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Disorder, Metal-Insulator crossover and Phase diagram in high- T_c cuprates FLORENCE RULLIER-ALBENQUE, SPEC - CEA, HENRI AL-LOUL, LPS - CNRS, FEDOR BALAKIREV, NHMFL - Los Alamos, CYRIL PROUST, LNCMP - CNRS — We have studied the influence of disorder induced by electron irradiation on the normal state resistivities $\rho(T)$ of optimally and underdoped YBa₂Cu₃O_x single crystals, using pulsed magnetic fields up to 60T to completely restore the normal state. We evidence that point defect disorder induces low T upturns of $\rho(T)$ which saturate in some cases at low T in large applied fields as would be expected for a Kondo-like magnetic response. Moreover the magnitude of the upturns is related to the residual resistivity, that is to the concentration of defects and/or their nanoscale morphology. These upturns are found quantitatively identical to those reported in lower T_c cuprates, which establishes the importance of disorder in these supposedly pure compounds. We therefore propose a realistic phase diagram of the cuprates, including disorder, in which the superconducting state might reach the antiferromagnetic phase in the clean limit.

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