

Tracking anisotropic scattering in overdoped $Tl_2Ba_2CuO_{6+\delta}$ above 100 K

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Abstract. The present paper describes new polar angle-dependent magneto-resistance (ADMR) measurements in the overdoped cuprate $Tl_2Ba_2CuO_{6+\delta}$ over an expanded range of temperatures and azimuthal angles. These detailed measurements re-affirm the analysis of earlier data taken over a more restricted temperature range and at a single azimuthal orientation, in particular the delineation of the intraplane scattering rate into isotropic and anisotropic components. These new measurements also reveal additional features in the temperature and momentum dependence of the scattering rate, including anisotropy in the T^2 component and the preservation of both the T -linear and T^2 components up to 100 K. The resultant form of the scattering rate places firm constraints on the development of any forthcoming theoretical framework for the normal state charge response of high-temperature superconducting cuprates.

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1. Introduction

Accepting the adage ‘what scatters may also pair’, one might consider electrical resistivity a simple, albeit crude, experimental probe of the pairing mechanism in a superconductor. Certainly in conventional BCS superconductors, the strength of the electron–phonon (e–ph) coupling is reflected in the magnitude of the normal state resistivity, or more precisely, the strength of the transport scattering rate $1/\tau$. At elevated temperatures, where the resistivity is T -linear, $1/\tau$ is directly proportional to the transport e–ph coupling constant $\lambda_{\text{e-ph}}$. The superconducting transition temperature T_c on the other hand is parameterized by the e–ph mass enhancement factor λ via the BCS or McMillan formula. In elemental metals, λ and $\lambda_{\text{e-ph}}$ are comparable [1] though this is not always the case.

In high- T_c superconducting cuprates (HTSC), a robust T -linear in-plane resistivity $\rho_{ab}(T)$, extending in some cases up to 1000 K [2], is manifest only at or around optimal doping [3]. In this sense, just as in conventional superconductors, there appears an intimate correlation between the normal state resistivity and the superconductivity. The high values of $\rho_{ab}(T)$, the d-wave pairing symmetry, proximity to the antiferromagnetic Mott insulating state and the distinct power laws of $\rho_{ab}(T)$ and the inverse Hall angle $\cot\theta_H(T)$ [4] however all point towards a non-phononic origin of the T -linear resistivity in HTSC. While many proposals have been put forward, the origin of this and the other anomalous transport properties in HTSC remains a profound theoretical challenge.

Alongside certain spectroscopic probes that have been applied to address the riddle of the normal state transport in HTSC, including angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES), Raman scattering and optical conductivity, angle-dependent magnetoresistance (ADMR) has emerged in recent years as a powerful ally. In a strong magnetic field H (or more precisely, when the product of the cyclotron frequency and scattering time $\omega_c\tau \sim 1$), the interlayer resistivity ρ_{\perp} of a quasi-two-dimensional (Q2D) metal oscillates as H is rotated in a polar plane relative to the conducting layers [5]. Maxima in ρ_{\perp} occur when the velocity perpendicular to the layers v_{\perp} , averaged over its trajectories on the Fermi surface (FS), is zero. Measurements of polar ADMR at different azimuthal angles φ were used originally to determine the size and shape of FS of various anisotropic (layered) metals with long mean-free-paths at very low temperatures [6, 7]. Recent advances in both magnetic field technology and analytical techniques, however, have widened the scope of ADMR to encompass less pure, correlated

metals with shorter mean-free-paths [8, 9], weakly incoherent metals [10] and with specific reference to the cuprates, anisotropic scattering rates [11]–[13].

ADMR should not be confused with Shubnikov–de Haas (SdH) magnetoresistance oscillations, which occur when the magnitude, and not the orientation, of the magnetic field is changed. Unlike SdH oscillations, the observation of ADMR is not impaired by the thermal damping of the quasiparticles (other than through the reduction in $\omega_c \tau$). Thus, provided that $\omega_c \tau$ is large enough, ADMR measurements can be made over a much broader temperature range than SdH.

The introduction of a T -dependent scattering rate anisotropy into the analysis of ADMR had previously been applied successfully to an overdoped $\text{Ti}_2\text{Ba}_2\text{CuO}_{6+\delta}$ (Ti2201) single crystal ($T_c \sim 15$ K) at one fixed azimuthal angle over a temperature range $4.2 \text{ K} \leq T \leq 55 \text{ K}$ [11]. These measurements revealed for the first time different components of the in-plane transport scattering rate $\Gamma(T, \mathbf{k})$, one isotropic and quadratic in T , the other anisotropic, maximal near the saddle points at $(\pi, 0)$ and proportional to T [11]. Significantly, the deduced form of the scattering rate provided a consistent description of the in-plane resistivity and Hall effect, albeit over a relatively narrow temperature range.

