

Charge-density-wave order and electronic phase transitions in a dilute *d*-band semiconductor

*Huandong Chen, Boyang Zhao, Josh Mutch, Gwan Yeong Jung, Guodong Ren, Sara Shabani, Eric Seewald, Shanyuan Niu, Jiangbin Wu, Nan Wang, Mythili Surendran, Shantanu Singh, Jiang Luo, Sanae Ohtomo, Gemma Goh, Bryan C. Chakoumakos, Simon J. Teat, Brent Melot, Han Wang, Abhay N. Pasupathy, Rohan Mishra, Jiun-Haw Chu, Jayakanth Ravichandran**

H. Chen, B. Zhao, S. Niu, N. Wang, M. Surendran, S. Singh, B. Melot, J. Ravichandran

Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089, USA

E-mail: j.ravichandran@usc.edu

J. Mutch, S. Ohtomo, J.-H. Chu

Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA

G. Y. Jung, R. Mishra

Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63130, USA

G. Ren, R. Mishra

Institute of Materials Science and Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63130, USA

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S. Shabani, E. Seewald, A. N. Pasupathy

Department of Physics, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, USA

J. Wu, H. Wang, J. Ravichandran

Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089, USA

M. Surendran, J. Ravichandran

Core Center for Excellence in Nano Imaging, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089, USA

J. Luo

Department of Chemistry, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63130, USA

G. Goh, B. Melot

Department of Chemistry, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089, USA

B. C. Chakoumakos

Neutron Scattering Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA

S. J. Teat

Advanced Light Source, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

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Abstract:

As one of the most fundamental physical phenomena, charge density wave (CDW) order predominantly occurs in metallic systems such as quasi-one-dimensional (quasi-1D) metals, doped cuprates, and transition metal dichalcogenides, where it is well understood in terms of Fermi surface nesting and electron-phonon coupling mechanisms. On the other hand, CDW phenomena in semiconducting systems, particularly at the low carrier concentration limit, are less common and feature intricate characteristics, which often necessitate the exploration of novel mechanisms, such as electron-hole coupling or Mott physics, to explain. In this study, we combined electrical transport, synchrotron X-ray diffraction and density-functional theory (DFT) calculations to investigate CDW order and a series of hysteretic phase transitions in a dilute *d*-band semiconductor, BaTiS₃. Our experimental and theoretical findings suggest that the observed CDW order and phase transitions in BaTiS₃ may be attributed to both electron-phonon coupling and non-negligible electron-electron interactions in the system. Our work highlights BaTiS₃ as a unique platform to explore CDW physics and novel electronic phases in the dilute filling limit and could open new opportunities for developing novel electronic devices.

1. Introduction

Charge density wave (CDW) is a periodic modulation of electron density, which is accompanied by periodic lattice distortions and is mostly observed in low-dimensional metals such as NbSe₃^[1]. The key features of CDW derived from Peierls' model^[2] include 1) Fermi surface nesting in electronic structure, 2) a Kohn anomaly in phonon spectra, 3) a structural transition with periodic lattice distortion, and 4) a metal-insulator transition with anomalies in resistivity. Many of these features can be experimentally probed using techniques such as transport, diffraction, and spectroscopy to

confirm the presence of CDW, although not all of them need to be present in real CDW materials^[2b]. In recent years, there has been growing interest to explore CDW systems that exhibit semiconducting transport behavior, such as 1T-TaS₂^[3] and 1T-TiSe₂^[4], whose origin presumably go beyond q -dependent electron-phonon coupling mechanism. These materials exhibit a variety of intriguing phenomena such as electron-hole coupling^[4b], resistive switching^[3b, 5], toroidal dipolar structures^[6], and wide hysteretic transitions^[7], which not only lead to vigorous debates over the mechanism of these CDW transitions^[7-8], but also hold promise for new applications of CDW. Hence, exploring such novel materials that exhibit a confluence of CDW ordering and semiconducting behavior can be both scientifically and practically interesting.

Here, we report the discovery of CDW order and phase transitions in a non-degenerate semiconductor, BaTiS₃, which broadens the realm of CDW physics, particularly in semiconducting materials. We observe two hysteretic resistive phase transitions that correspond to the emergence and suppression of the CDW state using transport measurements. Combining single-crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD), we provide direct experimental evidence of CDW order in the system and track its evolution in both electronic and lattice degrees of freedom. Our findings suggest that a combination of electron-phonon coupling, and non-negligible electron-electron interactions may be responsible for the observed phase transitions in BaTiS₃. Our study establishes semiconducting BaTiS₃ as a new model system for investigating rich electronic phases and phase transitions in dilute filling and offers new opportunities in electronic device applications of CDW phase change materials.

2. Results

2.1. Transport signatures of phase transitions in BaTiS₃

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Quasi-one-dimensional (quasi-1D) chalcogenide, BaTiS_3 , is a small bandgap semiconductor ($E_g \sim 0.3$ eV) with a hexagonal crystal structure composed of 1D chains of TiS_6 octahedra, stacked between Ba chains (Figure 1a). Recently, a giant optical anisotropy^[9] and abnormal glass-like thermal transport properties^[10] were reported in this material, which imposed questions over its electronic properties.

