Diameter-dependent thermopower of bismuth nanowires

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We present a study of electronic transport in individual Bi nanowires of large diameter relative to the Fermi wavelength. Measurements of the resistance and thermopower of intrinsic and Sn-doped Bi wires with various wire diameters, ranging from 150 to 480 nm, have been carried out over a wide range of temperatures (4-300 K) and magnetic fields (0-14 T). We find that the thermopower of intrinsic Bi wires in this diameter range is positive (type *p*) below about 150 K, displaying a peak at around 40 K. In comparison, intrinsic bulk Bi is type *n*. Magnetothermopower effects due to the decrease of surface scattering when the cyclotron diameter is less than the wire diameter are demonstrated. The measurements are interpreted in terms of a model of diffusive thermopower, where the mobility limitations posed by hole-boundary scattering are much less severe than those due to electron-boundary scattering.

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I. INTRODUCTION

One-dimensional materials, such as various kinds of nanowires (NWs) and nanotubes, have attracted considerable attention in theoretical and experimental studies.^{1,2} Bismuth (Bi) is a semimetal with singular electronic transport properties that are related to its highly anisotropic Fermi surfaces, low carrier densities, small carrier effective masses, and large Fermi wavelength λ_F (60 nm, as opposed to a few tenths of a nanometer in most metals).³ The small electron and hole Fermi energies of Bi result in a small carrier density $(3 \times 10^{17} / \text{cm}^3 \text{ at low temperatures})$; nevertheless, Bi is a good conductor due to its high carrier mobility. Crystals of Bi are materials of high thermoelectric efficiency because of their small Fermi energies, which make the thermopower high, and also because of their intrinsic low phonon thermal conductivity.⁴ The investigation of low dimensional thermoelectricity has recently become an active field, since electronic property modifications induced by confinement can be used to overcome the efficiency barriers imposed by the physics of bulk materials.^{5,6} Therefore, the electronic transport properties and the thermopower of Bi NWs, specifically, are the subject of intense investigation.⁷⁻¹⁶

With the exception of temperatures below 10 K,¹⁷⁻²⁰ the thermopower of bulk Bi is due to the difference in broadening of the Fermi distribution between hot and cold regions of the sample or diffusion thermopower.²¹⁻²⁴ Because the mobility is larger for electrons than for holes, overall, in bulk samples, the thermopower of bulk Bi is negative. However, in low dimensional samples, the carrier's flight is restricted by boundary scattering, and the mobility is reduced accordingly. Therefore, the thermopower of Bi NWs can exhibit mobility size effects that have an origin in the unbalanced reduction of mobility of electrons and holes due to boundary scattering. Similar effects have been studied extensively in Bi thin films^{25–31} and are known to be capable of changing the sign of the Hall effect. The effect of the reduction of mobility due to boundary scattering in the magnetoresistance of Bi NWs was studied.¹⁰ However, systematic experimental studies of mobility size effects in the thermopower of NWs are scarce. Here, we focus on the study of the thermopower for NW diameters larger than 150 nm, for which quantum size effects can be disregarded and only mobility size effects are important. Theoretically, confinement causes the energies associated with transverse motion to be quantized, and the lowest energy level is increased, which results in a decrease of the overlap energy between electron and hole bands E_0 , 38 meV. For d=150 nm, one expects $\Delta E_0 \sim 1-2$ meV,¹¹ which can be safely neglected. For large diameter NWs, the expected effects should be even smaller.

Fabrication and electric measurements of bismuth NWs are challenging. The fabrication technique has to take into account the Bi oxidation instability, its low melting point, and its ease of alloying to materials that are typically used in making electrical contacts by soldering. Embedded NW arrays have been prepared in porous templates; however, electronic transport properties in such arrays are limited to twopoint resistance measurements, with the number of wires measured being indeterminate. In addition, in thermopower measurements, the thermal conduction of the composite of alumina template and Bi NWs can cause experimental errors consisting of the overestimation of the temperature difference between the hot and cold sides of the sample. We overcome these limitations by employing long Bi NWs prepared by the Ulitovsky method,³² which employs glass-pulling techniques similar to those used in glass fiber making to produce a single strand of Bi NW of controllable diameter in a glass fiber. Because the length of the NW employed in this study is a fraction of a millimeter, the resistance of the NWs is high, and contact resistance at the end of the NWs is within manageable limits. The strategy of using individual NWs for thermal and electrical transport measurements has been employed by other groups resolving high thermal conductivity issues with NW samples.14,33-35

An experimental study of the thermopower α of 240–620 nm diameter individual Bi NWs has been presented.³⁶ It was found that α is positive at intermediate temperatures, below roughly 100 K, and negative at higher temperatures. Peaks of α of up to 80 μ V/K observed at

around 40 K are interpreted in terms of a model of diffusion thermopower under strong electron- and hole-boundary scattering. The electron and hole densities and the partial thermopowers were calculated using the Fermi energies obtained from the Shubnikov-de Haas (SdH) oscillations in the same samples. This study was performed for various elongations of the NW. The purpose of this report is to present an experimental study of resistance R and α over a wider range of diameters and temperatures than in the study in Ref. 36, and to present a model of the electronic transport that takes these measurements into account. Another goal of this paper is to present measurements of α in the presence of a magnetic field. We observe that the thermopower becomes more negative for $B > B_C$, where B_C , Chamber's critical field for electron-boundary scattering avoidance, is $hk_F/\pi ed$. Here, h is Planck's constant, k_F is the carrier Fermi wave vector, and e (=|e|) is the electron charge.^{37,38} In Bi NWs, Chambers effects are signaled by an increase of electron mobility, and we observe a decrease of the positive thermopower, as expected from our model. We also present measurements of Sn-doped Bi NWs. Our model accounts for the experimental observations with doping as well. Even though we restrict ourselves to the range of large diameter NWs, the phenomenon observed does not have to be restricted to large diameters; therefore, the insights that we gain in our study can be directly applicable to small diameter NWs of $(d \leq \lambda_F)$.

The paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II, we briefly describe the sample fabrication and characterization processes as well as the experimental procedures for the transport measurements. In Sec. III, we present our measurements of R and α at B=0 as well as a model of diffusion thermopower. In Sec. IV, we present the results of our measurements using the SdH method of partial thermopower of electrons and holes. In Sec. IV, we also present measurements of α of Sn-doped NWs and of NWs in the presence of an applied magnetic field parallel to the wirelength. Sections V and VI conclude and summarize our paper.

II. FABRICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

The Ulitovsky method³² for preparing individual Bi NWs is illustrated in the inset of Fig. 1. This method, which involves casting from the liquid phase, consists of rapid drawing of a glass capillary from a glass tube containing the conductive melt. The purity of the Bi employed in this process is

TABLE I. Individual Bi NWs in a glass fiber: dimensions, compositions, and electrical resistance R at 300 K.

Sample	Electronic diameter, d (nm)	Glass capillary diameter, D (µm)	Sn concentration (at. %)	$\frac{R(300 \text{ K})}{(\text{k}\Omega/\text{cm})}$
Bi-1	150	20	0	567
Bi-2	240	24	0	252
Bi-3	320	19	0	141
Bi-4	480	22	0	63
Bi-Sn	200	24	0.02	428



FIG. 1. Scanning electron microscope cross sections of the 240 nm Bi wire in its glass fiber envelope at the low magnification of 5000. The electron energy is 20 keV. The wire appears as light areas; the dark areas are the insulating envelope. The inset illustrates the Ulitovsky method for synthesizing long, small-diameter wires in a glass fiber.

99.999%. A prerequisite is that the glass tube is maintained at high temperatures sufficient to soften the glass. Under special conditions of temperature and for certain glass-metal combinations, the capillary contains a filament of the melt. The capillary is cooled with a water jet as it is drawn, resulting in cooling rates in excess of 10^6 K/s. Segregation, which is problematic in the growth of Bi NW arrays of alloys such as Bi-Sb,⁸ or Bi-Sn in the present study, is minimized due to the quick cooling. In NWs in the present study, the glass coating reliably protects the sample from mechanical damage while mounting and from oxidation. The technique employed yields extremely long (centimeter length) monofilamentary samples, from which our millimeter-length samples are cut.

A partial list of the samples employed in the work is presented in Table I. The samples are characterized by an electronic diameter $d = \sqrt{4L/\pi\sigma(300 \text{ K})R(300 \text{ K})}$, where *L* is the wire length and $\sigma(300 \text{ K})$ is the Bi room temperature conductivity of bulk Bi, which is²¹ $8.7 \times 10^3 \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The actual diameter d_{SEM} of representative samples was measured with a scanning electron microscope (SEM). A lowmagnification SEM image of a 240 nm Bi NW is shown in Fig. 1. High-magnification SEM images of the 240 and 480 nm NW cross sections are presented in Fig. 2. Figure 3 shows d_{SEM} versus *d*; the error in d_{SEM} is 5%. We find that $d_{\text{SEM}}=d$ within experimental error and that there is a trend toward $d_{\text{SEM}} > d$ for smaller diameters, consistent with resis-



FIG. 2. Scanning electron microscope cross sections of 240 and 480 nm wires at high magnification. Dark backgrounds are insulating envelopes that extend out of the field of view. Bright areas are wires.



FIG. 3. Electronic diameter d, determined by measuring the resistance of the wire and using Ohm's law, versus the diameter measured from SEM micrographs. The straight line is a least-squares fit to the data.

tance increases due to size effects at room temperature. Similar trends were observed by Tomil Molares *et al.*¹² In this paper, we use *d* to designate Bi NW diameters rather than d_{SEM} .

Previous SdH studies have shown that the NWs grown by the Ulitovsky method are single crystal and that the orientation of the crystalline structure is such that the wirelength is in the bisectrix-trigonal plane making an angle of $\approx 70^{\circ}$ with the trigonal axis C₃.³⁶ Figure 4 shows the orientation of our NWs with respect to the Fermi surface. The electron pockets *LB* and *LC* are located symmetrically with respect to the wire direction. To verify that the NW is a single crystal, we studied x-ray Laue diffraction patterns obtained using a cylindrical film camera (spindle was not rotating) and a monochromatic x-ray source. The exposure time was 90 h. Sections of the same long NW had to be assembled in bundles in such a way that they were maintained parallel to each other. Clearly, it was important to keep the NWs from rotating around their axis during the assembly of the bundle. Prelimi-



FIG. 4. The Brillouin zone for Bi, showing symmetry lines, which are indexed in the hexagonal system, and planes showing the orientation of the wires in the present study. The three Fermi surface electron pockets (LA, LB, and LC) and the T hole pocket are also represented.



