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# Superconductivity and magnetic and transport properties of single-crystalline $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$

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Members of the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  series have been synthesized by high-temperature solution growth in single crystalline form and characterized by X-ray diffraction, elemental analysis, magnetic and transport measurements. The effects of Cr substitution on the superconducting and magnetic ground states of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  ( $T_c = 35$  K) have been studied. These measurements show that the superconducting transition temperature decreases monotonically and is finally suppressed below 1.8 K as  $x$  is increased from 0 to 0.038. For  $x$ -values greater than 0.012, signatures of a magnetic transition can be detected in magnetic measurements with the associated features in the transport measurements becoming detectable for  $x \geq 0.038$ . The magnetic transition temperature increases in a roughly linear manner as Cr substitution increases. A temperature-composition ( $T$ - $x$ ) phase diagram is constructed, revealing a half-dome of superconductivity with the magnetic transition temperature,  $T^*$ , appearing near 22 K for  $x \sim 0.017$  and rising slowly up to 60 K for  $x \sim 0.077$ . The  $T$ - $x$  phase diagrams for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  for  $T = \text{Cr}$  and  $\text{Mn}$  are essentially the same despite the nominally different band filling; this is in marked contrast to  $T = \text{Co}$  and  $\text{Ni}$  series for which the  $T$ - $x$  diagrams scale by a factor of two, consistent with the different changes in band filling  $\text{Co}$  and  $\text{Ni}$  would produce when replacing  $\text{Fe}$ . Superconductivity of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  is also studied as a function of magnetic field. A clear change in  $H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$ , where  $H'_{c2}(T)$  is  $dH_{c2}(T)/dT$ , at  $x \sim 0.012$  is observed and probably is related to change of the Fermi surface due to magnetic order. Coherence length and the London penetration depths are also calculated based on  $H_{c1}$  and  $H_{c2}$  data. Both of them as a function of  $x$  show changes near  $x = 0.012$ , again consistent with Fermi surfaces changes associated with the magnetic ordering seen for higher  $x$ -values.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The study of Fe-based superconductors has led to extensive experimental interest and their variety offers the opportunity of understanding unconventional superconductivity in a broader sense. Fe-based superconductors families share similar crystal structures [1–12] and phase diagrams [13–21], which suggests a relationship between, or proximity of, superconducting and magnetic and/or nematic ordering or fluctuations. These relationships between superconductivity and magnetic as well as structural transitions and fluctuations are believed to be key to understand unconventional superconductivity [22].

Though Fe-based superconductors have a moderate degree of structural diversity, three, main structural classes:  $\text{AeFe}_2\text{As}_2$  ( $\text{Ae}$ =Alkaline Earth) (122) families [2–4, 13–17],  $\text{AeAFe}_4\text{As}_4$  ( $\text{A}$ =Alkaline Metal) (1144) family [5–7, 9, 10, 18] and  $\text{FeSe}$  [8, 19] provide a microcosm of many key questions at hand. Compared with the interplay between stripe-like antiferromagnetic order, nematicity, and superconductivity in the doped 122-systems at ambient pressure [3, 16], the electron-doped  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ ,  $T = \text{Ni}$  and  $\text{Co}$  system has hedgehog-spin-vortex-crystal (h-SVC) type antiferromagnetic (AFM) order and superconductivity interacting with each other without any structural phase transition [18, 23].

Substitutions on  $\text{Ae}$  and  $\text{A}$  sites [24] suggest that  $T_c$  is linked to a structural distortion, in particular to the  $c/a$  ratio. Substitution on the transition metal site though

tells a different story. On one hand, the structural relation on  $T_c$  of substituted  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  has been studied. The phase diagrams of  $\text{Co}$  and  $\text{Ni}$  substitutions of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  scaled almost exactly as a function of band filling change, the comparison between  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{K}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$  based on their similar, nominal electron counts, seems justified. On the other hand, given that  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  allows for the study of how nominal hole-doping with  $\text{Mn}$  and  $\text{Cr}$  can affect the superconducting and magnetic properties of this system, it is very important to see how their  $T$ - $x$  phase diagrams compare with each other as well as those for  $T = \text{Co}$  and  $\text{Ni}$ .

We have recently found that for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ ,  $T = \text{Mn}$ ,  $\text{Mn}$  is a far more local-moment-like impurity than  $T = \text{Co}$  or  $\text{Ni}$  are. We also found that the substitution level of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  can only go to up to  $x = 0.036$ . Beyond that level, 1144 phase is not stabilized with the similar synthesis condition. This limited the exploration of hole-doped 1144 phase diagram and the evolution of h-SVC type antiferromagnetic transition.  $\text{Cr}$  offers twice the amount of nominal hole-doping per  $x$  and, like  $\text{Mn}$ , can sometimes manifest local-moment-like properties in intermetallic samples. As such,  $\text{Cr}$  substitution offers a great of opportunity to further our understanding of the behavior of h-SVC type antiferromagnetism in the 1144 system.

In this paper, we detail the synthesis and characterization of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals. A temperature-composition ( $T$ - $x$ ) phase diagram is constructed by elemental analysis, magnetic and transport

measurements. In addition to creating the  $T$ - $x$  phase diagram, coherence lengths and the London penetration depths are also calculated based on  $H_{c1}$  and  $H_{c2}$  data obtained from measurements. The data for Cr-substituted 1144 are added on the  $\lambda^{-2}$  versus  $\sigma T_c^2$  plot and compared with the Mn substitution. Finally, temperature vs change of electron count,  $|\Delta e^-|$ , phase diagram for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals,  $T = \text{Cr, Mn, Ni and Co}$ , is also presented and discussed. By comparing all four  $T = \text{Cr, Mn, Ni and Co}$  substitutions we find that whereas for  $T = \text{Ni and Co}$   $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  the temperature-substitution phase diagrams scale with additional electrons (in much the same way that the  $\text{Ba}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_2\text{As}_2$  phase diagrams do for  $T = \text{Ni and Co}$ ), for  $T = \text{Cr and Mn}$  the temperature substitution phase diagrams are essentially identical when plotted more simply as  $T$ - $x$  diagrams, suggesting that for Cr and Mn there may be other variables or mechanisms at play.

## II. CRYSTAL GROWTH AND EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

Single crystalline  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  samples were grown by high-temperature solution growth [25] out of FeAs flux in the manner similar to  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  [21]. Lumps of potassium metal (Alfa Aesar 99.95%), distilled calcium metal pieces (Ames Laboratory, Materials Preparation Center (MPC 99.9%) and  $\text{Fe}_{0.512}\text{As}_{0.488}$  and  $\text{Cr}_{0.512}\text{As}_{0.488}$  precursor powders were loaded into a 1.7 ml fritted alumina Canfield Crucible Set [26] (LSP Industrial Ceramics, Inc.) in an argon filled glove-box. The ratio of  $\text{K:Ca:Fe}_{0.512}\text{As}_{0.488}$  and  $\text{Cr}_{0.512}\text{As}_{0.488}$  was 1.2:0.8:20. A 1.3 cm outer diameter and 6.4 cm long tantalum tube which was used to protect the silica ampoule from reactive vapors was welded with the crucible set in partial argon atmosphere inside. The sealed Ta tube was then itself sealed into a silica ampoule and the ampoule was placed inside a box furnace. The furnace was held for 2 hours at 650 °C before increasing to 1180 °C and held there for 5 hours to make sure the precursor was fully melted. The furnace was then fast cooled from 1180 °C to 980 °C in 1.5 hours. Crystals were grown during a slow cool-down from 980 °C to 915 °C over 100-150 hours dependent on substitution level. After 1-2 hours at 915 °C the ampoule was inverted into a centrifuge and spun to separate the remaining liquid from the grown crystals. Metallic, plate-like, crystals were obtained. The average size and thickness decreased by factor 2-4 as  $x$  is increased. The largest crystal is about centimeter size as shown in figure 1.

Single crystals of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  are soft and malleable as  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  and are difficult to grind for powder X-ray diffraction measurements. Diffraction measurements were carried out on single crystal samples, which were cleaved along the (001) plane, using a Rigaku MiniFlex II powder diffractometer in Bragg-Brentano geometry with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ) [27].

The Cr substitution levels ( $x$ ) of the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  crystals were determined by energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) quantitative chemical analysis using an EDS detector (Thermo NORAN Microanalysis System, model C10001) attached to a JEOL scanning-electron microscope. The compositions of platelike crystals were measured at three separate positions on each crystal's face (parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$ -plane) after cleaving them. An acceleration voltage of 16 kV, working distance of 10 mm and take off angle of 35° were used for measuring all standards and crystals with unknown composition. Pure  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  was used as a standard for Ca, K, Fe and As quantification.  $\text{LaCrGe}_3$  and  $\text{YCr}_6\text{Ge}_6$  were used as standards for Cr, both leading to consistent results without significant difference within the experimental error ( $\sim 0.001$ ). The spectra were fitted using NIST-DTSA II Microscopium 2020-06-26 software[28]. Different measurements on the same sample reveal good homogeneity in each crystal and the average compositions and error bars were obtained from these data, accounting for both inhomogeneity and goodness of fit of each spectra.

Temperature- and magnetic-field-dependent magnetization and resistance measurements were carried out by using Quantum Design (QD), Magnetic Property Measurement Systems (MPMS and MPMS3) and Physical Property Measurement Systems (PPMS). Temperature- and magnetic-field-dependent magnetization measurements were taken for  $H \parallel ab$  by placing the plate-like sample between two collapsed plastic straws with the third, uncollapsed, straw providing support as a sheath on the outside or by using of a quartz sample holder. The single crystal samples of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  measured in the MPMS and MPMS3 have plate-like morphology with length and width from 3 mm to 10 mm and thickness ( $c$  axis) 50 - 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . The approximate effective demagnetizing factor  $N$  ranges from 0.007 to 0.077 with magnetic field applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane[29]. AC electrical resistance measurements were performed in a standard four-contact geometry using the ACT option of the PPMS, with a 3 mA excitation and a frequency of 17 Hz. 50 $\mu\text{m}$  diameter Pt wires were bonded to the samples with silver paint (DuPont 4929N) with contact resistance values of about 2-3 Ohms. The magnetic field, up to 90 kOe, was applied along  $c$  or  $ab$  directions, perpendicular to the current, with the current flowing in the  $ab$  plane in both cases.

Contacts for inter-plane resistivity measurements were soldered using tin. The top and bottom surfaces of the samples were covered with Sn solder [30, 31] and 50  $\mu\text{m}$  silver wires were attached to enable measurements in a pseudo-four-probe configuration. Soldering produced contacts with resistance typically in the 10  $\mu\Omega$  range. Inter-plane resistivity was measured using a two-probe technique with currents in 1 to 10 mA range (depending on sample resistance which is typically 1 m $\Omega$ ). A four-probe scheme was used down to the sample to measure series connected sample,  $R_s$ , and contact,  $R_c$  resistance.