In this contribution, we describe further ADMR measurements in heavily overdoped Ti2201 over an expanded range of temperatures (up to 110 K) and at several azimuthal angles. These detailed measurements demonstrate clearly that the conclusions of those earlier measurements were robust and that the delineation of the intraplane scattering rate in Ti2201 into these two distinct components, with only minor modifications, is entirely appropriate. We discuss possible origins of the anomalous, anisotropic T -linear scattering rate and its possible relevance to high-temperature superconductivity.

2. Experiment and results

Three self-flux grown crystals [14] (typical dimensions $0.3 \times 0.3 \times 0.03 \text{ mm}^3$) were annealed at temperatures 300–360 °C in flowing O_2 and mounted in a c -axis quasi-Montgomery configuration. ADMR were measured on a two-axis rotator in the 45 tesla hybrid magnet at the NHMFL in Florida using a conventional four-probe ac lock-in technique. The orientation of the crystal faces was indexed for selected crystals using a single crystal x-ray diffractometer.

Figure 1 shows polar ADMR data, plotted as $\Delta\rho_{\perp}/\rho_{\perp}(0)$ (i.e. normalized to their zero-field value), for three different crystals, Ti15, Ti17 and Ti20 K (the numbers referring to their respective T_c values) taken at up to five different azimuthal angles φ (relative to the Cu–O–Cu bond direction) and different temperatures up to 110 K. All data were obtained in an applied magnetic field of 45 tesla. The coloured circles are the actual data while the thin (coloured) solid lines represent fits to the data using the formalism described below. The small asymmetry around $\theta = 0$ arises from slight misalignment of the crystalline c -axis with respect to the rotational platform which is incorporated into our model with negligible impact on the parameters obtained.

The reproducibility of the ADMR response in Ti2201 for different crystals is demonstrably illustrated in this series of panels. Clear azimuthal dependence of the polar ADMR sweeps can be seen in all crystals up to 90 K, and is resolvable, though not visible perhaps in this figure, at $T = 110$ K. To our knowledge, this is the highest recorded temperature at which ADMR measurements have been reported and highlights the unique advantage of this technique over SdH oscillations in allowing one to extract from the data useful information on the evolution

