

# Pairing Pseudogap in Strongly Interacting Fermi Gases

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# Pseudogap in Strongly Interacting Fermi Gases

- definition
- significance
- signatures
- status: theory & experiment
- implications for other fields

Recent review:

M. Randeria, W. Zwerger & M. Zwierlein,  
"BCS-BEC Crossover and Unitary Fermi Gas"

Chapter in book edited by W. Zwerger (Springer, 2011)

## Pseudogap:

Suppression of low-energy spectral weight in the normal state ( $T > T_c$ )

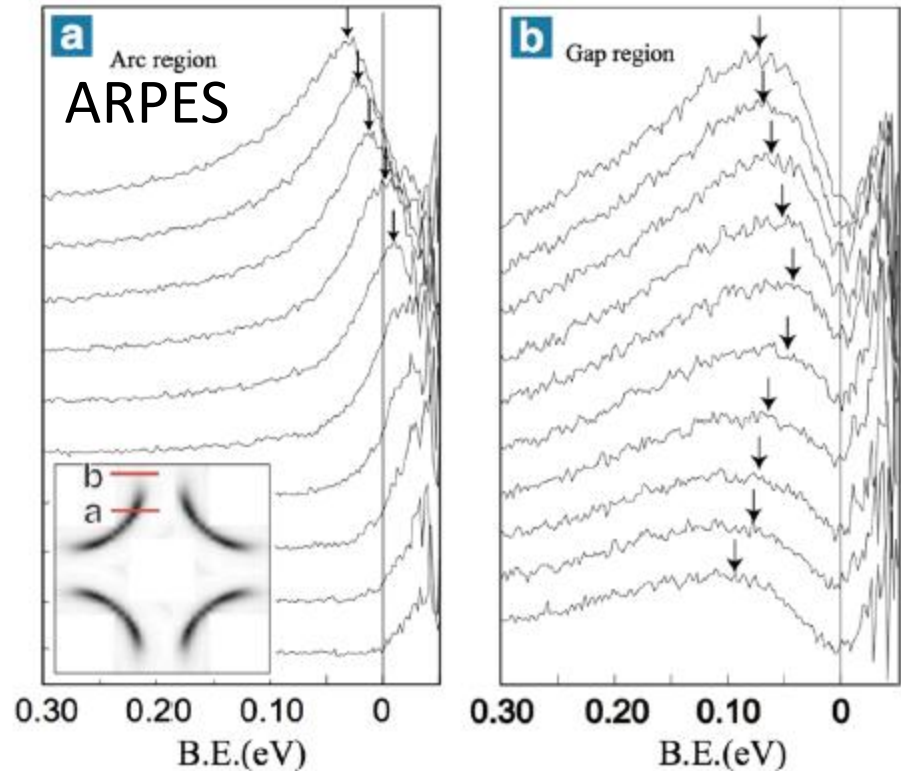
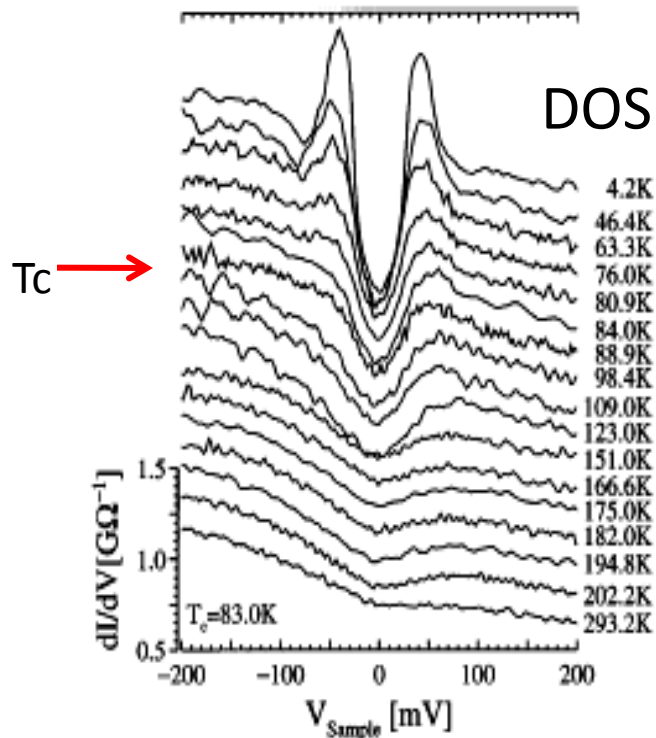
This terminology originates from papers like:

Ding *et al.*, "Spectroscopic evidence for a pseudogap in the normal state of underdoped high- $T_c$  superconductors" *Nature* 382, 51 (1996)

Loeser *et al.* "Excitation gap in the normal state of underdoped Bi2212" *Science* 273, 325 (1996)

# High $T_c$ Pseudogap: A first look

$T = 140\text{K} > T_c = 90\text{K}$



Renner et al, PRL (1998)

Kanigel, Chatterjee, MR et al, PRL (2008)

Physics of High  $T_c$  pseudogap is much more complicated than the problem of our interest here (see later)

## Pairing Pseudogap:

Suppression of low-energy spectral weight due to incoherent pairing in the normal state ( $T > T_c$ )

- single-particle spectral function
- single-particle density of states
- spectral weight for singlet to triplet transitions
  
- “hard” gap = zero spectral weight
- pseudogap = suppression, not necessarily zero

The "Pairing pseudogap" question related to two important themes in condensed matter physics:

- What drives the SC transition: amplitude or phase?
  - \* amplitude  $\rightarrow$  BCS mean field theory
  - \* phase fluctuations  $\rightarrow$  breakdown of MF description
- Are there sharp, gapless quasiparticles in a normal Fermi system?
  - \* yes  $\rightarrow$  Landau's Fermi liquid theory
  - \* no  $\rightarrow$  breakdown of Fermi liquid paradigm

# Amplitude v/s Phase

- Conventional BCS SCs:  
phase transition by gap (amplitude) collapse

$$2\Delta = 3.5k_B T_c$$

$$\Delta \sim T_c \ll \rho_s \sim \epsilon_f$$

$\rho_s$  = superfluid  
stiffness

- Many interesting SC systems exhibit

$$T_c \sim \rho_s \ll \Delta$$

Transition driven by fluctuations of the phase

-- underdoped High  $T_c$  cuprates

Uemura (1989), Emery, Kivelson (1995),

Broun et al, PRL (2007)

Hetel, Lemberger & MR, Nature Phys. (2007)

-- SC-Insulator transitions

Bouadim, Loh, MR, & Trivedi, Nature Phys. (2011)

Sacape et al, Nature Phys & Nature Comm (2011)