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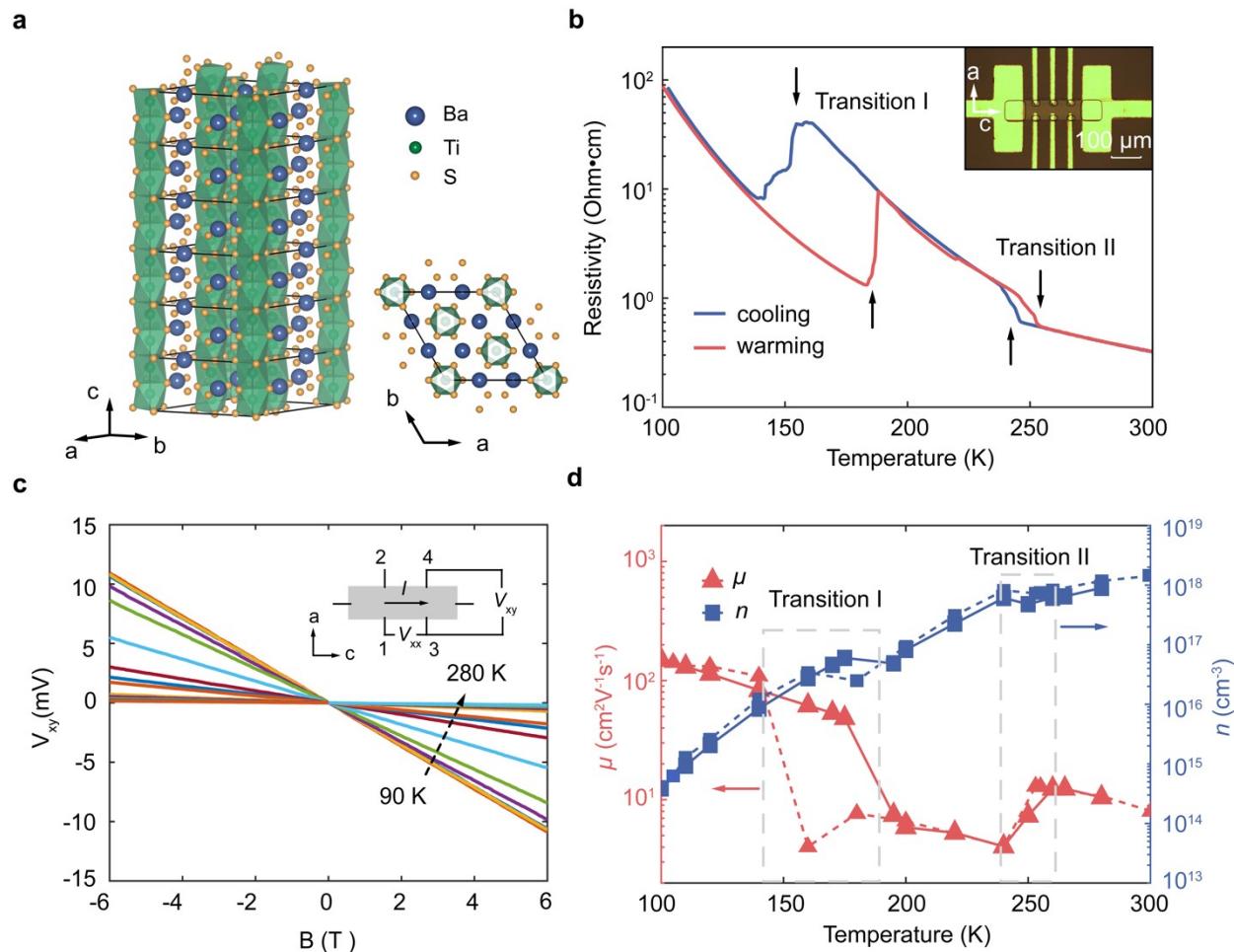


Figure 1. Signature of phase transitions from electrical transport measurements. (a) Room temperature $P6_3cm$ structure of BaTiS_3 , showing hexagonal symmetry. (b) Illustration of representative temperature dependent electrical resistivity of BaTiS_3 crystal along c-axis. Abrupt and hysteretic jumps in resistance are shown near 150-190 K (Transition I), and 240-260 K (Transition II). Inset shows optical microscopic image of the BaTiS_3 device used for Hall measurements. (c) Plot of Hall voltage V_{xy} with magnetic field from -6 T to 6 T at different temperatures. (d) Temperature dependence of the mobility, μ , and carrier concentration, n , of the dominant carrier, extracted from Hall measurements. The solid line illustrates the data taken from a warming cycle, while the dashed line represents measurement during the cooling cycle.

However, as a d^0 semiconductor with a nominally empty conduction band, no phase transitions have been theoretically expected or experimentally observed in BaTiS_3 to date, although its d^1 counterpart, BaVS_3 , is an archetypical CDW system^[11].

