

New Anomaly at Superconducting Instability inside a Magnetically ordered Phase

Muhammad Zafur^{1,2} and Hiroyuki Yamase^{2,1}

¹Department of Condensed Matter Physics, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060-0810, Japan

²National Institute for Materials Science, Tsukuba 305-0047, Japan



Abstract

Superconductivity is a quantum phase where a material shows zero resistance and was discovered in 1911 by H. K. Onnes for Mercury^[1]. The first successful microscopic theory of superconductivity was proposed by three prominent physicists Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer in 1957^[2]. The theory, later called BCS theory, successfully explained various features observed in superconductors. In the BCS theory, the superconducting instability is assumed to occur in a non-magnetic metallic phase. However, the superconducting instability can occur also inside a magnetically ordered phase, leading to the coexistence of the two ordered phases. This possibility is discussed in cuprate superconductors^{[3][4]}, heavy electron systems^{[5][6]}, and iron-based superconductors^{[7][8]}. Since superconductivity generally competes with magnetism, it is still under debate: **do the two ordered phases arise from the same electrons? or are they just phase-separated?**

Aiming to get some insights on the above issue, we investigate the longitudinal spin susceptibility inside a magnetic phase where superconducting instability occurs via a continuous phase transition and the coexistence of superconductivity and magnetism is stabilized at low temperature. **What we newly find is that the spin susceptibility exhibits a jump at the superconducting transition temperature.** The origin of the jump traces back to the breaking of spin rotational symmetry in the magnetically ordered phase and thus the obtained jump can be a general feature. **Our finding can be utilized as a thermodynamic probe to test that the two ordered phases arise from the same electrons.**

Model and Formalism

Minimal model

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \xi_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + V_s \sum_{i\tau} \hat{\Delta}_{i\tau}^{\dagger} \hat{\Delta}_{i\tau} + V_m \sum_{i\tau} \hat{m}_i^{\dagger} \hat{m}_{i+\tau} - \sum_i h_i \hat{m}_i \quad \tau = x, y$$

Superconducting channel

Magnetic channel

External field

Self-consistency equations in the mean-fields approximation:

$$n = 1 - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left(\frac{\eta_{\mathbf{k}}^+ \tanh \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^+}{2T} + \eta_{\mathbf{k}}^- \tanh \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^-}{2T} \right)$$

$$\Delta_0 = -\frac{1}{2N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\cos k_x - \cos k_y) \left(\frac{\Delta_{\mathbf{k}}}{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^+} \tanh \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^+}{2T} + \frac{\Delta_{\mathbf{k}}}{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^-} \tanh \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^-}{2T} \right)$$

$$m = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\bar{m}}{D_{\mathbf{k}}} \left(\frac{\eta_{\mathbf{k}}^+ \tanh \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^+}{2T} - \eta_{\mathbf{k}}^- \tanh \frac{\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^-}{2T} \right) \quad \xi_{\mathbf{k}} = -2 \left[(t)(\cos k_x + \cos k_y) + t' \cos k_x \cos k_y + t''(\cos 2k_x + \cos 2k_y) \right] - \mu$$

With:

$$\lambda_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = \sqrt{\eta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm 2} + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}}^2} \quad \eta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = \xi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} \pm D_{\mathbf{k}}$$

$$\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = (\xi_{\mathbf{k}} \pm \xi_{\mathbf{k}+Q})/2 \quad D_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{(\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm})^2 + \bar{m}^2}$$

