

Europhysics Letters 2002 vol.59 N2, pages 272-276

Evidence for two-dimensional nucleation of superconductivity in MgB₂

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Abstract

According to the crystal structure of MgB₂ and band structure calculations quasi-two-dimensional (2D) boron planes are responsible for the superconductivity. We report on critical fields and resistance measurements of 30 nm thick MgB₂ films grown on MgO single crystalline substrate. A linear temperature dependence of the parallel and perpendicular upper critical fields indicates a 3D-like penetration of magnetic field into the sample. Resistivity measurements, in contrast, yield a temperature dependence of fluctuation conductivity above T_c which agrees with the Aslamazov-Larkin theory of fluctuations in 2D superconductors. We consider this finding as an experimental evidence of two-dimensional nucleation of superconductivity in MgB₂.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1209/epl/i2002-00237-5>