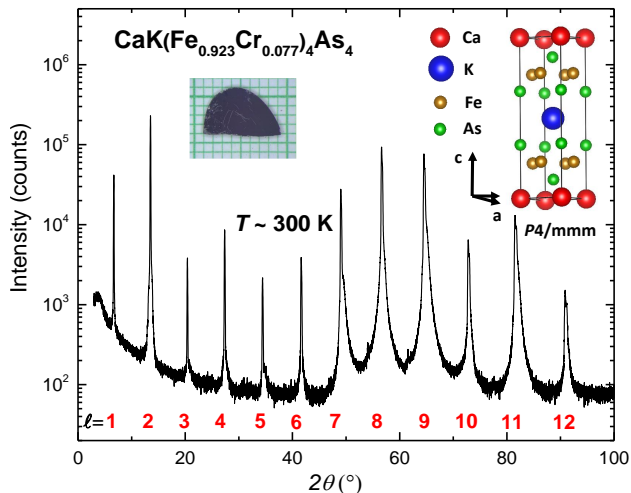


Figure 1: X-ray diffraction data of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.923}\text{Cr}_{0.077})_4\text{As}_4$  showing  $(00l)$  diffraction peaks from in-house diffraction measurements on a single-crystalline plate plotted on a semi-log scale. The value of  $l$  is shown in red under each peak. The left inset shows the picture of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.988}\text{Cr}_{0.012})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystal over a millimeter grid paper. The right inset shows crystal structure of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ . Note that  $l = \text{odd}$   $(00l)$  lines are evidence of the ordered  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  structure [5, 6].

Taking into account that  $R_s \gg R_c$ , contact resistance represents a minor correction of the order of 1 to 5%. The details of the measurement procedure can be found in Refs. [32–34]. The results of the measurements are in good agreement with similar measurements on pure  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  [6].

Measurements with current along the  $c$ -axis suffer strongly from inter-layer connectivity due to the micaeous nature of single crystals. To ascertain reproducibility, we performed measurements of  $\rho_c$  on two to five samples for each Cr concentration and obtained qualitatively similar temperature dependencies of the electrical resistivity, as represented by the ratio of resistivities at room and low temperatures,  $\rho_c(0)/\rho_c(300)$ . The resistivity  $\rho_c(300\text{K})$  was in the range 1–2  $\text{m}\Omega\text{cm}$ , corresponding to an anisotropy ratio  $\rho_c/\rho_a \approx 3$  to 6 at 300 K.

### III. $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

Figure 1 presents single crystal diffraction data of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  with  $x_{\text{EDS}} = 0.077$  which is the largest substitution level obtained. Attempts to grow crystals with  $x_{\text{EDS}} > 0.077$  failed to yield mm-sized or larger samples that could be identified as Cr-doped 1144. From the figure, we can see that all  $(00l)$ ,  $l \leq 12$ , are

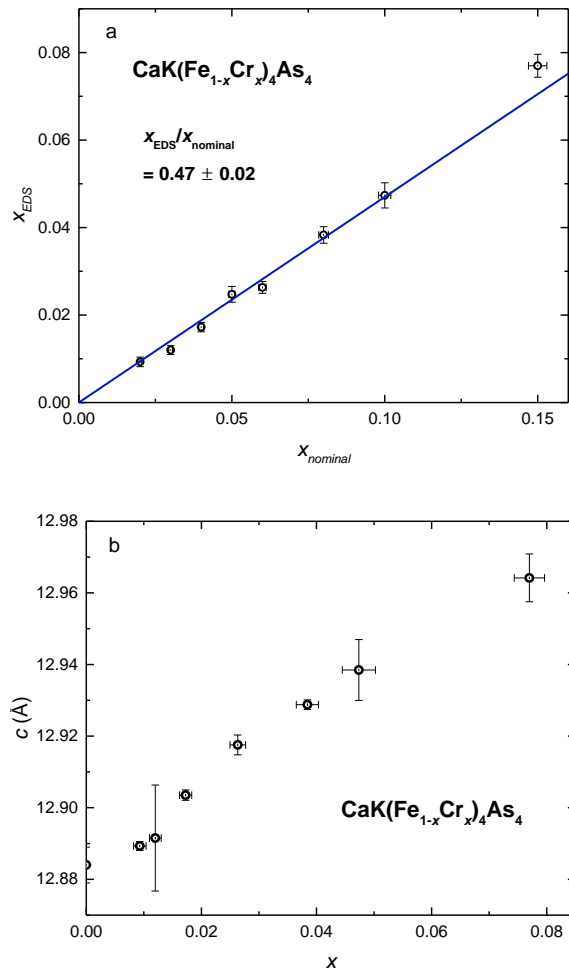


Figure 2: (a) EDS measured Cr concentration vs nominal Cr concentration for the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  series. The line is the linear fit of the data with fixed intercept to 0. (b) Plot of  $c$  lattice parameters as a function of substitution level  $x$ .  $c$  lattice parameters are calculated by the single-crystalline plate X-ray diffraction plot [27].

detected. The  $h + k + l = \text{odd}$  peaks which are forbidden for the  $I4/mmm$  structure of the 122 phase [5] can be clearly found. This indicates that sample has the anticipated  $P4/mmm$  structure associated with the  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  structure [5, 6, 18].

The Cr substitution,  $x_{\text{EDS}}$ , determined by EDS is shown in figure 2a for different crystals as a function of the nominal Cr fraction,  $x_{\text{nominal}}$ , that was originally used for the growth. Error bars account for both possible inhomogeneity of substitution and goodness of fit of each EDS spectra. A clear correlation can be seen between the nominal and the measured substitution levels, with a proportionality factor of  $0.47 \pm 0.02$ . For comparison, the ratio of measured to nominal Mn, Ni and Co fraction in the corresponding  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  are 0.60, 0.64 and

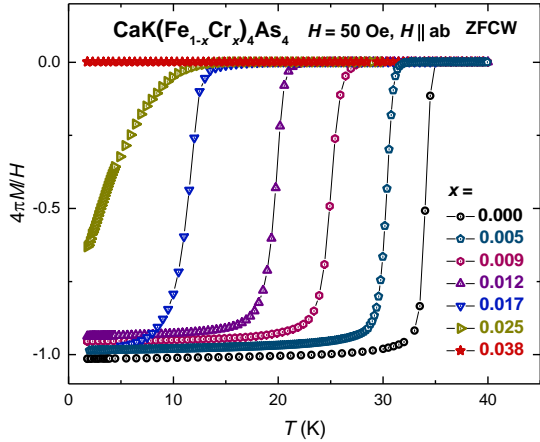


Figure 3: Zero-field-cooled-warming (ZFCW) low temperature magnetization as a function of temperature for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with a field of 50 Oe applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane.  $M$  is the volumetric magnetic moment with cgs unit  $\text{emu cm}^{-3}$  or Oe.

0.79 respectively [18, 21]. From this point onward, when substitution level  $x$  is referred to, it will be the EDS value of  $x$ . Figure 2b presents  $c$  lattice parameters as a function of  $x$ .  $c$  lattice parameter monotonically increases as Cr substitution level increases, which is consistent with the larger radius of Cr as compared to Fe.  $c$  lattice parameter values are calculated using the single-crystalline plate X-ray diffraction data taken in Bragg-Brentano geometry in standard powder diffractometer [27]. In Mn-1144 ( $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ ) [21], the evolution of the  $c$  lattice parameter was difficult to determine due to the small difference in radius between Fe and Mn and low substitution levels of Mn. The highest Mn substitution level  $x$  was 0.036 in Mn-1144 as compared to 0.077 in Cr-1144.

#### IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND PHASE DIAGRAM

Figure 3 shows the low temperature (1.8 K - 45 K), zero-field-cooled-warming (ZFCW) magnetization for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals for  $H_{\parallel ab} = 50$  Oe (ZFCW magnetization and field-cooled (FC) data for an  $x = 0.017$  sample can be found in figure 19 in the Appendix).  $M$  is the volumetric magnetization in this figure and is calculated by using the density of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ , which is determined to be  $5.22 \text{ g/cm}^3$  from the lattice parameters at room temperature [5]. A magnetic field of 50 Oe was applied parallel to  $ab$  plane (i.e. parallel to the surface of the plate-like crystal). The superconducting transitions ( $T_c$ ) are clearly seen in this graph

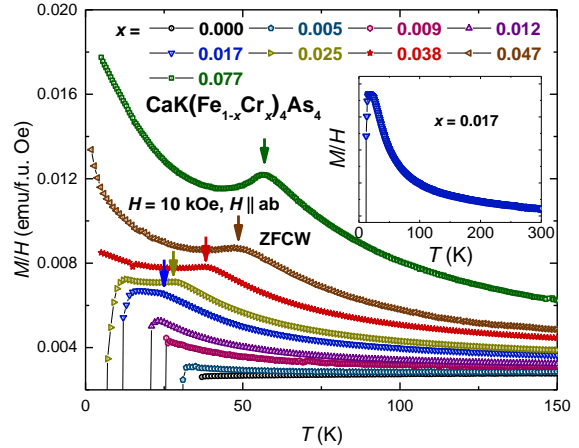


Figure 4: Low temperature magnetization divided by applied field as a function of temperature for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with a field of 10 kOe applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane. The inset shows the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystal magnetization for  $5 \text{ K} < T < 300 \text{ K}$ . Small vertical arrows indicate the location of  $T^*$ , see Appendix for the criterion.

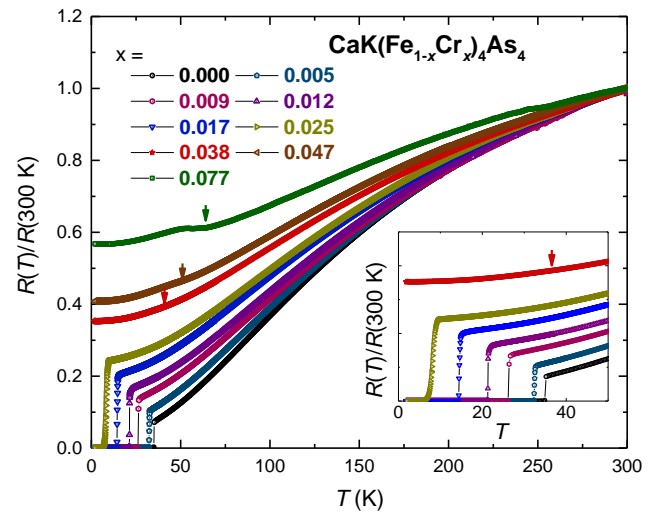


Figure 5: Temperature dependence of normalized resistance,  $R(T)/R(300 \text{ K})$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals showing the suppression of the superconducting transition  $T_c$  and the appearance and evolution of a kink-like feature, marked with arrows. The criterion used to determine  $T^*$  from this kink-feature is outlined and discussed in the appendix.

except for the substitution value  $x = 0.038$ . As the value of the Cr substitution,  $x$ , increases, the superconducting transition temperature decreases. For  $x = 0.025$ , a full magnetic shielding is not reached by 1.8 K.

