The theory of transport in helical spin-structure crystals

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Abstract
We study helical structures in spin-spiral single crystals. In the continuum approach for the helicity potential energy the simple electronic band splits into two non-parabolic bands. For low exchange integrals, the lower band is described by a surface with a saddle shape in the direction of the helicity axis. Using the Boltzmann equation with the relaxation due to acoustic phonons, we discover the dependence of the current on the angle between the electric field and helicity axis leading to the both parallel and perpendicular to the electric field components in the electroconductivity. The latter can be interpreted as a planar Hall effect. In addition, we find that the transition rates depend on an electron spin allowing the transition between the bands. The electric conductivities exhibit nonlinear behaviors with respect to chemical potential. We explain this effect as the interference of the band anisotropy, spin conservation, and interband transitions. The proposed theory with the spherical model in the effective mass approximation for conduction electrons can elucidate nonlinear dependencies that can be identified in experiments. We find the excellent agreement between the theoretical and experimental data for parallel resistivity depending on temperature at the phase transition from helical to ferromagnetic state in a MnP single crystal. In addition, we predict that the perpendicular resistivity abruptly drops to zero in the ferromagnetic phase.

Keywords: transport, spin, Boltzmann

(Some figures may appear in colour only in the online journal)

1. Introduction

Helical spin structures take place in crystals because of relativistic effects that include spin–orbit coupling and anisotropy energy [1–7]. Mathematically equivalent problem occurs in neutron dynamics in helical magnetic field [8]. Helical structures usually appear in phase diagrams along with other phases such as ferromagnetic or antiferromagnetic states, skyrmions, etc depending on temperature, magnetic field, and pressure [9]. They take place, for example, in α − CuVO₂ [10], MnSi [11], etc. Bcc Eu metals can also exhibit a spin-spiral state [12]. In the latter case the number of helical layers is \( n = 7 \). To understand transport properties in spin-spiral antiferromagnetic crystals, we use the approach where free conduction electrons interact with the helical magnetic moments considered in the continuum approximation [3, 4, 6]:

\[
H_0 = H_{\text{crys}} + H_{\text{hel}} = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} - JS_0 (\sigma_x \cos(\kappa z) + \sigma_y \sin(\kappa z)) = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} - JS_0 \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{n}(r),
\]

where \( J \) is an exchange integral between the conduction electrons and localized magnetic moments, \( S_0 \). Here \( \sigma_{x,y} \) are the Pauli matrices. The helicity period of the localized spin rotation about the \( z \)-axis is \( 2\pi/\kappa \). The discreet helicity potential in the tight binding approximation for the conduction electrons was considered in [13]. To explain experimental data, Hamiltonian (1) may not be sufficient. Fermi surfaces...
for realistic calculations can include non-parabolic \( \varepsilon(k) \) and multi-band structure where the number of bands depends on the value of \( \mu \). We use the simplified model to elucidate some effects that could be identified in experiments. The main purpose of this research is to study transport in helical systems using the semiclassical approach based on the Boltzmann equation where a realistic scattering mechanism is taken into account. In particular, we consider electron-phonon scattering, which becomes spin-dependent in the helical potential energy. In addition, we prove that there is no a Berry curvature, and therefore, such materials are non-topological. We also prove that helical systems are insensitive to the chirality.

2. Berry curvature

It is important to understand whether helimagnets are topological materials causing an abnormal Hall effect. To find a Berry curvature we use the Hamiltonian (1) that includes the helicity potential with the screw axis along \( z \)-direction. To diagonalize the Hamiltonian, we use a unitary operator to satisfy the requirement

\[
\hat{U}^{\dagger} (\hat{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \hat{U} = \hat{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{e}_z.
\] (2)

By direct substitution one can check that the following \( \hat{U} \) fits:

\[
\hat{U} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & e^{-i\varphi} \\ e^{i\varphi} & -1 \end{pmatrix},
\] (3)

where \( \varphi(z) \) is a polar angle for unit vector along the magnetization direction \( \mathbf{n} = (\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi, 0) \).

Using the unitary transformation the Hamiltonian becomes:

\[
\hat{U}^{\dagger} \hat{H} \hat{U} = \frac{\hat{U}^{\dagger} \hat{p}^2 \hat{U}}{2m} - J_{\sigma_z} = \frac{\left(\hat{U}^{\dagger} \hat{p} \hat{U}\right)^2}{2m} - J_{\sigma_z},
\] (4)

Now we determine the gradient \( \nabla \hat{U} \):

\[
\nabla \hat{U} = i \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -e^{-i\varphi} \\ e^{i\varphi} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \nabla \varphi.
\] (5)

Then we find the product \( \hat{U}^{\dagger} \nabla \hat{U} \) as follows:

\[
\hat{U}^{\dagger} \nabla \hat{U} = i \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -e^{-i\varphi} \\ -e^{i\varphi} & -1 \end{pmatrix} \nabla \varphi.
\] (6)

In the adiabatic limit we neglect the off-diagonal matrix elements assuming that particle does not change the band [14]. Using this approximation and the first (6) diagonal element we obtain the following effective gauge field:

\[
A^{\dagger} = A^{ad} = \frac{\hbar}{4e} (\nabla \varphi).
\] (7)

As soon as the effective magnetic potential is a gradient, then the curl of it is zero. Thus the Berry curvature does not produce any effective magnetic field.

