

1. The superconductor tin has  $T_c = 3.7$  K and  $B_c = 30.6$  mT at  $T = 0$ . Calculate the critical current for a tin wire of diameter 1 mm at  $T = 2$  K. What diameter of wire would be required to carry a current of 100 A?
2. Use the London equation to show that the penetration depth of a parallel magnetic field into a superconducting film of thickness  $d$  in the  $xy$  plane is

$$B = B_0 \frac{\cosh(z/\lambda)}{\cosh(d/2\lambda)}$$

where  $B_0$  is the applied field and the centre of the film is at  $z = 0$ . Calculate the field at which the Gibbs free energies of the normal and superconducting states are equal for the film.

3. Explain the following:
  - (a) At  $T = 1$ K tin strongly absorbs electromagnetic radiation of wavelength 0.9 mm but only weakly absorbs radiation of wavelength 1.1 mm.
  - (b) Superconductors are poor conductors of heat for  $T \ll T_c$ .
  - (c) The critical field at  $T = 0$  of different superconductors is approximately proportional to  $T_c$ .
  - (d) For different isotopes of the same element  $T_c$  depends on the isotopic mass.