Figure 4 shows the low temperature (5 K - 150 K)  $M(T)/H$  data for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with 10 kOe field applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane. The appearance of first a Curie-Weiss tail and later a kink-like feature after adding Cr is similar to Mn substituted 1144. The inset shows  $M(T)/H$  of a  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystal over a wider temperature range. As Cr is added the Curie-tail-like feature grows. The  $M(T)$  data above transitions can be fitted by a  $C/(T+\theta) + \chi_0$  function as long as Cr doping levels is larger than 0.005 ( $x > 0.005$ ). The effective moment versus  $x$  data is shown in figure 18 in the Appendix;  $\mu_{eff}$  calculated per Cr, is found to be  $\sim 4 \mu\text{B}$ . Kink-like features are found above 20 K for  $x > 0.012$  at a temperature  $T^*$ , which very likely indicate antiferromagnetic transition. Similar kink-like features were correlated with AFM order in  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  [21, 35]. As  $x$  increases from 0.017 to 0.077, the temperature  $T^*$  increases from  $\sim 20$  K to  $\sim 60$  K. The criterion for determining  $T^*$  and more discussion about the Curie-tail are shown in the Appendix.

Figure 5 presents the temperature dependent, normalized, electrical resistance of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals. RRR (the ratio of 300 K and low temperature resistance just above  $T_c$ ) decreases as Cr substitution increases, which is consistent with the increase of disorder and/or possible change of density of states near the Fermi surface by band filling. The superconducting transition temperatures decrease as Cr is added to the system. When  $x = 0.038$ , there is no signature of a superconducting transition detectable above 1.8 K. With increasing Cr content, a kink appears for  $x > 0.025$  and rises to about 60 K for  $x = 0.077$  and features become more clearly resolved with increasing substitution. A similar feature also appeared in Mn, Ni and Co-substituted  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  electrical resistance measurements [18, 21]. The criterion for determining the transition temperature,  $T^*$ , associated with this kink is shown in the Appendix in figure 21c where  $R(T)$  and  $dR(T)/dT$  are both shown.

Figures 6 and 7 compare the normalized electrical resistivity of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals for electrical currents along  $a$ -axis in the tetragonal plane (black lines in the main panels) with those along the tetragonal  $c$ -axis (red curves in the main panels). Samples with  $x = 0.017$ , figure 6, are in the range of SC and AFM coexistence; samples with  $x = 0.038$ , figure 7, are in the range where superconductivity is suppressed (see figure 8, below). The inter-plane resistivity of the samples with  $x = 0.017$  shows a broad cross-over close to room temperature, above which the rate of resistivity increase with temperature gets notably slower, much milder feature is found in in-plane transport. This is very similar to the results on the parent compound  $x = 0$  [6]. For samples with  $x = 0.038$ , figure 7, the inter-plane resistivity (red

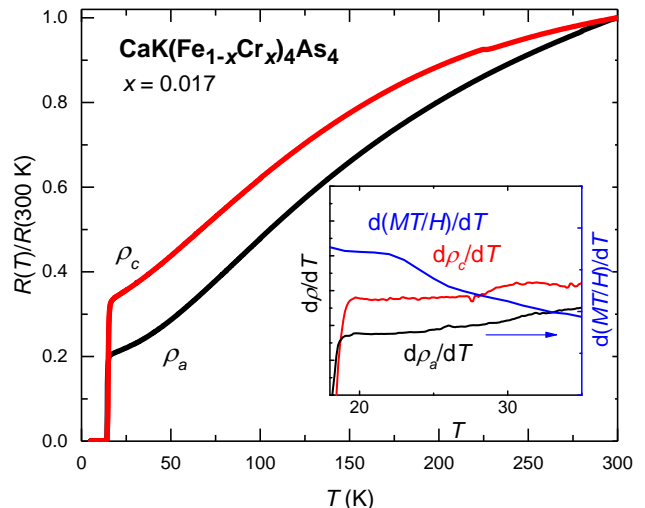


Figure 6: Temperature dependence of normalized resistance,  $R(T)/R(300 \text{ K})$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with  $x = 0.017$  for electrical currents along  $a$ -axis (black) and along  $c$ -axis (red). Inset shows resistivity derivatives plotted against  $d(MT/H)/dT$  (blue). The onset of the feature in the  $d(MT/H)/dT$  curve at  $\sim 25$  K is accompanied by flattening in the  $c$ -axis resistivity derivative, but without a clear anomaly. No features are observed in  $d(R/R(300\text{K}))/dT$  curve for in-plane current (black line in the inset.)

curve, main panel) reveals clearly non-monotonic dependence. The cross-over transforms into a clear maximum above 200 K, followed by a second maximum centered at about 35 K, close to the temperature of long-range magnetic ordering.

Insets in the figures compare the derivatives of the normalised resistivities for two current directions with  $d(MT/H)/dT$  (blue lines, right scale) [36]. For sample  $x = 0.017$  in figure 6, no clear features are observed in the resistivity derivatives, however some flattening is observed for  $c$ -axis resistivity. For samples with  $x = 0.038$ , the peak in  $d(MT/H)/dT$  at  $\sim 42$  K is in good agreement with the feature in the derivative of inter-plane resistivity. A feature in the derivative of in-plane resistivity is notably less pronounced (black curve in inset in figure 7).

In some cases the features associated with magnetic ordering in the FeAs-based superconductors are clearer for current flow along the  $c$ -axis as opposed to current flow in the basal  $ab$ -plane. This is believed to be due to an alternating arrangement of the magnetic moments along the  $c$ -axis direction, providing partial gapping of the Fermi surface affecting inter-plane transport more strongly [34]. The clarity of features increases with  $x$  in  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ , making then clearly visible in the raw resistivity data for  $x = 0.077$  (see Appendix figure 23).

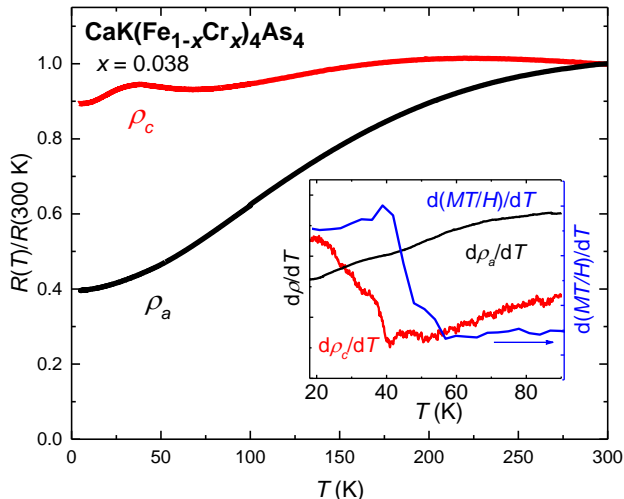


Figure 7: Temperature dependence of normalized resistance,  $R(T)/R(300\text{ K})$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with  $x = 0.038$  for electrical currents along  $a$ -axis (black) and along  $c$ -axis (red). Inset shows resistivity derivatives plotted against  $d(MT/H)/dT$  (blue, right axis). The peak in the  $d(MT/H)/dT$  curve at  $\sim 42$  K is accompanied by a clear feature in the  $c$ -axis resistivity derivative, but only with a very broad anomaly, if any for the in-plane transport.

Figure 8 summarizes the transition temperature results inferred from magnetization and resistance measurements, plots the superconducting and magnetic transitions as a function of substitution and constructs the  $T$ - $x$  phase diagram for the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  system. As depicted in this phase diagram, increasing Cr substitution (i) suppresses  $T_c$  monotonically with it extrapolating to 0 K by  $x \sim 0.03$  and (ii) stabilizes a new transition, presumably an antiferromagnetic one, for  $x \gtrsim 0.017$  with the transition temperature rising from  $\sim 20$  K for  $x = 0.017$  to  $\sim 60$  K for  $x = 0.077$ . Each phase line is made out of data points inferred from  $R(T)$  and  $M(T)$  measurements, illustrating the good agreement between our criteria for inferring  $T_c$  and  $T^*$  from magnetization and resistivity data. The  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  series,  $T = \text{Mn}, \text{Co}$  and  $\text{Ni}$ , have qualitatively similar phase diagrams, with the quantitative differences being associated with the substitution levels necessary to induce the magnetic phase and to suppress superconductivity. We were not able to infer the behavior of  $T^*$  once it drops below  $T_c$ , but if it is similar to other  $T$  substitution [35, 37],  $T^*$  should be suppressed very fast in the superconducting state. Further comparison of the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  phase diagram to the phase diagrams of the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{T}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  series will be made in the discussion section below.

Given that the  $R(T)$  data were taken in zero applied field whereas the  $M/H(T)$  data shown in figure 4 were

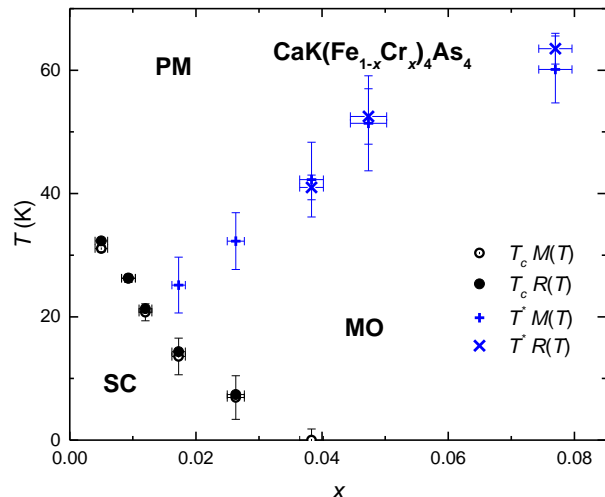


Figure 8: Temperature - composition phase diagram of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals as determined from resistance ( $R(T)$ ) and magnetization ( $M(T)$ ) measurements. The circular symbols denote the  $T_c$  phase line and the cross-like symbols denote the  $T^*$  phase line, most likely associated with antiferromagnetic order. Superconducting (SC), magnetically ordered (MO) and paramagnetic (PM) regions are denoted. Details of how the MO line extends into the SC state are not addressed in this phase diagram.

taken in 10 kOe, it is prudent to examine the field dependence of transition associated with  $T^*$ . In figure 9 we show the  $d(MT/H)/dT$  data [36] for the  $x = 0.077$  sample for  $H \parallel ab = 10, 30$  and  $50$  kOe. As is commonly seen for antiferromagnetic phase transition, increasing a magnetic field leads to a monotonic suppression of  $T^*$ . The inset to figure 9 shows that the extrapolated,  $H = 0$ ,  $T^*$  value would be  $57.4$  K as compared to the value of  $57.2$  K for 10 kOe. This further confirms that there should be (and there actually is) good agreement between the  $T^*$  values inferred from 10 kOe magnetization data and the  $T^*$  values inferred from and resistance data in figure 8. In addition these data suggest that magnetic field could be used to fine tune the value of  $T^*$ , if needed.