3. Electronic structure

Hamiltonian \( \hat{H}_0 \) can be diagonalized using the generalized Bloch theorem [15]. This Hamiltonian was considered earlier in [3, 4, 6]. We provide the diagonalization procedure for the reader’s convenience. To diagonalize the Hamiltonian we choose the \( z \)-axis along the helical one. The magnetic moments are in planes perpendicular to the helical axis. The directions of the magnetic moments are rotating about the helical axis with a period of \( na = 2\pi/\kappa \), where \( a \) is the lattice constant. Schrodinger equation (1) can be solved by the separation of variables. Denoting \( \Psi_z = e^{ikz}, \Psi_y = e^{iky}, \) and \( \Psi^\dagger \) and \( \Psi^\dagger \) as unknown variables, where \( \uparrow \) and \( \downarrow \) signs denote the spin components, we find:

\[
-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (\Psi_z'' + i\kappa \Psi_z) = \varepsilon_z \Psi_z, \tag{8}
\]

\[
-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (\Psi_y'' + i\kappa \Psi_y) = \varepsilon_y \Psi_y, \tag{9}
\]

where \( \varepsilon_z = \varepsilon(k) - (\hbar^2 k_x^2 + \hbar^2 k_y^2)/2m \). Then we present

\[
\Psi_z = e^{ikz} e^{-i\varepsilon_z \Psi_z}, \quad \Psi_y = be^{iky} e^{i\varepsilon_y \Psi_y}.
\]

where \( |a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1 \). Substituting these functions into equation (8) we obtain:

\[
a \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_z + \frac{\kappa}{2})^2 \neq -\frac{J_{\sigma_0}}{a \varepsilon_z}, \quad b \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_z + \frac{\kappa}{2})^2 \neq -\frac{a J_{\sigma_0}}{b \varepsilon_z}. \tag{10}
\]

The solution of equation (10) is presented below:

\[
\varepsilon_z = \frac{\hbar^2 k_z^2}{2m} \pm \frac{J_{\sigma_0}}{2} \sqrt{1 + 4 \varepsilon_{\text{hel}} \frac{h^2 k_z^2}{2m} + \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{hel}}}{4}}, \tag{11}
\]

where ‘−’ corresponds to the lower band and ‘+’ to the upper band. The splitting between bands at \( k_z = 0 \) is \( \Delta = 2J_{\sigma_0} \), and helicity energy is defined as \( \varepsilon_{\text{hel}} = \hbar^2 \kappa^2 / 2m \). The coefficients \( a \) and \( b \) for eigenfunctions are:

\[
a_1 = b_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta}{2}} \sqrt{1 + 4 \varepsilon_{\text{hel}} \frac{h^2 k_z^2}{2m} + \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{hel}}}{4}}, \tag{12}
\]

\[
a_2 = -b_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon_{\text{hel}}}{2m} \frac{h^2 k_z^2}{2m}} \left(1 + 4 \varepsilon_{\text{hel}} \frac{h^2 k_z^2}{2m} \right)^{1/4}.
\]

Then the eigenfunctions become:

\[
\Psi_1 = \left( a_1(k_z) e^{-i\varepsilon_z \Psi_z} \right) e^{ikr}, \tag{13}
\]

\[
\Psi_2 = \left( b_1(k_z) e^{+i\varepsilon_y \Psi_y} \right) e^{ikr}.
\]
The $k_z$-dependence of $a_1$ and $b_1$ is shown in figure 1. For $k_z > 0b_1 \approx 0$ and $a_1 \approx 1$. For $k_z < 0b_1 \approx -1$ and $a_1 \approx 0$. The intermediate region is about $\approx z_{\text{hel}}/\Delta$.

From the mathematical analysis of the second derivatives of $\varepsilon_{1,2}$, we conclude that there are two possibilities for the shape of the lower band $\varepsilon_1$: (a) the single minimum curve for $z_{\text{hel}} < \Delta$ and (b) the saddle shape along the $z$-axis for $z_{\text{hel}} > \Delta$ as demonstrated in figures 2(a) and (b). In the $x$, $y$-plane, the cross section is still a paraboloid. The saddle shape is different compared to Rashba interaction where $\varepsilon_1$ has a Mexican-hat form [16]. The upper band, $\varepsilon_2$, is always of a single minimum shape. From the Hamiltonian diagonalization, we find the correspondence between the electron spin state and the $k_z$ component of the wave vector. In the lower band for $k_z > 0$ the spin of the electron is $\uparrow$ (the red color), and for $k_z < 0$ the spin is $\downarrow$ (the blue color). For the upper band, the dependence is the opposite. In the vicinity of $k_z \approx 0$, there is a spin mixture.