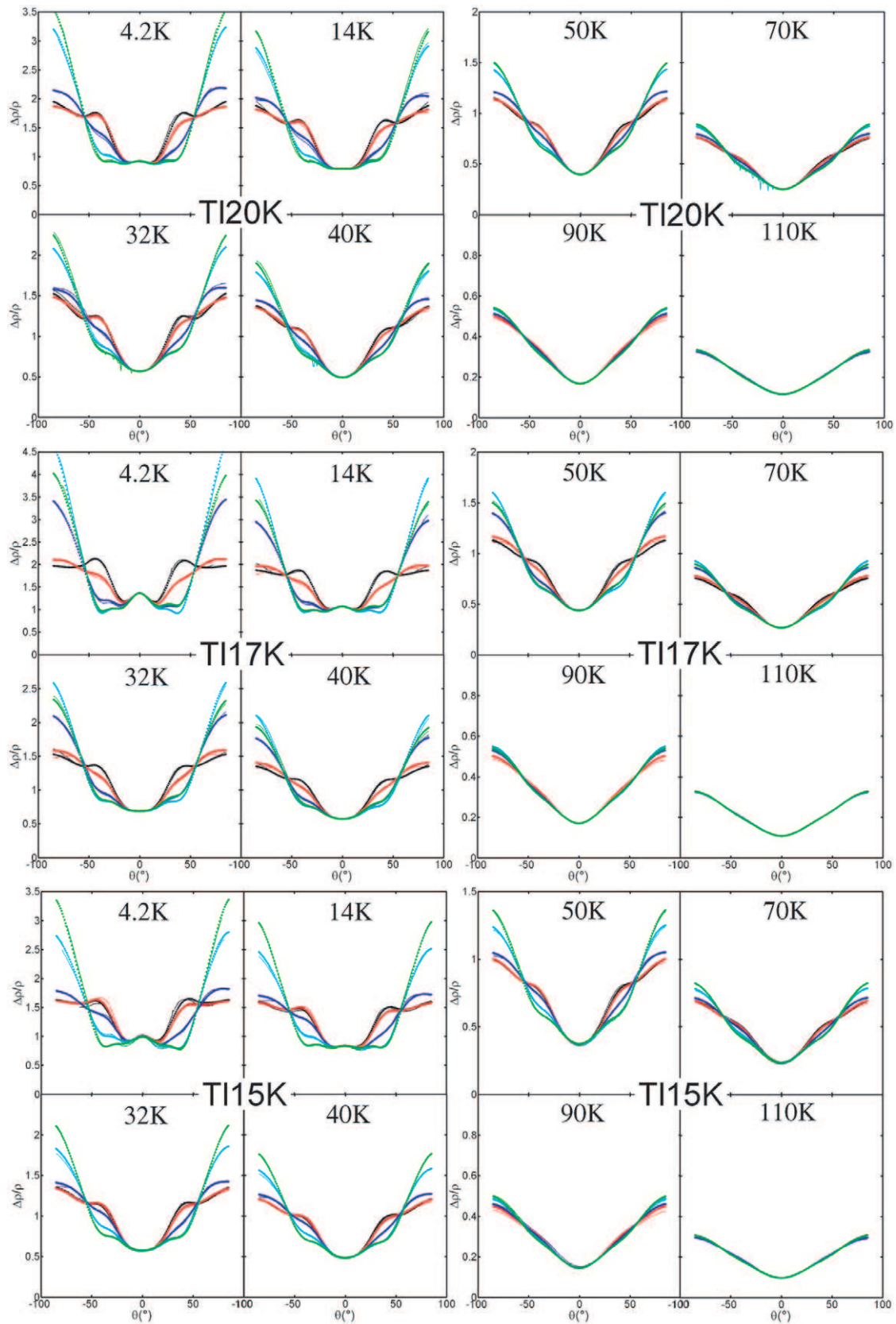


Figure 1. For caption see the following page.

Figure 1. Temperature-dependent ADMR measurements at $\mu_0 H = 45$ tesla on three overdoped Tl2201 single crystals with comparable T_c values. The coloured circles are the actual polar ADMR data points, the different colours representing the different azimuthal angles relative to the Cu–O–Cu bond direction at which the data were taken. Tl15K—black $\phi = -3^\circ$, red $\phi = 7^\circ$, dark blue $\phi = 20^\circ$, light blue $\phi = 33^\circ$ and green $\phi = 43^\circ$. Tl20K—black $\phi = -2^\circ$, red $\phi = 8^\circ$, dark blue $\phi = 21^\circ$, light blue $\phi = 34^\circ$ and green $\phi = 44^\circ$. Tl17K—black $\phi = 8^\circ$, red $\phi = 18^\circ$, dark blue $\phi = 32^\circ$, light blue $\phi = 45^\circ$ and green $\phi = 55^\circ$. The thin solid lines represent the fits to the Shockley-Chambers tube integral formalism incorporating anisotropic scattering.

Table 1. FS parameters obtained from the least-squared fitting of 4.2 K ADMR data for the three different Tl2201 crystals shown in figure 1.

Sample	$k_{00}(\text{\AA}^{-1})$	k_{40}	k_{61}/k_{21}	k_{101}/k_{21}
Tl20K	0.728	0.033	0.646	-0.306
Tl17K	0.729	0.034	0.698	-0.258
Tl15K	0.730	0.032	0.711	-0.249

of physical parameters with temperature. The 100 K landmark is also significant in that it demonstrates that ADMR measurements may eventually be observed in optimally doped Tl2201 ($T_c \sim 90$ K). Finally, as will be discussed in more detail below, the quality of the fits for what is a fixed (i.e. T -independent) FS parameterization illustrates how robustly one can track the evolution of other relevant T -dependent quantities from ADMR.

3. Fermi surface parameterization

In order to analyse the data, we carried out a least-square fitting using the Shockley-Chambers tube integral form of the Boltzmann transport equation modified for a Q2D metal with a fourfold anisotropic scattering rate $1/\tau(\psi) = (1 + \alpha \cos 4\psi)/\tau_0$ and anisotropic in-plane velocity $v_F(\psi)$, incorporated via $1/\omega_c(\psi) = (1 + \beta \cos 4\psi)/\omega_0$ [11]–[13]. The sign of α (β) defines the location of maximal scattering (density of states), respectively. The FS wave vector $k_F(\theta, \phi)$ is parameterized by the lowest order harmonic components satisfying the body-centred-tetragonal symmetry of Tl2201 [7, 13]

$$k_F(\theta, \phi) = k_{00}(1 - k_{40} \cos 4\phi) - k_{21} \cos(k_z c/2) \sin 2\phi - k_{61} \cos(k_z c/2) \sin 6\phi - k_{101} \cos(k_z c/2) \sin 10\phi, \quad (1)$$

where k_z is the c -axis wave vector and c the interlayer spacing. Note that the c -axis warping parameters k_{21} , k_{61} and k_{101} are small compared to k_{00} , the radius of the cylindrical FS (about the zone corners), and k_{40} , its in-plane squareness, and only ratios (e.g. k_{61}/k_{21}) can be determined to good accuracy. β depends largely on our choice of k_{61}/k_{21} with the best least-square values giving $\beta = 0 \pm 0.1$ for $0.6 \leq k_{61}/k_{21} \leq 0.8$ [13]. The sum $\alpha + \beta$ is