FIG. 5. Temperature-dependent resistance for Bi and BiSn (0.02 at. %) nanowires of various diameters and for bulk polycrystalline samples, as indicated. The dashed line refers to the results of the model in Sec. IV, with $\mu_{\text{bound}}=10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and ν_b = 50 m² V⁻¹ s⁻¹. Inset: Schematic of the arrangement used for the temperature- and magnetic-field-dependent resistance and thermopower measurements. The device can be aligned with the magnetic field using a two-axis rotator that is available in the IHMFLT.

narily, the Laue patterns that we obtained were examined in comparison with well-known Laue diagrams for the As structure of Bi.³⁹ The examination shows a match with the diagram corresponding to $As(10\overline{12})$, which is an orientation that is consistent with that derived from SdH studies.

The inset of Fig. 5 shows the device employed for the resistance and thermopower measurements. This device was mounted in an appropriate cryostat. In the device, the NWs, which were 2-3 mm long, were mounted on a 5-mm-thick metal substrate. The wires were affixed to an epoxy substrate with electrodes. The heater allowed us to make a temperature difference between the two electrodes and, therefore, to the two ends of the wires. Electrical connections to the NWs were performed using a low-melting-point 58 °C solder. In solder, or In_{0.5}Ga_{0.5} eutectic. The latter type of solder makes very good contacts, but it has the disadvantage that it diffuses at room temperature into the Bi NW rather quickly. Consequently, the NW has to be used in the low-temperature experiment immediately after the solder is applied. It is our experience that if the alloy is allowed to diffuse into the NW, the charge transport properties of the NW change, i.e., SdH oscillation is not observed. We measured the contact resistance between a 1 mm² contact of the solder and bulk Bi to be less than 10 $\mu\Omega$ at 4.2 K. Therefore, the contact resistance of a 160 nm Bi NW is estimated to be 390 Ω . However, we believe that the actual contact resistance is less than this estimate because (a) the type of solder employed did not affect the results of measurements, (b) there is no evidence of the superconducting transition of the solder at low temperatures (6 K for low-melting-point solder), and (c) the measurements of the resistance scales with the wire length.

III. ELECTRONIC TRANSPORT (B=0)

Two types of cryostat with a base temperature of 4 K were employed. For the thermopower measurements, a Ley-



FIG. 6. Thermopower of individual Bi nanowires of various diameters. 150, 240, and 480 nm Bi NWs and 200 nm doped Bi are indicated with open circles, squares, diamonds, and open triangles, respectively. The dashed line refers to the results of the model, with $\mu_{\text{bound}}=10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\nu_b=50 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The thermopowers of bulk Bi crystals, orientation as indicated, are shown with solid lines.

bold 4.2 GM cryocooler was employed. The temperature difference between the cold end (T_C) and the hot end (T_H) , ΔT_{HC} , of the wire did not exceed 3 K. ΔT_{HC} was 1 K at low temperatures (i.e., 4 K). The magnetic-field-dependent resistance R(B), for magnetic fields B of up to 14 T and for magnetic fields parallel to the wire length, was measured in a Bitter-type magnet and in a superconducting solenoid in the International High Magnetic Field and Low Temperatures Laboratory (IHMFLT, Wroclaw, Poland). As we will discuss below, the IHMFLT cryostat was equipped with a two-axis rotator that facilitates the alignment of the NWs with respect to the magnetic field. Figure 5 shows the zero-field temperature-dependent resistance R(T) of each sample, normalized to the resistance at 300 K. The figure includes results for diameters between 150 and 480 nm, and the corresponding values of the resistance at room temperature, R(300 K), are given in Table I. The resistance of a sample of bulk single-crystal Bi from the literature⁴⁰ is also shown. The resistance ratio RR = R(4.2 K)/R(300 K) of the NWs is a measure of carrier boundary scattering, and our samples had very small RRs compared to those reported for other samples of comparable diameter. The RR of the 240 nm sample in the present study is 0.35. In comparison, the RR of the 200 nm wire array samples in Ref. 7 was 0.7.

The thermopower of Bi NWs of different diameters is shown in Fig. 6. The thermopower of a single crystal of high purity Bi ($\Delta T \| C_3$) was measured with the same method, and the results are also shown in the figure; our measurements agree with previous determinations of the thermopower of bulk Bi in this orientation.²¹ The thermopower for $\Delta T \perp C_3$, from Ref. 21, is also shown in the figure. This is relevant here because, as shown in Fig. 4, the orientation of our NWs is such that C₃ is almost perpendicular to the wire length. There are two important features that are common to all the NWs that we have measured: α changes its sign from negative to positive between 100 and 200 K, and it exhibits a peak at around 50 K. Also, we found that the value of the thermopower at room temperature was close to that of bulk Bi for the crystalline orientation of the NWs. Our measurements are not unlike the measurements of 200 nm Bi NW arrays by Heremans and Thrush,⁷ where the thermopower of 200 nm pure Bi NWs was found to be negative T>40 K, and a small positive peak $(3 \pm 1 \ \mu V/K)$ was observed at intermediate temperatures at around 20 K; however, in our measurements the maximum is much more pronounced.