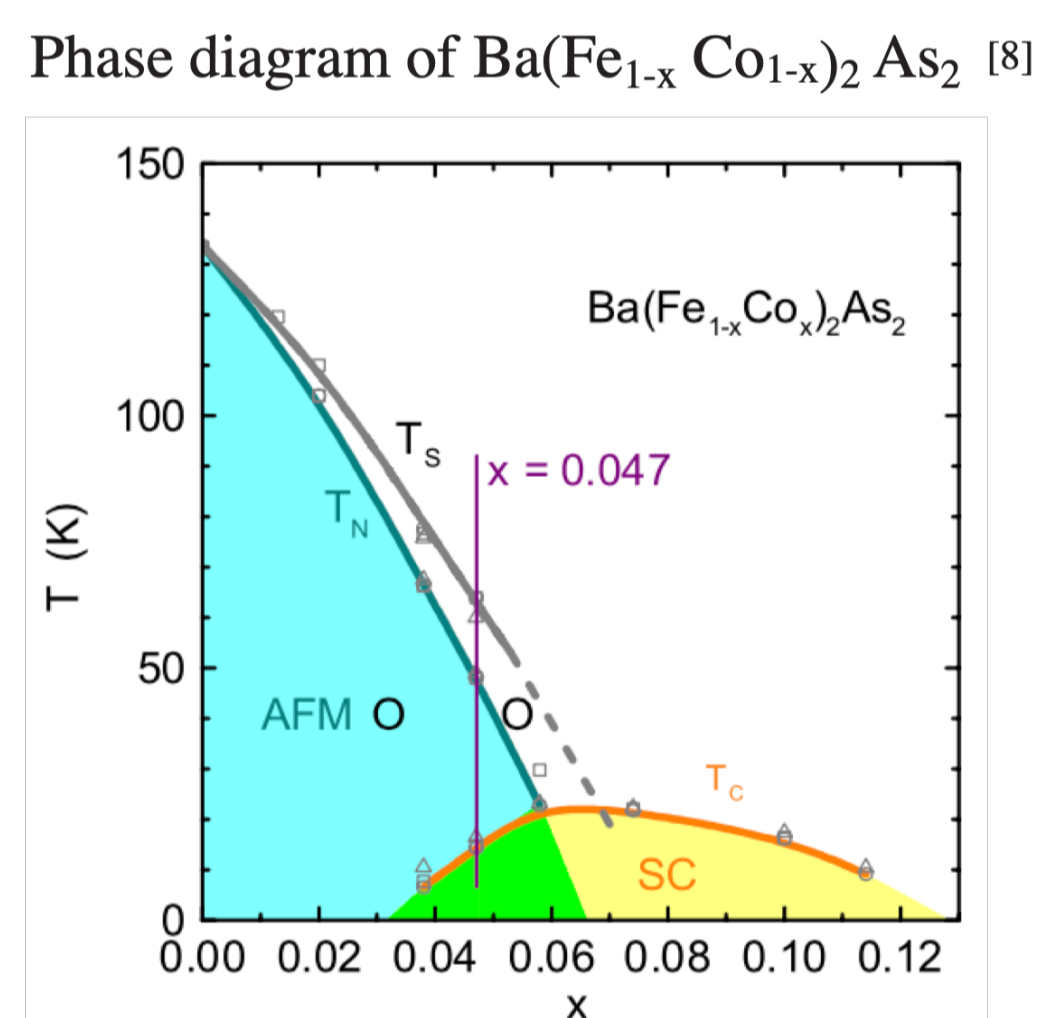
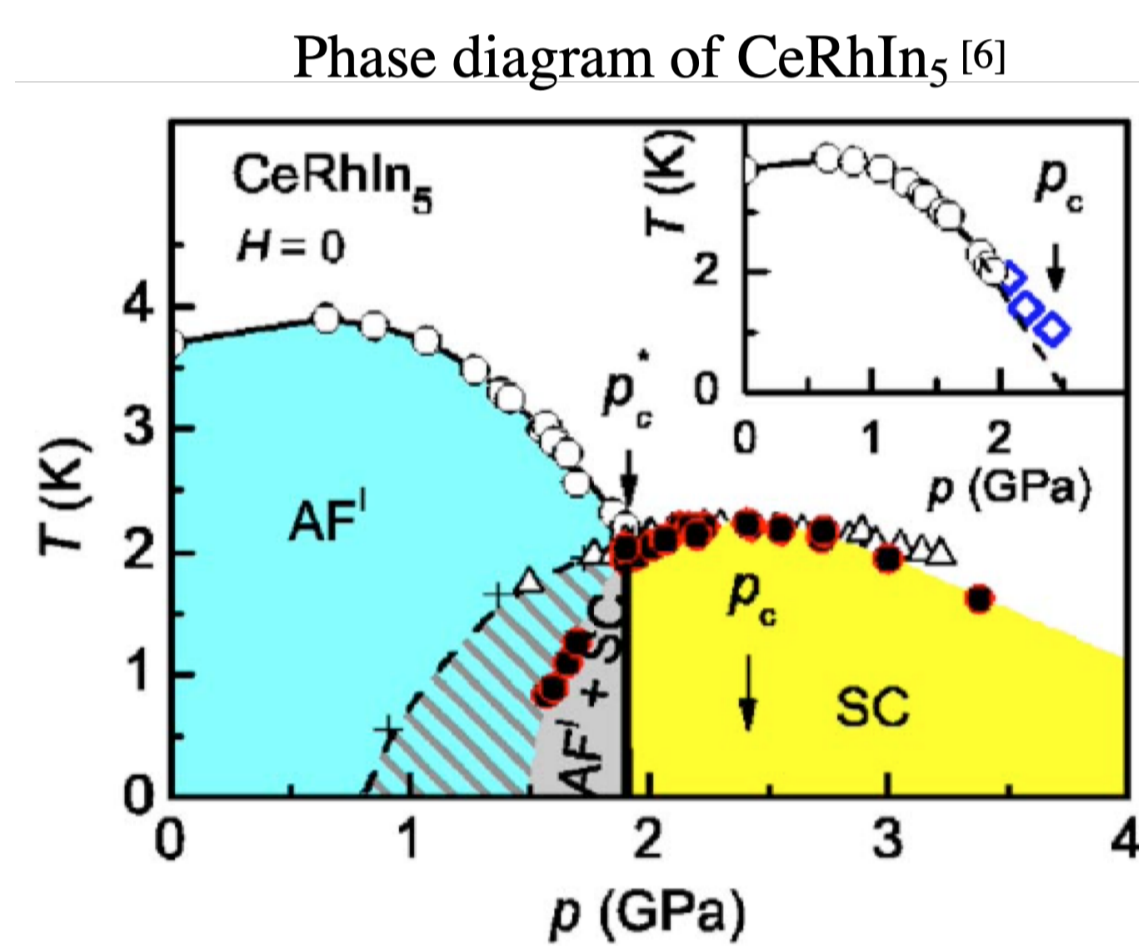
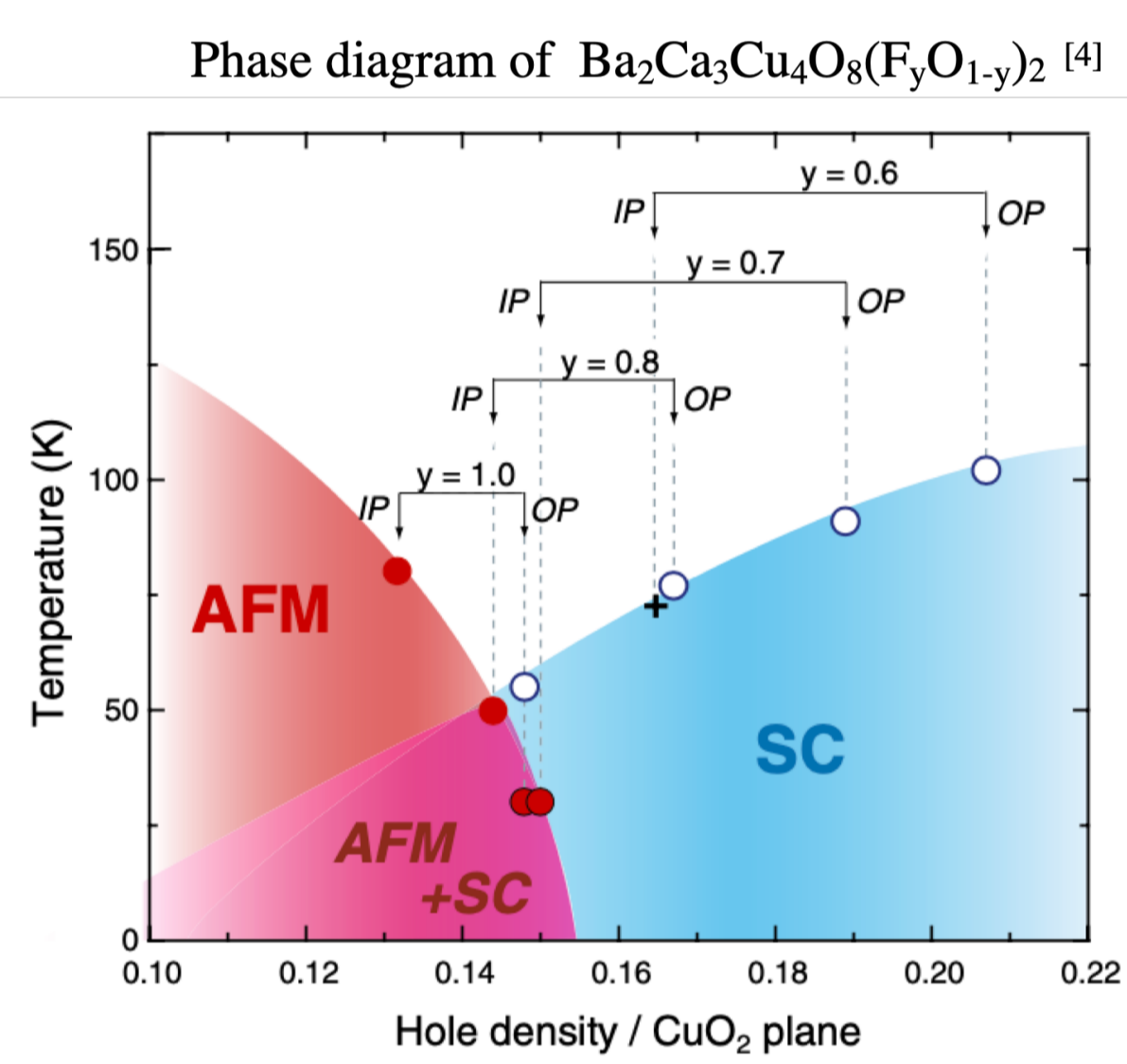
The longitudinal spin susceptibility is defined as $\chi_n = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial m}{\partial h}$

