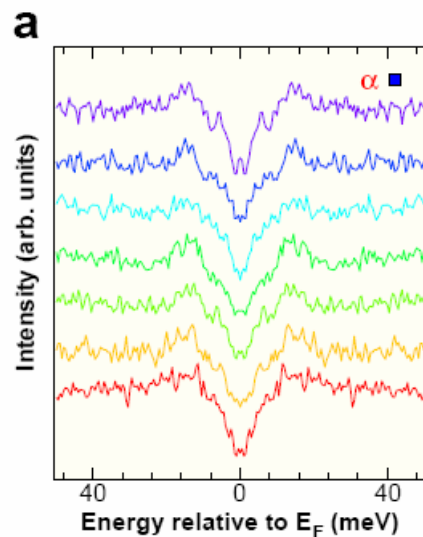
Fermi surface



Gap size

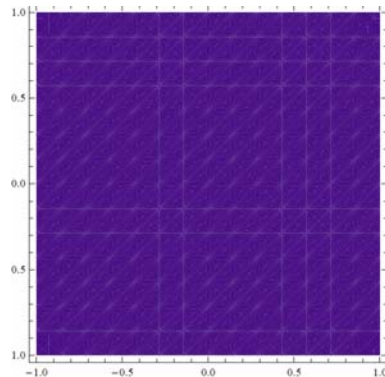


Negligible anisotropy.
D-wave gap excluded!



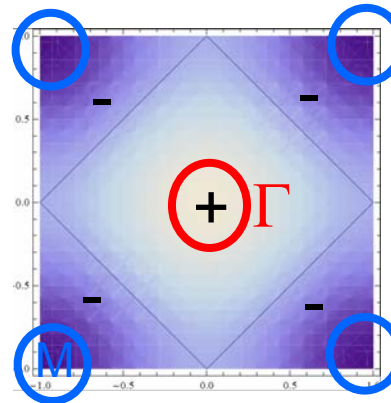
Other common possibilities

s-constant



maybe

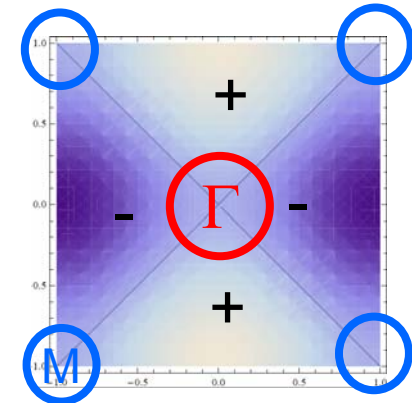
$ex-s \sim \cos(kx) + \cos(ky)$



No nodes,
but gap different sign
on Γ and M

maybe

$d \sim \cos(kx) - \cos(ky)$



~~Nodes in the gap~~

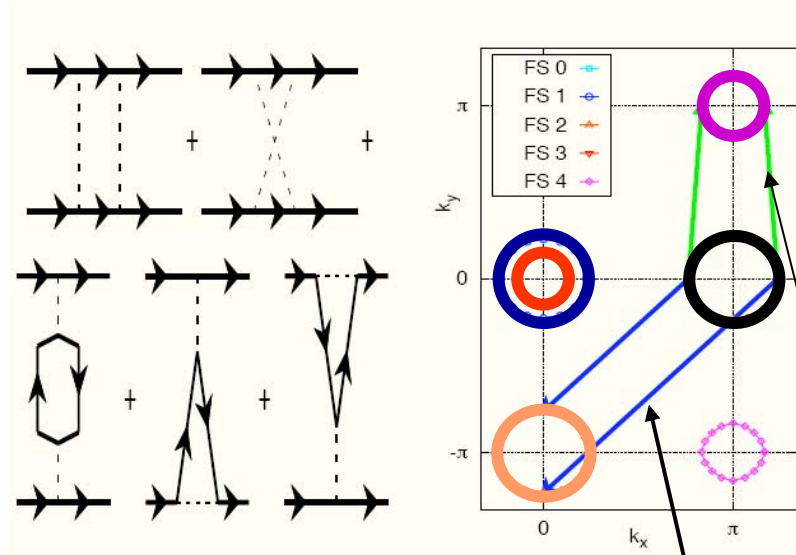
no

...and many other possibilities

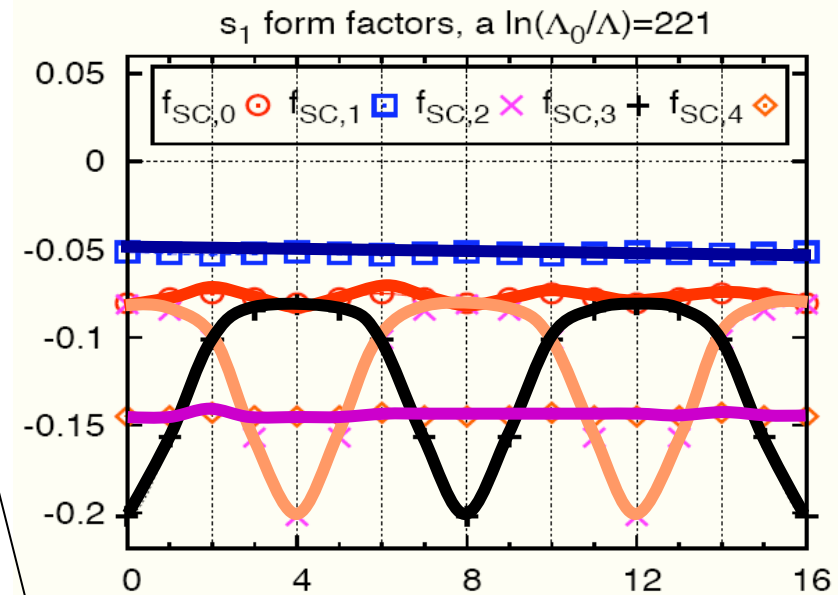
One more possibility

Fa Wang et.al., arXiv: 0807.0498

Numerical Renormalization Group ~ “advanced” way of summing LOD



inter-pocket Josephson tunneling



The gap has the same sign
on all FS pockets.

Conclusions

- Variety of materials with common SDW feature and SC
 - 1111: LaOFeAs, CeOFeAs,...SmOFeAs
 - 122: BaFe₂As₂, CaFe₂As₂
 - LiFeAs
 - FeSe, FeTe
 - Highest T_c~55K achieved in SmF_xO_{1-x}FeAs
 - Some similarities with cuprates, but also differences (Co doping)
 - Correlations weaker than in cuprates (not doped Mott insulators)
 - ARPES shows almost uniform gap on FS sheets (s-wave, extended s-wave,...)
 - Other probes of gap symmetry are still controversial (1/T₁~T³, 1/λ²~exp/powerlaw, C_v~exp/powerlaw)
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