Gap will  
Survive  
Above  $T_c$

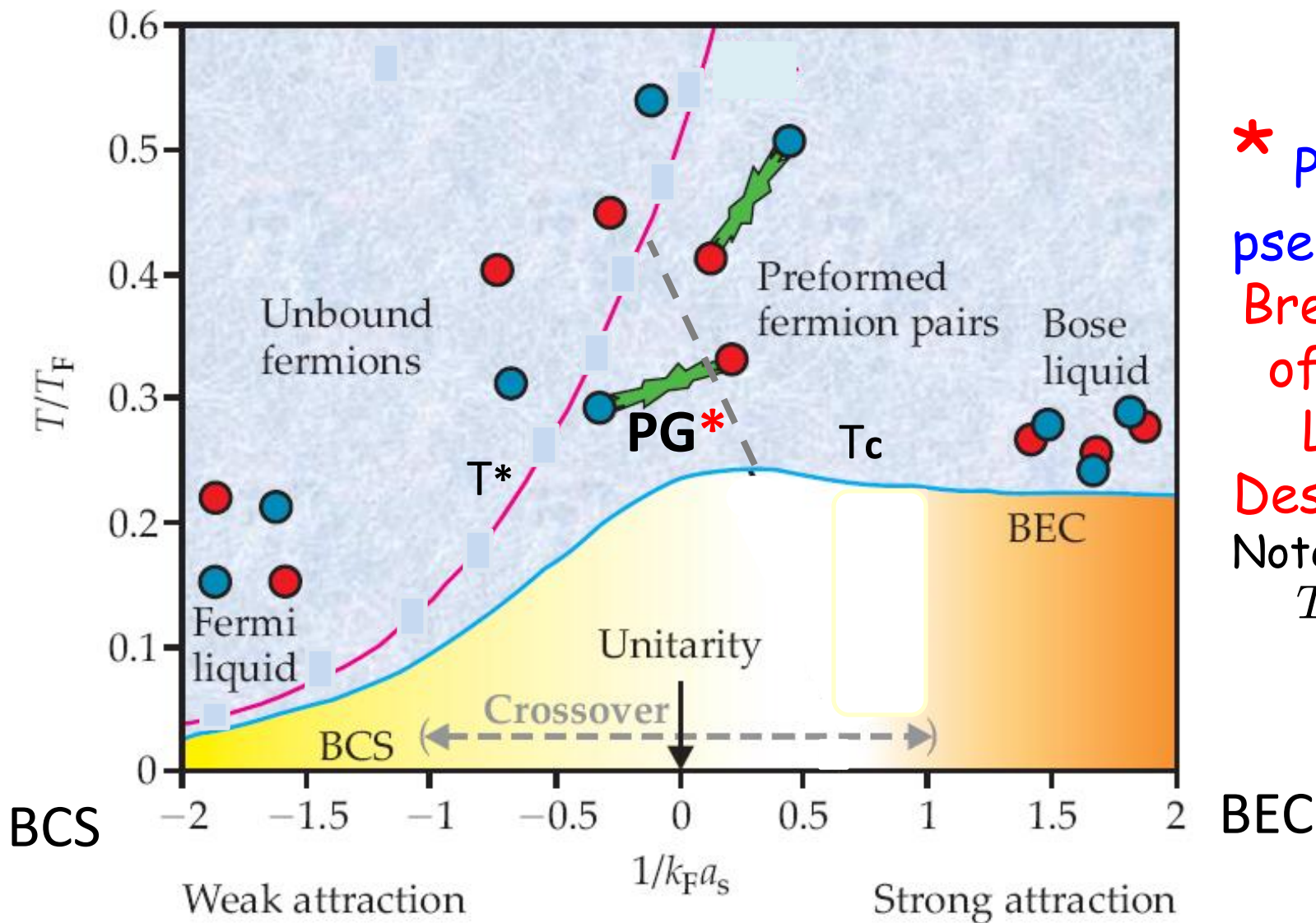
# Prehistory

Does the normal state of a short coherence length superconductor show deviations from Landau Fermi liquid description?

- \* MR, Trivedi, Moreo & Scalettar, PRL 69, 2001 (1992)
- \* Trivedi & MR, PRL 75, 381 (1995)
- \* MR, "Precursor Pairing Correlations and Pseudogaps"  
Varenna Lectures (1997) cond-mat/9710223



# BCS-BEC crossover

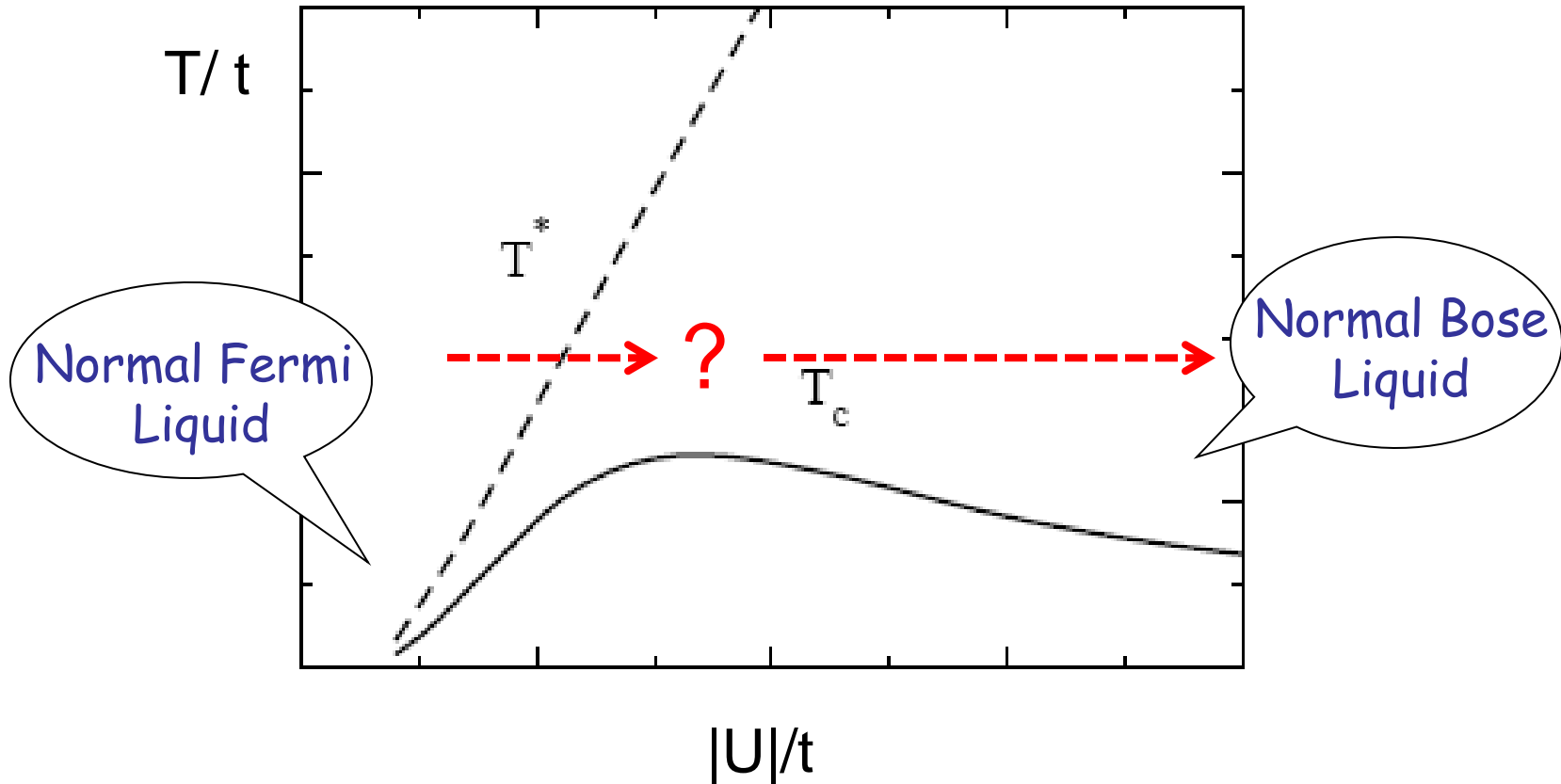


\* Pairing  
pseudogap  
Breakdown  
of Fermi  
Liquid  
Description

Note:  
 $T \ll T_F$

Based on Sa de Melo, MR & Engelbrecht, PRL (1993)

from: Sa de Melo,  
Phys.Today (Oct. 2008)



### Pairing Pseudogap in

2D Lattice model of BCS-BEC crossover

- 2D simpler for QMC
- 2D enhances pseudogap effect
  - fluctuations lower  $T_c$
- no fermion sign problem (Hirsch)

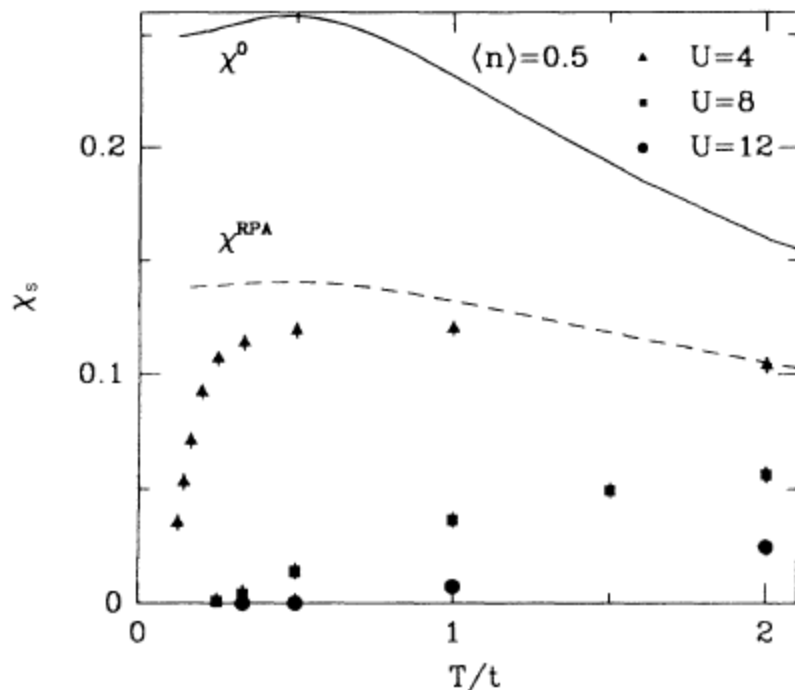
PRL (1992)