4. Charge transport

In this work we demonstrate that the transition rates are non-diagonal in 2D band space resulting in the transitions from one band to another. This effect is essential to explain the nonlinear behavior in current component perpendicular to the electric field. The main goal of this section is to determine transport properties in helical spin-structures. To do this, we use the semiclassical approach based of the non-equilibrium Boltzmann equation [17]:

$$\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \varepsilon} e^{-\varepsilon} = \sum_{k'} \sum_{\nu'} \left( W_{kk'}^{\nu\nu'} f_1(k') - W_{kk'}^{\nu\nu'} f_0(k) \right).$$

The transition rates $W_{kk'}^{\nu\nu'} = (2\pi/\hbar) \left| \langle k' \nu' | V_{\text{e-ph}} | k \nu \rangle \right|^2 \delta(\varepsilon_{\nu}(k) - \varepsilon_{\nu'}(k')) f_0$ is the equilibrium Fermi distribution function, $f_1$ is the non-equilibrium part of the total distribution function, $E$ is an applied electric field, and $v$ is an electron velocity. Index $\nu$ denotes an energy band number ($\nu = 1, 2$). Bearing in mind that the system is a metal with no impurities of any kind, the electron scattering, in this case, results only from the electron-acoustic phonon interaction:

$$V_{\text{e-ph}} \approx -\nabla \left( H_{\text{crys}} + H_{\text{hel}} \right) \cdot u. \quad (15)$$

The same approach is valid for crystals with complex unit cell. Despite the presence of optical phonons, they do not contribute to the relaxation rates because the optical phonon frequency is higher than the temperatures considered in this work. For example, the estimated phonon energy in MnP is $h\nu = 0.0124$ eV or $144K > T = 69K$ [18]. $H_{\text{crys}}$ and $H_{\text{hel}}$ are defined in equation (1). The atom displacement, $u$, can be expressed in terms of the phonon normal coordinates [17]. In appendix we have presented the derivation of the 2D transition rate matrices with the non-vanishing off-diagonal elements. $W_{kk'}^{\nu\nu'}$ can be analytically derived. For calculations, we have used the Debye approximation where $\nu_{\text{ph}} = \nu_0 (6\pi^2/\Omega_0)^{1/3}$, $\nu_0$ is a velocity of sound, and $\Omega_0$ is a unit cell volume. We have chosen a Eu metal for numerical estimation where $\nu_1 = 1860 m/s$ and $\Omega_0 = 0.1 nm^3$. The sound velocity, $\nu_1$, has been estimated using the value of the Young modulus taken from [19]. According to [17], we employ the elastic scattering approximation for the numerical calculations where the transition rate matrix elements are given by the following equations:

$$W_{kk'}^{\nu\nu'} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left| \langle k' \nu' | J^\Delta | k \nu \rangle \right|^2 \delta(\varepsilon_{\nu}(k) - \varepsilon_{\nu'}(k')) = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{NM} \frac{\partial \varepsilon_{\nu}(k)}{\partial k} \delta(k' - k - q) \times \delta(\varepsilon_{\nu}(k) - \varepsilon_{\nu'}(k')) \approx \delta(k' - k + q), \quad (16)$$

where phonon wave vector $q = k' - k$ and $K_{\nu\nu'}^+$ is determined by equation (17). $K_{\nu\nu'}^- \nu\nu'$ corresponds to $k' = k - q$ and differs only in the sign in $K_{\nu\nu'}^+$.

$$K_{\nu\nu'}^+ = i \frac{\hbar^2}{2m a^2} \frac{2}{3} \left( q \cdot \varepsilon_{\nu} \right) \left( a^{\nu}(k) a^{\nu'}(k') + b^{\nu}(k) b^{\nu'}(k') \right) \quad (17)$$

where $a^{\nu}$ and $b^{\nu}$ are determined by equation (12) and

$$\langle N_0 \rangle = \frac{1}{e^{\nu_{\text{ph}}/kT} - 1}. \quad (18)$$

It is important to note at this point that for $\nu \neq \nu', K_{\nu\nu'}^+ \neq 0$. To solve the Boltzmann equation (14) with the electron-acoustic phonon scattering matrix, we have written the original codes where we have employed the non-uniform mesh [20]. The delta function was evaluated numerically as the Gaussian-shape function with very small width compared to the mesh size. Then, we have numerically calculated the 3D integrals to determine the matrix elements. The main challenge is in computing the 3D integrals with the sharp $\delta$-function. As soon as $f_1$ has been found, we have determined the parallel and perpendicular conductivities assuming the angle between the $z$-axis
and the electric field to be $\theta$. As shown in [21], the parallel and perpendicular to the electric field components of electric current for an anisotropic crystal can be expressed as follows:

$$j^0_\parallel = j^0_{\|} + j^3 \cos (2\theta), \quad j^1_\perp = j^1_{\perp} \sin (2\theta).$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