The phenomenological theory of low-field galvanometric effects in Bi in terms of carrier density and mobilities is derived from the Boltzmann equation,⁴⁰ with Ohm's law holding for the resistivity tensor. This tensor must be invariant under the point symmetry operations of the crystal. This condition restricts the number of nonzero elements in the resistivity tensor to 6, and the number of independent and large components of the mobility tensor for electrons and holes to 3 and 2, respectively. μ_1 , μ_2 , and μ_3 are electron mobilities, and ν_1 and ν_3 are the hole mobilities. The resistance as well as the thermopower of a macroscopic long cylinder of Bi obey the Thomson-Voight relation.²¹ For instance, $R = R_{\perp} \sin^2 \beta + R_{\parallel} \cos^2 \beta$. Here, β is the angle between the cylinder axis and the trigonal direction; \perp and \parallel denote cylinder orientations perpendicular and parallel to the trigonal axis, respectively. It can, therefore, be expected that our case, since $\beta = 70^{\circ}$ for Ulitovsky wires, corresponds approximately to the perpendicular case. From Ref. 40, we found that the partial conductivities of electrons σ_e (=1/ ρ_e) and holes $\sigma_h (=1/\rho_h)$ are

$$\sigma_e = \frac{e}{2}n(\mu_1 + \mu_2) \tag{1}$$

and

$$\sigma_h = ep \,\nu_1,\tag{2}$$

where *n* and *p* are the electron and hole densities, respectively, that we discussed in the previous section. Here, $\rho = 1/(\sigma_e + \sigma_h)$.

In the diffusive case, we found that the thermopower is an average of the partial thermopowers of electrons and holes, weighted according to the partial electric conductivities:²¹

$$\alpha = (\alpha_e \sigma_e + \alpha_h \sigma_h) / (\sigma_e + \sigma_h), \tag{3}$$

where α_e and α_h are the partial thermopowers of the electrons and holes, and $\alpha_e < 0$ and $\alpha_h > 0$.

The electron and hole mobilities of bulk Bi have been determined.^{40,41} At 77 K, $\mu_1 = 64 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\nu_1 = 10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. μ_2 is 2 orders of magnitude smaller than μ_1 . In bulk Bi, μ and ν increase for decreasing temperature as $T^{-1.5}$, achieving, at 4 K, values of $\mu_1 = 1.1 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\nu_1 = 2.2 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. At that point, the mean free path (mfp) along certain directions was estimated to be 400 μ m for electrons and 200 μ m for holes. Since the diameter of the NWs studied in this work is much smaller than the mfp of the electrons and holes in Bi, especially at low tem-



FIG. 7. Longitudinal magnetoresistance (B||wire length) as a function of the magnetic field for wires of various diameters, as indicated. The inset shows the experimental B_c (empty circles) for the present work and an empty square for the data in Ref. 11. Calculated cutoff fields for holes (dashed line), for electrons in the *LA* pocket (short-dashed line), and for electrons in *LB* and *LC* pockets (dotted line) are represented.

peratures, NW transport properties will experience size effects that originate in the boundary scattering of the carriers. The present section deals with the interpretation of resistance and thermopower size effects in terms of a simple model of mobilites that was found to be useful in the interpretation of Bi NWs magnetoresistance data.^{6,10} Our interest in this model is that in it, surface effects can be discussed without specific reference to, but including, specular boundary scattering.⁴² In this model, the carrier mobility has a mixed behavior; at high temperatures, the mobility increases for decreasing temperatures similar to the bulk, and at intermediate temperatures the mobility saturates, becoming a constant at low temperatures. The reduction in the total carrier mobility by various scattering processes is as follows:

$$\mu_i^{-1} = \mu_i^{-1} + \mu_b^{-1} + \mu_{imp}^{-1}, \qquad (4)$$

$$\nu_1^{-1} = \nu_1^{-1} + \nu_b^{-1} + \nu_{imp}^{-1}, \tag{5}$$

where μ_i and ν_1 are the NW's electron and hole mobilities, respectively; *i*=1 and 2. μ_b and ν_b account for the boundary scattering of electrons and holes, respectively. μ_{imp} and ν_{imp} represent the effect of impurity scattering, where $\mu_{imp} = \nu_{imp}$ $=\infty$ for pure Bi NWs. In the following section, we use the model implicit in Eqs. (1)–(5) to fit the data.

IV. ELECTRON AND HOLE PARTIAL THEMOPOWERS

In this section, we present the results of magnetotransport, including those using the SdH method, to determine the electron and hole Fermi energies. The Fermi energies are used to calculate the partial thermopowers. Figure 7 shows the low-temperature longitudinal (B||wire length) magnetoresistance LMR=[R(B)-R(0)]/R(B). A broad maximum, at B_C , is observed. These maxima can be interpreted in terms of the Chambers effect.^{37,38} According to Chambers, at low fields such that $B < B_C$, carrier scattering at the wire boundary

dominates, and the resistance is high. As the field increases and the cyclotron diameter $d_c = hk_F/\pi eB$ is less than the wire diameter $(d_c < d)$, boundary scattering becomes ineffective and the resistance decreases. The resistance of the NW decreases, approaching a limiting value of $R = L/\sigma A$, where $A = (\pi/4)d^2$ is the cross-sectional area of the NW and σ is the conductivity of bulk Bi. The magnetoresistance is, therefore, negative, and the effect is more pronounced for highmobility carriers. However, if the NW material has a small, but not zero, positive LMR, the resulting LMR shows a mixed behavior with a maximum occurring, very roughly, for a magnetic field B_C .