## V. SUPERCONDUCTING CRITICAL FIELDS AND ANISOTROPY

Superconductivity can be studied as a function of field (in addition to temperature and doping). Before we present our  $H_{c2}(T)$  results, based on  $R(T, H)$  data, it is useful to check the  $M(H)$  data. We start with  $M(H)$  data for  $x = 0.017$ ,  $T_c = 14.4$  K, taken over a wide field range. The 2 K  $M(H)$  data shown in figure 10 is classically non-linear, showing a local minimum near  $H \sim 2.5$  kOe. For  $T = 2\text{ K} < T_c$  the  $H_{c2}$  value is clearly

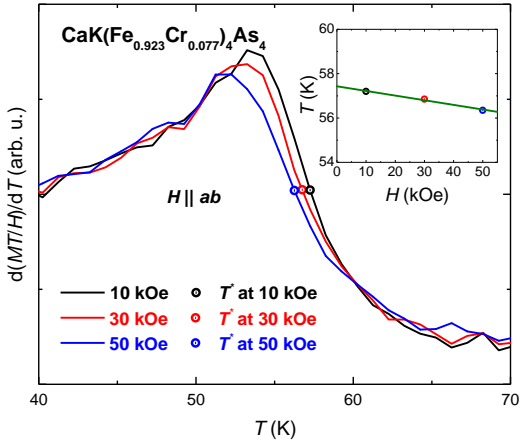


Figure 9:  $d(MT/H)/dT$  vs.  $T$  of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.923}\text{Cr}_{0.077})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystal with 10 kOe, 30 kOe and 50 kOe applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane.  $T^*$  at different field are shown as points on the figure. Inset shows transition temperature,  $T^*$ , inferred for different applied field values using the same criterion shown in appendix. The solid green line is linear fit to the data points, extrapolating to 54.7 K for  $H = 0$ .

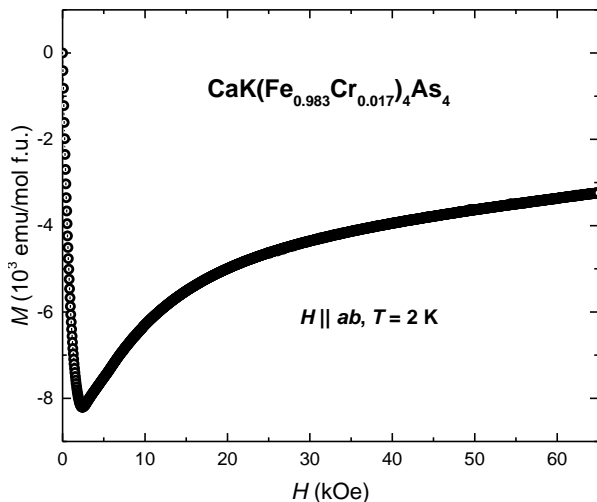


Figure 10: Magnetization of a single crystal of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  as a function of magnetic field applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane at 2 K, after zero applied field cooling (ZFC) to 2 K, so as to have demagnetization done at 60 K before cooling minimize the remnant magnetic field.

higher than the 65 kOe maximum field we applied (see discussion and figures below).  $H_{c1}$  can be inferred from the lower field  $M(H)$  data.

In order to better estimate  $H_{c1}$  values we performed low field,  $M(H)$  sweeps at base temperature. In figure 11a we show the  $M(H)$  data for  $0 \leq x \leq 0.025$  for  $H \leq 100$  Oe. As  $x$  increases the deviation from the fully shielded, linear behavior, that occurs at  $H_{c1}$ , appears at lower and lower fields. As shown in the inset of figure 11a,  $\Delta M$  is determined by subtracting the linear, lowest field behavior of  $4\pi M$  from  $H$ . Figure 24 in the appendix shows plots of  $\Delta M$  as function of field. Given the finite thickness of samples and field direction applied in  $ab$  plane, there is a small demagnetizing factor ( $N < 0.077$ ), therefore,  $H_{c1}$  is taken as the vortices start to enter the sample and determined as the point when the  $M(H)$  data deviates from the linear, lowest field behavior. The non-zero value is due to remnant field of MPMS. The standard error of  $H_{c1}$  comes from at least 4 different samples' measurements. Figure 11b shows  $H_{c1}$  at 2 K with different substitution.  $x = 0.025$  is not shown in this plot since  $T_c \sim 7$  K is close to 2 K. The data shown in figure 11b are roughly linear in  $x$ . This will be discussed further when examine the London penetration depth below.

In order to further study the effects of Cr substitution on the superconducting state, anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  data for temperatures near  $T_c$  were determined for the substitution levels that have superconductivity. Figure 12a shows a representative set of  $R(T)$  data taken for fixed applied magnetic fields,  $H \parallel c$  axis and  $ab$  plane  $\leq 90$  kOe for  $x = 0.017$ . Figure 12a also shows an example of the onset and offset criteria used for the evaluation of  $T_c$ . Figure 12b presents the anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  curves for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with both  $H \parallel c$  and  $H \parallel ab$ , showing both the onset ( $T_{onset}$ ) and offset ( $T_{offset}$ ) temperatures. For  $x = 0.005, 0.009, 0.012$  and  $0.025$ ,  $H_{c2}(T)$  curves are shown in Appendix figures 25 - 28. From  $H_{c2}(T)$  plots, we can see that  $T_c$  is only suppressed by about 4 K when 90 kOe magnetic field is applied, so the complete  $H_{c2}(T)$  plots of the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  compounds cannot be fully determined, however we still can observe several trends in these data.

Figure 13 shows the temperature dependent anisotropy ratio,  $\gamma = H_{c2}^{ab}(T)/H_{c2}^c(T)$ , is around 2.5 for these samples over the  $0.6 < T/T_c < 1.0$  range. This value is similar to other 122 and 1144 materials [6, 15, 21, 34].  $\gamma \sim 2.5$  is also qualitatively consistent with the estimated resistivity anisotropy ratio  $\gamma_\rho = \rho_c/\rho_a \approx 3 - 6$  at 300 K, increasing to 6 - 10 at  $T = 0$  K, with  $\gamma_H \sim \sqrt{\gamma_\rho}$  [38]. Black circles and dashed line present the data for pure  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  [6]. The anisotropies of coherence length and penetration depth are expected to be the same close to  $T_c$ , but can have opposite temperature dependence upon cooling below that [39]. However, almost no temperature dependence of  $\gamma$  is seen in the temperature range measured.



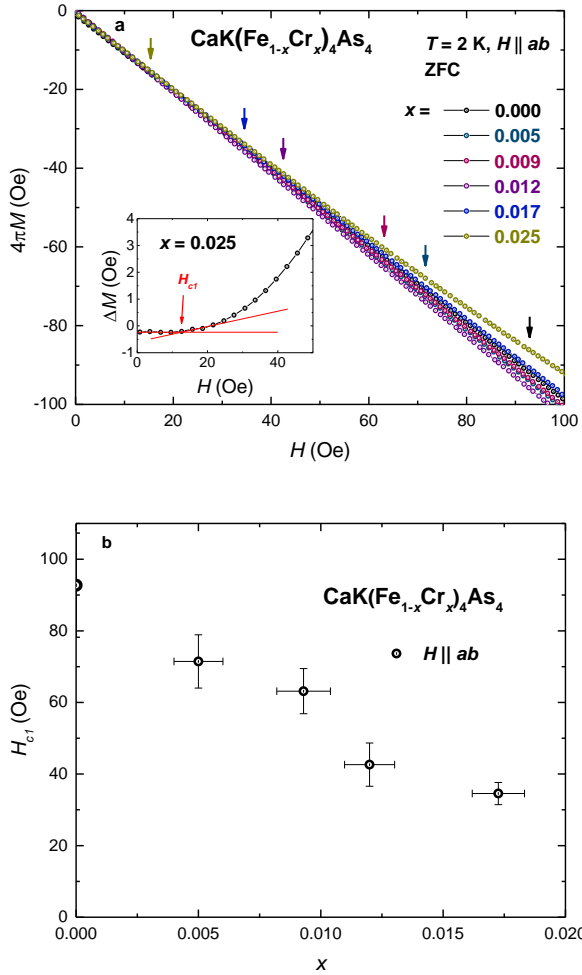


Figure 11: (a) Magnetization as a function of magnetic field applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  axis at 2 K for different substitution levels. Arrows mark the value of the magnetic field ( $H_{c1}$ ) where  $M(H)$  deviates from linear behavior. Inset shows the criterion we use to determine the  $H_{c1}$  values. Remnant field of measurements are smaller than 1 Oe, which is consistent with  $M(H)$  plots shown in figure. Demagnetization was performed at 60 K and then samples were cooled in zero field to 2 K to minimize the remnant magnetic field. (b)  $H_{c1}$  values at 2 K versus  $x$ .

Given that we have determined  $H_{c2}(T)$  for temperatures close to  $T_c$ , we can evaluate the  $H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$  close to  $T_c$ , where  $H'_{c2}(T)$  is  $dH_{c2}(T)/dT$ , specifically seeing how it changes as  $T_c$  drops below  $T^*$  with increasing  $x$ . Error of  $H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$  comes from linear fit of  $H_{c2}(T)$  near the  $T_c$ . In the case of other Fe-based systems [21, 40–43] clear changes in  $H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$  were associated with changes in the magnetic sublattice coexisting with superconductivity (i.e. ordered or disordered). In figure 14 we can see that there is a change in the  $x$ -dependence of  $H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$  for  $x > 0.012$ , beyond which substitution

