

Unveiling Exotic Quantum Phenomena in Ternary Metal Pnictide-Based Intermetallics: Probing Topological States through Quantum Oscillations

This study investigates transport and magnetic properties of rare-earth pnictides (RETPn₂). Measurements show anisotropic, linear, nonsaturating giant magnetoresistance up to 2500% at 2 K. Hall data reveal multiband transport with electrons and high-mobility holes ($\sim 85,000 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$), indicating nontrivial fermiology driven by nonsymmorphic symmetry in this quantum material.

Layered pnictides containing Bi/Sb square nets have attracted significant attention as a class of materials hosting relativistic fermions. In compounds like AMnBi₂ and AMnSb₂ (A = Ca, Sr, Ba, Eu), the interplay of magnetism and spin-orbit coupling can break time-reversal symmetry and generate Weyl states. RAgBi₂ and RAgSb₂ compounds, featuring antiferromagnetic ordering at low temperatures. Their tunable magnetic and electronic properties make them ideal systems for exploring Dirac fermions coupled with rare-earth magnetism. The in-plane resistivity $\rho(T)$ of RAgBi₂ exhibits metallic behavior over the entire temperature range (300–2 K). A clear anomaly is observed near the Néel temperature ($T_n \approx 11 \text{ K}$), where resistivity drops sharply due to the suppression of spin-disorder scattering associated with antiferromagnetic ordering. The low residual resistivity ($\sim 0.76 \mu\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$) and high residual resistivity ratio (RRR ≈ 126) indicate excellent crystal quality. Magnetoresistance (MR) is large, anisotropic, and nonsaturating, reaching $\sim 2500\%$ for $H \parallel c$ and $\sim 1200\%$ for $H \parallel ab$ at 2 K. It shows an approximately linear dependence on magnetic field and decreases with increasing temperature. This behavior is consistent with Abrikosov quantum linear

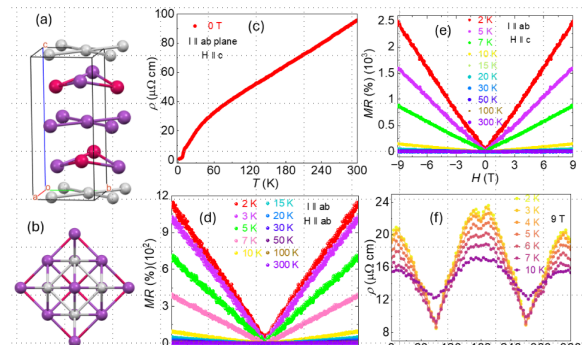


Fig. 1 (a) Layered tetragonal crystal structure of REAgPn₃ with square-net planes. (b) Top view of the square-net lattice. (c) Zero field in-plane resistivity $\rho(T)$ from 2-300 K temperature. (d, e) Magnetoresistance for both $H \parallel ab$ and $H \parallel c$ field orientation. (f) Angular resistivity shows anisotropic magnetoresistance.

magnetoresistance, suggesting the presence of Dirac-like carriers. Hall resistivity measurements confirm multiband transport, with hole-dominated conduction at high fields and nonlinear behavior at low fields indicating contributions from both electrons and holes. Analysis reveals high hole mobility ($\sim 10^4$ – $10^5 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$), supporting a semimetallic state with Dirac-like electronic behavior.

References

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