In practice, any misalignment results in a shift up of the LMR maximum, since the NWs have a very large transverse magnetoresistance. Therefore, to get the data for Fig. 7, the NW was aligned with the rotator to minimize the value of B_C . The inset of Fig. 7 shows B_C as a function of diameter for the electron and hole pockets. A measurement of B_C of 200 nm Bi wire arrays in Ref. 11 is shown for comparison. The lines in the inset represent $B_C = 2cp_F/ed$, where p_F is 0.8, 1.1, and 4.46×10^{-21} g cm s⁻¹ for electrons in the LA, LB, and LC pockets and for holes, respectively 3,43,44 (centimeter-gram-second electrostatic system). Therefore, we find good agreement between the maximum that is observed and B_C for electrons. The decrease of the value of the resistance upon application of a large magnetic field is substantial. The 4 K resistance of 160 nm Bi NWs decreases by 80%, indicating a mobility increase of 5 from its zero-field value upon application of an 8 T field; in our case, R has decreased to be only about twice the limiting value R= $L/\sigma A$. For holes, one expects a decrease of the LMR at B_{C} (holes)=3.5 T in the 240 nm NW, but we found no evidence of a change of slope of the LMR for this particular magnetic field.

The NWs exhibit SdH oscillations that are due to the crossing of the Landau levels through the Fermi level.⁴⁵ These oscillations arise because, as the magnetic field is increased, the energy of the Landau level increases, and when its minimum value becomes equal to the Fermi energy, it is suddenly depopulated. The relaxation time for electron scattering is temporarily increased at this field value, giving rise to a dip in the magnetoresistance. The SdH oscillations are periodic in 1/B. The periods are equal to $(2\pi)^2 e/hcA_e$, where A_e is the extremal cross-sectional area normal to the magnetic field of a pocket of the Fermi surface. Since the SdH periods measure the size of the pockets of the Fermi surface, they change dramatically if the Bi in the NW is doped with impurities. Since, in the process of making the sample molten, Bi comes into contact with glass that can potentially leech out impurities, it is possible that Bi is unintentionally doped with impurities. Doping with As, Te, and Sn has the effect of changing the Fermi level, upsetting the balance of concentrations of electrons and holes. We have, therefore, performed a careful study of the SdH periods in the NWs for evidence of unintentional doping. As we show below, the periods observed correspond closely to those that are observed in pure crystalline Bi of the same orientation as our NWs, indicating that there is no unintentional doping.

Figure 7 shows that the LMR of the NWs in the present study is decorated with several peaks. These peaks are more



FIG. 8. Derivative of the longitudinal magnetoresistance of the 480 nm individual Bi nanowire at T=4 K as a function of *B*. Vertical lines indicate the various maxima identified as arising from SdH effects. The inset shows positions of maxima and minima as a function of 1/B. SdH periods for holes (0.05 T⁻¹) and electrons (0.34 T⁻¹) are indicated.

clearly visible in the derivative of the LMR. Figure 8 shows the derivative of the LMR, as well as the maxima and minima positions, versus 1/B for our 480 nm Bi NWs. The maxima and minima are indicated with straight vertical lines. All the wires in the present study were investigated in this way, and we found that the value of the periods observed in pure Bi NWs is the same for all the NWs. These values are $P_T = (0.05 \pm 0.01) \text{ T}^{-1}, P_{LB,LC} = (0.34 \pm 0.05) \text{ T}^{-1}, \text{ and } P_{LA}$ = (0.85 ± 0.05) T⁻¹. For the particular crystalline orientation of the NWs, and due to the relative magnitude of the periods, the pocket LA is denominated heavy electron and the pockets LB and LC are denominated light electrons. Within experimental error, the observed periods correspond closely to those found in bulk crystalline Bi for the orientation of the NWs.^{46–48} The electron and hole periods depend sensitively on the number of carriers, n and p, in the Bi NWs, and therefore, we find that, at low temperatures, $n=p=n_i$, where $n_i = 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ is the number of electrons or holes in intrinsic pure crystalline Bi. The hole number density for an ellipsoidal Fermi surface is given by the equation¹¹

$$p = (8\pi/3)(e/\pi hc)^{3/2} (P_{h,1}P_{h,2}P_{h,3})^{-1/2},$$
(6)

where $P_{h,1}$, $P_{h,2}$, and $P_{h,3}$ are the SdH periods with the magnetic field along the main directions of the ellipsoid. Considering that the ellipsoidal shape eccentricity does not change under doping, we find that the maximum level of doping in our NWs is $\Delta p/p_i = \pm 0.3$. This is relevant for our estimates of the thermopower in latter sections. SdH periods depend indirectly on the overlap and the Fermi energies, and therefore, we find that $E_0=38$ meV and $E_F=27$ meV in the NWs (same as in bulk Bi). The measurement precision is only fair, and since $P_h \sim (E_F^T)^{-1}$, where $E_F^T = E_0 - E_F$, and the error in the hole periods that are observed is found to be $\Delta P_h=0.2P_h$, we find that the measurement error of the hole Fermi energy is $\Delta(E_0-E_F)=\pm 2.2$ meV. If this error is due to an impurity that comes inadvertently into Bi through processing, its effects would be felt more sensitively if the impurity is an

TABLE II. Low-temperature calculated carrier densities, Fermi energies, and partial and total thermopower for intrinsic and Sn-doped NWs at B=0.

