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*Conferencias de divulgación científica de la Real Sociedad Española de Física en colaboración con la Fundación Ramón Areces  
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# ***What is superconductivity?***

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***Miércoles 23 de enero de 2019, 12.30 h.***

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## ***Abstract***

The phenomenon of superconductivity has been known for more than a century, but it is only fairly recently that it has been found to occur under conditions not so different from those of everyday life; it is a spectacular manifestation of the bizarre properties of “elementary” particles such as electrons. I will describe and illustrate the strange behavior of a metal in the superconducting state, endeavor to present an explanation at a nontechnical level and review some current and potential practical applications.