PRL (1995)

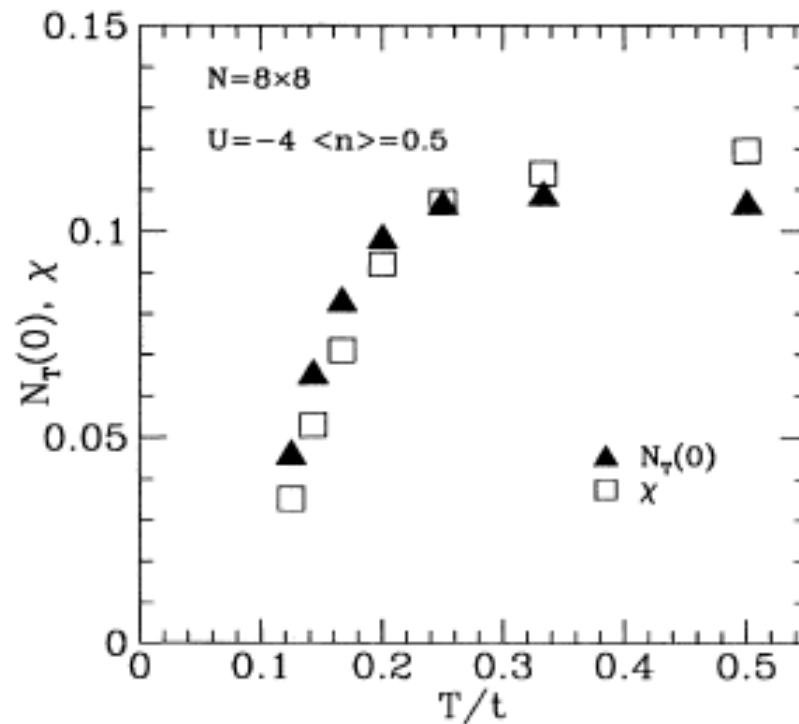
# Pairing Pseudogap in 2D Attractive Hubbard model

## Spin susceptibility & single-particle density of states

$$\chi_s(T)$$



$$\chi_s(T) \sim N(0; T)$$



PRL 69, 2001 (1992)  
PRL 75, 381 (1995)

# Pairing Pseudogap

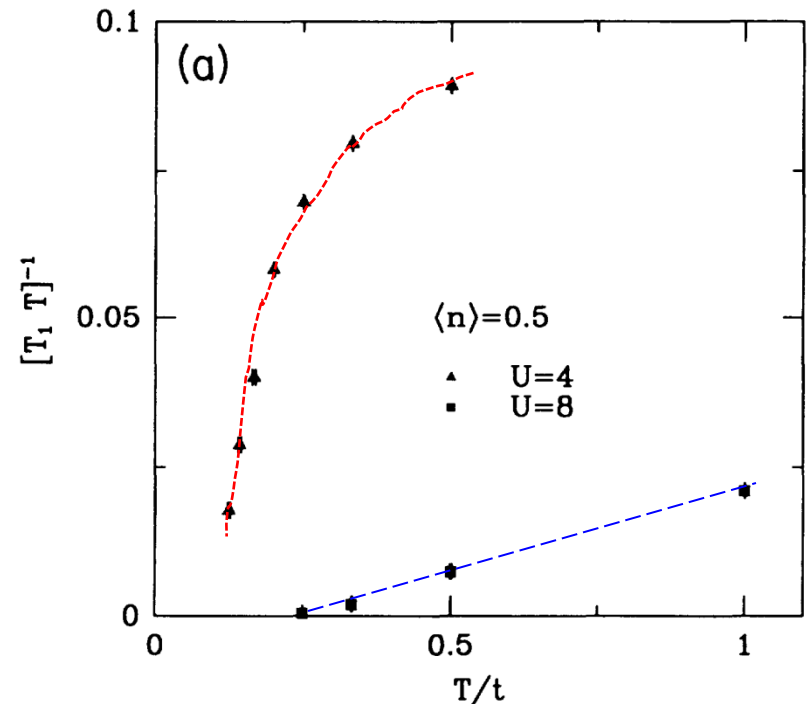
## Dynamic Spin Susceptibility

$$\frac{1}{T_1 T} = \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \frac{\chi''(\mathbf{q}, \omega)}{\omega}$$

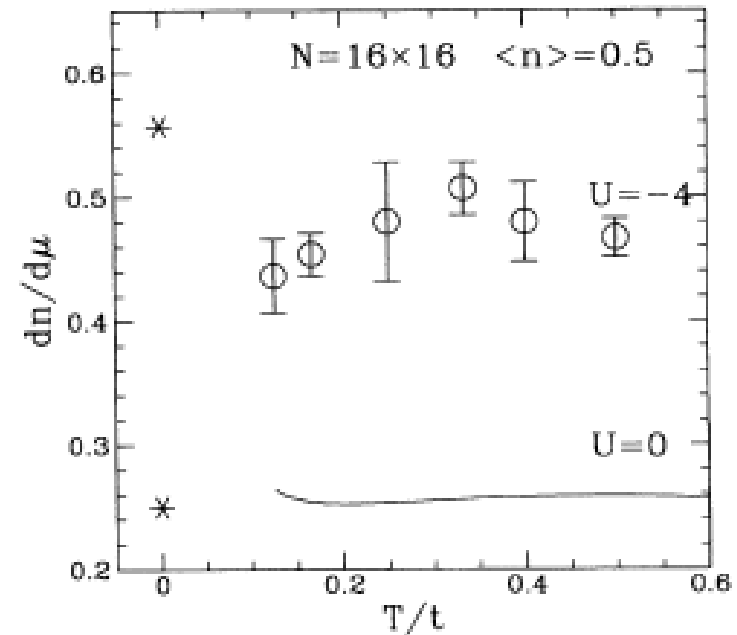
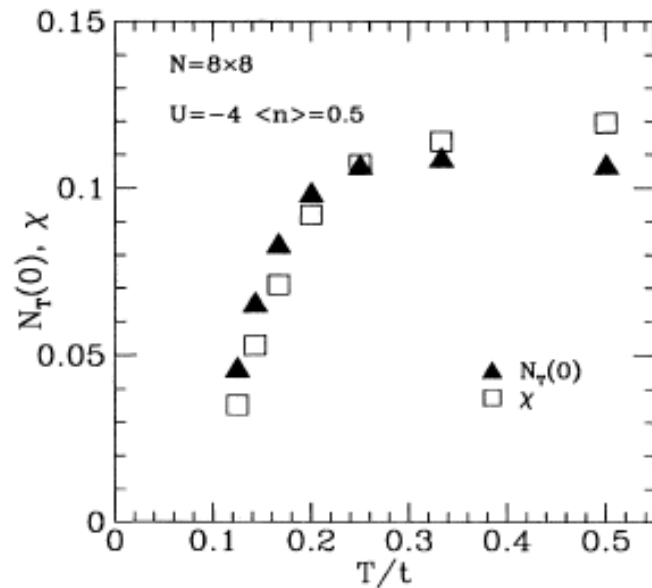
$$\chi'' = \text{Im} \chi_{\uparrow, \downarrow}(q, \omega)$$



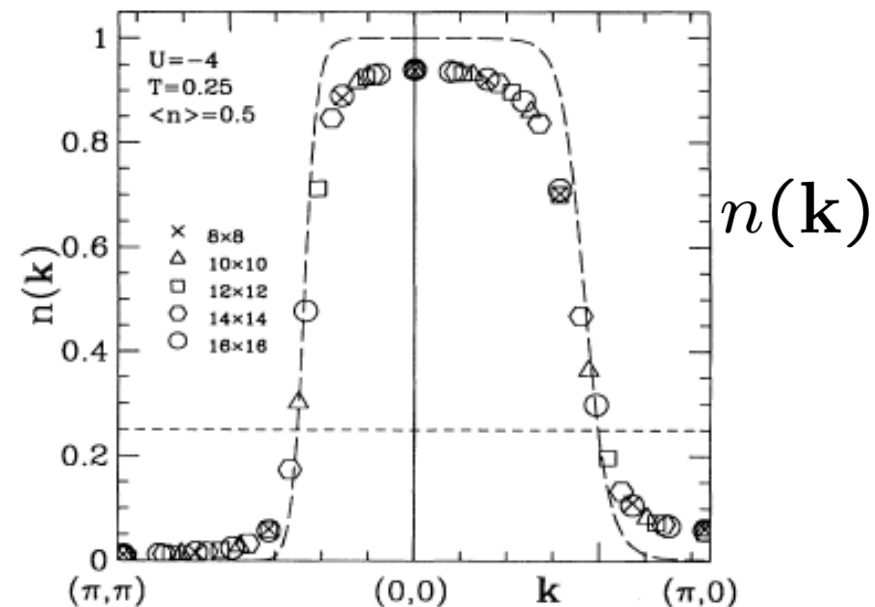
"spin" Bragg in cold atoms



- Pseudogap in  $\chi_s(T)$  &  $N(0)$
- No signature in  $dn/d\mu$
- Fermi degeneracy:  $n(\mathbf{k})$



$$\frac{dn}{d\mu}$$



PRL 69, 2001 (1992)  
 PRL 75, 381 (1995)