Thus in the coexistence phase:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial h} \\ \frac{\partial \Delta_0}{\partial h} \\ \frac{\partial \bar{m}}{\partial h} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \chi_n \end{pmatrix} \quad \frac{\partial \bar{m}}{\partial h} = 2V_m \chi_n + 1/2$$

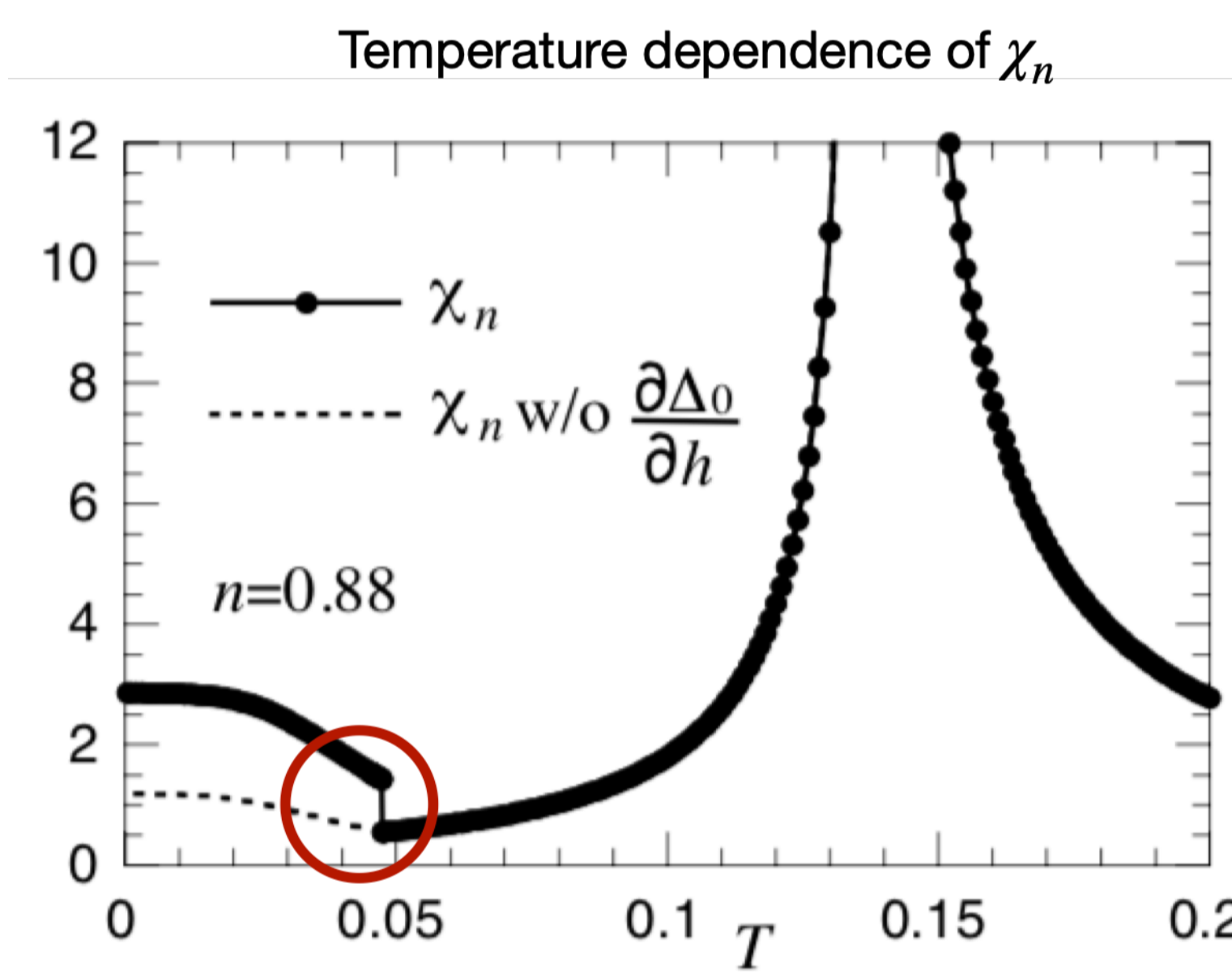
The spin susceptibility has a 3 by 3 structure due to the emergence of linear terms associated with the chemical potential and the superconducting gap