We performed electrical transport measurements on bulk single crystals of BaTiS_3 along the chain axis (*c*-axis) (Figure 1b). Here, we identify two different phase transitions from their non-monotonic and hysteretic transport behavior. Upon cooling, the electrical resistivity increases, and the system undergoes a phase transition at 240 K (Transition II) featuring a resistivity jump. On further cooling, it continues to increase till 150 K, after which the material undergoes another transition that we call Transition I with a sharp drop in resistivity. The Transition II (240-260 K) hints at the emergence of a CDW state from a high temperature semiconducting phase; while at Transition I (150-190 K), the CDW order is suppressed and the system switches to a more conductive state. Similar hysteretic transport behavior has been observed and well understood in many other CDW systems such as $(\text{NbSe}_4)_{10}\text{I}_3$ ^[12] and 1T-TaS₂^[13], which is primarily attributed to the interaction between CDW condensates and defects.

To further understand these observations, we performed Hall measurements to study the evolution of carrier concentration and mobility across both the phase transitions (Figure 1c and 1d). At room temperature, the electron concentration is $\sim 1.1 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and it reduces to less than 10^{15} cm^{-3} at 100 K. These observations confirm the non-degenerate nature of BaTiS_3 , which possesses one of the lowest carrier densities among reported CDW compounds. The overall trend of carrier concentration n is dominated by the semiconducting nature of BaTiS_3 , where it decreases monotonically as temperature is lowered and we did not observe any change in carrier type across the transitions. We further obtained thermal activation energy E_a for each phase from Arrhenius analysis ($E_a = -\delta(\ln(n))/\delta(1/k_B T)$), as illustrated in Figure S5. The extracted carrier transport activation barrier increases from 125 meV from 219 meV at Transition II, and it reduces 117 meV across the Transition I.

The Hall mobility evolution in BaTiS_3 (Figure 1d) follows an overall increasing trend as temperature decreases, which, however, undergoes a notable drop and then a substantial increase in mobility values across the two phase transitions, respectively. Moreover, we found that the modulation of electrical resistances during both transitions (Figure 1b) is predominantly due to the variations in Hall mobility, rather than changes in carrier concentration across the transitions. This is distinctive from many other resistive switching systems that undergo a transition from a metallic phase to an insulating phase, such as VO_2 ^[14] and 1T-TaS₂^[13], where the gap opening from a metal

reduces the free carrier concentrations significantly, and hence, such carrier concentration modulation mechanism dominates. All these transport observations in BaTiS₃ are consistent with two phase transitions that lead to a sequence of electronic phases, starting from a high-temperature semiconducting phase that transitions to a reduced-mobility CDW phase at intermediate temperatures, and finally to a high-mobility phase at low temperatures.

2.2. Structural characterization

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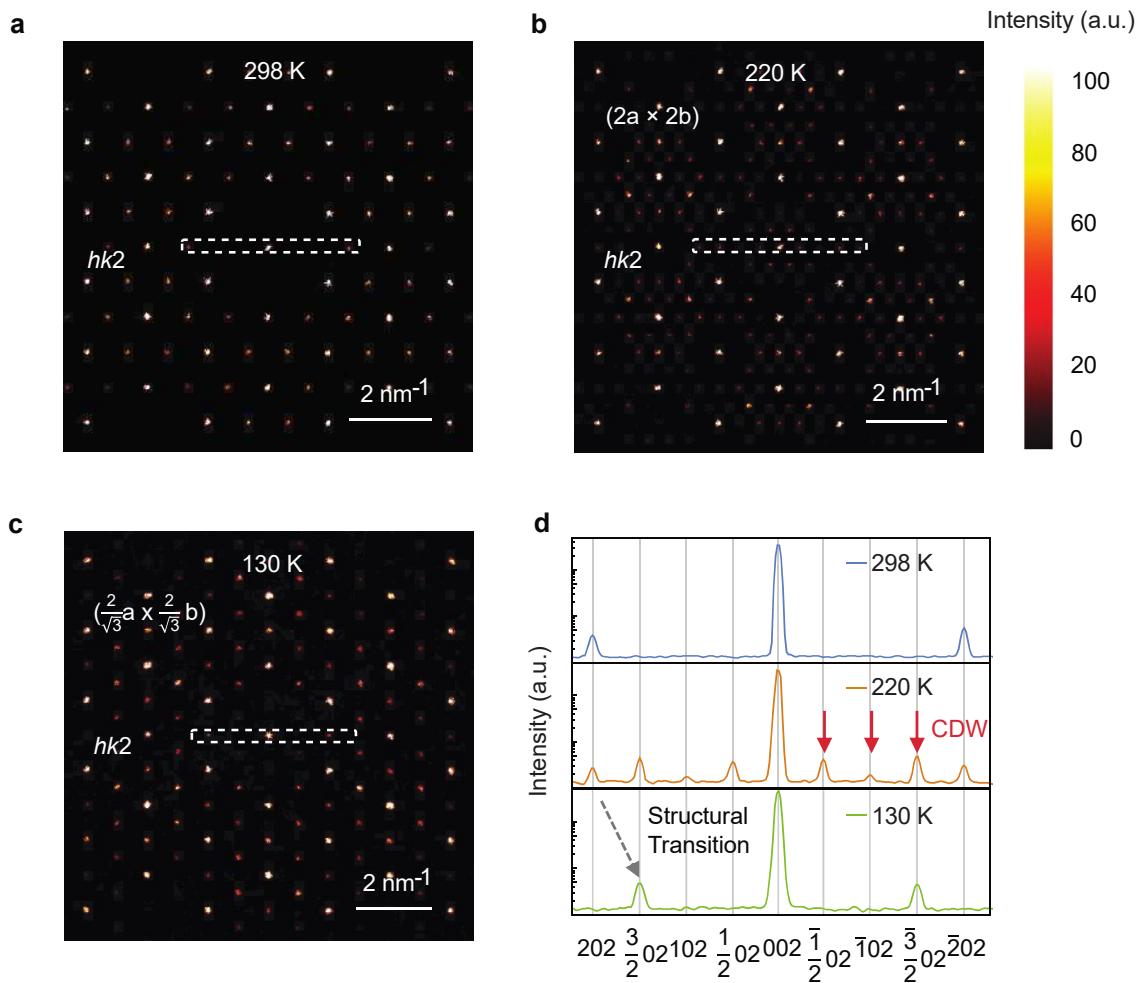


