

after annealing to 20 K, $\ln R \sim T^{-1/4}$ was found. These films did not exhibit superconductivity as measured resistively down to the lowest temperatures attainable ($T \sim 1.5$ K).

The above-described behavior suggests that the Hg-Xe system exhibits a metal-nonmetal transition which occurs with a dependence on concentration and with a critical concentration close to that of continuous percolation in 3D. Beyond the percolation threshold, the systems acquire a negative TCR but are still superconductors. With further increase in Xe concentration, a regime in which the conductivity is dominated by hopping is entered. The approach to an insulating configuration beyond the percolation threshold is probably the Mott-Anderson transition of Refs. 2-4 and is accompanied by the eventual disappearance of superconductivity as determined resistively.

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Superconductivity in the Presence of Strong Pauli Paramagnetism: CeCu_2Si_2

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A comparison was made between four low-temperature properties of LaCu_2Si_2 and CeCu_2Si_2 . Whereas LaCu_2Si_2 behaves like a normal metal, CeCu_2Si_2 shows (i) low-temperature anomalies typical of "unstable 4f shell" behavior and (ii) a transition into a superconducting state at $T_c \approx 0.5$ K. Our experiments demonstrate for the first time that superconductivity can exist in a metal in which many-body interactions, probably magnetic in origin, have strongly renormalized the properties of the conduction-electron gas.

The relationship between different collective phenomena in metals has continued to interest both experimentalists and theorists. Recent

interest has shifted to materials in which ferromagnetism and superconductivity occur at different temperatures, either because of the addition

of magnetic impurities to a superconducting host¹ or because the magnetism is intrinsic to the localized 4*f* electrons of a rare-earth constituent, such as Er, in a superconducting compound.² There is also much interest in materials in which either superconductivity or magnetism interferes with a third kind of collective phenomenon, i.e., the Kondo or intermediate-valence phenomenon, which occurs in metals containing rare earths with less localized 4*f* electrons, such as Ce. It results from an "instability of the 4*f* shell" (namely, of the 4*f* magnetic moment and sometimes also of the 4*f* occupation number) and is characterized by distinct low-temperature anomalies in the magnetic and electronic transport properties. While Ce impurities can strongly influence the intrinsic properties of a superconducting host,³ in certain Ce compounds, e.g., CeAl₂, a Kondo-type phenomenon seems to coexist with long-range antiferromagnetism.⁴

In this Letter, we report low-temperature observations of the resistivity, specific heat, low-field ac susceptibility, and dc magnetization of CeCu₂Si₂ and LaCu₂Si₂. Whereas LaCu₂Si₂ shows rather normal metallic behavior, we conclude that in CeCu₂Si₂, a compound with "unstable 4*f* shell" behavior, the low-temperature anomalies reported before by Franz *et al.*⁵ have their origin, in our somewhat more carefully prepared samples, in a transition into a novel superconducting state. We conclude that a large fraction (up to 30 vol %) of the bulk of our CeCu₂Si₂ samples is

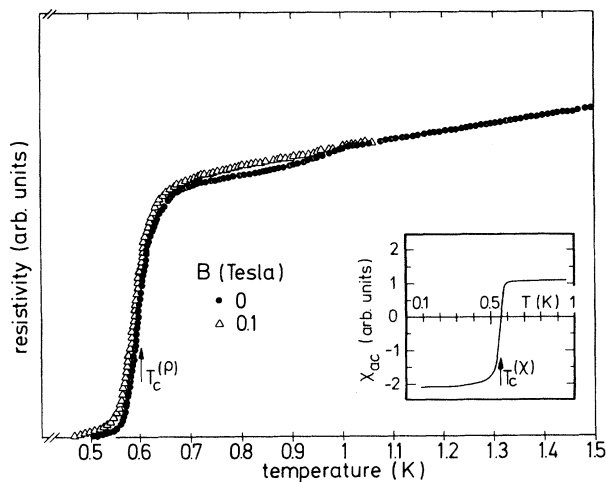


FIG. 1. Resistivity (main part) and low-field ac susceptibility (inset) of CeCu₂Si₂ as function of temperature. Arrows give transition temperatures $T_c^{(P)} = 0.60 \pm 0.03$ K and $T_c^{(X)} = 0.54 \pm 0.03$ K. Transition widths are taken between 10% and 90% points of the transition curves.

exhibiting the Meissner effect. A preliminary report on some of our results has been given elsewhere.⁶

The polycrystalline samples were prepared in an induction furnace, while kept under an argon pressure of 5 atm. While most results reported here were obtained with unannealed samples, one sample was reinvestigated after annealing in an ultrahigh vacuum (900 °C, 100 h). X-ray analysis indicated that both compounds had the proper structure (tetragonal, ThCr₂Si₂); microprobe analysis, however, revealed the existence of a small amount of precipitations (varying from sample to sample between 1 and 4 vol %) of both a Si-rich phase and a Cu-Si phase with a Cu content of 80–90 at.%. Upon annealing, no significant change either of the x-ray pattern or the microprobe result was detected.