In these equations, the parallel component has the angle-independent part, $j^0_{\|}$, which, as follows from the calculations, is much greater than the amplitude $j^0_\perp$. Moreover, from the symmetry of the system in the $x,y$-plane, the angle-independent part of the perpendicular component, similar to $j^0_{\|}$, vanishes. Because of the time-reversal symmetry, $\varepsilon(k) = \varepsilon(-k)$, the angular dependence is $2\theta$ instead of $\theta$. The results of the calculations for electric conductivities are presented in figures 3 and 5. In this figures we study the conductivity versus chemical potential. The change in chemical potential can be implemented in experiments by the change of gate voltage applied in the $y$-direction. To avoid additional scattering mechanism due to charge impurities, we exclude doping as other way to change chemical potential. The lower energy band, $\varepsilon_1$, with the single minimum is depicted in figure 2(a) while the case with the saddle shape for $\varepsilon_1$ is presented in figure 2(b). In figures 3 and 5, the parallel and perpendicular conductivities depend on chemical potential $\mu$ (see the red curves) for $\theta = \pi/4$. For better understanding the nature of the transitions in the scattering rate matrix $W$ within the same energy band and between the bands, we introduce the auxiliary model where we allow the transitions to take place only between the states within the same energy band. The spin-dependence is not considered either. Such a procedure allows us to exclude the interference due to the spin dependence within a single band. As shown in figure 2, the transitions within one band from $k_x > 0$ to $k_x < 0$ are practically forbidden except the states lying in the vicinity of $k_x = 0$.

Indeed, $\left\{ a^\nu(k) a^{\nu'}(k') + b^\nu(k) b^{\nu'}(k') \right\}$ in equation (17) is a scalar product of the spin states with $k$ and $k'$. For larger $k_x$, these states are either $(1,0)$ ($k_x > 0$) or $(0,1)$ ($k_x < 0$). Then, the product, $a^\nu(k) a^{\nu'}(k') + b^\nu(k) b^{\nu'}(k') = 0$, resulting in $W_{\nu,\nu'}^0 = 0$. Thus, the active phase volume for the electron scattering is reduced approximately by a factor of 2, resulting in greater conductivity, as shown in figure 3(a). The insertion in figure 3(a) demonstrates the sharp minimum in $d\sigma_\|/d\mu$.

From the analysis of equation (11), we find that the effective masses for both bands become anisotropic. Indeed, $m_1 > m_2$ corresponds to the lower band and $m_2 < m_1$ is for the upper band. The anisotropy of the bands is schematically depicted in figure 4. In the case of the band anisotropy, it was proven in [21] that the current has a perpendicular component if the angle between the $z$-axis and an electric field is nonzero (see equation (19)).

For the perpendicular component of the electric conductivity (see figure 3(b)), we find the similar dependencies. Indeed, the current initially grows in amplitude. However, the direction of the current is negative, i.e. leaning towards the $x$-axis because $m_1 < m_2$. The similar behavior is observed for $\sigma_\perp$ in the auxiliary model for low energies. Such a dependence in the vicinity of $k_x = 0$ can be explained by the transitions between the electronic states where the wave functions are the linear combinations of the spin-up and spin-down states. In this case, the active region of the $k$-space is the same for both models. Then, the dependencies strongly diverge. For the general model (the red curves in figure 3), the amplitude of $\sigma_\perp$ decreases while for the auxiliary model the trend toward the greater negative values continues (the blue curve). It happens because in the realistic model, the half of the phase volume becomes unavailable for the electron scattering. When $\mu$ reaches the bottom of the upper band (it is about 2.2 eV in figure 3(a)), there is a drop in $\sigma_\perp$ and the slower growth in $\sigma_\parallel$ (see the insertion in figure 3(a) for the derivative).

We explain the slow down in growth by the interband transition of the carriers with high velocities from the lower band ($\varepsilon_1$) to the electronic states of the upper band ($\varepsilon_2$) where the electron velocities are small, and therefore, slightly contributing to the total current. It is important to note that the peak or plateau in $\sigma_\perp$ and $\sigma_\parallel$ (the red lines) are the result of the non-diagonal transitions in the scattering rate matrix $W$. Indeed, when these
transitions are omitted (the blue curves), we do not find any peaks. The perpendicular component changes the sign leaning towards the \( z \)-axis with the inclusion of the upper band carriers (\( m_c < m_\parallel \)).

The perpendicular component \( \sigma_\perp \) behaves in the similar way as shown in figure 3(b). The minimum in \( \sigma_\perp \) (figure 5(b), the red curve) can be explained by the saddle point in \( \varepsilon_1(k) \). In this case the transitions within \( \varepsilon_1 \) take place from higher \( k_z \) to the lower ones close to the saddle point. When the electron states are close to the saddle point, the velocities of electrons are very small and therefore, slightly contribute to the electric current. This is the reason why we find the drop of the absolute value of \( \sigma_\perp \). The same behavior is observed for the auxiliary model. The existence of the maximum is the result of the switching on the upper band \( \varepsilon_2 \). Then, we find a very unusual dependence where \( \sigma_\perp \), described by the red curve, is very small in amplitude compared to the blue curve in the auxiliary model. Indeed, at large \( k_z \), \( \varepsilon_\perp \) (\( \varepsilon_\parallel + \frac{\hbar^2 k_i^2}{2m} \gg \Delta^2/4 \)) it is possible to approximate

