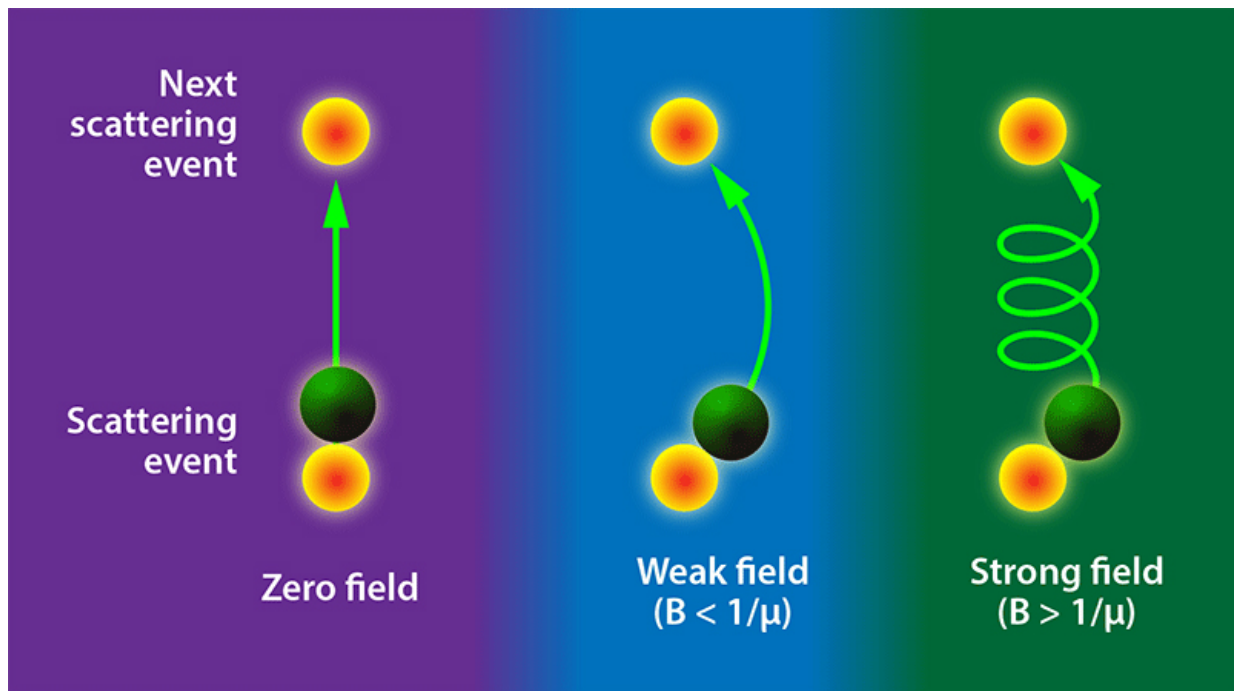


Scientists gain insight into origin of tungsten-ditelluride's magnetoresistance

October 20 2015, by Angela Hardin



A team of researchers from Argonne's Materials Science Division and Northern Illinois University, working collaboratively with researchers at Argonne's Center for Nanoscale Materials, report two new findings on WTe_2 : (1) WTe_2 is electronically 3-D with a mass anisotropy as low as 2, and (2) the mass anisotropy varies with temperature and follows the magnetoresistance behavior of the Fermi liquid state. The results not only provide a general scaling approach for the anisotropic magnetoresistance but also are crucial for correctly understanding the electronic properties of WTe_2 , including the origin of the remarkable "turn-on" behavior in the resistance versus temperature curve, which has been widely observed in many materials and assumed to be a metal-insulator transition. Credit: Argonne National Laboratory

Scientists recently discovered that tungsten ditelluride (WTe_2) is electronically three-dimensional with a low anisotropy. Anisotropy reflects the change in properties of a material when the direction of the current or the applied magnetic field is varied.

Similar to graphite consisting of weakly bound graphene layers, WTe_2 is a layered material that could be reduced to few layers in thickness or a monolayer and be used in making [nanoscale transistors](#) in other electronics. The material was originally thought to be two-dimensional in nature because of the ease with which its layers could be separated.

WTe_2 has been the subject of increased scientific interest since a 2014 research study outlined its unusual magnetoresistance, which is the ability of a material to change the value of its electrical resistance when subjected to an external [magnetic field](#).

This particular finding "is interesting in its own right because it shows that the mechanical and electrical properties of a material are not always as closely linked as we may assume," wrote Kamran Behnia, director of quantum matter research at Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, in an opinion piece on the latest research discovery about WTe_2 published in journal [Physics](#), which provides news and commentary on select papers from American Physical Society journals.

Researchers also discovered that the [anisotropy](#) of WTe_2 varies and displays the magnetoresistance behavior of the Fermi liquid state, which is a theoretical model that describes the normal state of most metals at sufficiently low temperatures.

"In addition to its small values, we found that the anisotropy also varies with temperature and follows the magnetoresistance behavior. This

implies a possible temperature induced change in the electronic structure of this material," said Argonne's Zhili Xiao, who led this research. "These findings are important for accurately understanding the electronic properties of WTe_2 and other extremely magnetoresistance [materials](#)."

More information: L. R. Thoutam et al. Temperature-Dependent Three-Dimensional Anisotropy of the Magnetoresistance in , *Physical Review Letters* (2015). [DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.115.046602](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.115.046602)

Provided by Argonne National Laboratory

Citation: Scientists gain insight into origin of tungsten-ditelluride's magnetoresistance (2015, October 20) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-10-scientists-gain-insight-tungsten-ditelluride-magnetoresistance.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
