Abstract Submitted for the MAR17 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Heat transport by delocalized spin excitations in SmB_6 MICHAEL SUTHERLAND, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University, UK, WILL TOEWS, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Waterloo, Canada, XIAOYE CHEN, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University, UK, M. CIOMAGA HATNEAN, G BALAKRISHNAN, Department of Physics, University of Warwick, UK, Y.T. HSU, SUCHITRA SEBASTIAN, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University, UK, ROB HILL, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Waterloo, Canada — Measurements of thermal conductivity at low temperatures may offer insights into the low-energy landscape of excitations in the bulk of a material. Here we report thermal transport data in the canonical Kondo insulator, SmB₆. In zero magnetic field, we find that the heat transport below T=1 K can be entirely accounted for by phonons, consistent with an insulating state with no long-range magnetic order. With the application of a magnetic field however, new heat carriers are introduced which are neither electrons nor phonons. We discuss these results within the framework of delocalized spin excitations, supporting a gapping of the charge, but not the spin degrees of freedom in the bulk of SmB_6 .

> Michael Sutherland Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University, UK

Date submitted: 11 Nov 2016

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