\[
\varepsilon_{1,2}^\parallel \approx \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( k_x^2 + k_y^2 + (k_z \pm \xi/2)^2 \right),
\]

resulting in the nonadiabatic basis set. These parabolas are depicted in figure 2(b) as (1, 3) and (2, 4), where the spin on each parabola is conserved. In the nonadiabatic basis set the transitions take place within each parabola. For each nonadiabatic curve in equation (20) there is no anisotropy. In this case \( j_z \) in equation (19) is close to zero explaining the red curve behavior at large \( \mu \). For the auxiliary model, the basis set is still adiabatic, i.e., only transitions (1–4) and (2–3) take place. The original bands ((1–4) and (2–3)) are highly anisotropic and therefore, the perpendicular component is much greater.

We have found no chirality in helical systems because the transition rates are the even functions with respect to \( \varepsilon \), i.e. \( j(\varepsilon) = j(-\varepsilon) \). However, insensitivity to chirality is a direct consequence of the inversion symmetry of the system. In systems with broken inversion symmetry it is not applicable. This general statement has also been numerically verified.

5. Temperature dependence

The proposed theory allows to study the temperature dependence of conductivity. For the calculations, we have chosen the temperature to be \( T \approx 69 \) K. We do not consider very low temperatures because in a realistic situation other scattering mechanisms such as scattering by impurities, will prevail over the electron-acoustic phonon scattering. At higher temperatures, there might be a phase transition into another phase state rather than a helical one. The temperature comes into the electron Fermi distribution function in the expression for the electric current. Besides the Fermi distribution function, there is the phonon Bose–Einstein distribution that appears in the transition rate expression due to the acoustic phonons (see appendix). At \( T = 69 \) K (the high temperature limit for bosons), \( W \sim T \), consequently, \( \sigma \sim 1/T \) or \( \rho_\parallel \sim T \) [17].

There are some experimental data where it is possible to check the proposed theory at structural phase transitions from helical to ferromagnetic state. Indeed, such transitions take place in (a) MnP, \( T_c = 50 \) K [22, 23], (b) YMn\(_6\)Sn\(_6\), \( T_c = 333 \) K [24], and (c) MnCoSi, \( T_c = 110 \) K [25]. In case (a) there is the observable discontinuity in the conductivity, while in
cases (b) and (c) there are the slope changes at the transition temperatures. The theory proposed above is able to explain such nonanalytic behaviors in $\sigma(T)$. Such effects are demonstrated in figure 6. In this graph, $\sigma$ is shown with respect to the number of electrons rather than chemical potential $\mu$. It is important to note that at phase transitions the chemical potential can have discontinuity due to the change of effective mass, and therefore, it is not a proper parameter to describe the conductivity dependencies. The quantity that is conserved at phase transition is electron concentration. As shown if figure 6, there are three possible cases where at the fixed number of electrons the conductivity change takes place as a discontinuity with a positive (case 3) or negative (case 2) value or remains the same (case 1). In the latter case we assume that the temperature dependencies will provide the slope change in $\sigma(T)$.

In figures 7(a) and (b), we demonstrate the temperature dependence of the parallel and perpendicular components of the resistivity at the phase transition from helical to ferromagnetic states for MnP, respectively ($T_c \approx 50$ K) [23]. For the calculations we have chosen the following values of the parameters: $JS_0 = 0.2 \text{ eV}$, $m^* = 0.5m_e$, $N = 7$, $k_BT = 0.006 \text{ eV}$.

As shown in figure 7(a), the experimental (the black curve) and calculated (the red and blue curves) temperature dependencies of the resistivity are in very good agreement. At $T_c \approx 50$ K we observe a discontinuity in the calculated dependencies and smoothened discontinuity in experimental (black) curve. Along with the explanation of the experimental data, we have predicted the temperature dependence of the perpendicular component for the same values of the parameters (see figure 7(b)). In the helical phase we observe the growing resistivity, which abruptly vanishes at the phase transition. The perpendicular resistivity is absent in the ferromagnetic state because of the spherical symmetry of $\varepsilon(k)$ in the model. According to [21], the physics of perpendicular component is related to the existence of anisotropy, or absence of spherical symmetry in $\varepsilon(k)$ (see equation (11)). Indeed, the violation of spherical symmetry occurs in the $k_z$ direction in the helical state. Besides the rigorous mathematical proof the absence of transverse component can be understood from the spherical symmetry of the band structure.
symmetry of $\varepsilon(k)$ in the ferromagnetic case where the lack of specific direction perpendicular to the electric field eliminates the transverse current.

