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New Yb-based systems: From an intermediate-valent to a magnetically ordered state

By Julia Ferstl

Cuvillier Verlag Sep 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Heavy-fermion systems belong to the group of strongly correlated electron systems and have attracted considerable attention because of their unusual physical behaviour at low temperatures. Only a few Yb-based heavy-fermion compounds were discovered and investigated in the past twenty years in comparison to Ce-based ones, because of the difficulty in synthesising Yb-compounds due to the high vapour pressure of Yb. In this thesis, we present the first thorough investigation of the compound YbFe_2Ge_2 , and a study of the physical properties upon crossing the quantum critical point in the heavy-fermion system $\text{Yb}_{1-x}\text{La}_x\text{Rh}_2\text{Si}_2$. We grew polycrystals and single crystals of YbFe_2Ge_2 and of its reference compound LuFe_2Ge_2 and investigated their physical properties. Surprisingly, our results evidence in both compounds the presence of a paramagnetic Fe moment with $\mu_{\text{eff}} \approx 3 \text{ B/Fe}$ at high temperatures, in contrast to the old belief of a non-magnetic transition metal state for all RT_2X_2 -compounds with $T = \text{Fe, Co, Ni}$ and $X = \text{Si, Ge}$. Anomalies in the susceptibility and in the specific heat suggest AF-ordering of these Fe moments at $T_N = 9 \text{ K}$ in LuFe_2Ge_2 . No evidence for magnetic order was found in YbFe_2Ge_2 , instead...



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