The experimental results of the resistivity, ac susceptibility, and specific heat for an unannealed CeCu₂Si₂ sample are presented in Figs. 1 and 2

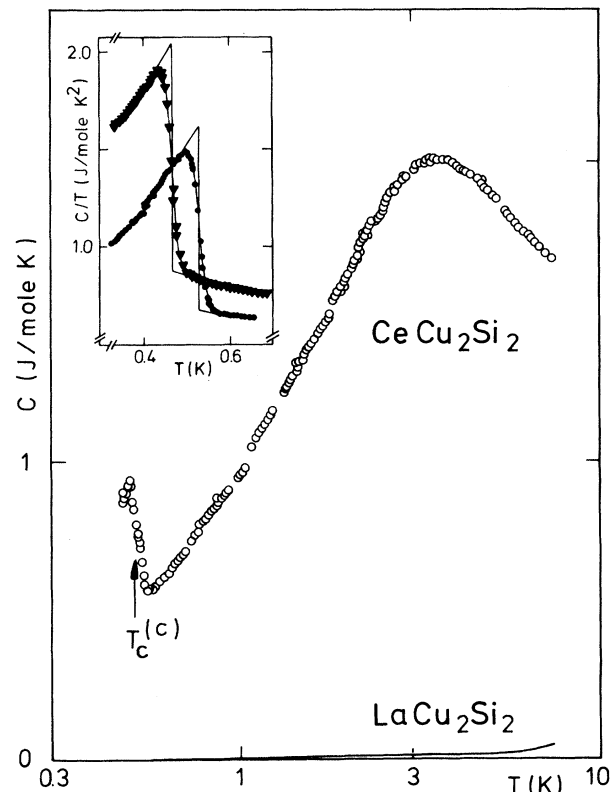


FIG. 2. Molar specific heat of CeCu₂Si₂ at $B=0$ as function of temperature on logarithmic scale. Arrow marks transition temperature $T_c^{(C)} = 0.51 \pm 0.04$ K. Transition width determined as in Fig. 1. Inset shows in a C/T vs T plot the specific-heat jumps of two other CeCu₂Si₂ samples.

(main part). We discuss the results for $T > 0.6$ K first. Whereas LaCu_2Si_2 behaves like a normal d -band metal, CeCu_2Si_2 shows several anomalies: (i) Below 1 K, the ac susceptibility is positive and almost temperature independent (inset of Fig. 1); (ii) below 1.5 K, the resistivity increases linearly with T (main part of Fig. 1); (iii) the specific heat has a broad peak ($T_{\text{max}} = 3.5$ K), whose low-temperature ($T < 1$ K) part is predominated by a γT law with a large coefficient $\gamma \approx 1$ J (K² mole)⁻¹ (main part of Fig. 2). The resistivity, which was consistent from sample to sample, is displayed in arbitrary units: Determination of the sample geometry was unreliable because of the presence of microcracks in the CeCu_2Si_2 samples.⁵

The properties of CeCu_2Si_2 between 0.6 and 1 K are similar to those reported by Andres, Graebner, and Ott⁷ for CeAl_3 in the same temperature regime.⁸ In addition, like CeAl_3 ,⁹ CeCu_2Si_2 exhibits a pronounced specific-heat anomaly at elevated temperature. Comparison with the specific heat of LaCu_2Si_2 shows that neither phonons nor $5d$ electrons contribute significantly to this anomaly. Instead, it indicates the removal of Zeeman degeneracies and perhaps also configurational degeneracies at the Ce sites and results from an interaction between the (unstable) $4f$ shells and the conduction electrons. From the coefficient γ , a spin-fluctuation temperature, $T^* \approx 10$ K, is estimated (cf. Bredl, Steglich, and Schotte⁴), which is in reasonable agreement with $T^* = 20 \pm 10$ K from electronic transport⁵ and inelastic neutron scattering¹⁰ experiments.

Around 0.5 K a second set of anomalies is observed: (i) below $T_c^{(\rho)} = 0.60$ K, the resistivity vanishes within the experimental resolution of 10^{-4} , i.e., it becomes at least smaller than that of high-purity bulk Cu; (ii) at $T_c^{(\chi)} = 0.54$ K, the almost temperature-independent paramagnetic signal of the low-field ac susceptibility changes into a large diamagnetic signal; (iii) at $T_c^{(C)} = 0.51$ K, the specific heat has a pronounced discontinuity $\Delta C = 0.85C_n(T_c)$ indicating a second-order phase transition of CeCu_2Si_2 (C_n is the specific heat at T_c as extrapolated from higher temperatures). Clearly, the drop of ρ and χ_{ac} indicates an onset of superconductivity. dc magnetization in low fields ($< 10^{-4}$ T) was measured with aid of a SQUID magnetometer. Comparing the data obtained for the bulk CeCu_2Si_2 sample with those for a Cd sample of same geometry, we conclude that in this sample a net volume of the order of 10% exhibits the Meissner effect. We

believe that this shows that the kind of superconductivity indicated by features (i) and (ii) cannot be related to the spurious phases (with total amount < 4 vol %). We note that the LaCu_2Si_2 sample does not show similar anomalies and, according to a χ_{ac} measurement, remains in the normal state at least down to 50 mK.