6. Conclusions

In this research we propose the theory to study transport properties of helimagnets. The system is described by Hamiltonian (1) with free electron potential for conduction electrons. Such an approximation may not be sufficient for the complete explanation of experimental dependencies. In this work we have assumed a single spherical band where the realistic and anisotropic multi-band picture is not considered. We study only electron-acoustic phonon interaction as a scattering mechanism while there may be electron–magnon scattering that has not been considered in this research. Nevertheless, the theory allows for the explanation of the already found effects and prediction of the perpendicular to the field electric conductivity where maxima and minima with respect to $\mu$ can be found. We have discovered that the Berry curvature vanishes indicating that symmetric helimagnets are not topological materials. As a result of the helicity potential, the band splits into the two bands [3, 4, 6] described by equation (11) where the lower band can be either single-minimum curve for $\varepsilon_{\text{hel}} < \Delta$ or a saddle shape for $\varepsilon_{\text{hel}} > \Delta$ (see figure 2). These bands are anisotropic resulting in the origin of the perpendicular component of the electric currents according to equation (19). If we identify the transverse component of the current as a Hall effect where the magnetic field is represented by the helicity direction ($z$) we might say that the transverse electric current component can be interpreted as a planar Hall effect [26]. We have proven that the electron scattering by the acoustic phonons allows for the transitions between the electronic bands with the spin-dependent transition rates. Both electric current components reveal nonlinear behaviors with respect to $\mu$ as demonstrated in figures 3 and 5. The change in chemical potential can be implemented in experiments by the change of gate voltage applied in the $y$-direction. To avoid additional scattering mechanism due to charge impurities, we exclude doping as other way to change chemical potential. The perpendicular to the electric field electroconductivity exhibits the unusual dependencies. Such behaviors have been explained in terms of the anisotropy mass model combined with the $k$-space restricted by the spin conservation. The proposed theory is capable of the explanation of the non-analytic behaviors in some materials where discontinuities and slope changes in conductivities take place at phase transitions from helical to ferromagnetic states [22–25]. Indeed, as shown in figure 7, we have found the excellent agreement between the experimental and calculated dependencies of the parallel to the electric field resistivity at the phase transition for MnP at $T_c \approx 50$ K. In addition, we have predicted the abrupt behavior of the perpendicular resistivity, which drops to zero in the ferromagnetic phase.

Data availability statement

All data that support the findings of this study are included within the article (and any supplementary files).

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Appendix

To solve the Boltzmann equation, we need to find transition rates $W$, which are determined as follows [17]:

$$W_{k\delta}^{\nu\nu'} = \frac{(2\pi/\hbar)}{\delta(\varepsilon_\nu(k) - \varepsilon_{\nu'}(k'))} \left| \left\langle k', \nu', N_q | \Delta V | k, \nu, N_q \right\rangle \right|^2,$$

where $\nu$ and $\nu'$ denote band indices ($\nu = 1, 2$). The electron scattering is determined by the interaction of electrons with acoustic phonons.
For the matrix element
\[
\langle k', \nu', N_q | \Delta V | k, \nu, N_q \rangle, \quad (A.22)
\]
we denote \( k \) as an electron wave vector, and \( N_q \) is phonon population number with the wavevector \( q \) and the branch \( j \). For electron wavefunctions, we select the adiabatic basis set determined by equation (13). Expression (A.22) allows the transitions between the bands \((\nu \neq \nu')\).

The linear expansion with respect to the lattice vibrations of the total potential energy that includes the crystal and helicity terms yields:
\[
\Delta V_{s'} = V_{s'}(r) - V_{s}(r + u) = -u \nabla V_{s'},
\]
\[
u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{NM}} \sum \psi_{k's'}^* (r) \sum_{\nu} \left[ \psi_{k's'}^* (Q_q) \nabla V + \sum_{s'} \epsilon_{q} \sum_{\nu} (a_{q}e^{iq\cdot r} + a_{q}^* e^{-iq\cdot r}) \psi_{k's'}^* (Q_q) \right] \sum_{\nu} d\tau \sum_{\nu} dQ_q. \quad (A.23)
\]
where \( s, s' \) are the spin projection indices. The displacement \( u \) is presented in terms of the normal coordinates. For acoustic phonons, \( M \) is a mass of the unit cell, \(''r''\) means that summation takes place only over the half of the Brillouin zone, \( \nabla \) is the potential of the unperturbed lattice, and \( \Delta V \) is perturbed potential in linear expansion [17]. The matrix element (A.22) can be presented in terms of the phonon normal coordinates in the following way:
\[
\langle k', \nu', N_q | \Delta V | k, \nu, N_q \rangle
\]
\[
= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{NM}} \sum_{s, s'} \int \psi_{k's'}^* (r) \sum_{\nu} \left[ \psi_{k's'}^* (Q_q) \nabla V + \sum_{s'} \epsilon_{q} \sum_{\nu} (a_{q}e^{iq\cdot r} + a_{q}^* e^{-iq\cdot r}) \psi_{k's'}^* (Q_q) \right] \sum_{\nu} d\tau \sum_{\nu} dQ_q. \quad (A.24)
\]
In this expression, \( d\tau \) is the infinitesimal volume in the electron coordinates, \( Q_q \) are normal phonon coordinates, \( \epsilon_q \) is a phonon polarization vector, and \( \psi_{k's'}^* (r) = u_{k's'} \) are electron and \( \psi_{N_q} (Q_q) \) are phonon wave functions, respectively. The integration in equation (A.24) can be performed for the electron coordinates and the phonon coordinates separately:
\[
\langle k', \nu', N_q' | \Delta V | k, \nu, N_q \rangle
\]
\[
= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{NM}} \sum_{s, s'} \sum_{\nu} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \epsilon_q \cdot (\nabla V)e^{i(k-q-k')} u_{k's'}^* (r) u_{k's'} (r) d\tau \right]
\]
\[
\times \left[ \prod_{\nu} \psi_{N_q}^* (Q_q) a_{k's'} \prod_{\nu} \psi_{N_q} (Q_q) \prod_{\nu} dQ_q \right]
\]
\[
\times \left[ \prod_{\nu} \psi_{N_q}^* (Q_q) a_{k's'} \prod_{\nu} \psi_{N_q} (Q_q) \prod_{\nu} dQ_q \right]. \quad (A.25)
\]

