

Electronic Entropy of Normal Metal and Superconductor

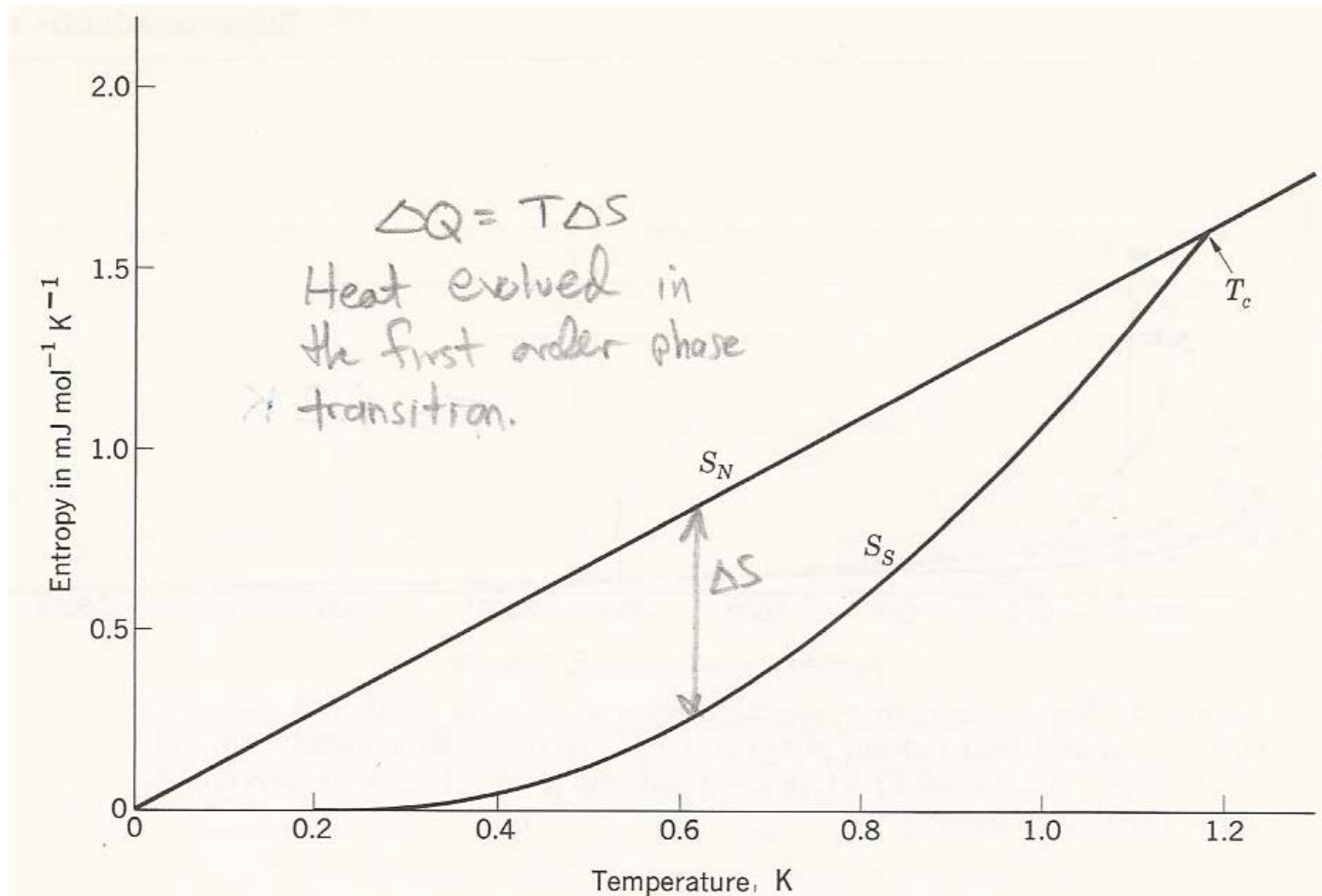


Figure 7a Entropy S of aluminum in the normal and superconducting states as a function of the temperature. The entropy is lower in the superconducting state because the electrons are more ordered here than in the normal state. At any temperature below the critical temperature T_c the specimen can be put in the normal state by application of a magnetic field stronger than the critical field.