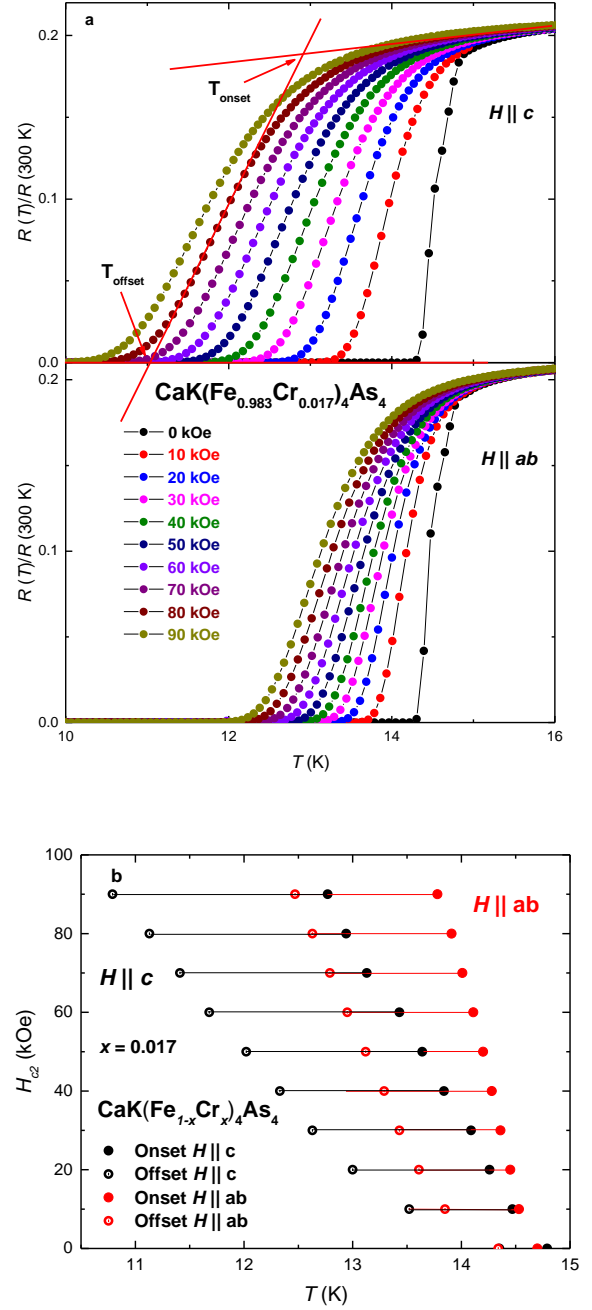


Figure 12: (a) Temperature-dependent electrical resistance of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystal for magnetic field parallel to the crystallographic  $c$  axis (upper panel) and  $ab$  plane (lower panel) for representative fields  $H \leq 90$  kOe. Onset and offset criteria for  $T_c$  are shown by the red solid lines. (b) Anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  data determined for two single crystalline samples of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  using onset criterion (solid) and offset criterion (hollow) inferred from the data shown in (a).

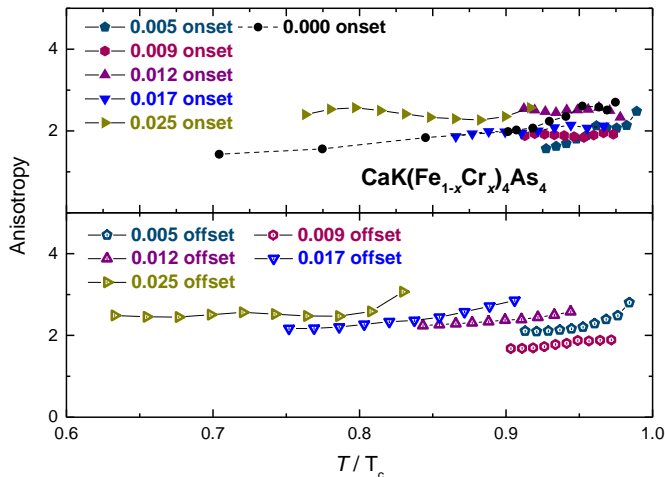


Figure 13: Anisotropy of the upper critical field,  $\gamma = H_{c2}^{\parallel ab}(T)/H_{c2}^{\parallel c}(T)$ , as a function of effective temperature,  $T/T_c$ , for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals, using onset criterion (upper panel) and offset criterion (lower panel), inferred from the temperature-dependent electrical resistance data. The  $T_c$  value used to calculate the effective temperature ( $T/T_c$ ) is the zero-field superconductivity transition temperature for each Cr-substitution levels (see figure 8 above). Data  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  are shown in black circles with dashed line.

level suppresses  $T_c$  below  $T^*$ . Comparison with the slope change of  $H_{c2}$  in the pressure-temperature phase diagram of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Ni}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  [40], further suggest that this is probably related to changes in the Fermi surface, caused by the onset of the new periodicity associated with the AFM order.

## VI. DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

The  $T$ - $x$  phase diagram for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  (Figure 8) is qualitatively similar to those found for Co-, Ni- and Mn- substituted  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ , there is a clear suppression of  $T_c$  with increasing Cr substitution as well as an onset of what is likely to be a AFM ordering for  $x > 0.012$ .

In figures 11 and 14 we presented measurements and analysis of  $H_{c1}$  and  $H_{c2}$  data. Whereas we see only subtle, if any effect of the onset of AFM ordering on  $H_{c1}$  (figure 11b), there is a clear effect on  $H_{c2}$  (figure 14). Using our  $H_{c1}$  and  $H_{c2}$  data we can extract information about the superconducting coherence length and London penetration depth as well.

Figure 15a shows coherence length,  $\xi$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  as a function of  $x$ .  $\xi$  is estimated by using the anisotropic scaling relations  $0.69|dH_{c2}^{\parallel c}/dT| = \phi_0/2\pi\xi_{ab}^2T_c$  and  $0.69|dH_{c2}^{\perp c}/dT| = \phi_0/2\pi\xi_c\xi_{ab}T_c$  [6].

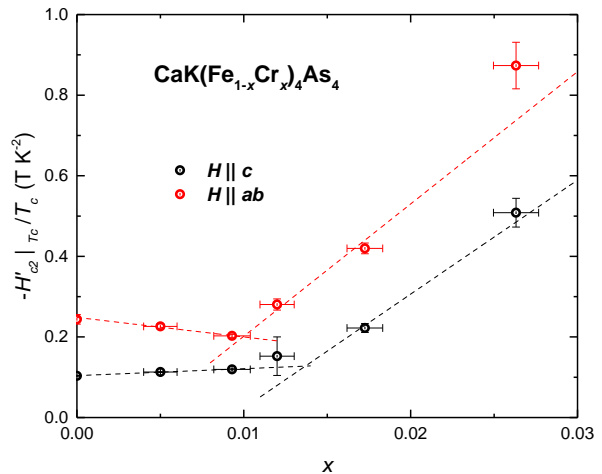


Figure 14: Substitution dependence of slope of  $H_{c2}(T)$  at  $T_c$ ,  $-H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$ , where  $H'_{c2}(T)$  is  $dH_{c2}(T)/dT$  at  $T_c$ .  $T_c$  is determined by  $T_{offset}$  from criteria shown in figure 12. Qualitatively similar, albeit somewhat weaker, results can be seen using  $T_{onset}$  criterion data. Dash lines show the linear fit for  $x < 0.01$  and  $x > 0.01$ , which indicate the change of trend of  $H_{c2}(T)$  versus  $x$  as substitution increases.

We estimate  $H_{c2}(0)$  with  $H_{c2}(0)/(T_c|dH_{c2}(T_c)/dT|) = 0.69$  [44]. Figure 15b shows the London penetration depth,  $\lambda_{ab}$ , as a function of  $x$ . According to figure 11a,  $H_{c1}$  is measured at 2 K and  $x = 0.025$ ,  $T_c \sim 7$  K, will not be counted since we want to compare the similar  $T/T_c$  values of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  samples. We estimate the anisotropy of coherence length ( $\gamma_\xi = 1$  [45–47]) and the penetration depth ( $\gamma_\lambda = 2.5$  [48, 49]) in the low-temperature limit. According to figure 13,  $\gamma$  is not changed much near  $T_c$  as changing substitution level; based on that, we assume the substituted samples have the same anisotropy as the pure sample.  $\lambda_{ab}$  is obtained by using,

$$H_{c1}^{\parallel ab} = \phi_0/(4\pi\lambda_{ab}\lambda_c)(\ln\kappa_{ab} + 0.5) \quad (1)$$

$$= \phi_0/(4\pi\lambda_{ab}^2\gamma_\lambda)(\ln(\lambda_{ab}/\xi_{ab}) + 0.5\ln\gamma_\lambda + 0.5) \quad (2)$$

$\lambda_c/\lambda_{ab} = \gamma_\lambda$ ,  $\xi_{ab}/\xi_c = H_{c2}^{\parallel ab}(T)/H_{c2}^{\parallel c}(T) = \gamma_\xi$  and  $\kappa_{ab} = \sqrt{\lambda_{ab}\lambda_c/\xi_{ab}\xi_c}$  [50–52]. The penetration depth,  $\lambda_{ab} = 200 \pm 22\text{nm}$ , obtained using equation 2 of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  is very close to the values from  $\mu\text{SR}$  and the self-oscillating tunnel-diode resonator measurements [48, 53, 54]. Coherence lengths and penetration depths increase as substitution levels increase, and, given that  $\xi$  depends on  $dH_{c2}/dT$  and penetration depths depends on  $H_{c1}$  and  $\xi$ . Both figure 15a and b show breaks in behavior near  $x \sim 0.01$ , the substitution level at which  $T^*$  emerges from below  $T_c$ .

Figure 16a shows  $\lambda^{-2}$  versus  $\sigma T_c^2$  in Cr and Mn substitution of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ , where  $\sigma$  is normal state conductivity which was measured just before  $T_c$  (Resistivity plot is

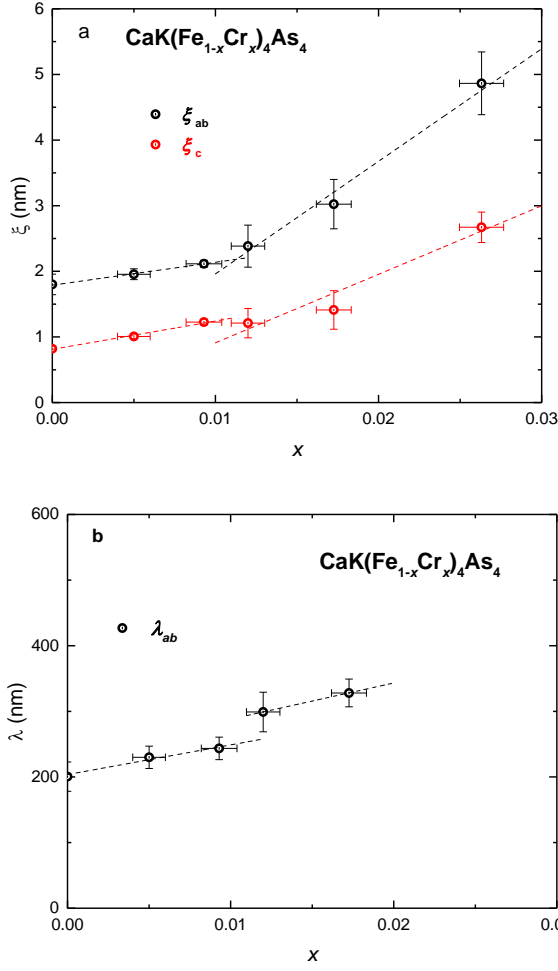


Figure 15: (a) Coherence length versus  $x$  plot of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with applied field in  $c$  direction and  $ab$  plane. (b) shows the London penetration depth as a function of  $x$  obtained by magnetic field applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  axis with different substitution levels. Dash lines show the linear fit for  $x < 0.01$  and  $x > 0.01$ , which show the change of coherence lengths and London penetration depths at  $T_c$  versus  $x$  as substitution increase.

