

Abstract Submitted  
for the MAR05 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Fractional-exponent behavior of magnetization near  $T_c$  in  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_8$**  LU LI, YAYU WANG, Physics Dept., Princeton Univ., M.J. NAUGHTON, Physics Dept., Boston College, S. ONO, Y. ANDO, Central Research Inst. Electric Power Industry, Tokyo, N.P. ONG, Physics Dept., Princeton Univ. — Using high-resolution torque magnetometry, we have investigated in detail how long-range phase coherence develops as the critical temperature  $T_c$  (88.7 K) is approached in optimally-doped  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCuO}_{8+\delta}$  with field  $\mathbf{H}||\mathbf{c}$ . Three distinct regimes are observed. Above  $\sim 92$  K,  $|M|$  increases rapidly as  $T \rightarrow T_c$  in step with the vortex Nernst signal.  $M$  is strictly linear in  $H$  in weak  $H$ , but shows strong curvature at large  $H$  (5-14 T). The curvature provides a determination of the correlation length  $\xi_{sc}$  which grows as a power law, viz.  $\xi_{sc} \sim 1/t^\nu$ . In the second regime,  $86 < T < 92$  K,  $M$  becomes nonlinear in  $H$ , viz.  $M \sim H^{\alpha(T)}$ , where the exponent  $\alpha(T)$  decreases from 1 to 0. This interesting fractional-exponent behavior is highly unusual and fits poorly with conventional pictures of ‘fluctuating diamagnetism.’ As previously known,  $M$  is virtually  $H$  independent below 2 Tesla at the “crossing temperature”  $T_{cr} = 86$  K. Below  $T_{cr}$ ,  $M$  is a function of  $\log H$ . We compare this behavior with predictions of the 3DXY and Kosterlitz-Thouless theory. Supported by funds from the U.S. National Science Foundation under grant DMR 0213706.

Lu Li  
Physics Dept., Princeton Univ.

Date submitted: 20 Mar 2013

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