

EFFECT OF PRESSURE ON ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY AND LATTICE PARAMETERS OF CeRh_2Si_2 *

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(Received July 10, 2002)

We report the pressure dependence of lattice parameter at room temperature up to 13 GPa and the electrical resistivity of CeRh_2Si_2 in the temperature range from 2.5 K to 300 K up to 8 GPa. The compression curve of unit-cell volume is well fitted to Murnaghan equation of state. The resistivity below 10 K is described as $\rho(T) = \rho_0 + AT^2$, where ρ_0 is the residual resistivity and A the constant. $A(P)$ shows a peak around the critical pressure $P_C \sim 1.0$ GPa. The Grüneisen parameter of the Kondo temperature T_K is estimated above P_C and compared with those of the heavy fermion compounds.

PACS numbers: 71.27.+a, 73.43.Nq, 74.62.Fj

1. Introduction

CeRh_2Si_2 , which crystallizes in the ThCr_2Si_2 type tetragonal structure, is an antiferromagnet with two transition temperatures at $T_{N1} = 36$ K and $T_{N2} = 24$ K [1,2]. The superconductivity appears at 400 mK above 0.9 GPa, near the critical pressure ($P_C \sim 1.0$ GPa) required to suppress antiferromagnetic ordering [3]. In the present work, we report the electrical resistivity of a single crystalline CeRh_2Si_2 under pressure in detail and discuss the electronic properties near the quantum critical point induced by pressure.

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

2. Experimental

Sample preparation and characterization of the single crystal in the present experiment was described in Ref. [4]. The electrical resistance was measured for the current along a -axis by using a cubic anvil-type high-pressure cell up to 8 GPa. A mixture of Fluorinerts of FC70 and FC77 in ratio 1:1 was used as a pressure transmitting medium.

The pressure dependence of lattice parameters was determined by X ray (MoK α) powder diffraction with Guinier-type focusing camera and highly sensitive film. Hydrostatic pressure was generated by tungsten-carbide Bridgman anvils and Be sheet as a gasket. Details of the pressure apparatus have been reported previously [5, 6].

3. Results

3.1. X ray diffraction

Fig. 1 shows the pressure dependences of the relative lattice parameters a/a_0 , c/c_0 of the tetragonal cell and the relative volume V/V_0 , respectively, where a_0 ($= 4.070 \text{ \AA}$), c_0 ($= 10.156 \text{ \AA}$) and V_0 ($= c_0 a_0^2$) are the values of a , c and V at ambient pressure. It is revealed that the tetragonal structure is stable at room temperature up to 13 GPa. Both a/a_0 and c/c_0 decrease smoothly with increasing pressure without any discontinuous change. Linear compressibilities of a - and c - axis are $2.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$ and $3.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$.

We attempted a least-squares fit of the data V to the first-order Murnaghan's equation of state, $P = (B_0/B'_0)[(V_0/V)^{B'_0} - 1]$, where B_0 denotes the bulk modulus at ambient pressure and B'_0 is its pressure derivative. These are estimated to be 139 GPa and 2.2.

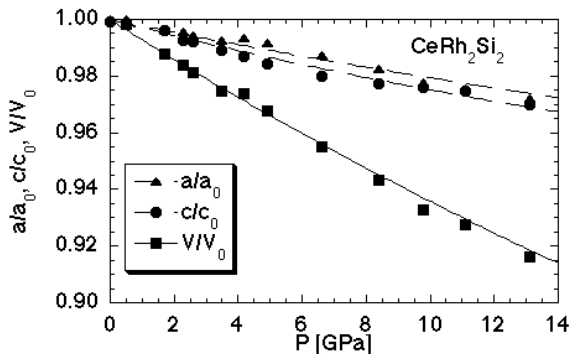


Fig. 1. Pressure dependence of a/a_0 , c/c_0 , and V/V_0 of CeRh_2Si_2 . The solid line for the pressure dependence of V/V_0 shows the result of Murnaghan's fitting. The dashed lines for a/a_0 and c/c_0 are guides to eye.