Figure 2. CDW order evolution revealed by single crystal X-ray diffraction of BaTiS₃. (a) to (c) Reciprocal precession images of BaTiS₃ crystal along *hk*2 projection at 298 K, 220 K and 130 K, respectively. (d) X-ray intensity cut along the direction as indicated in the precession maps.

We carried out synchrotron XRD at three representative temperatures to track the structural changes across the phase transitions and to accurately determine the structure for each phase. Figure 2a to Figure 2c show the precession maps of BaTiS₃ crystal projected onto the *hk*2 reciprocal plane at 298 K, 220 K and 130 K respectively, and Figure 2d illustrates a zoomed-in intensity cut along the direction as indicated in the precession images. The corresponding crystal structures were solved by single crystal refinement and the detailed crystallography information are listed in the supplementary tables. At room temperature, a hexagonal array of reflection spots is observed in the

precession image, which is consistent with a $P6_3cm$ space group ($a = b = 11.7 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 5.83 \text{ \AA}$). Upon cooling to 220 K, additional superlattice reflections that are two orders of magnitude lower than primary reflections appear at $h+1/2$ $k+1/2$ 2, indicating a change in the periodicity of the lattice ($a = b = 23.3 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 5.84 \text{ \AA}$) associated with Transition II from $P6_3cm$ to $P3c1$. Complementary to the resistivity anomalies observed from transport measurements, the weak superlattice reflections in diffraction patterns provide one of the most convincing experimental evidences of CDW formation in BaTiS_3 below Transition II. These satellite peaks stem from periodic lattice distortions that are directly associated with the charge modulation^[15]. Interestingly, the unit cell doubling in BaTiS_3 takes place in the a - b plane, rather than along the chain axis (c -axis), which is usually the case in many other classic quasi-1D CDW systems such as NbSe_3 ^[16] and BaVS_3 ^[17]. Moreover, the space group symmetries of the two phases ($P6_3cm$ and $P3c1$) show a group / subgroup relationship. Hence, the Transition II can be classified as a displacive transition, according to Buerger's classification of phase transitions^[18], which tends to show second order or weak first-order thermodynamic characteristics, consistent with the small thermal hysteresis observed from transport measurements.

On further lowering the temperature to 130 K, the superlattice peaks disappeared and a new set of reflections associated with a smaller $\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \times \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$ unit cell emerged ($a = b = 13.4 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 5.82 \text{ \AA}$), which indicates a direct suppression of the CDW *via* the structural transition ($P3c1$ to $P2_1$). The low temperature space group $P2_1$ is not a subgroup of $P3c1$, and we have observed the large thermal hysteresis ($\sim 40 \text{ K}$) from transport measurements, both of which lead us to conclude that the Transition I is a reconstructive transition^[18], where first-order thermodynamic characteristics, such as thermal hysteresis, coexistence of phases at equilibrium, and metastability, are often expected. The observed intermediate steps of Transition I from transport measurements (Figure 1b and Figure S4a) are also attributed to percolative nature of the reconstructive structural transition. An evolution of unit cell sizes in BaTiS_3 is summarized in Figure 3c.

2.3. Mechanism of phase transitions in BaTiS_3

To further gain insights into the change of electronic structures in BaTiS₃ across these transitions, we calculated the electronic band structure of these three phases, based on refined crystal structures obtained from XRD, using density-functional theory (DFT) (Figure 3a). As temperature is lowered, the bandgap of the system increases from 0.26 eV to 0.3 eV at Transition II and then drops to 0.15 eV across Transition I (Figure 3b), which qualitatively agrees with the evolution of thermal activation barrier from Arrhenius analysis of transport data (Figure S5).

