

**Hackl and Vojta Reply:** Our Letter [1] proposed a Zeeman-driven narrow-band Lifshitz transition as an explanation for anomalies in the  $T$ - $B$  phase diagram of  $\text{YbRh}_2\text{Si}_2$ . The Comment by Friedemann *et al.* [2] argues that our ideas are problematic because (A) “unnatural fine-tuning” is involved and (B) the results contradict experimental data. Below, we rebut these arguments.

To begin, we reiterate [1] that measurements on  $\text{YbRh}_2\text{Si}_2$  point to the existence of small energy scales below the Kondo temperature, present even at the transition field  $B_c \approx 60$  mT: distinct crossovers are seen below 0.5 K in the thermal expansion, in  $\Gamma_{p,B}(T)$  [3,4], the thermopower [5], and the thermal conductivity [6]. The existence of these crossover scales limits straightforward interpretations in terms of quantum criticality.

(A) Fine-tuning: It is true that the existence of a narrow piece of band in our model [1] is an *ad hoc* assumption (justified only by the experimental observation of small crossover scales). Its existence provided, a sizeable asymmetry of the resulting peak in the density of states (DOS) is not unnatural [7]. The small effective Fermi energy  $E_c \sim 50$  mK is an additional assumption, which, however, simply corresponds to placing the system near criticality—this type of assumption is required in *any* microscopic modeling of critical phenomena.

It is interesting to relate Ref. [1] to a recent theory proposal for  $\text{YbAlB}_4$ : Ref. [8] constructed a band structure model with hybridization nodes, yielding a singularly divergent DOS. If this divergence is placed *at* the Fermi level, free-electron thermodynamics can explain many of the intriguing properties of  $\text{YbAlB}_4$ . However, a justification for this placement is similarly lacking to date, which might point to a more general organizing principle.

The approximate concurrence of the critical fields for the Fermi-surface reconstruction and the destruction of antiferromagnetism (AFM) in  $\text{YbRh}_2\text{Si}_2$  is indeed non-trivial. However, the two phenomena separate for sizeable doping or pressure [9], such that it is unclear whether their connection is fundamental. In the Lifshitz scenario, AFM is assumed to be a separate (and, for some properties, secondary) phenomenon. It is plausible that the sizeable magnetization built up for  $B > B_c$  is responsible for the destruction of weak AFM, furnishing a link between Lifshitz and magnetic transitions.

(B1) Observability at elevated  $T$ : Despite the thermal smearing of Fermi pockets, a distinct crossover is visible in the Hall effect at  $T_{\text{Hall}} \propto B$  even at temperatures  $T \gg E_c$ . This was shown by explicit calculation in Fig. 3 of Ref. [1], which falsifies the corresponding claim in Ref. [2].

(B2) Entropy crisis: First, the small energy scale  $E_c$  does not replace the Kondo scale but is an additional scale within the heavy-fermion band structure. Therefore, the entropy involves only a fraction of  $R \ln 2$ , which, moreover, will only be partially released at  $T = 50$  mK due to band asymmetries. Second, the experimental  $T \rightarrow 0$   $\gamma$  value is

not known, as  $\gamma$  keeps increasing at the lowest  $T$  measured, such that strict constraints on the height of the DOS peak cannot be inferred. Taken together, a peak weight corresponding to a few percent of  $R \ln 2$  would be compatible with thermodynamic data. However, we feel that a detailed quantitative comparison to experiment is not appropriate at this stage because correlation effects (e.g., the tendency towards ferromagnetism) will significantly influence the results.

(B3) Low-temperature Hall effect: References [2,10] interpret the evolution of  $R_H$  in terms of a zero-temperature jump. This interpretation invokes an extrapolation to  $T = 0$  which may be problematic: At 20 mK, the crossover width is roughly 20 mT, which is not small compared to  $B_c$ ; i.e., even at the lowest investigated  $T$ , the crossover is broad. In fact, Fig. 3(d) of Ref. [1] provided a proof of principle that a Lifshitz scenario can be consistent with the apparent linear-in- $T$  crossover width down to 20 mK (without jump at  $T = 0$ ).

(B4) Enhancement of specific heat: In our scenario, the large specific heat does *not* arise from the Lifshitz transition but from the narrow piece of band causing the DOS peak:  $\gamma$  increases upon cooling until  $T$  becomes smaller than the energy scale on which the DOS varies—there is no inconsistency with experimental data for  $B \geq B_c$ . In the narrow range  $B < B_c$ , the shape of the DOS peak becomes relevant, and, more importantly, the interplay with antiferromagnetism needs to be considered, which is beyond the scope of Ref. [1]. We note that the weak singularities of a Lifshitz transition, alluded to in Ref. [2], will only be relevant at ultralow  $T$  (below 10 mK).

In summary, we feel that the scenario of Ref. [1] continues to be a viable candidate to explain salient features of  $\text{YbRh}_2\text{Si}_2$ . A more quantitative modeling needs to treat correlation effects beyond effective quasiparticle band structures; initial work in this direction is in progress.

Andreas Hackl<sup>1</sup> and Matthias Vojta<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California 91125, USA

<sup>2</sup>Institut für Theoretische Physik  
Technische Universität Dresden  
01062 Dresden, Germany

Received 30 January 2013; published 23 September 2013

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.111.139702](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.111.139702)

PACS numbers: 74.20.Mn, 74.72.-h, 75.30.Mb, 75.40.-s

- [1] A. Hackl and M. Vojta, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **106**, 137002 (2011).
- [2] S. Friedemann *et al.*, preceding Comment, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **111**, 139701 (2013).
- [3] R. KÜchler *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **91**, 066405 (2003).
- [4] Y. Tokiwa, T. Radu, C. Geibel, F. Steglich, and P. Gegenwart, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 066401 (2009).

- 
- [5] S. Hartmann, N. Oeschler, C. Krellner, C. Geibel, S. Paschen, and F. Steglich, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **104**, 096401 (2010).
- [6] H. Pfau *et al.*, *Nature (London)* **484**, 493 (2012).
- [7] A. Benlagra and M. Vojta, *Phys. Rev. B* **87**, 165143 (2013).
- [8] A. Ramires, P. Coleman, A.H. Nevidomskyy, and A.M. Tsvelik, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109**, 176404 (2012).
- [9] S. Friedemann, T. Westerkamp, M. Brando, N. Oeschler, S. Wirth, P. Gegenwart, C. Krellner, C. Geibel, and F. Steglich, *Nat. Phys.* **5**, 465 (2009).
- [10] S. Friedemann, N. Oeschler, S. Wirth, C. Krellner, C. Geibel, F. Steglich, S. Paschen, S. Kirchner, and Q. Si, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **107**, 14547 (2010).