

MAGNETIC AND TRANSPORT PROPERTIES OF EuPt₂Si₂ UNDER HIGH PRESSURE*

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(Received July 10, 2002)

We present the temperature (T) dependence of magnetic susceptibility (χ) and electrical resistivity (ρ) of EuPt₂Si₂ under high pressure. The Néel temperature (T_N) is lowered with applying pressure. Above 2.5 GPa, the T_N is collapsed and the residual resistivity drops dramatically with pressure. However, there exists no evidence of the valence transition, which is observed as a clear peak in the ρ - T curve in EuNi₂Ge₂ under high pressure.

PACS numbers: 75.20.Hr, 75.30.Mb

EuPt₂Si₂, which crystallizes in the CaBe₂Ge₂ type structure, has been reported to show a stable localized moment corresponding to Eu²⁺ ($4f^7$, $J = 7/2$) and an antiferromagnetic ordering at $T_N \sim 15$ K [1]. We take notice of an isomer shift (IS) of this compound measured by ¹⁵¹Eu Mössbauer effect at 300 K. The IS value of -8.1 mm/s [1, 2] is shifted a little toward a Eu³⁺ state (IS(Eu³⁺) ~ 0 mm/s), compared with the other divalent Eu compounds (*e.g.* IS(EuAg₂Si₂) = -10.4 mm/s [2, 3], IS(EuNi₂Ge₂) = -9.1 mm/s [4]). Recently, a pressure-induced valence transition from Eu²⁺

* Presented at the International Conference on Strongly Correlated Electron Systems, (SCES 02), Cracow, Poland, July 10–13, 2002.

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to Eu^{3+} accompanied by collapse of an antiferromagnetic ordering has been found in EuNi_2Ge_2 [5, 6]. Since the Eu valence of EuPt_2Si_2 is closer to a trivalent state than that of EuNi_2Ge_2 , we expected that similar behavior would be observed also in EuPt_2Si_2 under high pressure. In order to elucidate that point, we measured magnetic susceptibility (χ) and electrical resistivity (ρ) as a function of temperature under high pressure.

A polycrystalline sample of EuPt_2Si_2 was prepared by argon-arc-melting stoichiometric amounts of constituent elements with a purity of more than 99.9% and subsequently annealing in an evacuated quartz tube at 800°C for one week. The sample was confirmed by powder X-ray diffraction to be a single phase with the CaBe_2Ge_2 type structure. Magnetization measurements under high pressure up to 1.2 GPa was performed from 4.2 K to 200 K by an extraction technique using a Ti-Cu clamp cell. Electrical resistivity under high pressure up to 9.0 GPa was measured from 3 K to 300 K by a standard dc four-probe method using a cubic-anvil-type pressure cell.

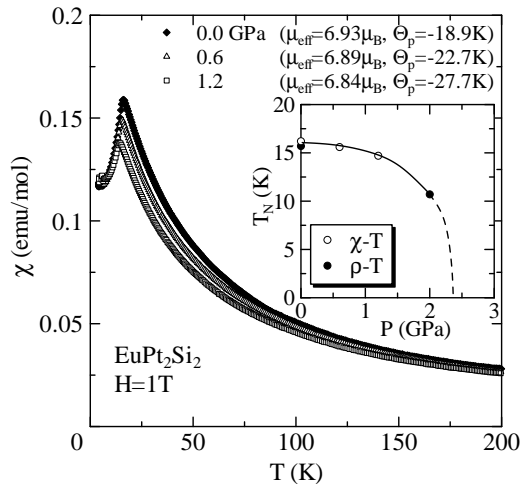


Fig. 1. Temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility of EuPt_2Si_2 under various pressures. The inset shows pressure dependence of the Néel temperature. The open and solid circles are determined from a peak position in the $\chi-T$ curve (Fig. 1) and from an inflection point in the $\rho-T$ curve (see Fig. 2), respectively. The solid and dashed lines are guides to the eye.