In a gapped semiconductor such as BaTiS_3 , as revealed by both optical spectroscopy measurements and calculated electronic band structures, the Fermi level falls in the bandgap and therefore there is no Fermi surface. Hence, the surface nesting mechanism, which is the dominant explanation for CDW in quasi-1D metals^[16], can be ruled out. One interesting observation in BaTiS_3 is its two-dimensional charge ordering in the a - b plane (Figure 2), rather than along the 1D chain-axis. This mismatch in dimensionality further complicates the understanding of CDW order in this material. To investigate the role of interchain coupling in stabilizing the CDW phase in BaTiS_3 , we performed in-plane conductivity anisotropy measurements (Figure S6) using Montgomery analysis^[19]. The measured anisotropy in resistivity (ρ_a/ρ_c) was approximately 4, which is relatively

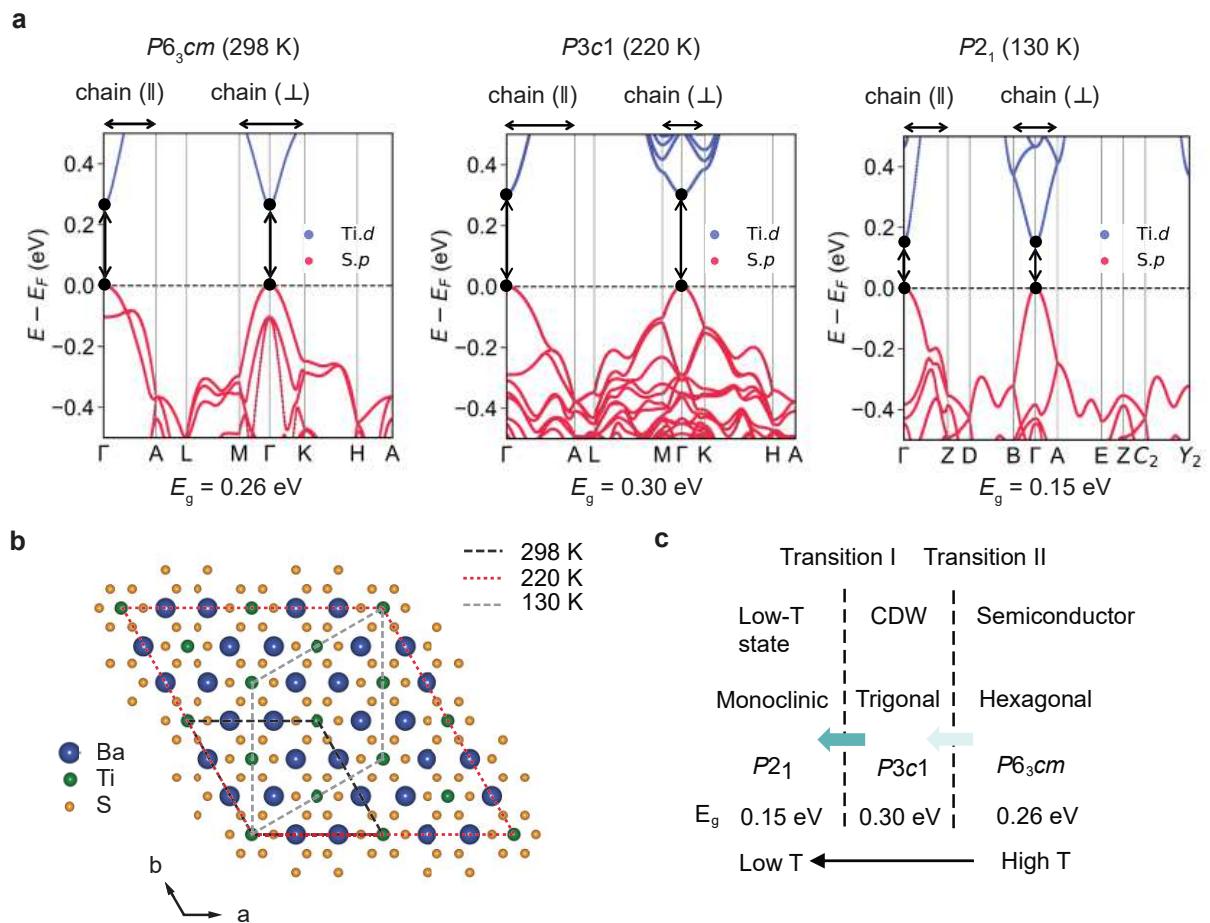


Figure 3. (a) DFT-calculated electronic band structures of different phases of BaTiS₃. The contribution of Ti *d*-states and S *p*-states to the band structure are highlighted with blue and red colors, respectively. The band gap (E_g) calculated at the PBE level is provided underneath the plots. The vertical arrows indicate the changing band gap at the G point. The horizontal arrows show the symmetry direction along chain-parallel- ('chain(II)') and chain-perpendicular-plane ('chain(⊥)') from the zone-center (G point) in the first Brillouin zone. (b) Illustration of unit cell evolution of BaTiS₃ at different temperatures. (c) Summary of electronic phases and phase transitions in BaTiS₃.

small compared to other model quasi-1D CDW systems like NbSe₃ ($\rho_a/\rho_c \sim 15-20$)^[20] and (TaSe₄)₂I ($\rho_a/\rho_c > 200$)^[21].