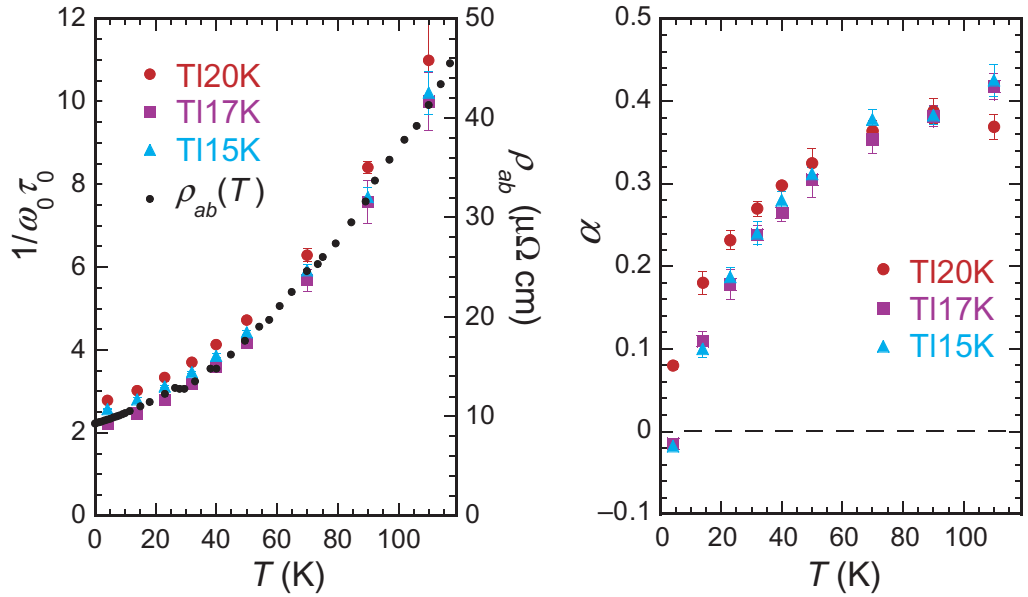


Figure 2. Temperature dependence of $1/\omega_0\tau_0$ and α obtained from the ADMR measurements shown in figure 1. The black dots in the left-hand panel refer to resistivity data on a TI2201 crystal with a similar T_c [18]. The $\rho_{ab}(T)$ values have been shifted by $+3 \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$ to coincide with $1/\omega_0\tau_0$. Note too that the superconductivity in this crystal has been suppressed by a magnetic field.

much less sensitive to variations in k_{61}/k_{21} and for simplicity (and to reduce the number of free parameters), we assume hereafter $\omega_c(\varphi) = \omega_0$. This has only a negligible effect on the quality of the fits or the other fitting parameters. We also fix k_{00} using the empirical relation $T_c/T_c^{\max} = 1 - 82.6(p - 0.16)^2$ with $T_c^{\max} = 92 \text{ K}$ and $(\pi k_{00}^2)/(2\pi/a)^2 = (1 + p)/2$ [15] which agrees extremely well with values obtained from recent de Haas–van Alphen (dHvA) and SdH measurements [16]. The initial fit for each sample was performed on the lowest temperature data (4.2 K). The values for the parameters k_{40} , k_{61} and k_{101} from this initial fit were then kept fixed for all elevated temperatures with only $\omega_0\tau_0$ and γ as free parameters.

The best fits, shown overlayed on the data, are all excellent and the parameters (listed in table 1) appear well constrained due to the wide range of polar and azimuthal angles and temperatures studied. Moreover, the projected in-plane FS is found to be in excellent agreement with a recent ARPES study on the same compound [17].

4. Temperature dependence of the anisotropic scattering

It is clear from figure 1 that the same FS parameterization can fit the experimental ADMR data in overdoped TI2201 at all azimuthal angles studied and at all temperatures up to 110 K. The addition of the T dependent anisotropy factor α is thus a simple and elegant way to track the evolution of the ADMR with increasing temperature. Figure 2 shows the T dependence of $1/\omega_0\tau_0$ (left panel) and α (right panel) for the three crystals extracted from the fits shown in figure 1. Good consistency is found between all three crystals; α is found to increase from a value close to zero, tending towards a constant value around 0.4 at high temperatures. The sign

of α signifies that the maxima in both the linear and quadratic components of $1/\tau(\varphi)$ occur near the Brillouin-zone boundary where the superconducting gap (and the pseudogap in more underdoped cuprates) is maximal.