3.2. Resistivity

Fig. 2 shows the T^2 dependence of the electrical resistivity. The resistivity is described as $\rho(T) = \rho_0 + AT^2$ at low temperature in a wide pressure range up to 8 GPa, where ρ_0 is the residual resistivity and A is the constant. $A(P)$ shows a peak around $P_C \sim 1.0$ GPa, which has been discussed previously [7,8], indicating that the large spin fluctuation gives rise to the pressure-induced quantum phase transition. The residual resistivity also shows anomalous pressure dependence.

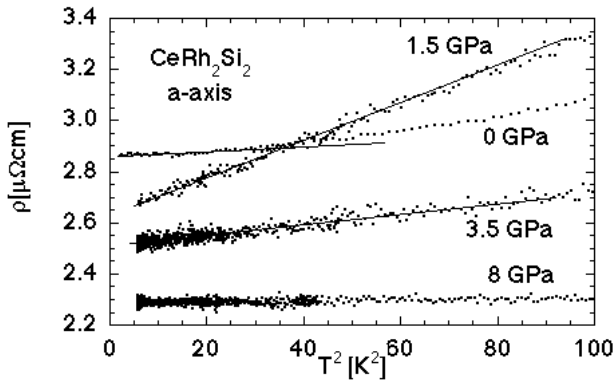


Fig. 2. T^2 dependence of the electrical resistivity along the a -axis of CeRh_2Si_2 .

4. Discussion

According to the theory of Yoshimori [9], Kondo temperature T_K is proportional to $A^{-1/2}$. Then the Grüneisen parameter Γ of T_K is written,

$$\Gamma = - \left. \frac{\partial \ln T_K}{\partial \ln V} \right|_{V=V_0} = \frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{\partial \ln A}{\partial \ln V} \right|_{V=V_0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta(\ln A)}{\frac{\Delta V}{V_0}}.$$

In Fig. 3, the values of A are plotted in logarithmic scale as a function of $\Delta V/V_0$. The linear relationship is found in the plot as is shown by solid lines above 1.5 GPa ($\Delta V/V_0 > 0.011$). From the result, the value of Γ is estimated to be 42 for CeRh_2Si_2 , which is extremely large and comparable with those of heavy fermion compounds 59 and 65 for CeInCu_2 and CeCu_6 , respectively [10]. Below 1.5 GPa, on the other hand, the observed values deviate significantly from the linear relation, suggesting that the electronic state is very unstable near the quantum critical point at P_C .

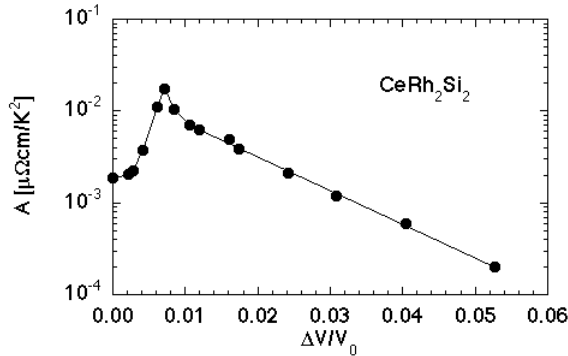


Fig. 3. The values of A as a function of volume change $\Delta V/V_0$ for CeRh_2Si_2 , where A is the coefficient of T^2 of $\rho - T$ curve along a -axis.

5. Summary

From the measurements of the electrical resistivity and lattice parameters of CeRh_2Si_2 at high pressure, the volume dependence of Kondo temperature T_K was discussed, in which an anomaly is observed near the quantum critical point at $P_C \sim 1.0$ GPa. The Grüneisen parameter of T_K is estimated to be 42 above 1.5 GPa. The magnitude is comparable with that of heavy fermion compounds.

This work was supported by a Grant in Aid for Scientific Research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

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