The expressions in the first, second, third, and forth brackets are denoted as \( K^{+}_{\nu'\nu}, \ L, \ K^{-}_{\nu'\nu}, \) and \( L^+ \), respectively. For \( L \), using quantum oscillator properties for lowering and raising operator, we find non-vanishing matrix elements for \( L \) and \( L^+ \):
\[
L = \langle N_q \rangle - 1 |\langle \alpha_j | N_q \rangle| = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar N_q}{2\omega_q}}, \quad (A.26)
\]
\[
L^+ = \langle N_q \rangle + 1 |\langle \alpha_j | N_q \rangle| = \sqrt{\frac{N_q + 1}{2\omega_q}}. \quad (A.27)
\]
For the electron coordinate integration:
\[
K^{+}_{\nu'\nu} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{s, s'} \sum_{\nu} \psi_{(k+q-k')} a_{s} \int e^{i(k+q-k')r} \sum_{s'} \epsilon_{q} \sum_{\nu} (a_{q}e^{iq\cdot r} + a_{q}^* e^{-iq\cdot r}) \psi_{k's'}^* (Q_q) \sum_{\nu} d\tau \sum_{\nu} dQ_q. \quad (A.28)
\]
where the integral is taken over a unit cell volume. The gradient in the equation (A.28) can be presented in the following way:
\[
K^{+}_{\nu'\nu} = \sum_{s, s'} \int (\epsilon_{q} \cdot \nabla V_{s'}(r)) u_{k's'}^* (r) u_{k's'} (r) d\tau_0. \quad (A.29)
\]
From the detailed analysis it can be proven that \( V_{s'}(r) u_{k's'}^* (r) u_{k's'} (r) \) is a periodic function with respect to the unit lattice vector.

The summation over \( n \) in equation (A.27) yields the momentum conservation: \( k' = k + q \), resulting in
\[
K^{+}_{\nu'\nu} = \sum_{s, s'} \int (\epsilon_{q} \cdot \nabla V_{s'}(r)) u_{k's'}^* (r) u_{k's'} (r) d\tau_0, \quad (A.30)
\]
where \( k' = k + q \). The first integral in (A.30) can be presented as a surface integral and vanishes because of the periodicity of the integrand. Then,
\[
K^{+}_{\nu'\nu} = -\sum_{s, s'} \int V_{s'}(\nabla u_{k's'}^* u_{k's'}^* d\tau_0. \quad (A.30)
\]
Using the \( k \cdot p \) representation for \( u_{k's'}^* \) and \( u_{k's'}^* \), we arrive for the following equations for \( u \)-functions:
\[
\begin{align*}
- \frac{h^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \tilde{u}_{i,k}^v + V_{\downarrow \uparrow} (r) \tilde{u}_{i,k}^v + V_{\uparrow \uparrow} (r) \tilde{u}_{i,k}^\nu = - \frac{h^2}{2m} k \cdot \nabla \tilde{u}_{i,k}^v = \left( \varepsilon'' (k) - \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \right) u_{i,k}^v, \\
- \frac{h^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \tilde{u}_{i,k}^\nu + V_{\downarrow \uparrow'} (r) \tilde{u}_{i,k}^\nu + V_{\uparrow \uparrow'} (r) \tilde{u}_{i,k}^\nu = - \frac{h^2}{2m} k \cdot \nabla \tilde{u}_{i,k}^\nu = \left( \varepsilon'' (k') - \frac{\hbar^2 k'^2}{2m} \right) u_{i,k}^\nu,
\end{align*}
\] (A.31)

\[V_{\downarrow \uparrow} (r) = V_{\uparrow \uparrow} (r) = V_{\uparrow \uparrow'} (r)\] because \(\hat{V}\) is a Hermitian operator. Multiplying the first equation in (A.31) by \(e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*}\), the second one by \(e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^\nu\), the third one by \(e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^v\), adding them up with the successive integration over unit cell, we obtain:

\[
- e_{g,i} \cdot \sum_{x',i'} \int V_{\downarrow x'} \nabla \left( u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} u_{x',i,k}^{\nu^*} \right) d\tau_0
= \sum_{x} \int d\tau_0 \left\{ - \frac{h^2}{2m} \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right) \nabla^2 u_{i,k}^\nu + \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^\nu \right) \nabla^2 u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right\}
- \frac{h^2}{2m} \left[ \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right) (k \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^\nu) - \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^\nu \right) (k \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*}) \right]
- \left[ \varepsilon'' (k) - \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \right] \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right) u_{i,k}^\nu + \left( \varepsilon'' (k') - \frac{\hbar^2 k'^2}{2m} \right) \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^\nu \right) u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right\}. \tag{A.32}
\]