The magnetic susceptibility χ is plotted in Fig. 1 as a function of temperature and pressure. For all pressures, a definite peak is observed at around 15 K, corresponding to the antiferromagnetic ordering. With applying pressure, the Néel temperature T_N , determined from the peak position, is lowered as shown in the inset of Fig. 1 and the peak is gradually suppressed, which

suggests the Eu valence is shifted little by little toward a nonmagnetic trivalent state. Above T_N , the χ follows the Curie-Weiss law with the effective moment of $\mu_{\text{eff}} \sim 7\mu_B$ and the Weiss temperature of $\Theta_p = -27\text{ K} \sim -18\text{ K}$. The value of μ_{eff} (even for ambient pressure) is rather smaller than a theoretical value of Eu^{2+} ($7.94\mu_B$) and an experimental value of other divalent Eu compounds. This result also suggests the Eu valence of EuPt_2Si_2 is in the vicinity of the valence fluctuating state.

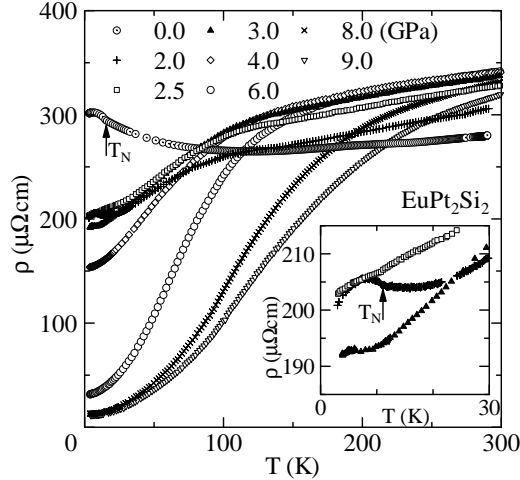


Fig. 2. Temperature dependence of electrical resistivity of EuPt_2Si_2 under various pressures. The inset shows data for 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 GPa in the temperature range from 3 K to 30 K. The arrows show an inflection point corresponding to the T_N .

In order to investigate higher-pressure behavior, we measured the temperature dependence of electrical resistivity ρ for pressures ranging from ambient pressure to 9.0 GPa, as shown in Fig. 2. At ambient pressure, with decreasing temperature, the ρ increases below 120 K and shows tendency to saturate to a large residual resistivity of $\rho_0 \sim 300\ \mu\Omega\text{cm}$ at lowest temperature. The ρ - T curve has an inflection point at $T_N = 16\text{ K}$. These features of the ρ is quite different from those of other divalent Eu compounds showing an antiferromagnetic ordering such as EuNi_2Ge_2 [6–8]. Applying pressure depresses the inflection point to 11 K at 2.0 GPa and to $T < 3\text{ K}$ above 2.5 GPa, as displayed in the inset of Fig. 2. The T_N estimated from the inflection point is also plotted as a function of pressure in the inset of Fig. 1. The antiferromagnetic ordering seems to disappear at around 2.5 GPa. However, there exists no evidence of the valence transition, which is observed as a clear peak in the ρ - T curve in EuNi_2Ge_2 under high pressure [6]. Instead, at 2.0 ~ 3.0 GPa, a broad and small hump is seen in the temperature range

of 60 K \sim 140 K, of which origin is unknown. On the other hand, with applying pressure, the ρ_0 drops dramatically to $\sim 10 \mu\Omega\text{cm}$ at 9.0 GPa. Accordingly, at $P \geq 2.0$ GPa, the temperature dependence of ρ transfers into metallic behavior. In normal metallic materials, a residual resistivity is generally interpreted as due to scattering of conduction electrons by impurities or lattice defects which are independent of pressure and temperature. Therefore, we must take into account another scattering mechanism in order to explain the pressure-sensitive behavior of the ρ_0 . At $P \geq 4.0$ GPa, the ρ exhibits T^2 dependence at lowest temperatures, which suggests Fermi-liquid behavior. The T^2 coefficient A is derived to be $\sim 0.035 \mu\Omega\text{cm}/\text{K}^2$ for 4.0 and 6.0 GPa and $7 \sim 8 \times 10^{-3} \mu\Omega\text{cm}/\text{K}^2$ for 8.0 and 9.0 GPa.

In conclusion, in EuPt_2Si_2 , the application of pressure induces collapse of the antiferromagnetic ordering, drastic reduction in the residual resistivity and the occurrence of the Fermi-liquid-like behavior. However, a clear evidence of the valence transition is not observed. Further investigations are now in progress.

One of the authors (A. M.) acknowledges the support of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for Young Scientists. This work was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Japan.

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