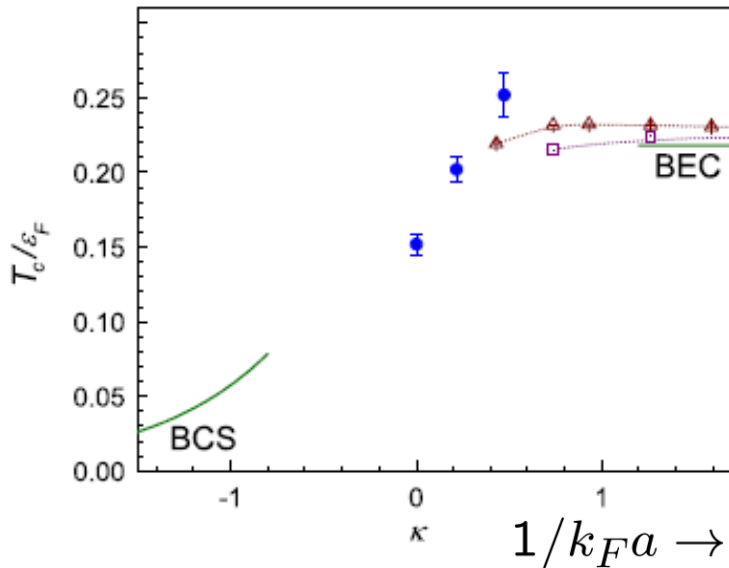
Fast-forward to the present...

Pairing pseudogap  
in the normal state of the  
strongly interacting Fermi gas?

- How large is the effect in various observables?
- How large is the temperature regime?  $T_c < T < T^*$
- How large is the Interaction regime?  $1/k_F a = 0$   
→ Small positive values?

# Quantum Monte Carlo Estimate of $T_c$

$$T_c \simeq 0.15 - 0.20 T_F$$



Burovski et al, PRL (2008)

→ Cannot discuss  
the question of  
“Fermi liquid or not”  
in asymptotic  
low T regime  
 $T \ll T_F$

## Fermion Spectral function:

$$A(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left| \text{Im} G(\mathbf{k}, \omega + i0^+) \right|$$

= Probability density of making a single-fermion excitation with momentum  $\mathbf{k}$  at an energy  $\omega$

Green's  
function:

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \frac{1}{\omega - \frac{k^2}{2m} + \mu - \Sigma(\mathbf{k}, \omega)}$$

Self Energy:

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \Sigma'(\mathbf{k}, \omega) + i\Sigma''(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

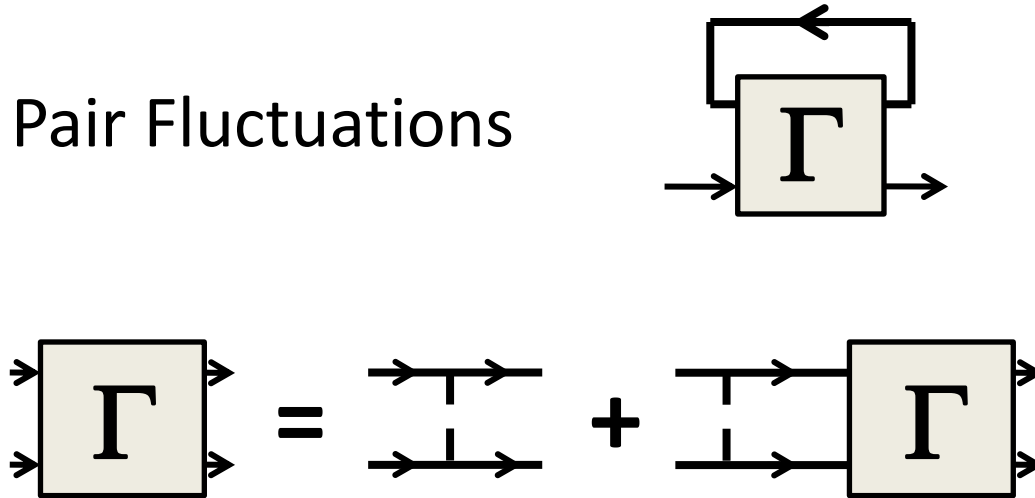
renormalized  
dispersion

scattering rate  
 $\sim 1/(\text{lifetime})$



# Diagrammatic approximations

Pair Fluctuations



- No small parameter
- No organizing principle; other than conservation laws, sum rules, limiting cases, and comparison with expt & QMC
- e.g., ignores Gorkov-MB diagrams

pseudogap in  $A(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$

- Strinati: GoGo  
PRB (2002), PRL (2011)
- Ohashi: GoGo  
PRA (2010)
- Levin: GGo  
PRL (2009)  
Rep. Prog. Phys. (2009)
- Zwerger & Haussmann: GG  
PRA (2010)

Virial expansion

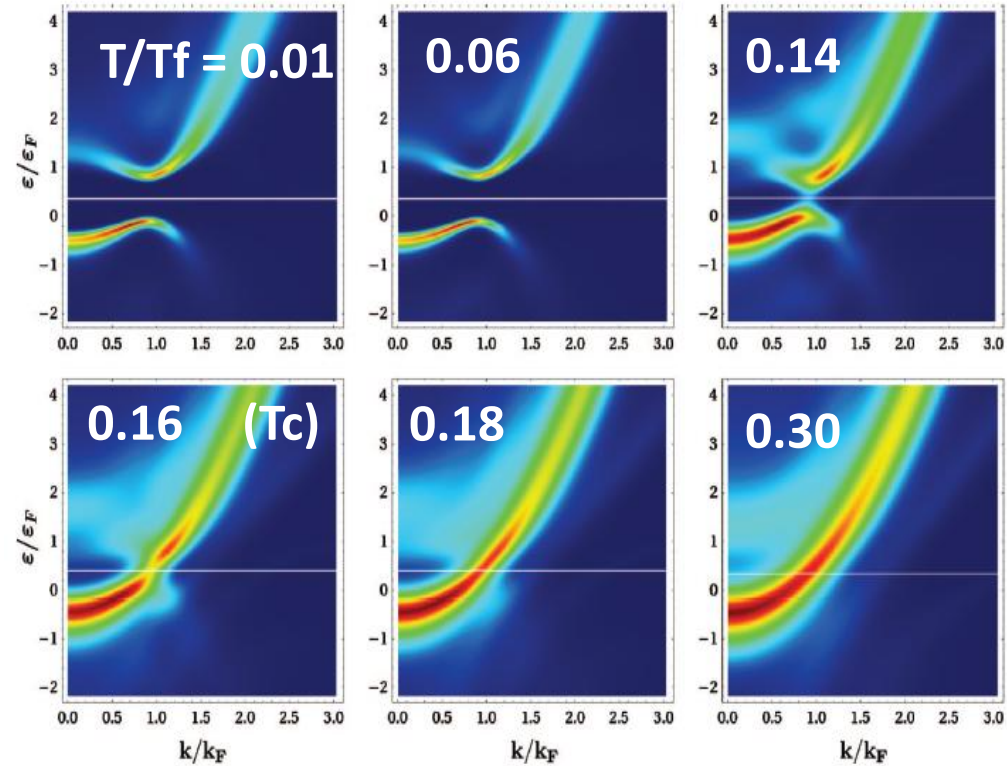
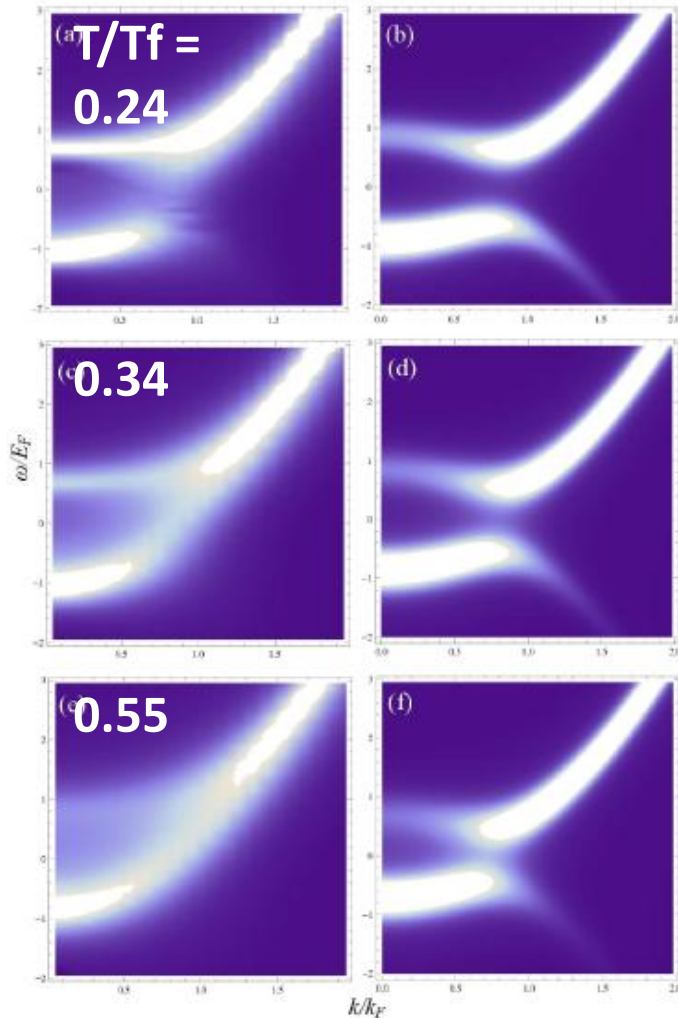
Hu et al PRL, PRA (2010)  
only valid for fugacity

