

Unconventional quantum oscillations in complex oxide interfaces

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Funding Grants: G.S. Boebinger (NSF DMR-1644779); Neil Harrison (DoE “Science of 100 Tesla”)



The interface between two insulating oxides (e.g., SrTiO₃ and LaAlO₃) becomes conducting. These interfaces also host superconductivity, magnetism, and spin-orbit interaction—making them promising for next-generation spintronics and quantum computing. However, to harness their potential in technology, a deep understanding of the electronic bands responsible for conduction is essential.

In this study, we explore the electronic states of oxide interfaces through quantum oscillations in three different interfaces: LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃, EuO/KTaO₃, and LaAlO₃/KTaO₃. To accurately resolve quantum oscillations, we conducted resistivity measurements in high magnetic fields up to 60 T.

Contrary to the conventional theory of Landau quantization, the observed quantum oscillations are not periodic in inverse magnetic field ($1/B$). Instead, both the oscillations frequency and cyclotron mass increase progressively with magnetic field for all three studied interfaces. We attribute these universal and intriguing findings to the nontrivial electronic bands, for which the energy-momentum dispersion incorporates both linear and parabolic relations.

The observed unconventional quantum oscillations, with a frequency that varies quadratically with magnetic field, established a new paradigm for two-dimensional electron systems in complex oxides. Our experimental findings and versatile theoretical model also hold promise for comprehending similar observations in other materials with strong spin-orbit coupling, including Dirac and Weyl semimetals.

Facilities and instrumentation used: 65 T short-pulse magnet at pulsed field facility.

Citation: Rubi, K.; Candido, D.R.; Dumen, M.; Zeng, S.; Ammerlaan, A.; Bangma, F.; Chan, M.K.; Goiran, M.; Ariando, A.; Chakraverty, S.; Escoffier, W.; Zeitler, U.; Harrison, N.,

Unconventional quantum oscillations and evidence of nonparabolic electronic states in quasi-two-dimensional electron system at complex oxide interfaces, Physical Review Research, **6**, 043231 (2024) doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevResearch.6.043231

