Strange metal without magnetic instability in $\beta$–YbAlB$_4$

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Many prototypical quantum critical materials found within the class of 4$f$ heavy fermion compounds are known to have an almost integral valence and appear at the border of magnetism. An exception to this rule was recently discovered in $\beta$–YbAlB$_4$, which exhibits quantum criticality despite strong mixed valency.$^{1,2}$ Ultrapure single crystals of this material exhibit intrinsically singular thermodynamic and transport behaviors, which are extremely sensitive to a magnetic field.$^{3,4,5}$ In particular, $T/B$ scaling of the magnetization has been observed over four decades of $T/B$, projected to extend down to fields as small as 0.1 mT. In this talk, we will discuss our results on the zero field criticality by the $T/B$ scaling in a broad regime of $T$ and $B$,$^6$ and through an extensive series of pressure measurements.$^7$ We will show that the intrinsic quantum criticality of YbAlB$_4$ occupies an extended region of pressure, indicating a formation of a phase. Furthermore, we will present that the strange metal region is clearly surrounded and separated from a high-pressure magnetic instability by a finite pressure range of Fermi liquid behavior.

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5M. Sutherland et al., arXiv:1408.0033
7T. Tomita et al., preprint