

Spin-Orbit Coupling and Electronic Correlations in Sr_2RuO_4

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The interplay between spin orbit coupling and strong electronic correlations is a topic of high current interest. An important example where both of these play a role is Sr_2RuO_4 , a compound with unconventional superconductivity below 1.5K, Fermi liquid behavior below 20K, and incoherent/bad metal behavior at elevated temperatures. This compound was theoretically successfully described as a Hund's metal, a correlated metal with a coherence scale that is low due to the action of the Hund's rule coupling. An important aspect of this picture is a separation of spin- and orbital- coherence scale: the orbital moments are screened at a higher temperature than the spin moments.

Now, this picture disregards spin-orbit coupling, that is of magnitude $\lambda=0.1\text{eV}$, as observed also in spin-resolved ARPES experiments. How to reconcile the Hund's metal picture (that, importantly, also led to a high degree of quantitative agreement with experiments) with the a sizeable λ is an important question.

I will describe two sets of results, one from the NRG study of the three-orbital impurity model and one from the realistic DMFT simulation of Sr_2RuO_4 . The NRG impurity study shows that the effects of λ are not important until λ exceeds the orbital coherence scale. The realistic DMFT study shows what are the consequences of this for a real material.

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[2] M. Kim, J. Mravlje, M. Ferrero, O. Parcollet, and A. Georges, arXiv:1707.02462 (2017).