In many real CDW materials, the CDW order is usually attributed to strong electron-phonon coupling^[22], while clean semiconductor systems typically lack such coupling. To estimate the strength of electron-phonon interaction in BaTiS₃, we calculated its Fröhlich coupling constant $\alpha =$

$\frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon_s} - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_\infty} \right) \sqrt{\frac{m_b}{2\hbar\omega_0}}$ for each phase^[23] (Table S1), where the band effective mass m_b , static and high-frequency dielectric constant ε_s and ε_∞ , and the effective polar optical phonon angular frequency ω_0 were obtained from DFT. The calculated α values of BaTiS₃ are 1.36, 1.79 and 1.64 for the *P6₃cm*, *P3c1*, and *P2₁* phases, respectively, indicating intermediate to relatively strong electron-phonon coupling systems. For comparison, the reported α values for semiconductors such as GaAs, and InP are typically well below 1^[24]. Moreover, the evolution of carrier mobility observed in BaTiS₃ (Figure 1d) can also be qualitatively understood in terms of electron-phonon coupling, considering the polar optical phonon (POP) scattering as the major scattering mechanism in that temperature range. The overall increasing trend of Hall mobility ($\mu = e\tau/m_b$) is consistent with a scheme of reduced phonon scattering rate ($1/\tau_{\text{POP}}$) at lower temperature, while a smaller mobility value is expected for the *P3c1* phase, considering its larger α value (stronger electron-phonon interactions, and hence, smaller scattering time), and a larger effective mass m_b , compared with the other two phases.

Furthermore, as a non-degenerate semiconductor with dilute concentration of electrons, the role of electron-electron interaction in BaTiS₃ could be non-trivial unlike most metallic or semi-metallic CDW systems. One way to evaluate the electron correlation effects in a material is by calculating the dimensionless parameter $r_s = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\frac{4}{3}\pi n}} / \left(\frac{4\pi\epsilon\hbar^2}{m_b e^2} \right)$, defined by the ratio of Wigner-sphere radius (dominated by electron-electron interaction) to Bohr radius for a 3D electronic system^[25]. Using the experimentally measured carrier concentration n , calculated band effective mass m_b and static dielectric constant ϵ from DFT, we obtained r_s value of BaTiS₃ close to 4.4 at 200 K ($n = 8.2 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$), and it further reaches 18.5 at 90 K ($n = 1.7 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) (Table S1). Although the calculated r_s values are still away from strongly correlated region (r_s values ~ 100)^[25] within the temperature range of transitions, one cannot fully rule out the role of the correlation effects like in other metallic CDW systems. For comparison, the calculated r_s parameters of many metallic CDW systems tend to be very small (close to zero, Table S2) primarily due high carrier concentrations and large dielectric constants, which is also in line with the negligible electron-electron interactions in those systems. Therefore, the origin of CDW order and phase transitions in semiconducting BaTiS₃ can be potentially attributed to combined effects of electron-lattice and electron-electron interactions.

3. Conclusion

In summary, we have investigated the CDW order and phase transitions in a dilute *d*-band semiconductor, BaTiS₃, by combining transport, XRD measurements and DFT calculations. Several groups in the past have also studied physical properties of BaTiS₃ compound at cryogenic temperatures^[9-10, 26], but no phase transition was reported before. This is mainly because careful and advanced characterizations are needed to probe the subtle signatures of intrinsic phase transitions while by the time no one was expecting their existence in such a semiconducting system. Moreover, we have found that BaTiS₃ is very sensitive to external stimuli such as strain and the phase transitions can be easily shifted or even smeared thereby, as illustrated in Figure S11. Hence, a good control over BaTiS₃ single crystal synthesis, the employment of high-flux XRD characterization, improvement on device fabrication, and strain-free transport measurements have allowed us to observe those phase transitions reliably in this work.

The phase transitions in BaTiS₃ show several peculiar features: (i) the CDW phase emerges from a semiconducting phase with a low carrier density, (ii) the structural transition (Transition II) features an abrupt switching towards a more conductive state upon cooling, (iii) Transition II has a large thermal hysteresis window of over 40 K, (iv) the changes of electrical resistance across both transitions are mainly due to the modulation of Hall mobility, rather than carrier concentrations, and (v) the CDW ordering is two-dimensional and the electronic anisotropy of BaTiS₃ is relatively small, although structurally and optically being very anisotropic. Our analysis suggests that CDW order and phase transitions in semiconducting BaTiS₃ may be contributed from both electron-lattice interactions and non-negligible elector-electron interactions. Further experimental and theoretical studies are necessary to probe the evolution of electronic structure and phonon dispersion across the transitions, to pin down the origin or driving force of these transitions. Responses of the phase transitions in BaTiS₃ to external fields such as pressure, strain, and doping, and possible emergence of electronic phases such as superconductivity are also of interest.