The value of $1/\omega_0\tau_0$ at $T = 0$ corresponds to $\omega_c\tau = 0.45$ at $\mu_0H = 45$ tesla. Taking the value for the effective mass ($m^* \sim 4.5 m_e$) of overdoped Tl2201 from recent quantum oscillation experiments [16], we obtain an estimate for the momentum-averaged zero-temperature impurity scattering rate $\hbar/\tau(0) \simeq 3$ meV. This is at least one order of magnitude less than that obtained for the single-particle scattering rate $\Gamma(0)$ from ARPES [17]. It is also significantly lower than the interplane hopping integral t_\perp estimated from the electrical resistivity anisotropy, implying that interplane transport in overdoped Tl2201 is coherent, at least at low temperatures. Finally, as shown in the left panel, the T dependence of $1/\omega_0\tau_0$ tracks that of the in-plane resistivity $\rho_{ab}(T)$, measured on a crystal from the same batch [18], over the full temperature range. This observation confirms that the inclusion of $\alpha(T)$ in the fitting procedure does not introduce any additional T dependence in $1/\tau(T)$.

As done previously [11], we use a simple trigonometric identity to split $1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi)$ into two components, one without φ dependence ($\gamma_{\text{iso}} = (1 - \alpha)/\omega_0\tau_0$) and one with ($\gamma_{\text{aniso}} = 2\alpha/\omega_0\tau_0 \times \cos^2 2\varphi$). The top two panels of figure 3 show the resultant T dependence of γ_{iso} (top panel) and γ_{aniso} (middle panel) for the three crystals studied. Also shown for comparison (open diamonds) are the corresponding values derived from the original ADMR measurements carried out at a fixed azimuthal angle [11]. It is noteworthy that the parameters extracted from an individual polar sweep are entirely consistent with those more tightly constrained by multiple sweeps performed at different φ . This consistency demonstrates that once the size and topology of the FS have been determined at low T , subsequent parameterization at any intermediate temperature can be obtained from a single polar angle sweep.

The distinct T dependencies of γ_{iso} and γ_{aniso} are evident from this figure. As indicated by the dashed lines in the top panel, the isotropic component is well fitted by the expression $\gamma_{\text{iso}} = A + BT^2$ implying a combination of impurity and fermion–fermion scattering. The quadratic form of $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T)$ extends up to 100 K, a significant fraction of the Fermi energy in Tl2201 (~ 0.4 eV [16]). While this may seem surprising, we note that T^2 resistivities extending over tens of kelvin have been reported in a number of correlated oxides, including non-superconducting cuprates [19, 20], ruthenates [21], rhodates [22] and titanates [23].

In contrast to $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T)$, $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ has a negligible intercept at $T = 0$ K, implying that there is no anisotropy in the impurity scattering rate, or rather, that the isotropic- ℓ approximation is obeyed in overdoped Tl2201 at low temperatures. This contrasts with the case in overdoped LSCO where recent analysis of the Hall effect and ARPES revealed a striking (>3) anisotropy in the impurity scattering rate [24] attributed to small-angle scattering off out-of-plane Sr substitutional disorder. [25]. In Tl2201, defects also reside predominantly out of the plane, either as Cu substitution on the Tl site, or as interstitial oxygen. However, strong next-nearest-neighbour hopping in Tl2201 gives rise to an approximately square-shaped FS (see figure 3) which crosses the Brillouin-zone boundary far from the extended saddle point near $(\pi, 0)$. In LSCO by contrast, t'/t is smaller and as a result, the FS is more diamond-shaped and for similar filling factors, the FS is pushed closer to the van Hove singularity at $(\pi, 0)$. As a result, the basal plane anisotropy in the density of states in LSCO [26] is almost one order of magnitude larger than in Tl2201 [17], leading to a very different anisotropy in $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(0)$.

Below 50 K, γ_{aniso} is dominated by a robust T -linear component. At higher T , $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ develops slight upward curvature. A fit to a second-order polynomial provides a good