Superconductivity inside a magnetically ordered phase



Coexistence of magnetism and superconductivity: **Do the two ordered phases arise from the same electrons? OR are they just phase-separated?**

Anomaly of longitudinal spin susceptibility at Tc



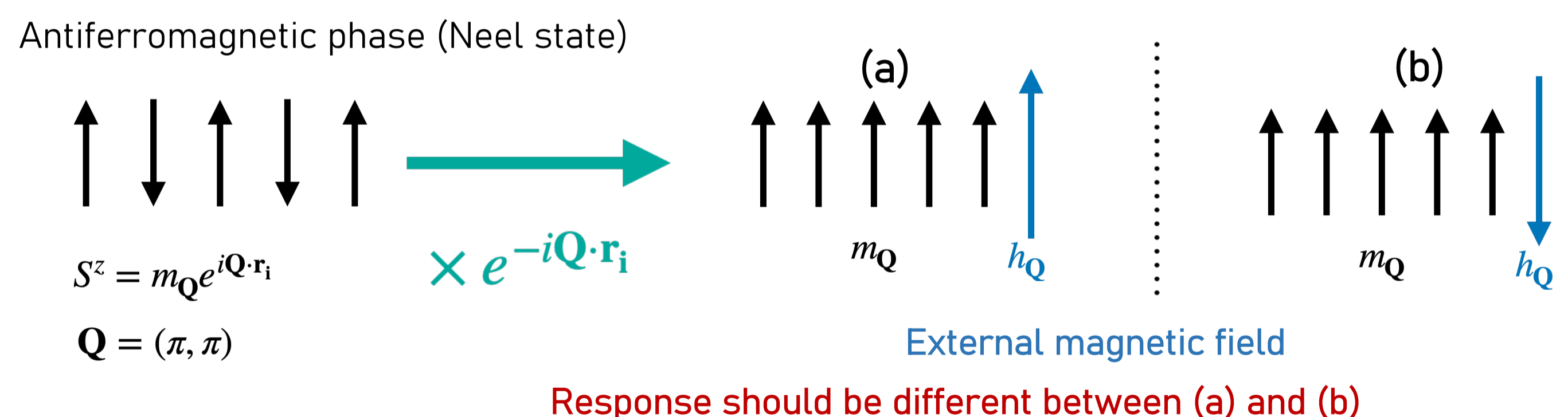
$$t'/t = -0.14 \quad t/V_m = 0.8$$

$$t''/t = 0.07 \quad n = 0.88$$

$$V_s/V_m = -3/8 \quad (V_s < 0)$$

The spin susceptibility exhibits a jump at Tc

What is the point in the magnetically ordered phase?