$$z < 1 \quad (\mu < 0)$$

# Pair Fluctuation Approximations

$$A(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

$$1/k_F a = 0$$



GG  $\rightarrow$  No pseudogap

$G_0G_0$

$\rightarrow$  pseudogap

But quantitative differences

$GG_0$

Chien et al, PRA 81,  
023622 (2010)

Hausmann et al,  
PRA 80, 063612 (2009)

- Analytic continuation:  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{imaginary } \tau \\ \text{or } i(2n + 1)\pi/\beta \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{real } \omega$

Technical challenge for all calculations:  
 diagrammatic approximations and Quantum Monte Carlo

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \frac{\exp(-\omega \tau)}{1 + \exp(-\beta \omega)} \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

Inverting the Laplace transform is an ill-posed problem

- \* Maximum entropy
- \* Pade approximants
- ...

$$A(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

$$1/k_F a = 0$$

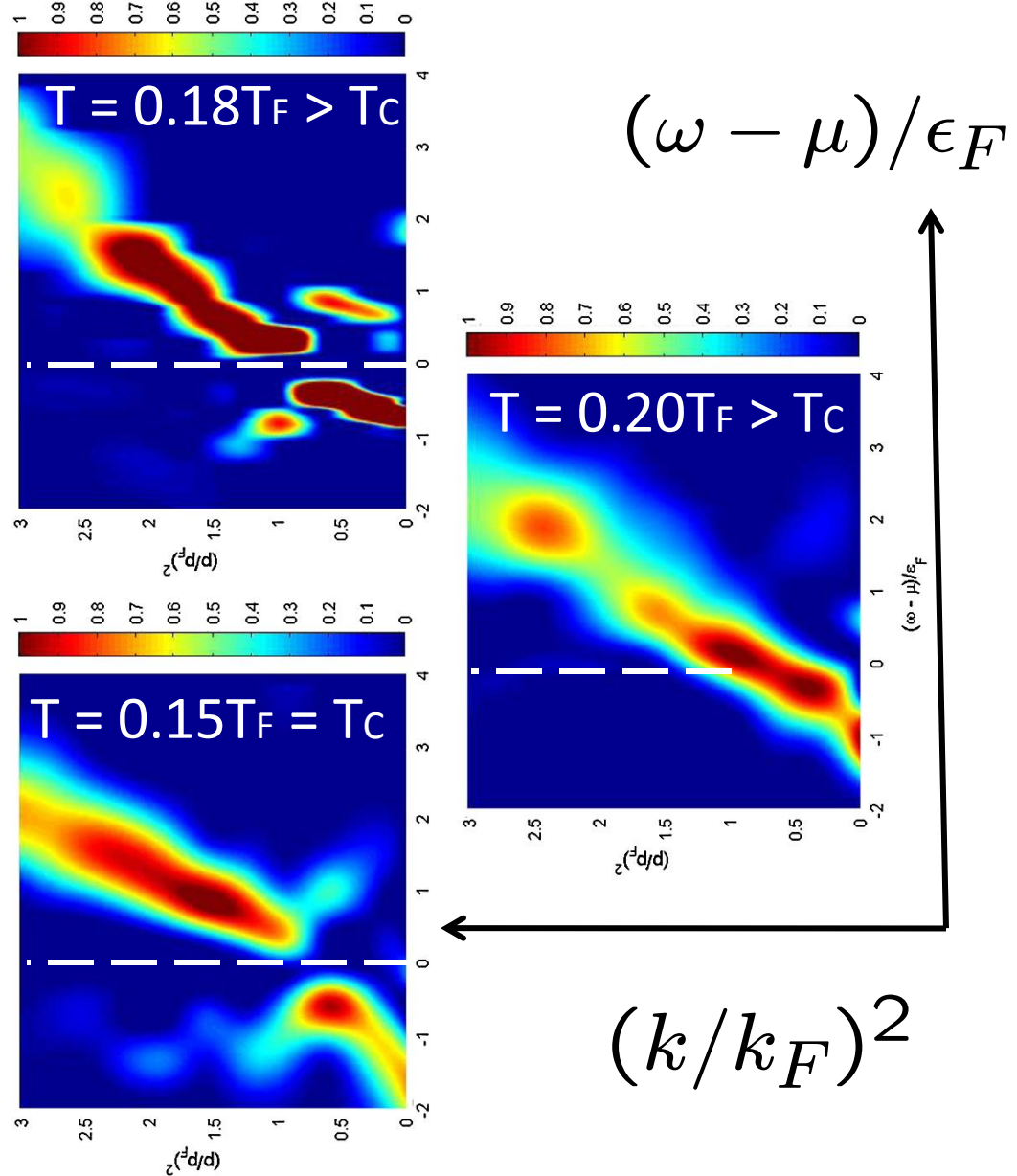
QMC  
+ Analytic  
Continuation

→ pseudogap

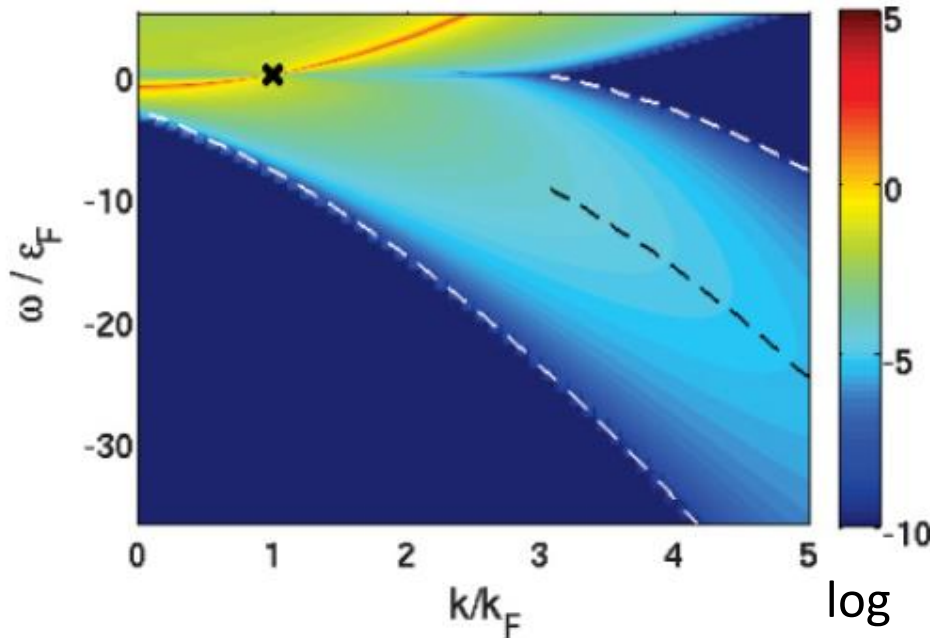
$$T_c < T < T^*$$

$$T_c = 0.15T_F$$

$$T^* \simeq 0.20T_F$$



Universal back-bending  
of large- $k$  dispersion  
in all phases



$$n(\mathbf{k}) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\omega) A(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

$$n(\mathbf{k}) \approx C/k^4 \quad (k \gg k_F)$$

S. Tan (2006)

$$\Rightarrow A(k \gg k_F, \omega < 0) \neq 0$$

Incoherent spectral weight

-- center  $\omega \approx -k^2/2m$

-- width  $\sim v_F k$

-- area  $= C/k^4$

→ Only near- $k_F$  back-bending is  
signature of Pairing pseudogap

Schneider & MR

PRA 81, 021601(R) (2010)