In addition, while CDW phenomena have been extensively studied in various materials systems, practical electronic device applications based on CDW are still limited due to the absence of pronounced hysteretic resistive transitions in most CDW systems. One notable exception is the quasi-two-dimensional Mott insulator 1T-TaS₂, where the hysteretic CDW phase transitions have been utilized to develop novel electronics such as phase change oscillators^[27] and memory devices^[5, 28]. In BaTiS₃, we have demonstrated two hysteretic resistive phase transitions, one of which is close to first-order and the other presumably second-order, making it an ideal candidate for achieving both non-volatile and volatile type resistive switching in the system. We anticipate that these phase transitions in BaTiS₃ will offer new opportunities for achieving neuromorphic functionalities, similar to what has been achieved with 1T-TaS₂. Further research in this direction is necessary to explore the full potential of CDW-based electronic devices using BaTiS₃.

4. Experimental methods

Crystal growth and room temperature characterization: Single crystals of BaTiS₃ were grown by chemical vapor transport method as reported elsewhere^[9]. Figure S1 illustrates different morphologies of the obtained crystals with *a*- and *c*-axis in plane. Single-crystal diffraction performed at room temperature shows no substantial differences structurally between them (Table S4). Needle-like crystals with well-defined *c*-axis are usually picked for transport measurements. For in-plane transport anisotropy measurements, as well as all temperature-dependent optical and single-crystal XRD characterization in this manuscript, we used BaTiS₃ platelet samples.

Scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) and scanning tunneling spectroscopy (STS) measurements were performed on freshly cleaved surface of a needle sample at room temperature (Figure S2). Surface morphology scan clearly resolves the crystal surface with RMS roughness less than 0.5 nm. Figure S2b illustrates the dI/dV spectra of BaTiS₃. It should be noted that the extraction of semiconducting gap from such experimental tunneling spectra is in general difficult due to thermal broadening at room temperature and the presence of defects that contribute in-gap states

to the dI/dV spectra. For reference, both the reported optical absorption spectra^[9] and DFT calculations give ~ 0.3 eV gap size.

Device fabrication: As-grown BaTiS₃ crystals (10 - 20 μm thick, ~ 300 μm long) are embedded in a polymeric media to planarize the top surface^[29] such that regular lithography and metallization methods can be readily applied, as illustrated in Figure S3a. Low stress polyimide (PI) with coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) $\sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$ K⁻¹ is chosen to minimize the effect of thermal contraction on BaTiS₃ transport behaviors at low temperatures. Vertical interconnect access (VIA) holes of the same PI dielectric layer were fabricated using photolithography and RIE etch (O₂/CF₄ = 45/5 sccm, 100 W, 100 mTorr, 2 min), in order to precisely define the contacting area and to encapsulate the BaTiS₃ channels. Ohmic contacts to BaTiS₃ crystals were fabricated by regular e-beam evaporation of Ti/Au (3/300 nm) and lift-off. An SF₆/Ar RIE treatment step (10/40 sccm, 100 W, 100 mTorr, 1 min) was applied right before metal deposition to remove surface oxides and further reduce the contact resistance. Optical images of BaTiS₃ devices are shown in Figure S3b. Transport measurements shown in Figure S4b were carried out on long needle-like BaTiS₃ crystals (a few mm long) contacted by pre-sputtered Au film and hand bonding using Ag epoxy and Au wires, which is considered as stress-free. The polyimide embedding method was developed for the purpose of performing multi-terminal transport measurements on small, thick bulk crystals such as BaTiS₃. The technical details of this method are presented elsewhere^[29]. The following criteria are adopted to determine whether the crystal is in nearly strain-free status: 1) the transport behavior is consistent with the conventional hand bonding contacting method using silver epoxy and Au wires, and 2) the transport behavior is reproducible between different heating / cooling cycles, as presented in Figure S4b and S4c.

Electrical transport measurements and analysis: Standard low-frequency ($f = 17$ Hz) AC lock-in techniques (Stanford Research SR830) were used to measure sample resistance in four-probe geometry, with an excitation current of about 100 nA. Regular transport measurements were carried out in a JANIS 10 K closed-cycle cryostat from 100 K to 300 K. Qualitatively reproducible transport

behavior showing two characteristic phase transitions were obtained from several devices, with different cooling cycles / cooling rates, and different fabrication methods as shown in Figure S4.

In-plane conductivity anisotropy was assessed by Montgomery method^[19] (Figure S7a and S7b). The analysis was carried out by using a van der Pauw geometry to calculate the conductivity anisotropy ρ_a/ρ_c using $\left(\frac{l}{w}\right)^2 \cdot B_{\alpha,k}^2$, where l and w are sample dimensions and $B_{\alpha,k}$ is the conformal mapping function related to the ratio of van der Pauw resistance along different directions (R_{aa}/R_{cc}). The extracted anisotropy value is close to 4 at room temperature.