Additional linear term in h emerges

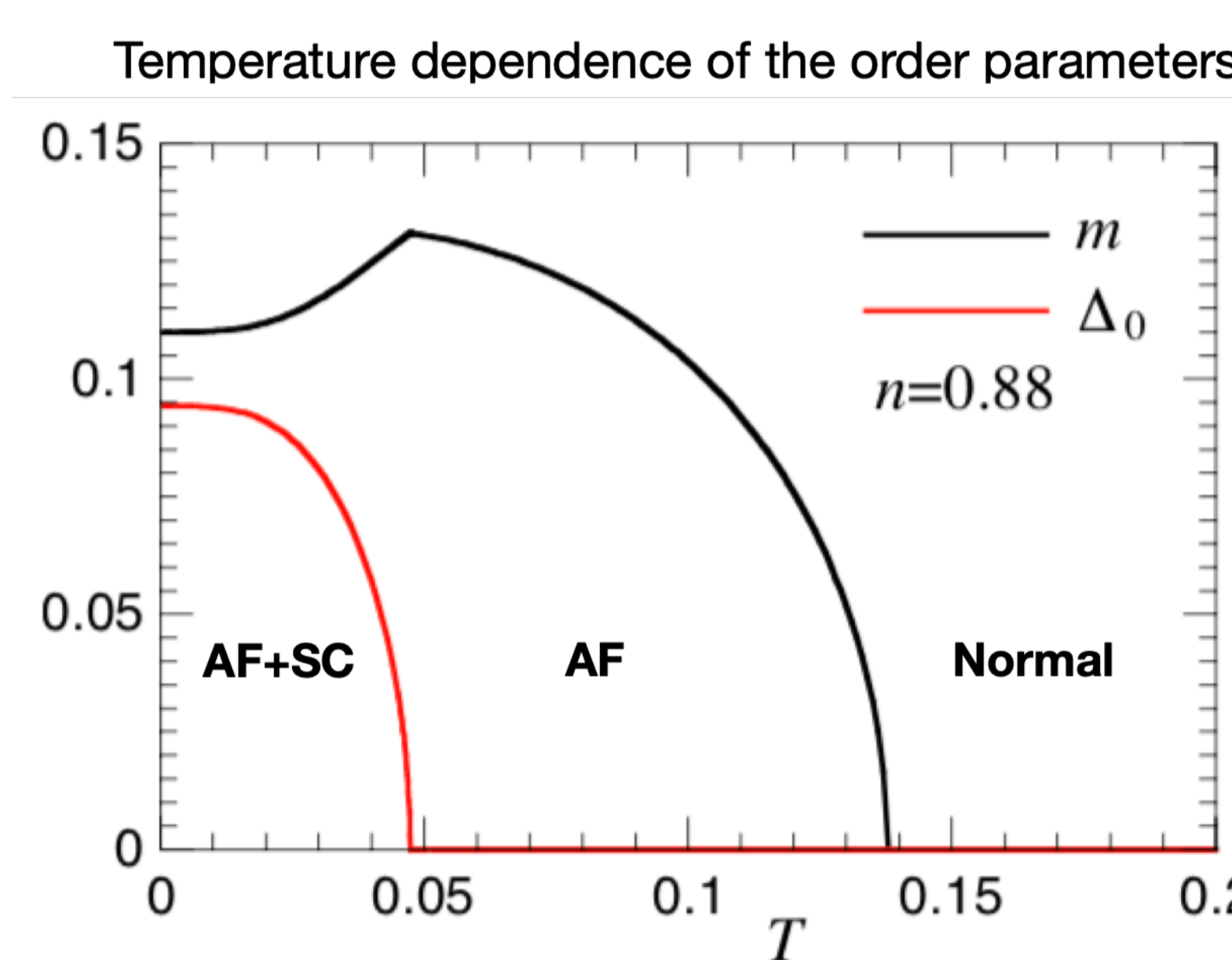