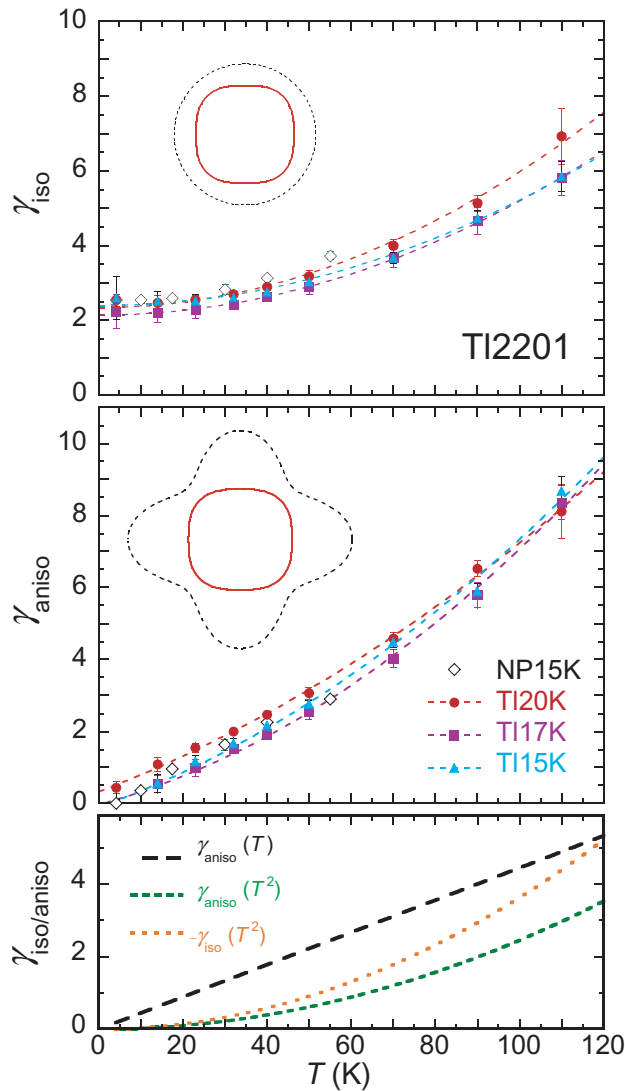


Figure 3. Temperature dependence of the isotropic (top panel) and anisotropic (middle panel) scattering rates determined from the ADMR measurements shown in figure 1. NP15K refers to the sample whose ADMR were measured at a single azimuthal angle [11]. The dashed lines in the top and middle panels are fits to $A + CT^2$ and $A + BT + CT^2$, respectively. The insets in each panel depict the Fermi surface (as red solid lines) and the corresponding scattering rates (as black dashed lines). Bottom panel: components of $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ (black long-dashed lines and green short-dashed lines) and $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T)$ (orange dots) for TI15sK.

description of $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ over the full temperature range studied, as indicated by the dashed lines in the lower panel. This additional T^2 term in $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ was not picked out in the original lower temperature measurements [11] as its contribution to $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ was too small to be significant. The relative magnitudes of the two components of $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ are plotted for TI15K in the bottom panel of figure 3 along with $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T)$. There is roughly 60% anisotropy in the T^2 scattering rate within the basal plane, comparable to the variation in the density of states [17]. While

finite temperature effects (e.g. effects due to broadening of the Fermi distribution function) not included in our Boltzmann analysis may affect the form of $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ and $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T)$ at the highest temperatures⁴, it is worth pointing out that this parameterization provides a consistent description of the transport properties up to 110 K, as discussed in the following section.

It is interesting to compare this form of the transport scattering rate with the single-particle scattering rate $\Gamma(\omega)$ measured by ARPES. In overdoped and near-optimally doped $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_8$ (Bi2212), for example, $\Gamma(\omega)$ along the nodal directions is approximately quadratic over a broad energy range [28, 29]. Coupled with the quadratic temperature dependence of $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T)$, the sole contribution along the zone diagonals, this appears to identify electron–electron (Umklapp) scattering as the principal source of damping for nodal quasiparticles. Away from (π, π) , $\Gamma(\omega)$ develops an additional ω -linear component [28]. In LSCO, this ω -linear term becomes dominant away from the nodes, with a magnitude that displays a $\cos 2\varphi$ dependence reminiscent of what is seen in $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(\varphi)$ [30]. Thus, both T dependent components of $1/\tau$ appear to have a frequency-dependent counterpart in the single particle channel.

5. Comparison with in-plane transport properties

Armed with full FS information and a quantitative determination of the momentum and temperature dependence of the in-plane mean-free-path (via $1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T)$), one can in principle calculate any in-plane transport property since the individual coefficients of the in-plane conductivity tensor [31] can be re-formulated solely in terms of the parameters derived from ADMR. For example, the in-plane resistivity and Hall conductivity can be expressed as

$$1/\rho_{ab}(T) = \sigma_{xx}(T) = \frac{e}{2\pi^2c} \int \frac{k_F^2(\varphi)}{1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T)} d\varphi, \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma_{xy}(T) = \frac{e}{2\pi^2c} \int \frac{k_F^2(\varphi)}{1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T)} \frac{\partial(\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T))}{\partial\varphi} d\varphi, \quad (3)$$

where $1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T)$ is given by its value at $\mu_0H = 1$ tesla. It is important to realize at this stage that inserting $1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T) = (1 + \alpha \cos 4\varphi)/\omega_0\tau_0(T)$ into the above expressions would give *precisely* the same result as if one used $\gamma_{\text{iso}}(T) + \gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$. Hence, for the purposes of simulating the data, the two combinations are equivalent—the latter is being considered the more physical only because both terms can be deconvolved into individual components each obeying an integer power-law T dependence.