## Brief Review of experiments\*

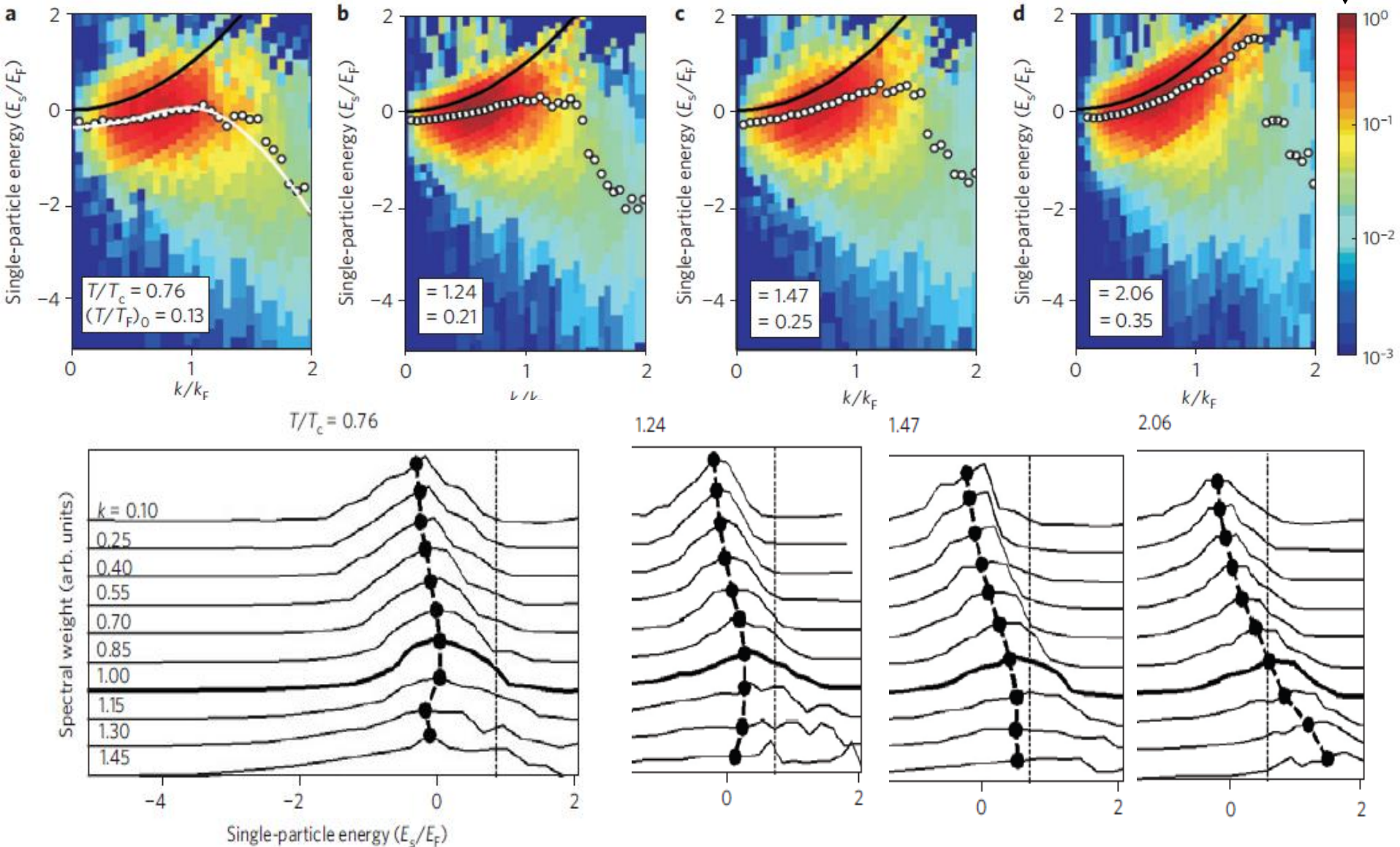
- Spectroscopy → Pseudogap: "yes"
- Thermodynamics → Pseudogap: "no"?
- Transport → no sharp quasiparticles

\*All the experimentalists are/will be speaking at the conference!

# k-Resolved RF Spectroscopy (“ARPES”) experiments

Gaebler et al, Nature Phys. 6, 569 (2010)  
Stewart et al, Nature (2008)

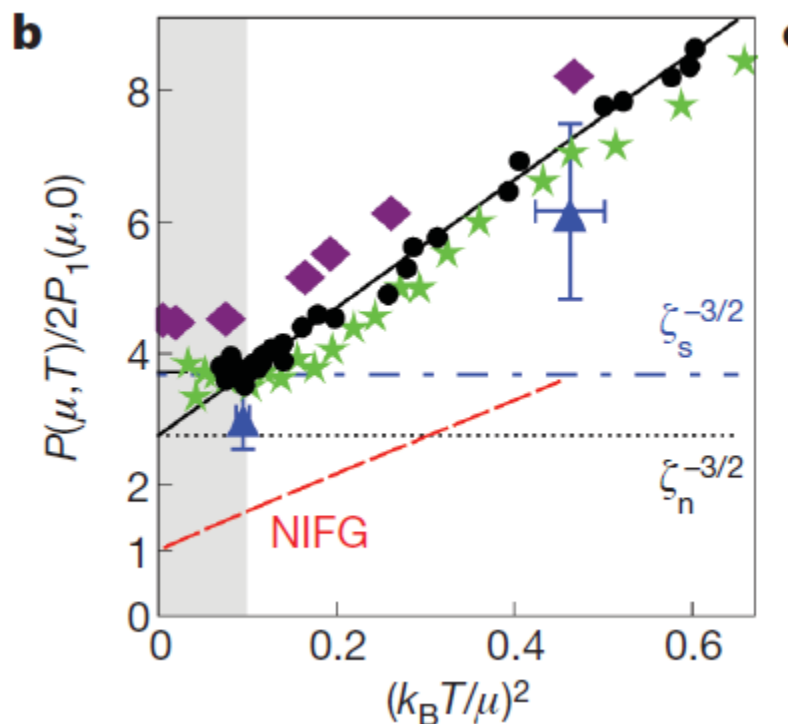
$$(k_F a)^{-1} \approx 0.15$$



# Thermodynamics:

Equation of state:

Not very sensitive to  
Pseudogap physics



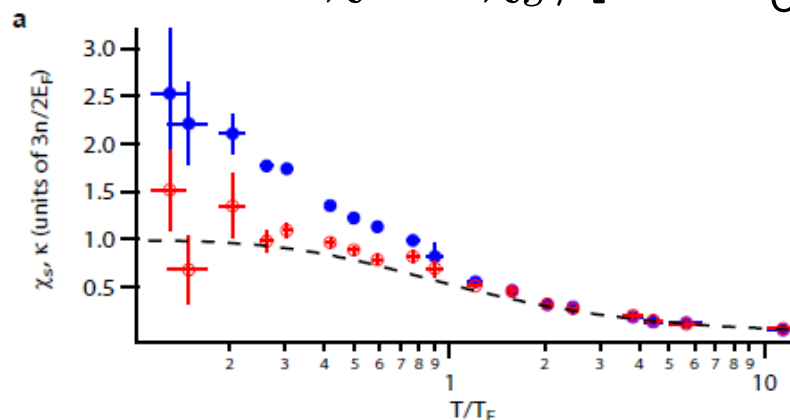
Nascimbene et al, Nature 463, 1057 (2010)