shown in appendix figure 20). Both  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  data roughly follow the linear behavior associated with the modified Homes type scaling in the presence of pair breaking [55, 57]. However the slopes of the linear fits are slightly different. Figure 16b shows the Homes' scaling of superconductors on a log-log scale [56]. Other pnictides are:  $\text{Ba}(\text{Fe}_{0.92}\text{Co}_{0.08})_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{Ba}(\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Ni}_{0.05})_4\text{As}_4$ . Cuprates are  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+y}$ . On this log-log scale, both the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  data sets agree rather well with other data, although being shifted up somewhat. It should be noted that the other data were determined from optical measurements [56] and differences in crite-

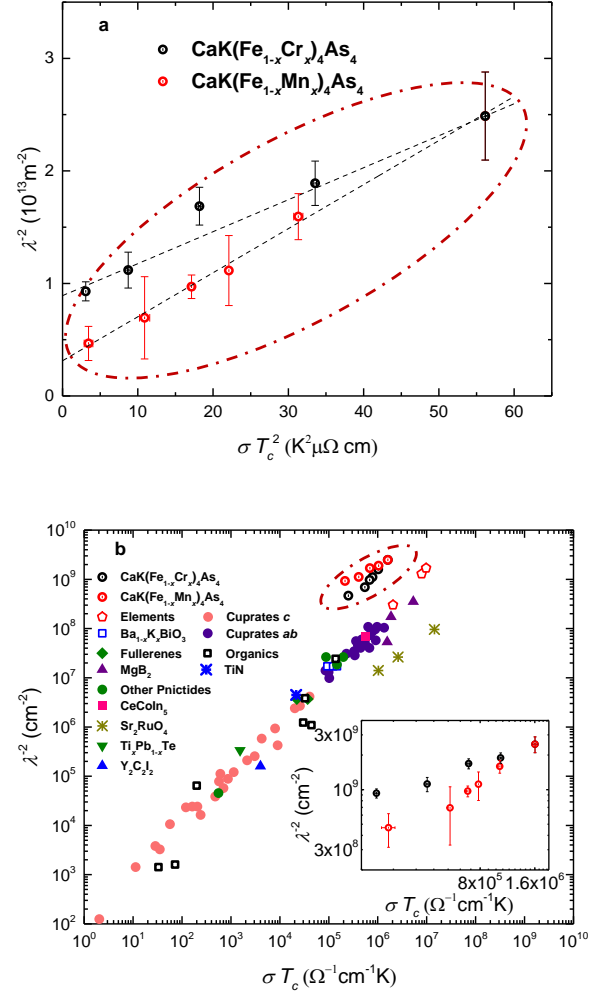


Figure 16: (a) shows  $\lambda^{-2}$  versus  $\sigma T_c^2$  (modified Homes scaling [55]) of Cr (black) and Mn (red) substitution of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ . Dashed lines show the linear fits of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  data with free parameter (red) and  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  data with a fixed point at  $x = 0$  (black). (b) shows Homes' scaling ( $\lambda^{-2}$  vs.  $\sigma T_c$ ) with other superconductors [56]. Except  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ , Homes' scaling is given by  $1/\lambda_s^2 \propto T_c \sigma_{dc} \cdot \sigma_{dc}$  is DC conductivity and data points are obtained from optical spectroscopies. Red dash-dot ellipse marks the Mn and Cr substituted 1144 data points. Inset shows Homes' scaling of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  (black) and  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  (red).

ria as well as measurement techniques may be responsible for the offset.

The  $T$ - $x$  phase diagrams of  $T = \text{Co}$  and  $\text{Ni}$  substitutions in  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}T_x)_4\text{As}_4$  scaled almost exactly as a function of band filling change (i.e. when each  $\text{Ni}$  atom brings two extra electrons and each  $\text{Co}$  atom brings only one extra electron) [18, 23]. This led to the conclusion that for electron doping of  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  the number of

electrons added was the control parameter for both the stabilization of magnetic ordering as well as for the suppression of superconductivity. This scaling did not seem to work for the case of Mn substitution [21], but with only one "hole-like" transition metal substitution, it was hard to make clear conclusions.

When Cr is substituted into  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ , though, there is a qualitatively similar suppression of superconductivity as well as the stabilization of magnetic order, as was found for  $T = \text{Mn, Co and Ni}$ . However there is a clear and important difference on a quantitative level, as shown in figure 17a. The  $T$ - $x$  phase diagram of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  is essentially identical to that of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$ . This is very different behavior from, figure 17b, that seen for electron doped 1144 where electron count seemed to be the key variable.

In figure 17c the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}T_x)_4\text{As}_4$  phase diagrams for  $T = \text{Cr, Mn, Co and Ni}$  are plotted on the same  $T$  and  $\Delta e^-$  axes. Comparison of figures 17a, b and c reveal a clear and striking difference between the hole and electron doped  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}T_x)_4\text{As}_4$  systems. Whereas for the electron doped ( $T = \text{Co, Ni}$ ) there is very clear scaling with number of added electrons, for hole doped ( $T = \text{Mn, Cr}$ ) there is clear scaling with the number of substituted atoms,  $x$ . These striking differences in the phase diagrams beg the question of what is different between the two types of substitution. When there was only data on Mn substitution to compare with the Co and Ni substitutions, one possible explanation could be based on an asymmetric density of electronic states on either side of  $E_F$ . Given that the Cr- and Mn- substituted phase diagrams scale with  $x$  rather than  $e^-$ , this is no longer a possibility.

A different approach to these data is to note that there is one other clear difference between the Mn and Cr substitutions as compared to the Co and Ni ones. Mn and Cr clearly bring local-moment-like behavior as manifest by their conspicuous, high temperature, Curie tails that grow with increasing  $x$ . This is absent for the Co and Ni substitutions. The effective moments coming from the Mn and Cr Curie tails ( $\sim 5 \mu_B$  [21] and  $\sim 4 \mu_B$  respectively) are consistent with  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  valencies. The Cr and Mn appear to behave like local moment impurities. As such it is not surprising that they lead to a stronger suppression of  $T_c$  (via Abrikosov - Gor'kov pair breaking [58]). In a similar manner, it is not surprising that the addition of relatively large, local moment impurities to an itinerant, relatively small moment system helps to stabilize magnetic order. Given that the size of the local moments are similar, it is not surprising that we find that the  $T$ - $x$  phase diagrams scale well. The fact that  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  manifests rather bi-modal responses to  $T$  substitution for  $T = \text{Co and Ni}$  versus  $T = \text{Mn and Cr}$  is consistent with the growing understanding of many of the Fe-based superconductors[15, 59] families as manifesting properties in between those of a wide band metal (which would support rigid band shifting) and a more ionic- or Zintl-like compound (that would support

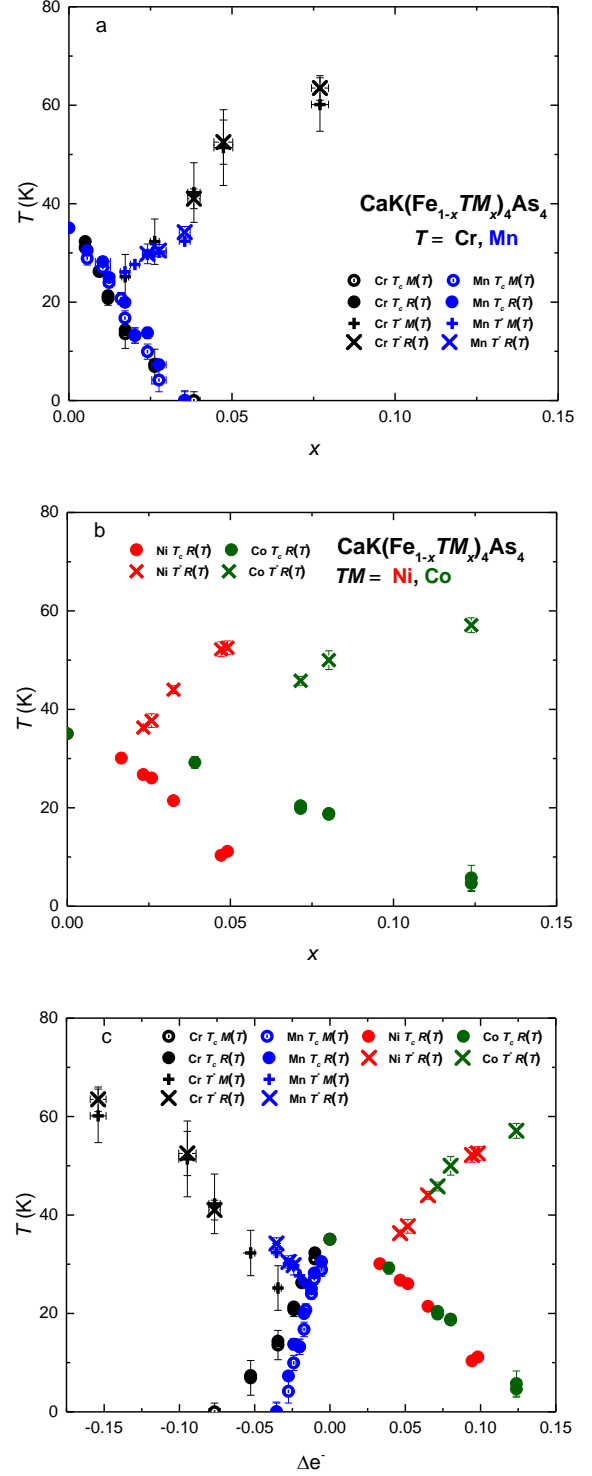


Figure 17: (a)(b) Temperature versus substitution level  $x$  phase diagram of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}T_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals,  $T = \text{Cr, Mn, Ni and Co}$  [18]. (c) Temperature versus  $\Delta e^-$  change of electrons phase diagram of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}T_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals,  $T = \text{Cr, Mn, Ni and Co}$  The circular symbols denote the  $T_c$  phase transitions and the cross-like symbols denote the  $T^*$  and  $T_N$  phase transitions, which are obtained from resistance and magnetic moment measurements, denoted as " $R(T)$ " and " $M(T)$ ".

valence-counting-like behavior).