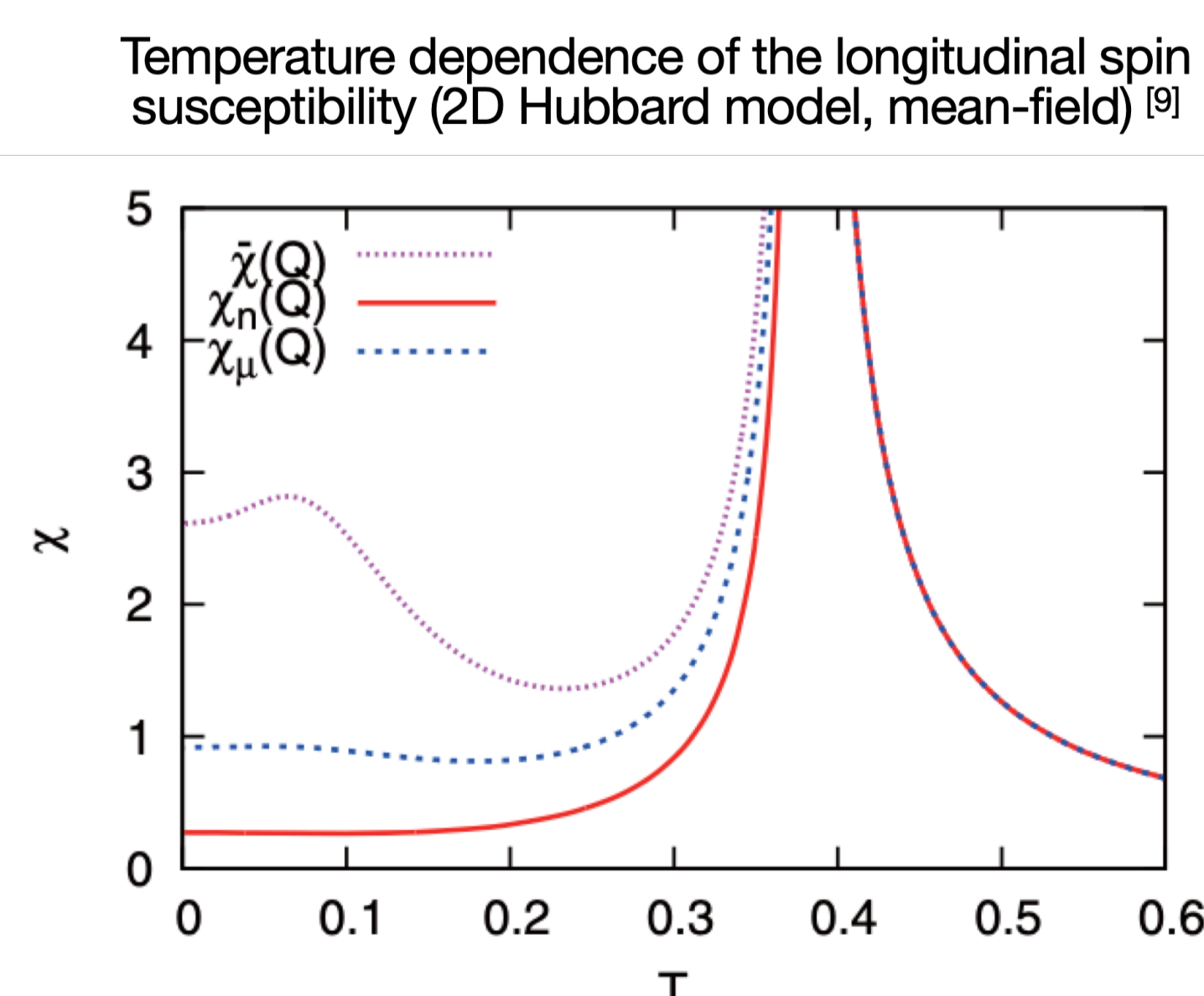
Fixed density: $\chi_n(\mathbf{Q})$