Due to periodicity of the integrands and using the Gauss’ theorem, we transform equation (A.32) into a simpler form:

\[
K_{\nu^* \nu}^+ = - \sum_{i} \int \left( \nabla u_{i,k}^\nu \right) \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right) d\tau_0
- \sum_{i} \left[ \varepsilon'' (k) - \varepsilon'' (k') - \left( \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} - \frac{\hbar^2 k'^2}{2m} \right) \right] \int u_{i,k}^\nu \left( e_{g,i} \cdot \nabla u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} \right) d\tau_0. \tag{A.33}
\]

We use the representation of \(u_{i,k}^\nu\) in terms of the Bloch periodic functions \(\tilde{a}_k\) [17]:

\[
\begin{align*}
u_{i,k}^\nu (r) &= a' (k) \tilde{a}_k + \frac{\pi}{\Omega_0} \epsilon (r) e^{-i\frac{\pi}{2} z}, \\
u_{i,k}^{\nu^*} (r) &= b' (k) \tilde{a}_k + \frac{\pi}{\Omega_0} \epsilon (r) e^{i\frac{\pi}{2} z},
\end{align*}
\] (A.34)

where \(a'\) and \(b'\) are found in equation (12). It is important to note that \(\tilde{a}_k\) is weakly dependent on a \(k\)-vector. Indeed, in the free electron approximation employed in this work \(\tilde{a} = 1/\sqrt{\Omega_0}\), where \(\Omega_0\) is the unit cell volume. Then, we find the following expression for \(K_{\nu^* \nu}^+\):
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\[ K_{\nu\nu'}^{+} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^2} \left( q \cdot e_\nu \right) \left( a^{\nu'}(k) a^{\nu'}(k') + b^{\nu'}(k) b^{\nu'}(k') \right) \int |\nabla u|^2 d\tau_0 + \frac{\hbar^2}{4m} \left( q \cdot e_\nu \right) \left( a^{\nu'}(k) a^{\nu'}(k') + b^{\nu'}(k) b^{\nu'}(k') \right) - \frac{i\hbar}{2} \left[ \varepsilon^{\nu'}(k) - \varepsilon^{\nu'}(k') \right] - \left( \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} - \frac{\hbar^2 k'^2}{2m} \right) \left( a^{\nu'}(k) a^{\nu'}(k') - b^{\nu'}(k) b^{\nu'}(k') \right). \] (A.35)

\[ K_{\nu\nu'}^{-} \] corresponds to \( k' = k - q \) and differs only in the sign in \( K_{\nu\nu'}^{+} \).

For estimations \( \int |\nabla u|^2 d\tau_0 \approx 1/\alpha^2 \), where \( \alpha \) is the lattice constant. In the continuum model for the helicity potential \( \pm \alpha/2\pi \ll 1 \). Therefore, the second and the third terms in equation (A.35) can be neglected. Finishing up the electron part we obtain that:

\[ K_{\nu\nu'}^{+} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m\pi^2} \left( q \cdot e_\nu \right) \left( a^{\nu'}(k) a^{\nu'}(k') + b^{\nu'}(k) b^{\nu'}(k') \right). \] (A.36)

Substituting equation (A.36) into the equation for the matrix element (A.25), we find:

\[ \langle k',\nu', N_{q_i} + 1 | \Delta V | k, \nu, N_{q_i} \rangle = - \frac{1}{\sqrt{NM}} K_{\nu\nu'}^{+} \sqrt{\frac{h N_{q_i}}{2 \omega_q}}, \] (A.37)

\[ W_{\nu\nu'}^{kk'} = \frac{2\pi}{h} \left( q \cdot e_\nu \right) |\Delta V|^{2} \delta(\varepsilon_{\nu}(k) - \varepsilon_{\nu'}(k')) \]
\[ = \frac{2\pi}{h} \frac{h N_{q_i}}{\sqrt{NM}} K_{\nu\nu'}^{+} \delta(\varepsilon_{\nu}(k) - \varepsilon_{\nu'}(k')) \delta(k' - k - q) \] (A.40)

where \( q = k' - k \) and \( K_{\nu\nu'}^{+} \), and \( K_{\nu\nu'}^{-} \), are determined by equation (A.36). These transition probabilities are used to solve the non-equilibrium Boltzmann equation.

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