



Contribution ID: 55

Type: oral

Transport and thermodynamic properties of $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$

Transport and thermodynamic properties of $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$

Przemysław Swatek and Dariusz Kaczorowski

Institute of Low Temperature and Structure Research, Polish Academy of Sciences,
P.O. Box 1410, 50-950 Wrocław, Poland
e-mail: P.Swatek@int.pan.wroc.pl

Ternary rare-earth-based intermetallic compounds RT_2M_{20} ($\text{R} = \text{Ce}, \text{Gd}, \text{Yb}$; $\text{T} = \text{d-electron transition metal}$; $\text{M} = \text{Zr}, \text{Hf}$). Similar compounds with uranium and zinc were reported to form with $\text{T} = \text{Fe}, \text{Co}, \text{Ru}, \text{Rh}, \text{Ir}$ [6-9]. They exhibit a variety of physical properties. Single crystals of $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$ were grown in Zn flux. The obtained crystals were well-developed cubes with the dimensions of several millimeters. The temperature variation of the specific heat of $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$ is shown in Fig. 1. In agreement with the magnetic data, Fig. 2 displays the temperature dependence of the electrical resistivity of $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$. At room temperature the resistivity is high. To summarize hitherto findings, $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$ seems to be a novel paramagnetic moderately-enhanced heavy-fermion system.

Fig. 1. Temperature dependence of the specific heat of single-crystalline $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$. The inset shows the heat capacity data in the form C/T vs. T^2 . The dashed line emphasizes the linear dependence.

Fig. 2. Temperature variation of the electrical resistivity of single-crystalline $\text{UFe}_2\text{Zn}_{20}$ (note semilogarithmic scale). The solid and dashed curves mark the Fermi-liquid- and Kondo-like behaviors at low and ambient temperatures, respectively.

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Primary author: SWATEK, P

Presenter: SWATEK, P

Track Classification: Strongly correlated behaviours, superconductivity, quantum criticality