## **Specific Heat Measurements through the**

## **Superconductor-Insulator Quantum Phase Transition**

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#### The superconductor-insulator-transition



## 2015 Buckley Condensed matter physics prize



Aharon Kapitulnik Allen Goldman Art Hebard Matthew Fisher

"For discovery and pioneering investigations of the superconductor-insulator transition, a paradigm for quantum phase transitions."

#### The superconductor-insulator-transition





Baturina et.al. PRL (2007)

**Quench condensation** 





### **Ultrathin metallic films**











Pb



Ge



# Superconducting gap, $\Delta$



Barber et-al, 94

#### $\Delta$ remains finite across the SIT and above T<sub>C</sub>



## **Quantum fluctuations in the QCR**









$$C_e = \gamma T + \beta T^{3h}$$

Specific heat











## Calorimeter



$$C = \frac{P_{ac}}{2\omega \,\delta T_{ac}}$$





## **Quench condensation set-up**













#### **Specific heat close to the QCP**



**Specific heat of small particles** 



perature. The difference for Sn particles with different particle sizes as a function of the reduced temperature. The difference is normalized to  $C_N(T_c)$ , where  $C_N(T_c) = \gamma T_c$  with  $\gamma = 1.78 \text{ mJ} \cdot \text{K}^{-2} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ .







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#### Fermi-liquid instabilities at magnetic quantum phase transitions

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$$\frac{\gamma^*}{\gamma} = \frac{1 + \partial_{\epsilon_k} \Sigma(\epsilon_{k_F}, \omega)}{1 - \partial_{\omega} \Sigma(\epsilon_{k_F}, \omega)}$$

$$c_{\rm BCS} \simeq 10\gamma T_c \exp\left(-1.76\frac{T_c}{T}\right) \qquad \gamma = m \frac{k_B^2 k_F}{3\hbar^2}$$

$$c_s(T,t) \simeq 10T_c^{mf}\gamma^*(T,t)\exp\left(-1.76\frac{T_c^{mf}}{T}\right)$$

$$\gamma^* = \gamma_0 [T_c^{mf}/T]^\alpha,$$



#### Summary

- The specific heat grows towards the <u>QCP</u> in a granular superconductor.
- This is interpreted as an increase of the electronic effective mass in the vicinity ohf the quantum phase transition presumably due to interactions between the fermions and <u>bosonic</u> collective modes which become pronounced close to the quantum critical point of the SIT.
- Signs for quantum criticality