	:	Sn (at. %)	
	0	0.02	
$p (10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3})$	3	15 ± 5	
$n (10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3})$	3	Not observed	
$E_F ({\rm meV})$	27	Not observed	
E_F^T (meV)	11	47 ± 5	
$E_0 \text{ (meV)}$	38	38	
α_h/T [Eq. (1)] (μ V/K ²)	3.4	1.1	
α_e/T [Eq. (1)] (μ V/K ²)	-0.8	-5.2	

acceptor or donor similar to that of Sn, Te, or Pb, and its effects would leave E_0 , and ellipsoidal shape, invariant (this model is often called "rigid band" model in the literature). Therefore, we find that $\Delta(E_F) = \pm 2.2$ meV.

Askerov obtained the partial electron and hole thermopowers for a degenerate semiconductor in the Boltzmann approximation for isotropic parabolic bands;⁴⁹ these are

$$\alpha_e = -\left(\frac{k_B^2 \pi^2 T}{3e}\right) \left[(r+1) \frac{(E_g^L + 2E_F)}{E_F (E_g^L + E_F)} - \frac{4}{(E_g^L + 2E_F)} \right],$$
$$\alpha_h = \left(\frac{k_B^2 \pi^2 T}{3e}\right) \left[\frac{(r+1)}{E_F^T}\right],\tag{7}$$

r is the coefficient of the temperature dependence of the phonon part of the resistance. Although these expressions were derived for a semiconductor, they apply to a semimetal because the partial thermopower is a property of the bands, be it electron or hole (it does not depend on E_0). The partial thermopower in a nondegenerate case, where *T* is much less than the Fermi energy, is 0. The sign of the partial thermopower is related unambiguously to the sign of the charge of the carriers, and consequently, the thermopower is instrumental in establishing the type of conductivity (type *n* or type *p*). Equation (5) is derived in the isotropic approximation; however, Bi is anisotropic. We do not distinguish between the various pockets in Eq. (4). However, as a note, *LB* and *LC* have the highest mobilities and can be expected to contribute more than *LA* to the thermopower.

Heremans and Hansen²³ derived a different expression for α_L for the case where acoustic phonons dominate or, as in the case of the NWs, where scattering on the wall dominate:

$$\alpha_e = -\left(\frac{k_B^2 \pi^2 T}{3e}\right) \frac{(E_g^L + 2E_F)}{E_F(E_g^L + E_F)}.$$
(8)

Taking the values appropriate for bulk Bi (see Table II), $r=\frac{1}{2}$, and using Eq. (7), we find $\alpha_e = (-0.81 \pm 0.1)T \ \mu V/K^2$ and $\alpha_h = (3.39 \pm 0.3)T \ \mu V/K^2$. According to Eq. (8), $\alpha_e = (-1.48 \pm 0.1)T \ \mu V/K^2$. The errors are related to the uncertainty regarding the Fermi energies. We have found the val-



FIG. 9. Rotational diagram of a 350 nm Bi NWs showing the dependence of the value of resistance at 4 K for fields of constant value and perpendicular to the wire length as a function of angle. C_2 and C_3 indicate angles for which \vec{B} is aligned with the bisectrix and trigonal axis of the rhombohedral system.

ues in Eq. (7), rather than Eq. (8), to be appropriate for bulk Bi in our model.

We have observed that the transverse magnetoresistance TMR = R(B) - R(0) ($B \perp$ wire length) of the individual Bi NWs in the present study is a strong function of the orientation of the magnetic field. This dependence, denominated rotational diagram, is shown in Fig. 9. We can explain the main features of our rotational diagram phenomenologically as follows. As we indicated in Sec. III, the resistance and, therefore, the conductivity of crystalline Bi can be expressed as a function of the same quantities along and perpendicular to the trigonal axis. This function has the same angular symmetry as the experimental rotational diagram, and therefore, the maximum and minimum of the experimental rotational diagram can be indexed with respect to C_2 and C_3 , as indicated in the figure. The rotational diagram in Fig. 9, in addition to the phenomenological angular dependence, has added structure that probably has a root in the details of the structure of the Fermi surface and would yield the SdH oscillations for each transverse magnetic field orientation, but this lengthy study is not presented here, since we focus on LMR oscillations.