In summary, we have been able to grow and study the  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  system. Based on magnetic and transport measurements, we assemble a  $T$ - $x$  phase diagram that clearly shows the suppression of the superconducting  $T_c$  with the addition of Cr, with  $T_c$  dropping from 35 K for  $x = 0$  to zero for  $x \sim 0.03$ , as well as the stabilization of magnetic order for  $x > 0.012$ , with  $22 \text{ K} \leq T^* \leq 60 \text{ K}$ . As  $x$  becomes greater than 0.012 and  $T_c$  becomes less than  $T^*$ , a clear change in the behavior of  $H'_{c2}(T)/T_c$  and the associated superconducting coherence length,  $\xi$ , can be seen. These are associated with the probable changes in the Fermi surface that accompany the AFM ordering at  $T^*$ . Comparable features in  $H_{c1}$  or the London penetration depth are not clearly resolvable.

The  $T$ - $x$  phase diagram for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  is qualitatively identical to  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  phase di-

agram due to the effect of local moment of Cr and Mn. Similarity of phase diagrams also indicate importance of the local moment impurity on hole doped 1144, which is different from the electron doped 1144. On the other hand, both hole and electron doping in 1144 stabilize antiferromagnetic ordering with increasing substitution level and the suppression of  $T_c$  in  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  is faster than Ni- and Co-1144.

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## VII. APPENDIX

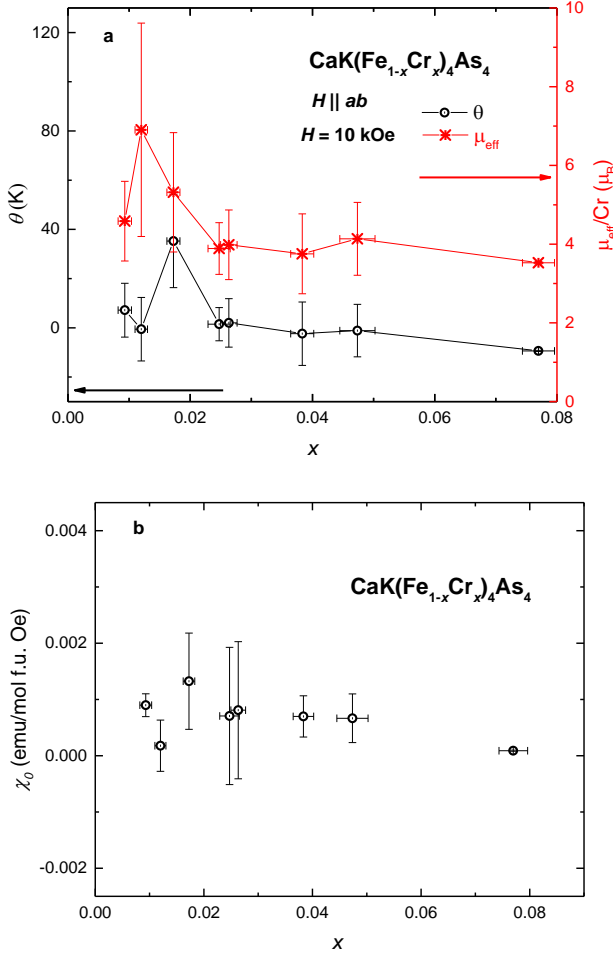


Figure 18: (a) shows Curie-Weiss temperature,  $\theta$ , effective moment,  $\mu_{eff}$ , obtained from Curie-Weiss fit to the difference magnetization ( $\Delta M'$ ) between  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals as a function of temperature for with a field of 10 kOe applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane. (b) shows temperature-independent susceptibility,  $\chi_0$ .

The magnetization plots shown in figure 4 have the appearance of Curie-Weiss tails potentially associated with the Cr-substitution. We fit the magnetization difference ( $\Delta M'$ ) between  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  and  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals as a function of temperature from 20 K above  $T_c$  to 250 K with a field of 10 kOe applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane by a  $C/(T+\theta) + \chi_0$  function assuming that tail behavior is only due to Cr. Figure 18 shows the result of fitting. The value of  $\mu_{eff}$  is around  $4 \mu_B$ . The fitting results comes from at least 4 different samples  $M(T)$  measurements. The values of  $\theta$ ,  $\mu_{eff}$  and  $\chi_0$  become more stable after  $x = 0.17$ . Instability for small substitution levels may come from difficulty

of fitting small tail-like contribution and when  $x = 0.005$ , there is no clear tail shown.

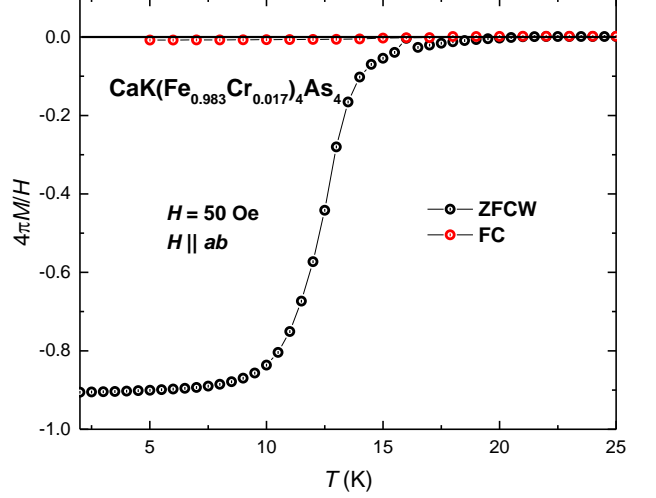


Figure 19: Zero-field-cooled-warming (ZFCW) and Field-cooled (FC) low temperature magnetization as a function of temperature for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with a field of 50 Oe applied parallel to the crystallographic  $ab$  plane.  $M$  is the volumetric magnetic moment with cgs unit  $\text{emu cm}^{-3}$  or Oe.

Figure 19 shows Zero-field-cooled-warming (ZFCW) and Field-cooled-warming (FC) low temperature magnetization as a function of temperature for  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{0.983}\text{Cr}_{0.017})_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with a field of 50 Oe applied parallel to  $ab$  plane. The large difference between ZFCW and FCW is consistent with the large pinning found even in pure  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ [60].

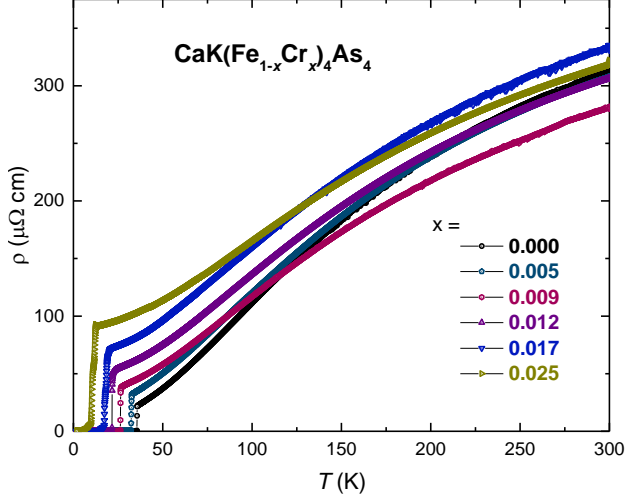


Figure 20: Temperature dependence of Resistivity,  $\rho$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals showing the suppression of the superconducting transition  $T_c$ .

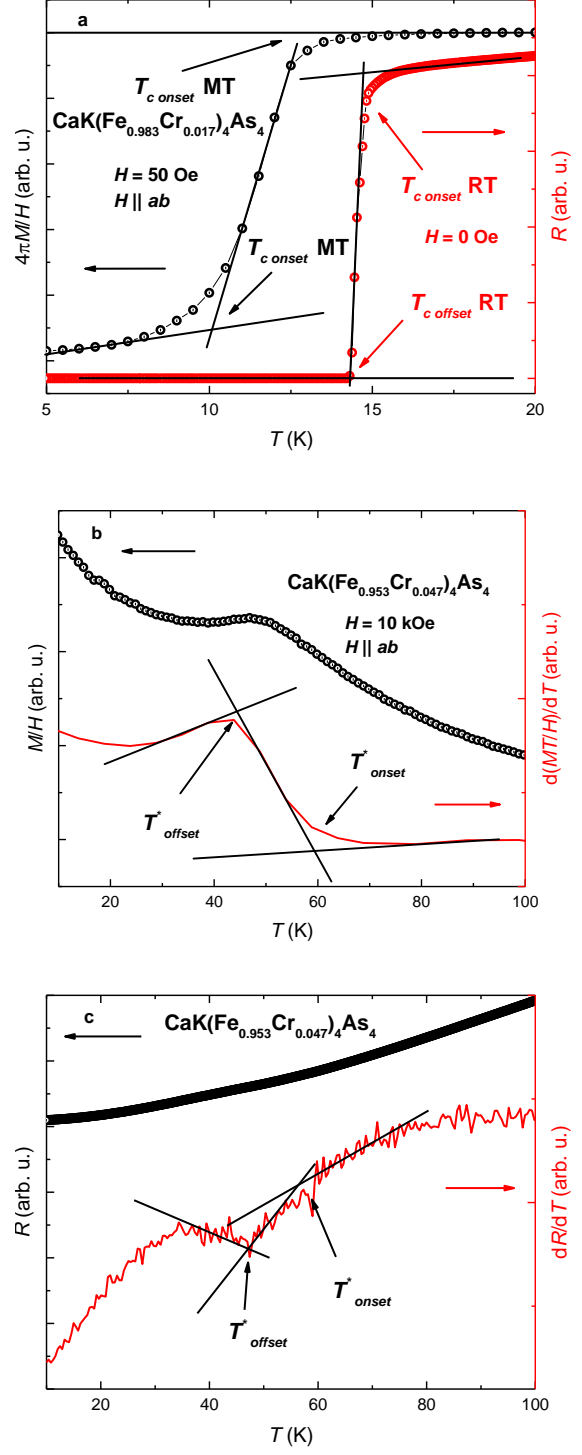


Figure 21: Onset and offset criteria for  $T_c$  and  $T^*$  based on magnetization and resistance measurement.

Figure 20 shows temperature dependence of resistivity,  $\rho$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with  $x < 0.38$ . Thickness is estimated by the density of pure  $\text{CaKFe}_4\text{As}_4$ , the mass and area of plate-like samples. The superconducting transition temperature is suppressed and resistivity before  $T_c$  is increased by increasing substitution. Given the inevitably large geometric errors associated with the precised determination of length between voltage contacts as well as the sample thickness we consider the uncertainty in our resistivity values to be on the order of 20% and, as such we plot the data as  $R(T)/R(300\text{ K})$  in the main text.