$$\mu(T, h) - \mu(T, 0) \approx \mu' h$$

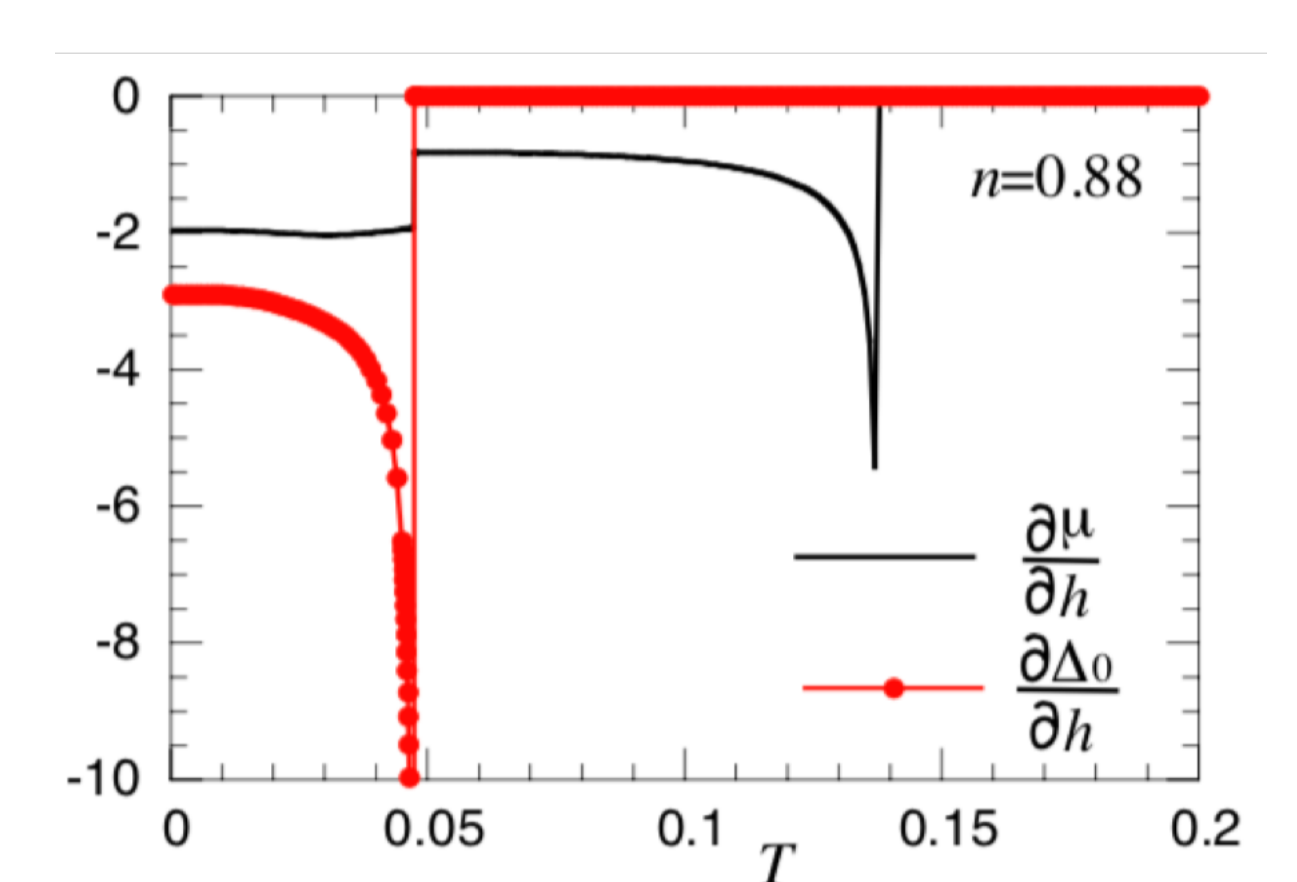
Fixed chemical potential: $\chi_{\mu}(\mathbf{Q})$

$$n(T, h) - n(T, 0) \approx n' h$$

The effect is neglected: $\tilde{\chi}_n(\mathbf{Q})$



Temperature dependence of the additional terms



Conclusions

1. We find a new anomaly of the longitudinal spin susceptibility at Tc due to the emergence of a linear term associated with the superconducting gap inside a magnetically ordered phase.
2. The anomaly reflects a general feature of the longitudinal spin susceptibility and is a manifestation of the microscopic coexistence of superconductivity and magnetism, namely the two ordered phase arise from the same electrons.

CONTACT PERSON

Muhammad Zafur

rajabi.zafur@nims.go.jp

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