

Abstract Submitted
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Phonon Drag in InSb: Theory and “spin”-motive force STEWART

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phonon number operator $\hat{n} \rightarrow \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$ defines the Euler angle θ and with the phase ϕ
this maps to a precessing spin. Defined are a “spin” Berry phase and a “spin”-motive
force (smf)[1]. Unlike an emf, an smf can act upon neutral phonons. Tradition[2]
has sub-thermal phonons as central to the thermopower of semi-conductors. The
momentum given to these phonons, by the temperature gradient, is transferred to the
electrons by “drag” where it cancels a Seebeck effect electric field \vec{E} . Here, for InSb
at low temperatures, thermal phonons actually relax momentum via boundary and
umklapp scattering and energy conservation involves sub-thermal phonons, created
by anharmonic effects, with a frequency $\hbar\omega_{\vec{q}} \sim k_B(dT/dx)\ell$ where ℓ is the phonon
mean-free-path (mfp). The resulting smf acting upon the thermal phonons produces
a “spin” voltage $\sim (k_B/e)\Delta T \sim 100\mu\text{V}/\text{K}$. Via the electron-phonon interaction, the
smf, multiplied by the ratio ℓ_{ep}/ℓ , where ℓ_{ep} is the electron-phonon mfp, are detected,
but not created by the few electrons in our InSb samples. [1] S. E. Barnes and S.
Maekawa, Phys. Rev. Lett. **98**, 246601 (2007) [2] C. Herring, Phys. Rev. **95**, 954
(1954).

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