Criteria for inferring  $T_c$  and  $T^*$  are shown in figure 21. For  $T_c$  (figure 21a) we use an onset criterion for  $M(T)$  data and an offset criterion for  $R(T)$  data. As is often the case, these criteria agree well, especially in the low



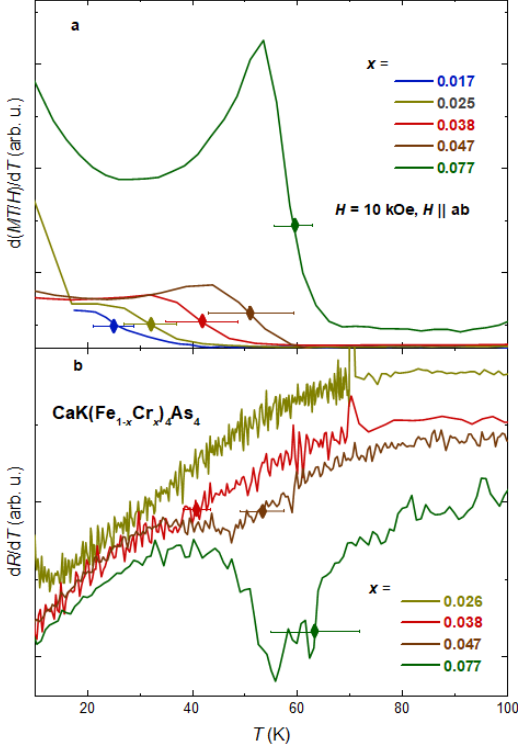


Figure 22: The  $T^*$  anomaly appears clearly as a step in both plot  $d(MT/H)/dT$  and the derivative of resistance,  $dR/dT$ . Only the data above  $T_c$  are plotted. Rhombuses symbols show the transition temperature of  $T^*$  and error bars come from the criteria introduced above.

field limit. The error bar of  $T_c$  is determined by the half of difference between onset and offset. Since according to the [36],  $d(\chi T)/dT$ ,  $d(\rho)/dT$  behave like  $C_p$  which gives transition temperature between onset and offset points, we use average of onset and offset value of  $d(\chi T)/dT$  and  $d(\rho)/dT$  as  $T^*$ . For  $T^*$ , although the feature is much clearer for Cr substitution than it was for Mn, Ni or Co substitutions [18, 21], the features in  $M(T)$  and  $R(T)$  are still somewhat subtle in low substitution level. We infer  $T^*$  as the average of onset and offset value and use the half of the difference between onset and offset as the error.

$dR(T)/dT$  and  $dM(T)/dT$  data for several different  $x$ -values are shown in figure 22, showing good agreement between the position of the  $T^*$  features.

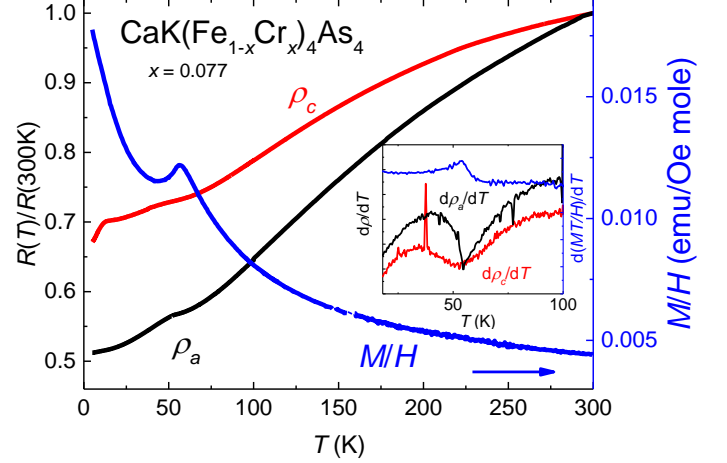


Figure 23: Temperature dependence of normalized resistance,  $R(T)/R(300\text{ K})$ , of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals with  $x = 0.077$  for electrical currents along  $a$ -axis (black) and along  $c$ -axis (red). Magnetic susceptibility shows clearly distinguished anomaly, similar to the features observed in raw resistivity data for both current directions. Inset shows resistivity derivatives plotted against  $d(MT/H)/dT$  (blue). The onset of the feature in the  $d(MT/H)/dT$  curve at  $\sim 50\text{ K}$  is accompanied by the clear feature in both  $c$ - and  $a$ -axis resistivity derivative.

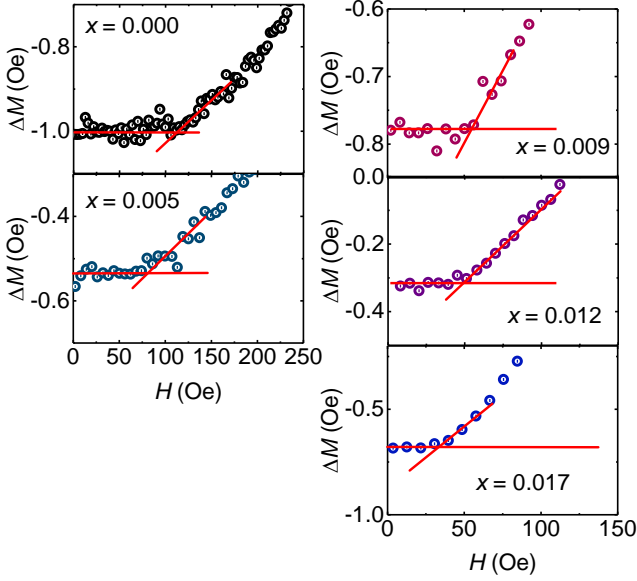


Figure 24: The criterion to determine the  $H_{c1}$  values for different substitutions. Remnant field of measurements are smaller than 1 Oe. Demagnetization was performed at 60 K and then samples were cooled in zero field to 2 K to minimize the remnant magnetic field.

Figure 24 shows the criterion used to determine the  $H_{c1}$  values for the samples with different substitutions levels. We average at least four  $H_{c1}$  values from the different samples of the same substitution level.

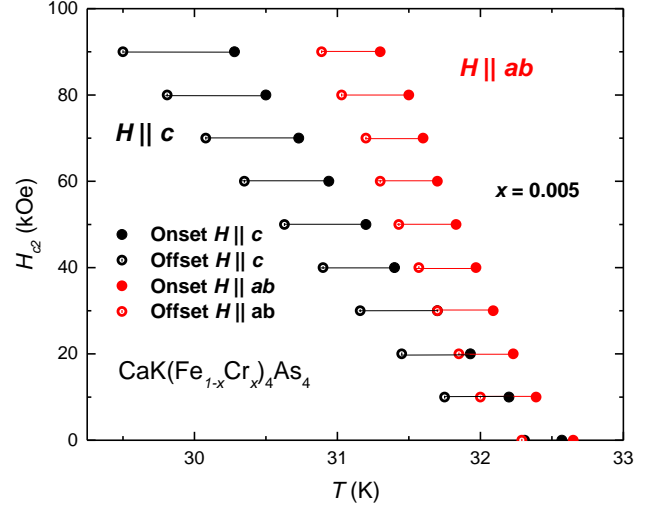


Figure 25: Anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  data determined for two single crystalline samples of  $x_{EDS}=0.005$   $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  using onset criterion (solid) and offset criterion (hollow) inferred from the temperature-dependent electrical resistance data.

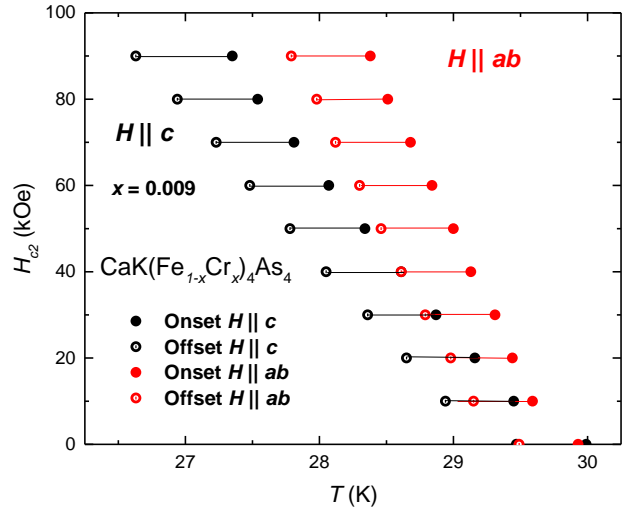


Figure 26: Anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  data determined for two single crystalline samples of  $x_{EDS}=0.009$   $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  using onset criterion (solid) and offset criterion (hollow) inferred from the temperature-dependent electrical resistance data.

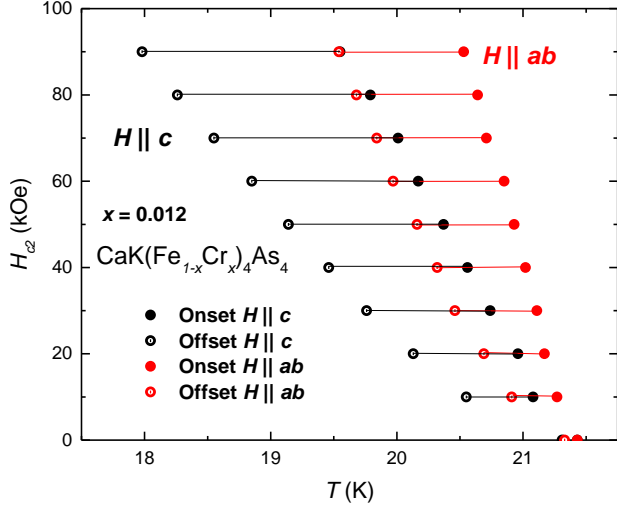


Figure 27: Anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  data determined for two single crystalline samples of  $x_{EDS}=0.012$   $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  using onset criterion (solid) and offset criterion (hollow) inferred from the temperature-dependent electrical resistance data.

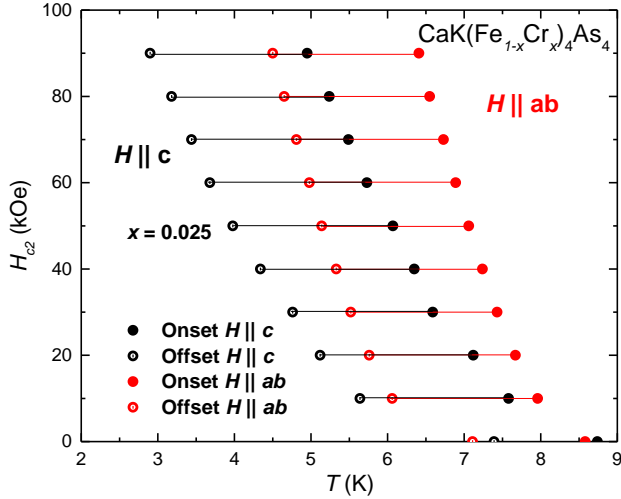


Figure 28: Anisotropic  $H_{c2}(T)$  data determined for two single crystalline samples of  $x_{EDS}=0.025$   $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  using onset criterion (solid) and offset criterion (hollow) inferred from the temperature-dependent electrical resistance data.

Figures 25 - 28 present  $H_{c2}(T)$  curves which is obtained from  $R(T)$  data for fixed applied fields and the criteria shown in Figs 12a of  $\text{CaK}(\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x)_4\text{As}_4$  single crystals for  $x = 0.005, 0.009, 0.012, 0.017$  and  $0.025$ .