Hall measurements were performed in a PPMS (Quantum Design) equipped with a 14 T magnet. AC current was generated by a lock-in amplifier and passed through the device, V_{xx} , V_{xy} as well as the current I_{AC} were recorded simultaneously. Carrier concentration n and mobility μ were extracted assuming a single carrier model. Figure S8 shows supplemental data from magneto-transport measurement. Unlike many other metallic CDW systems such as 2H-NbSe₂^[30] and 1T-TiSe₂^[15a], no carrier type switching behavior was observed across either of the two phase transitions, indicated by the plot of Hall voltage V_{xy} vs. B throughout the whole temperature range.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction: Single crystal X-ray diffraction at 130 K, 220 K and 298 K were carried out on beamline 12.2.1 at the Advanced Light Source (ALS), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Crystals were mounted on MiTeGen Kapton loops (Dual Thickness MicroMountsTM) and placed in a nitrogen cold stream on the goniometer head of a Bruker D8 diffractometer, equipped with a PHOTONII CPAD detector operating in shutter-less mode. Diffraction data were collected using monochromatic synchrotron radiation with a wavelength of 0.72880 Å using silicon (111) monochromator. A combination of f and ω scans with scan speeds of 1 s per 2 degrees for the f scans, and 1 s per 0.15 degree for the ω scans at $2\theta = 0$ and -20°, respectively. The precession map was generated by Bruker APEX 3 with resolution 1.5 Å and thickness 0.1 with the refined unit cell. Note that the refined space group is different from previously reported $P6_3/mmc$ or $P6_3mc$ ^[9]. It is mainly attributed to the improved brightness and resolution using synchrotron radiation that allows

the observation of weak reflections. Detailed crystallography data and refinement results at different temperatures are listed in Supplementary Table S3 – Table S10.

DFT calculations: The band structure of BaTiS₃ in the three different phases were computed using DFT. The initial structures were taken from the refined crystal structures from XRD at different temperatures, which are assigned to have a space group of *P6₃cm* (298 K), *P3c1* (220 K), and *P2₁* (130 K), respectively. The structures were fully optimized by DFT. These calculations were done using the Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package (VASP)^[31] with projector augmented wave (PAW) potentials^[32]. The exchange-correlation energy was treated with the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) using the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional^[33]. A cutoff energy of 650 eV was used for the expansion of the plane waves. The convergence criteria were set to 10⁻⁸ eV for total energy and 10⁻⁴ eV/Å for atomic forces, respectively. The Brillouin zone was sampled using a Γ -centered Monkhorst-Pack *k*-points mesh^[34], with maximum spacing of 0.05 Å⁻¹ for structural relaxations and 0.02 Å⁻¹ for static calculations, respectively. To address the concern related to any potential artifacts during the calculation using PBE functional, we compared the current band structure (Figure 3a) with that calculated using the meta-generalized gradient approximation (meta-GGA) SCAN functional and with a Hubbard *U* correction (2.0 to 4.0 eV for Ti) to PBE, as shown in Figure S9 and Figure S10. All the three functionals (PBE, SCAN, and PBE+U) give similar shifts in the conduction and valence bands for the three phases, without any band inversion. Hence, current trend in the change in band gap for the three phases is believed valid.

For the calculation of the *r_s* parameter, density functional perturbation theory calculations^[35] were performed to obtain the static dielectric constant (ϵ) with the same energy cutoff and *k*-point sampling as the DFT calculations. The input parameters for α and *r_s*, such as the band effective mass (m_b^*), experimental carrier concentration (*n*), static and high-frequency dielectric constant (ϵ_s and ϵ_∞), and effective polar optical phonon angular frequency ω_0 are provided in Table S1.

Supporting Information

Supporting Information is available from the Wiley Online Library or from the author.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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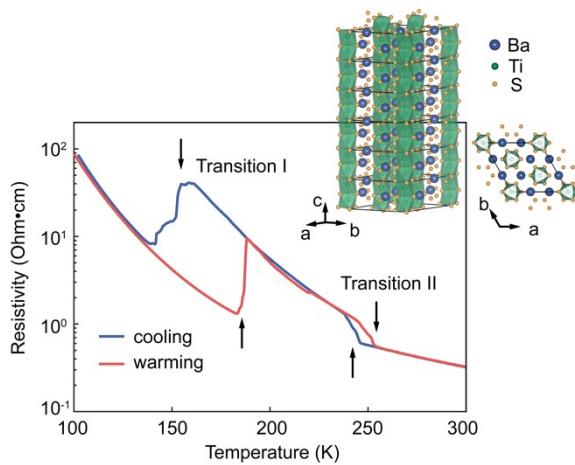
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ToC entry

This work reports the observation of charge-density-wave (CDW) order and a series of hysteretic phase transitions in a dilute *d*-band semiconductor, BaTiS₃. Our experimental and theoretical investigations suggest such behavior be attributed to both electron-phonon coupling and non-negligible electron-electron interactions. Our work highlights BaTiS₃ as a unique platform to explore CDW physics and novel electronic phases in the dilute filling limit and could open new opportunities for developing novel electronic devices.



ToC figure

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