Figure 4(a) shows $\rho_{ab}(T)$ as determined for Tl15K from our ADMR analysis, superimposed on the same resistivity data depicted in figure 2 [18]. The form of $\rho_{ab}(T)$, in particular the strong T -linear component below 40 K and the development of supra-linear behaviour above this temperature, is well reproduced by the parameterization. Comparison with figure 3 reveals that $\rho_{ab}(T)$ is largely determined by $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$.

The corresponding in-plane Hall coefficient $R_H(T)$ is shown in figure 4(b). The calculated value of R_H at $T = 0$ is found to be in excellent agreement with the experimental data, confirming that in heavily overdoped Tl2201, the isotropic- ℓ approximation is a good one and

⁴ In this work [27], the authors confirm that including finite temperature effects do not affect the conclusion that there is an anisotropic contribution to the scattering rate in Tl2201.

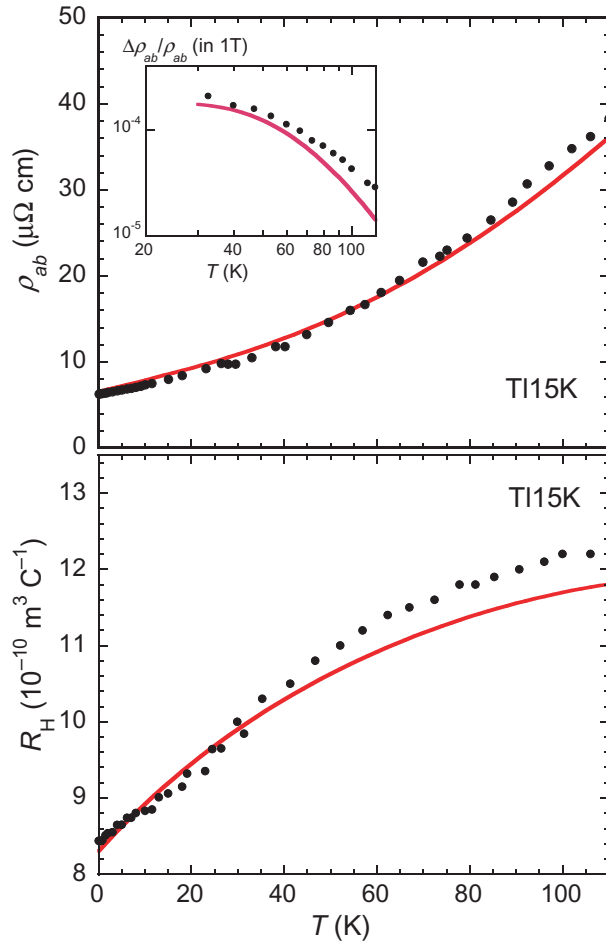


Figure 4. Temperature dependence of the in-plane resistivity (top panel) and in-plane Hall coefficient (bottom panel) for overdoped Tl2201 ($T_c = 15$ K). The black circles are the experimental data taken from [18] while the solid red lines are simulations for Tl15K obtained from the FS parameters displayed in table 1 and the parameters plotted in figure 2 (displaced by $-3 \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$). Inset: corresponding plot of the in-plane magnetoresistance $\Delta\rho_{ab}/\rho_{ab}(T)$ on a log–log scale. Experimental data shown here are for a $T_c = 25$ K sample reported in [32].

that $R_H(0)$ can be estimated directly from the size of the FS. The absolute change in anisotropy in $1/\omega_c\tau(\varphi, T)$ can also account fully for the significant (50%) rise in $R_H(T)$ between 0 and 110 K. Finally, the magnetoresistance $\Delta\rho_{ab}/\rho_{ab}$ (inset in figure 4(a)) is seen to have the correct magnitude and T dependence [32]. Deviations between the data and the simulation are larger here, as one might expect for a second-order galvanometric effect. Overall, the parameterization described in Figure 3 gives an excellent account, not only of the evolution of the ADMR signal (figure 1), but also of the various transport coefficients at this elevated doping level ($p \sim 0.26$). Analysis of other doping concentrations with higher T_c values suggests that discrepancies begin to appear as T_c increases [33], possibly due to the emergence of vertex corrections [34] that manifest themselves only in the in-plane transport [35] and are thus transparent to ADMR.

6. Discussion

The above analysis provides strong evidence that the anomalous transport properties in HTSC are, to a large degree, governed by T -dependent anisotropy in the transport scattering rate. Such anisotropy has been attributed over time to a host of possible scattering mechanisms, such as spin fluctuations [36, 37], charge fluctuations [38], anisotropic e–e (Umklapp) scattering [31, 39] or d-wave superconducting fluctuations [40].