Compressibility  
& Spin susceptibility

$$\chi_s = \sigma_s / D_s$$

Quite apart from lack of T-dep,  
Expect suppression in a Fermi  
Gas with attractive interactions

$$\chi_s = \chi_s^0 / [1 + F_0^a]$$

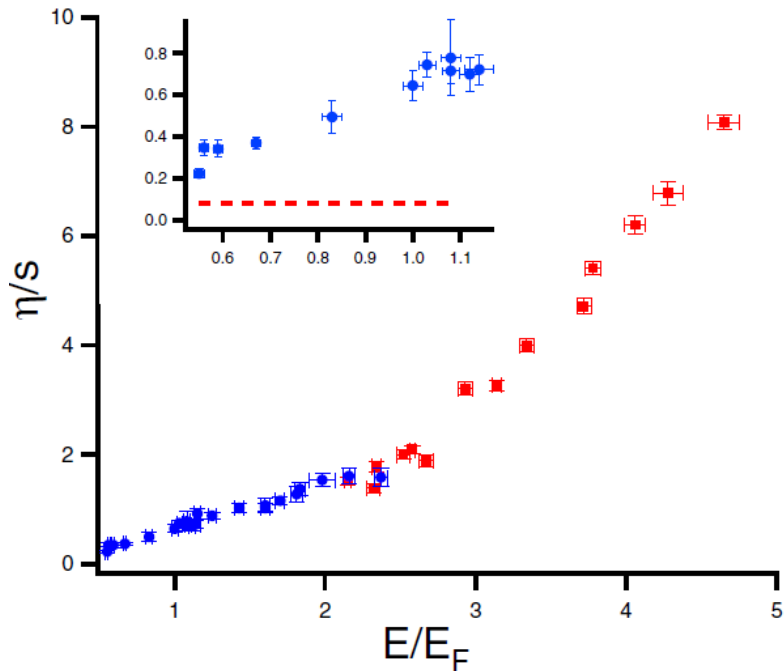


Sommer et al, Nature 472, 201 (2011)



# Transport:

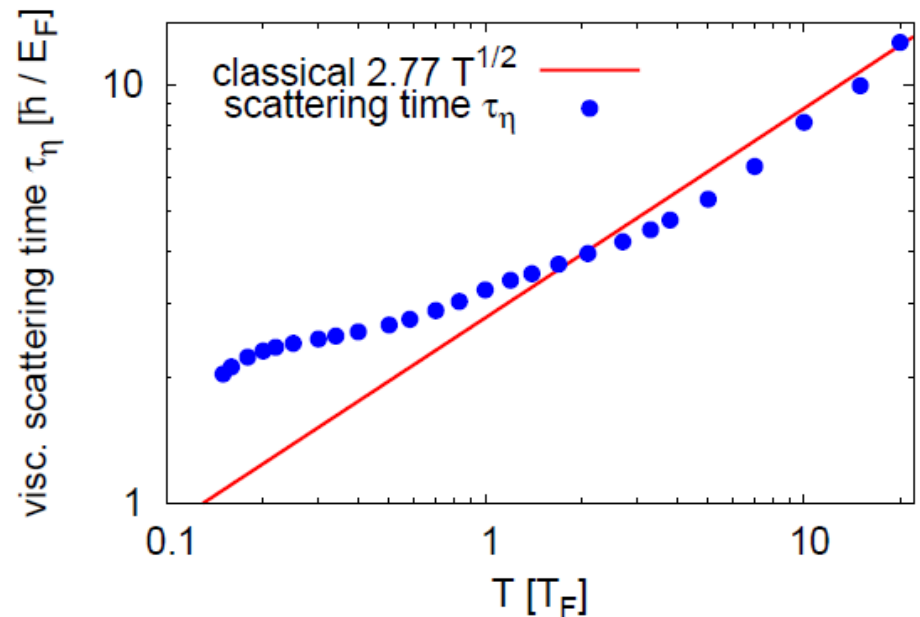
Low Viscosity  $\rightarrow$  Ill-defined quasiparticles



Cao et al, Science (2011)

Expt.  $\rightarrow$

$$\eta/s \approx 5 \times \text{KSS bound}$$

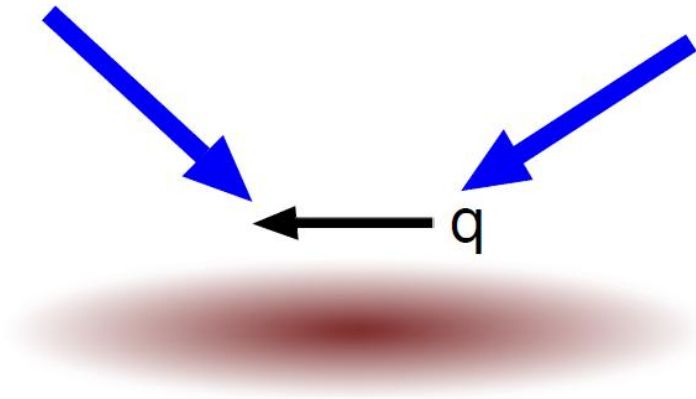


Enss et al, Ann. Phys. (2011)

Theory  $\rightarrow$   $1/\tau_\eta \sim \epsilon_F$

Proposal to measure  $\eta(\omega; T)$  at unitarity  
via two-photon Bragg spectroscopy

$$\text{Sum-Rule} \Rightarrow \zeta(\omega, T) = 0$$



$$\eta(\omega) = \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{3\omega^3}{4q^4} \text{Im}\chi_{\rho\rho}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$

Analog of "Optical Conductivity"  
for Cold Atoms

A few remarks on  
High Tc superconductors ...

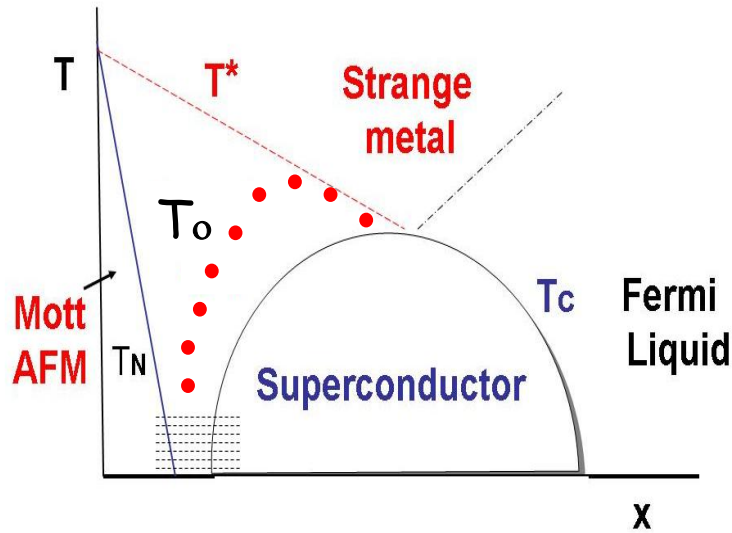
## High T<sub>c</sub> Superconductors

- Highest known T<sub>c</sub> (in K)
  - \* cuprates
- Charged electrons
- Repulsive interactions
- d-wave SC
- doped Mott insulator
- competing orders:
  - AFM, stripes, ...
- single band
- repulsion  $U \gg$  bandwidth
- $\xi \sim 10 \text{ \AA}$
- $T_c \sim \mu\text{s} \ll \Delta$  (underdoped)
- anomalous normal states
  - strange metal
  - pseudogap

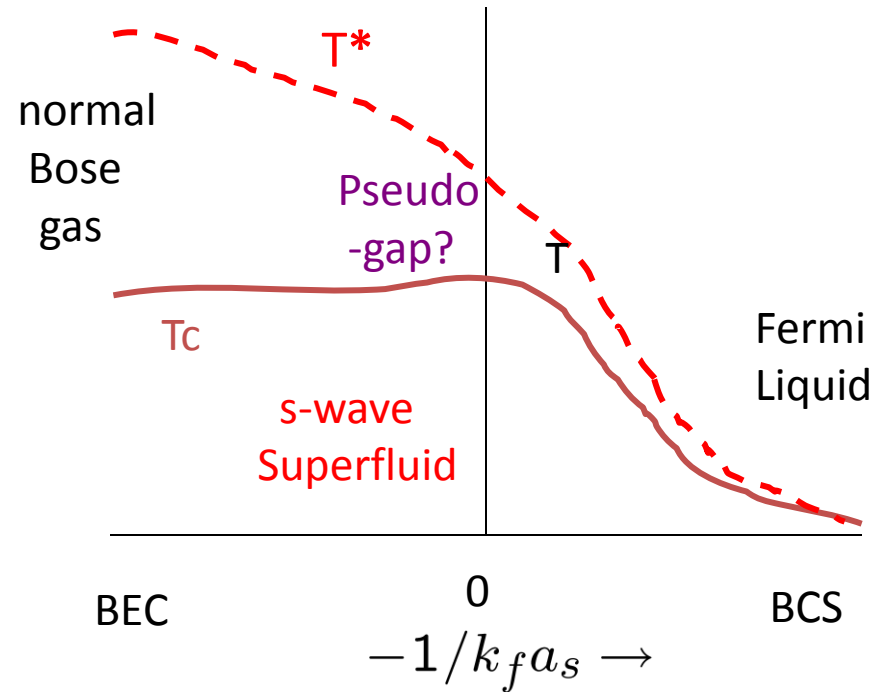
## BCS-BEC crossover

- Highest known T<sub>c</sub>/E<sub>f</sub>  $\sim 0.2$ 
    - \* ultracold atomic gases
  - Neutral Fermi atoms
  - Attractive interactions
  - s-wave SF
  - only pairing instability
- 
- single band
  - attraction  $\gg E_f$
  - $\xi \sim 1/k_f$
  - $T_c \sim \mu\text{s} \ll \Delta$  (for  $a_s > 0$ )
  - pairing pseudogap
  - Mean-field theory fails for T<sub>c</sub>

