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PHYSICS

FERMI SURFACE OF ARSENIC UNDER PRESSURE

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High-pressure techniques have proved extremely useful in the experimental study of the electron properties of metals.

In this paper we shall describe the first study ever of giant quantum oscillations (as well as ordinary quantum oscillations) of the absorption of ultrasonic waves in arsenic at various pressures. The giant quantum oscillations in arsenic are realized in the narrow γ necks of the hole-type Fermi surface proposed by P. Lin and L. Falicov [1] (Fig. 1).

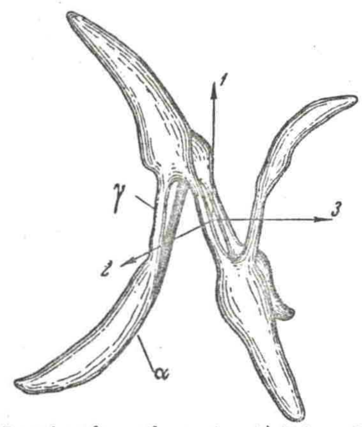

Fig. 1. Hole Fermi surface of arsenic. 1) Trigonal; 2) binary; 3) bisector axis.

A sharp change in the topology of the narrow necks may reasonably be expected under the influence of high pressures.

Longitudinal ultrasound at a frequency of f = 200 MHz was directed along the trigonal axis of 99.999% pure arsenic single crystals. The direction of the magnetic field **H** coincided with the wave vector **q**. For measuring the sound absorption coefficient at 1.6°K we used the ultrasonic pulse method, obtaining the high pressure by the technique described earlier [2]. At low temperatures the pressure was measured with a superconducting indium manometer, using existing data relating to the destruction of superconductivity by a magnetic field [3]. The reproducibility of the results was verified for a number of samples by carrying out successive measurements at zero, finite, and zero pressures.

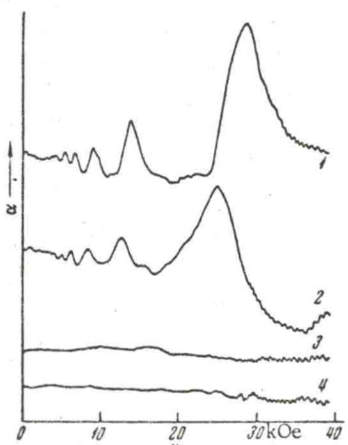

Fig. 2. Sound absorption coefficient α in a magnetic field at a pressure of: 1) 0; 2) 2 kbars; 3) 4 kbars; 4) 6 kbars.

The oscillatory character of the sound absorption coefficient in magnetic fields and the relation between the periods of the observed oscillations and the pressure are illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 respectively.

The quantum oscillations of ultrasound absorption (Fig. 2) in the magnetic-field range 30-40

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