

Fig. 2. Current-voltage characteristics of Al-I-In samples at different pressures.  $T = (1.17 \pm 0.02)^\circ\text{K}$ ; normalized units are along the  $I$ -axis.

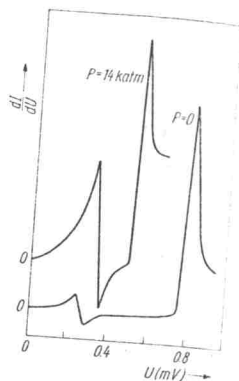


Fig. 3.  $dI/dU-U$  characteristics of Al-I-In samples at different pressures.  $T = (1.16 \pm 0.02)^\circ\text{K}$ .

where the error does not include the inaccuracy in pressure measurement. Such  $T_c$  change of In films with pressure excellently coincides with Bernardi, Brandt, and Ginzburg's measurements [10] on massive indium.

Fig. 2 shows voltage-current characteristics for two Al-I-In samples plotted at different pressures. The energy gap was defined from the maxima of the  $(dI/dU)-U$  characteristics (Fig. 3).

Fig. 4 shows the result of high pressure influence on the energy gap of indium. For comparison the  $2\Delta(p) = 3.69 kT_c$  line is drawn which in fact corresponds to the critical temperature change. The gap values obtained by extrapolating  $2\Delta(T)$  to  $T = 0^\circ\text{K}$  are also included in Table 1. From experiments it is found

$$\frac{d2\Delta}{dp} = -(1.43 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-5} \frac{\text{meV}}{\text{atm}}.$$

The energy gap of In at zero pressure,  $2\Delta(0.0) = (3.69 \pm 0.04) kT_c$ , is in good agreement with data obtained from precision measurements of critical field curves [11], where the coefficient defining a deviation from the parabola was found to be

$$a_{\text{In}} = 2\pi\gamma \frac{T_c^2}{H_0^2} = 0.985 \quad (3)$$

where

$$\gamma = \frac{2}{3} \pi^2 k^2 N. \quad (4)$$

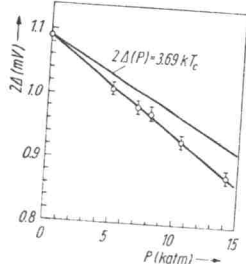


Fig. 4. Change of the superconducting indium energy gap under pressure.  $\circ$  experimental points.

on the basis of the thermodynamic relation [1]

$$\Delta = k \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{6\gamma}} H_0 \quad (5)$$

from (3) we have

$$\frac{\Delta}{kT_c} = 1.82 a^{-1/2}. \quad (6)$$

Then from our experiments it follows that the parameter  $a$  increases with pressure from 0.985 to 1.04 ( $p = 14$  katm), i.e. it approaches the BCS case. Experimental points  $\Delta/k = h - (1 - t^2)$  given in [10] for indium clearly show tendency to the above mentioned increase of  $a$  with pressure (see Fig. 6 in [10]). In principle on the basis of (5) one may estimate the change of state density  $N$  with pressure. Using our gap data and those of  $H_0(p)$  from [10], state density seems to decrease by no more than 2% at 14 katm.

**Thallium:** Because of quick oxidation of Tl films Al-I-Tl samples were prepared in the bomb immediately after preparation, and control measurement small pressure were carried out after some compression cycles. After such procedure the film critical temperature was  $(2.38 \pm 0.01)^\circ\text{K}$  at zero pressure. The energy gap here is  $2\Delta(0.0) = (0.75 \pm 0.01) \text{meV} = (3.65 \pm 0.06) kT_c$ , which is in good agreement with Clark's recent measurements [12].

In the small pressure range (2000 to 4000 atm) the anomalous change of critical temperature typical of massive pure Tl [13] was not observed. The critical temperature linearly decreased up to  $(2.34 \pm 0.01)^\circ\text{K}$  at  $p = 8$  katm which is in qualitative agreement with Gey's data [14] on the dependence of  $T_c$  of Tl on residual resistance produced by plastic deformation at different pressures.

Fig. 5 shows  $I-U$  characteristics for Al-I-Tl at different pressures. The gap value obtained at 8 katm,  $2\Delta(8.0) = (0.73 \pm 0.01) \text{meV} = (3.64 \pm 0.06) kT_c$ , shows rather weak dependence in this pressure range. However, this does not exclude the possibility that  $2\Delta/kT_c$  changes for thallium at higher pressures. Work in this direction is in progress.

The main result of gap tunnelling measurements on superconductors under pressure is that the effect of  $2\Delta/kT_c$  decrease initially discovered on indium, which is a representative of superconductors with strong electron-phonon interaction, shows different dependence on superconductors with intermediate coupling: In, Sn, and perhaps Tl. This circumstance makes theoretical investigations necessary to obtain a relation connecting the gap

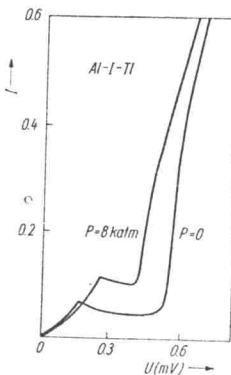


Fig. 5. Voltage-current characteristics of Al-I-Tl samples at different pressures.  $T = (1.16 \pm 0.02)^\circ\text{K}$ ; normalized units are along the  $I$ -axis.