In many of these scenarios, one considers a single dominant scattering process having distinct T dependencies at different regions in k -space. In such a case, it is necessary to sum the different τ , rather than $1/\tau$, in any integration around the in-plane FS. The fact then that $1/\tau$ in overdoped Tl2201 can be delineated into two *additive* components implies that two independent quasiparticle scattering processes must coexist *everywhere* on the cuprate FS, except perhaps along the zone diagonals. This claim is supported by recent resistivity measurements on LSCO in which $\rho_{ab}(T)$ is seen to be composed of two series-connected T -dependent components each with an integer exponents (i.e. $\rho_{ab}(T) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 T + \alpha T^2$) [41].

The same resistivity study revealed two other notable features in the doping/temperature phase diagram; namely the persistence of the $\alpha_1 T$ term, both down to very low temperatures (of order 1 K) and over a broad range of doping, from optimal doping to the edge of the superconducting dome on the overdoped side [41]. Collectively, these numerous features (the additive components to $1/\tau$, the form of the anisotropy in γ_{aniso} , the vanishing of the T -linear component along the nodes, its persistence to low temperatures and across the overdoped regime and its correlation with T_c) place very strong constraints on any theoretical model put forward to explain the charge dynamics of HTSC. Indeed, to the best of our knowledge, no model had been able to predict the precise form of $1/\omega_c \tau(\varphi, T)$ *prior* to publication of [11]. And while it is true that detailed information on $1/\omega_c \tau(\varphi, T)$ has only been obtained thus far on Tl2201 single crystals over a very narrow doping range close to the superconductor/metal boundary, the gradual evolution of the transport properties in both Tl2201 and LSCO with doping [33, 41, 42] suggests strongly that similar phenomenology may exist across the entire overdoped region of the cuprate phase diagram.

We conclude by highlighting four independent theoretical approaches that have managed to capture some, though not all, of the salient experimental features. As discussed above, the linear component of $\gamma_{\text{aniso}}(T)$ and its angular dependence are mirrored in $\Gamma(\omega)$ [30], suggesting that the two derive from the same origin. This combined linearity in both the temperature and frequency scales is typically referred to as marginal Fermi-liquid (MFL) phenomenology [43]. In its original guise [43], the MFL self-energy was considered to have no momentum dependence. A recent microscopic model [44] however has shown that the fluctuations that lead to MFL physics can generate a factor of two anisotropy in Γ [45]. A robust T -linear scattering rate is also expected in a 2D boson–fermion mixture [46, 47] due to fermion scattering off density fluctuations of charged $2e$ bosons [46]. The T linearity in this case arises from the fact that the screening radius squared for direct Coulomb repulsion between free fermions and heavy, almost localized bosons is proportional to temperature above the condensation temperature T_B . This model thus predicts that the T -linear scattering rate should be manifest in the normal state at all temperatures above $T_B(H)$.

By assuming an effective interaction with the appropriate d-wave form factor, the transport scattering rate and electrical resistivity of a 2D metal close to a Pomeranchuk instability was recently shown to follow a similar linear-in- T dependence as $T \rightarrow 0$ [48]. When combined with

impurity scattering and conventional, isotropic electron–electron scattering, this gives rise to a scattering rate (and resistivity) with a form identical to that observed in overdoped Tl2201. It is not yet clear however why the strength of the T -linear scattering rate within this scenario should scale with T_c . Finally, in recent functional renormalization group calculations for a 2D Hubbard model, Ossadnik *et al* have found a strongly angle-dependent T -linear scattering term which derives from a scattering vertex that increases as the energy (temperature) scale is lowered [49]. Significantly, this T -linear scattering rate shows strong doping dependence too and vanishes as the superconductivity disappears on the overdoped side, consistent with experimental observations [33, 41].

Despite these encouraging developments, it will be some time before all features of the scattering rate phenomenology uncovered by ADMR and the other high-field transport experiments are contained within a single theoretical framework, but its apparent correlation with high-temperature superconductivity, both in terms of its magnitude and its anisotropy, provides strong motivation to develop such a framework. As quoted at the beginning of this contribution, ‘what scatters may also pair’. What is now clear in the case of HTSC, is that identification of the anomalous scatterer will prove a key step in elucidating the mechanism of high-temperature superconductivity itself.

7. Conclusions

In conclusion, we have performed a series of detailed ADMR measurements on three overdoped Tl2201 single crystals over an extended temperature range up to 110 K. Consistent fitting of the data is achieved over the full temperature range with a single FS parameterization and an anisotropic $1/\tau$ whose anisotropy is found to vary in a manner that can account for the T dependence of the in-plane Hall effect over the same temperature range. This detailed study re-affirms the analysis of earlier ADMR data taken at a single azimuthal angle over a more limited temperature range and highlights the power of the ADMR technique in giving robust physical parameters that are currently inaccessible to any other known experimental probe. In so doing, this study aptly demonstrates the unique ability of ADMR to access hitherto hidden details of the charge response of correlated layered metals.

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