Free Energy of Normal Metal and Superconductor

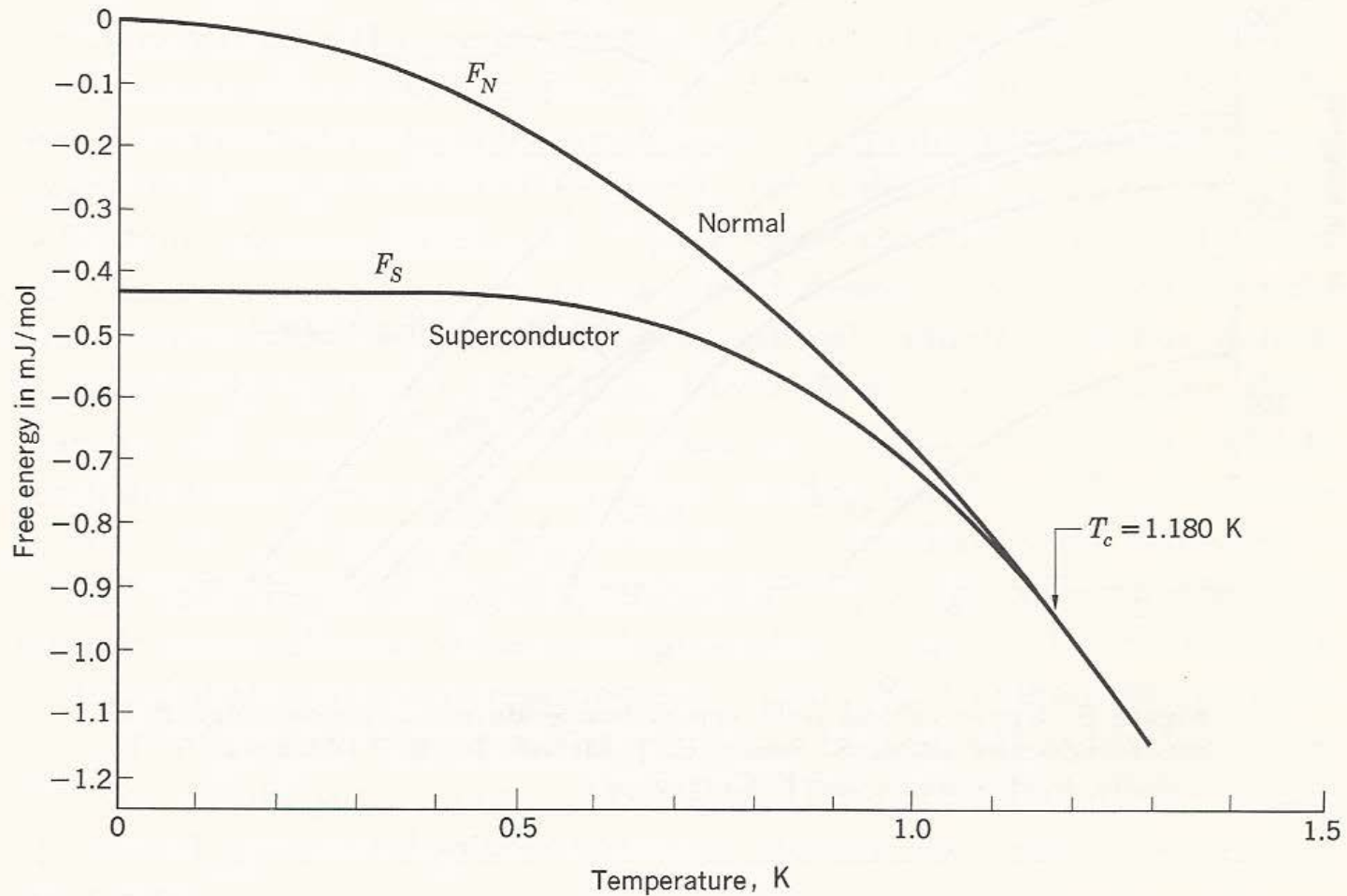


Figure 7b Experimental values of the free energy as a function of temperature for aluminum in the superconducting state and in the normal state. Below the transition temperature $T_c = 1.180$ K the free energy is lower in the superconducting state. The two curves merge at the transition temperature, so that the phase transition is second order (there is no latent heat of transition at T_c). The curve F_S is measured in zero magnetic field, and F_N is measured in a magnetic field sufficient to put the specimen in the normal state. (Courtesy of N. E. Phillips.)