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Shapes of flux domains in the intermediate state of type-I superconductors

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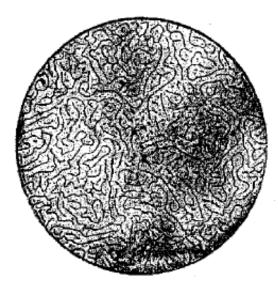


FIG. 1. Intermediate state of indium, in which superconducting regions (black) are decorated with niobium. The applied field is close to the critical field (H_a/H_c =0.931). Adapted from Haenssler and Rinderer (Ref. 3).

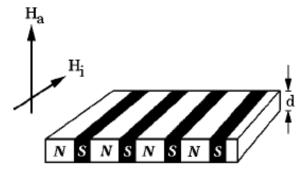


FIG. 2. Laminar state in a thin slab. The applied field H_a is normal to the slab. An ordered laminar structure is obtained with an additional in-plane component H_i .

The Intermediate State in Superconducting Mercury*

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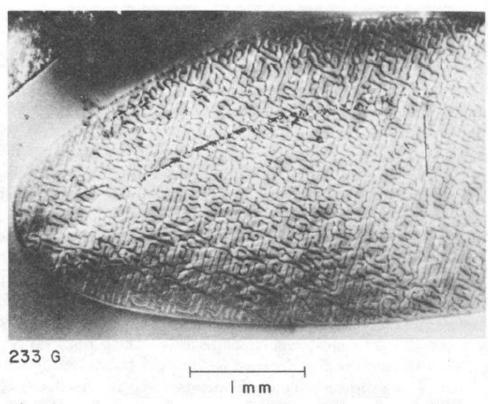


Fig. 3. Domain structure in mercury with 106 μ m thickness (sample M62) at 233 G. H was decreased monotonically from just below H_c . Superconducting phase is dark.

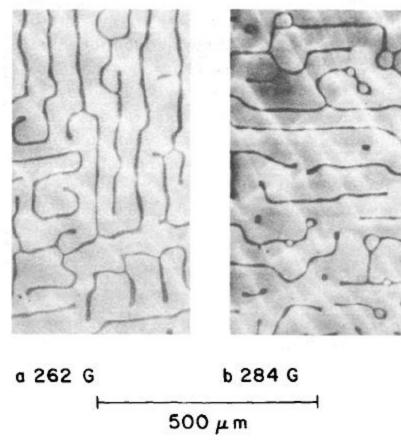


Fig. 4. Superconducting domains (dark) in mercury with 106 μ m thickness (sample M62). (a) H = 262 G, decreased monotonically from just below H_c . (b) H = 284 G, increased monotonically from zero.

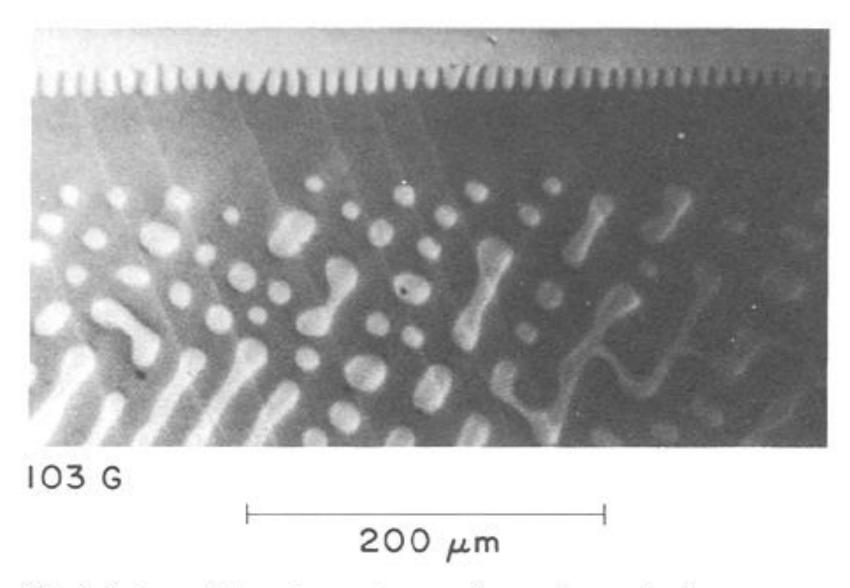


Fig. 8. Intermediate state structure at the specimen edge in mercury with $106 \,\mu\text{m}$ thickness (sample M62) at $103 \,\text{G}$. H was increased monotonically from zero. Normal phase is bright.