# High Tc Cuprates



# BCS-BEC crossover



Cuprate pseudogap is more complex:

Proximity to Mott insulator  
& competing order parameters

Pairing signals strong only upto  $T_0$   
Is  $T^*$  a crossover or phase transition?

## BCS-BEC

Pseudogap can only be related to  
Precursor pairing

# ARPES in High Tc SC

Quantitative  
Analysis requires:

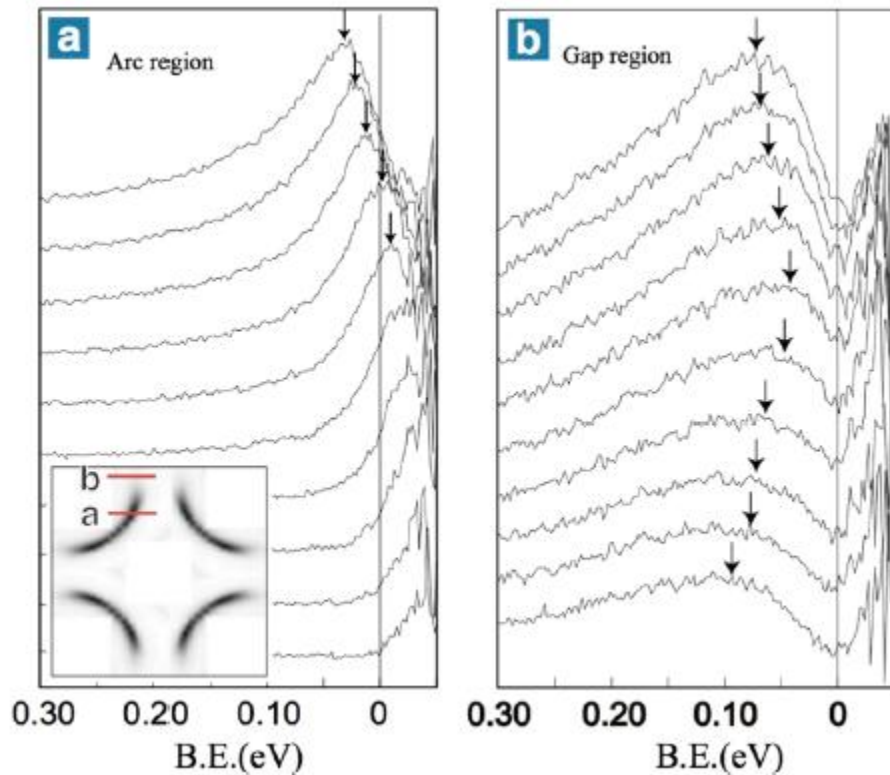
- knowing  $\mu$

$$f(\omega)A(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \rightarrow A(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

Line-shape analysis  
→ extract Self-energy

- scattering rates
- mass renormalization
- gaps & pseudogaps

$T = 140\text{K} > T_c = 90\text{K}$



Kanigel, Chatterjee, MR et al, PRL (2008)

Review: Campuzano, Norman, MR in  
*Superconductivity* (eds Bennemann  
& Ketterson) Vol. 2, 923(Springer, 2004).

# Thermodynamic Signatures of the Pseudogap in High Tc Cuprates

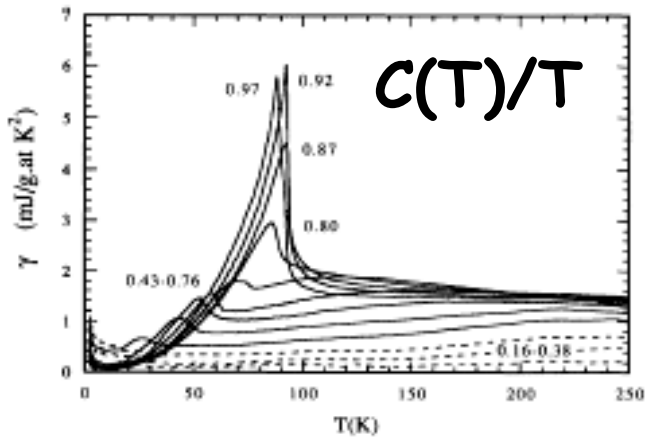


FIG. 4. Electronic specific heat coefficient  $\gamma(x, T)$  vs  $T$  for  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+x}$  relative to  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_6$ . Values of  $x$  are 0.16, 0.29, 0.38, 0.43, 0.48, 0.57, 0.67, 0.76, 0.80, 0.87, 0.92, and 0.97.

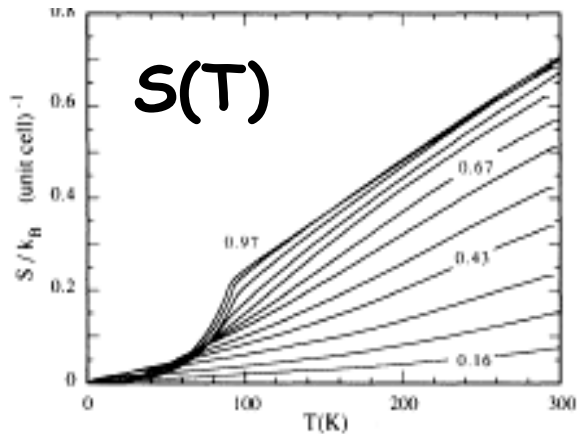
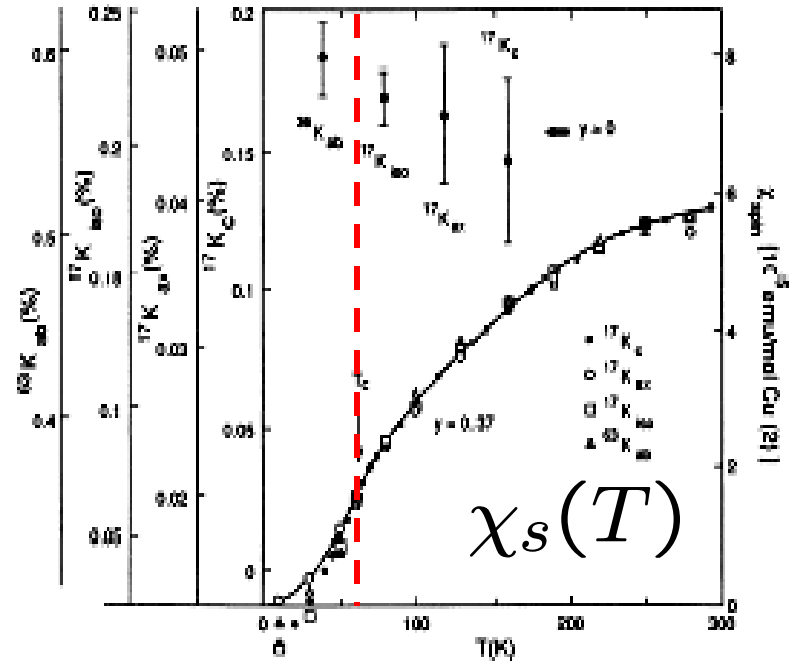


FIG. 5. Electronic entropy  $S(x, T)$  for  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+x}$ . Values of  $x$  as in Fig. 4.

Loram et al, PRL (1993)



NMR Knight shift Takigawa et al, PRB (1991)

Very useful to see T-evolution  
Through Tc and into SC state

## conclusion

### Pairing Pseudogap:

Suppression of low-energy  
spectral weight  
due to incoherent pairing  
in the normal state ( $T > T_c$ )