The resistance and thermopower data for 240 nm wires in Figs. 5 and 6 are fitted by $\mu_b = 10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and ν_b = 50 m² V⁻¹ s⁻¹. Figure 10 shows the temperature-dependent mobilities according to this model. At high temperatures, the bulk contribution to μ and ν becomes dominant, $\mu > \nu$, and the thermopower is negative and roughly equal to that of bulk Bi. Also, the resistance of the NWs is roughly equal to that calculated from the bulk Bi resistivity. This is observed in the experiments. While the model fit to the resistance of the 240 nm Bi nanowire is good, the model fits better the 150 nm data in the thermopower case; this anomaly can be corrected by decreasing the partial hole thermopower α_h by 7%, which is within the margin of error of α_h that we are reporting. Since the results of our model |Eqs. (1)-(5)| for Bi NWs indicate that the total mobility of holes is larger than that of electrons at low temperatures ($T \le 80$ K), the peak of the thermopower, at around 40 K, is associated with the in-



FIG. 10. (Color online) Temperature-dependent electron and hole mobilities in the model based on Eqs. (1)–(8). μ_b = 10 m² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ and ν_b =50 m² V⁻¹ s⁻¹. As indicated, solid lines are for the 240 nm NW, and dashed lines are for bulk Bi.

terplay between bulk and surface contributions to the mobility. We note that the model reproduces the anomalous dR/dT(dR/dT=0 at ~70 K for 240 nm NWs in Fig. 5) of the temperature-dependent resistance.

V. TIN DOPING AND B-DEPENDENT THERMOPOWER

We performed experiments involving doping of Bi NWs. The electron and hole concentrations n_i and p_i are small, and small additions of elements Sn, Te, and As from neighboring columns of the Periodic Table can produce large relative changes in carrier concentration,^{50,51} thereby altering the transport properties. Preparing $Bi_{1-x}Sn_x$ solid solutions is not simple because Sn dissolves poorly in Bi, and it is known that this impurity is not distributed at random in Bi crystals; a superconducting transition, which occurs at very low temperatures, corresponding to Sn segregation is observed in Sn-doped Bi crystal samples pulled from the melt as well as in zone refined samples.^{52,53} However, the Ulitovsky method is uniquely suited for growing very homogeneous samples because the liquid-solid transition takes place at very high rates of cooling. Also, segregation involves only a small fraction of the Sn atoms in solution, and it is believed that segregations cause no adverse effects for T > 4 K. Our $Bi_{1-r}Sn_r$ NW main parameters are shown in Tables I and II. The resistance and thermopower of 200 nm NW with an Sn concentration of 0.02% are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively. The Fermi energy of the holes was determined using the SdH method.⁵⁴ According to our SdH measurements, E_F^T increased to about 47 meV in the NW samples (see Table II). Also, another effect of doping is the decrease of the mobility, due to the terms μ_{imp} and ν_{imp} in Eqs. (4) and (5) that account for a broader dR/dT=0 anomaly in Fig. 5 and broader thermopower maximum in Fig. 6.

We also studied magnetic field effects on the thermopower. According to our model, the thermopower decreases with $B > B_C$ because this increases the electron's partial conductivity σ_L and the partial thermopower of electrons is negative. The thermopower effect has been observed in a



FIG. 11. 55 K thermopower and normalized resistance of the 240 nm Bi NW versus longitudinal magnetic field.

number of temperatures. Figure 11 shows the 55 K field dependence of the thermopower of the 240 nm Bi wire. Hypothetically, the holes also have a Chambers effect starting at B_C (holes), at which point the trend toward negative values should reverse. However, there is no evidence of the holes' Chambers effect in either the resistance (Fig. 7) or the thermopower (Fig. 11). We believe that the explanation for this negative result is that, for holes, this transition is spread out over a large range of magnetic fields and that the effect is not as noticeable for holes because they have high mobility. We have not performed a quantitative study of the experiments because the magnetic field, in addition to decreasing mobilities, changes E_0 , and the analysis is outside of the scope of the present paper. These results will be presented elsewhere.

VI. DISCUSSION

The finding of large mobilities in Bi nanowires is not surprising. In Ref. 10, for 70 nm wires, it was found that μ =50 m² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ at low temperatures. The study of mobilities in terms of mean free paths reveals an interesting fact. Following Ref. 40, the electron relaxation time τ_e is $\mu_1/[e\vec{m}^{-1}_{11}]$, where \vec{m}^{-1} is the electron inverse effective mass tensor. Likewise, for holes, τ_h is $\nu_1/[e\vec{M}^{-1}_{11}]$. Electron and hole mean free paths are calculated from relaxation times using mfp_e= $v_{F,e}\tau_e$ and mfp_h= $v_{F,h}\tau_h$, respectively. Here, $v_{F,e}$ and $v_{F,h}$ are the electron and hole Fermi velocities. Using these expressions, one finds that the low-temperature mean free paths of electrons and holes in bulk Bi are 400 and 200 μ m, respectively. The mean free path of electrons and holes in the undoped Bi nanowires in the present study can be estimated by considering that the Fermi surface param-



FIG. 12. The low-temperature (4 K) mobility of holes in pure Bi and doped-Bi nanowires of various diameters. The dashed line is an aid to the eye.

eters of such nanowires and that of bulk Bi are the same. Therefore, we can use the values of inverse effective mass tensors and Fermi velocity given in Ref. 40. For instance, for the 240 nm Bi nanowires that have a hole mobility of $50 \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, we find mfp_h=40 μ m. What is surprising is that mfp_h~160 diameters. We believe that this effect is due to specular, or otherwise elastic, boundary scattering.

Although our thermopower measurement results are roughly consistent with those in Ref. 7, our interpretation with a diffusion thermopower model is a sharp departure, with an interpretation in terms of phonon drag offered in Ref. 7. Considering our margin of experimental errors and the simplicity of our model, our model fits simultaneously the thermopower data and the essential features of the resistance data, and indicates that mobility limitations posed by holeboundary scattering are much less severe than those due to electron-boundary. At low temperatures, where holes dominate the electronic transport, $\sigma(T) = \nu_b p$, where p = n for pure Bi nanowires. From this equation, we can derive ν_b at 4 K, and the results are shown in Fig. 12. Also, for temperatures below the thermopower maximum, since the carrier density is temperature independent, $\alpha = (\alpha_e \mu_b + \alpha_h \nu_b)/(\mu_b + \nu_b)$ and the thermopower is linear with temperature, as observed. Notice that we use the partial thermopower of electrons according to Eq. (7). Since the linear thermopower is approximately the same for all the NWs investigated, the conclusion that can be reached is that $\mu_b / \nu_b \ll 1$ for 150 nm $\leq d \leq 500$ nm. The range of diameters over which $\mu_b/\nu_b < 1$ may extend to $10-\mu$ m-diameter wires, as the results in Ref. 55 indicate.

The result that hole-boundary scattering is less than electron-boundary scattering ($\nu_b > \mu_b$) in confined Bi has been reported by other groups. One observation involves thin Bi films that were 20–500 nm thick and grown on CdTe insulator crystals by molecular-beam epitaxy.²⁹ Resistivity and Hall effect measurements were performed in a wide temperature range from 4 K to room temperature. The data were analyzed to extract electron and hole densities and mobilities from the field-dependent transport coefficients. At 100 K, it was found that $\nu/\mu \sim 1.3$ and 1.5 for 500-nm-thick films.

In our model, the phenomenon of unbalanced reduction of mobility is a consequence of surface scattering and can be expected to become more relevant for NWs of smaller diameter (d < 150 nm). Measurements of the thermopower of Bi

NWs are scarce. Still, recently, a positive thermopower with a peak at 100 K has been observed in 55 nm individual polycrystalline Bi NWs that are reported to be free of impurities.¹⁴ The observed effect may be associated with the phenomenon that is presented here, although the information available about the NWs is not complete enough.

The assessment of the significance of our results in the field of thermoelectrics, materials used for thermal to electric energy conversion, is as follows. Bi,⁴ BiSb solid solutions,^{56,57} and doped CsBi₂Te₃ (Ref. 58) are promising low-temperature thermoelectric materials at around 100 K. That these Bi-based materials have favorable combinations of high thermopower and electronic conductivity with low thermal resistivity is demonstrated by their high power factor $PF = \alpha^2 \sigma$ and high thermoelectric efficiency $ZT = PF/\kappa$. Here, κ is the thermal conductivity. The results presented in previous sections can be used to evaluate the PF and ZT of materials based on large-diameter (150 nm < d)Bi < 500 nm) NWs, such as wire arrays. The PF can be calculated from our data, and we find that it peaks between 50 and 100 K depending on the wire diameter and level of doping. The value of the PF maximum can be very high; for example, for 240 nm NWs, PF peaks at 6×10^{-5} W/cm K², at 50 K, are about 1 order of magnitude higher than the PF of bulk Bi at its peak at 100 K. The thermoelectric efficiency ZT depends on κ , consisting of an electronic term κ_{electr} and a phonon term κ_{phonon} , which has not been measured. We estimate ZT as follows: Bi has a heavy ion that scatters phonons effectively, as shown in investigations of bulk Bi,⁴ and theoretical and experimental studies indicating that κ_{phonon} of Bi nanostructures is decreased from the bulk value.^{2,59} If, indeed, $\kappa_{electr} > \kappa_{phonon}$, we can use the Wiedemann-Franz law: $\kappa_{electr} = L_0 \sigma T$, where L_0 is the Lorenz number to estimate ZT. For example, for $\alpha = \sqrt{L_0}$ =150 μ V/K, one gets ZT=1. At 40 K and B=2.3 T, based on the value of α of 105 μ V/K in Fig. 11, one finds that $ZT \sim 0.7$, more than twice the figure of merit of any other thermoelectric material near 40 K, including doped CsBi₂Te₃. There is another feature of Bi NWs that is of interest in the field of thermoelectrics. Most Bi-based thermoelectrics are type *n*. The lack of suitable type-*p* materials is a major drawback for low-temperature thermoelectrics, which has turned the attention of device developers away from Bi thermocouples and into thermomagnetic devices that do not require materials of the two types. However, thermoelectric devices can be more efficient than thermomagnetic devices. In this context, the finding that surface scattering turns type-n materials to type-p NWs is very significant.

VII. SUMMARY

This paper presents electrical transport and thermoelectric power measurements of long, individual single-crystal NWs of large diameter relative to the Fermi wavelength. Through measurements of the parameters of the electronic conduction bands, it was found that unintended doping of the NWs can be ruled out. A numerical simulation of the resistance and diffusive thermopower, considering bulk and surface boundary processes, was compared with the experimentally determined resistances and thermopowers, and good agreement was obtained. The similarities between experimental and simulated results strongly suggest that the observed effects are controlled by boundary scattering that limits the electron mobility more than the hole mobility. Furthermore, the magnetic field dependence of the thermopower and doping experiments are all consistent with the model being presented. We obtain the mobilities of electrons and holes. The mechanism for the scattering is not yet understood theoretically and needs further investigation.

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