In order to check whether the specific-heat jump marks the onset of superconductivity or perhaps of antiferromagnetism [like in CeAl_2 (Ref. 4)] we have repeated the measurements at $B = 0$ and for two values of the external field, namely, 0.5 and 1 T. Absolute and reduced values of the transition temperatures are collected in Table I. The reduced transition temperatures determined by different techniques are almost identical and vary linearly with magnetic field. This suggests that the specific-heat jump (i) has the same origin as the drop of both ρ and χ_{ac} and (ii) cannot be attributed to an antiferromagnetic phase transition, because the latter requires a vertical slope of the critical field at the Néel temperature. Our experiments, therefore, lead to the conclusion that CeCu_2Si_2 becomes superconducting below 0.5 K. The values of the critical field show type-II behavior.

We now discuss some observations which complicate the interpretation of our results: (i) Some spurious superconductivity ($T_c = 0.2$ – 0.3 K) was detected through a broad and tiny step in the $\chi_{\text{ac}}(T)$ curve for one CeCu_2Si_2 sample as well as one LaCu_2Si_2 sample. The origin of these effects is not yet clear. It can hardly be related to CuSi precipitations of either hcp or fcc structure (so far the only known superconducting materials formed with Ce, Cu, and Si), because their transition temperatures are much too low, i.e., $T_c = 50$ – 58 mK, Luo and Andres¹¹ and ≈ 20 mK, Hoyt,¹² respectively. (ii) There are aging effects, namely, an increase of $T_c^{(\rho)}$ by ≈ 30 mK, a corresponding decrease of $T_c^{(C)}$ (see Table I) and a reduction of the ratio $\Delta C/C_n(T_c)$ from 0.85 to

TABLE I. Transition temperatures $T_c^{(\rho)}$, $T_c^{(\chi)}$, $T_c^{(C)}$ at $B = 0, 0.5$, and 1 T as obtained in repeated experiments. Also given are the reduced transition temperatures $t_c^{(i)} = T_c^{(i)}/T_c^{(i)}(B=0)$.

| B (T) | $T_c^{(\rho)}$ (K) | $t_c^{(\rho)}$ | $T_c^{(\chi)}$ (K) | $t_c^{(\chi)}$ | $T_c^{(C)}$ (K) | $t_c^{(C)}$ |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 0 | 0.63 | 1 | 0.54 | 1 | 0.49 | 1 |
| 0.5 | 0.58 | 0.92 | 0.50 | 0.93 | 0.45 | 0.92 |
| 1 | 0.53 | 0.85 | 0.45 | 0.83 | 0.41 | 0.84 |

0.76 as found when the experiment was repeated after about two months during which the sample was kept under argon atmosphere. These observations indicate that presently the metallurgy of our samples is delicate and needs to be improved in the future.

Recently, we have prepared two CeCu_2Si_2 samples of the same quality as indicated before, which show a somewhat reduced coefficient γ and a specific-heat jump of BCS size, i.e., $\Delta C/C_n(T_c) \simeq 1.4$ (inset of Fig. 2). So far, one of these samples was studied by dc magnetization; a net volume of $\simeq 30\%$ was found to exhibit the Meissner effect. With this same sample we have checked the influence of annealing on the specific-heat jump and found an increase of both the transition temperature (by 30 mK) and the transition width (by 50%) as well as a slight ($\simeq 10\%$) reduction of the jump height. Although our preliminary results with these new samples form a quite convincing case, we would welcome a confirmation by other workers of our conclusion that CeCu_2Si_2 is an intrinsic superconductor.

To summarize, CeCu_2Si_2 shows unstable-4f-shell behavior. Well below $T^* = 10$ K, a large γT term predominates the specific heat. We interpret this term as being due to very heavy fermion quasiparticles with degeneracy temperature $T_F \simeq T^*$. Below 0.5 K, a large fraction of CeCu_2Si_1 becomes superconducting, in contrast to LaCu_2Si_2 which remains in the normal state at least down to 50 mK. The size of the specific-heat jump at T_c , in proportion to γT_c , suggests that Cooper-pair states are formed by these heavy fermions. Since the Debye temperature, Θ , is of the order of 200 K,⁵ we find $T_c < T_F < \Theta$ with $T_c/T_F \simeq T_F/\Theta \simeq 0.05$. This suggests that CeCu_2Si (i) behaves as a "high-temperature superconductor" and (ii) cannot be described by conventional theory of superconductivity which assumes a typical phonon frequency $k_B\Theta/h \ll k_B T_F/h$, the characteristic frequency of the fermions.

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Excitonic Effects in Core-Hole Screening

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It is shown that the C 1s core-electron line shape of graphite in photoemission is determined by an excitonic state near the Fermi energy in the hole-state density of states.

The observation (see Fig. 1) that the carbon 1s photoemission line of graphite is strongly asymmetrical is difficult to understand from the point of view of many-body screening because the density of states at the Fermi energy (E_F) is very small compared with that of the simple metals. The additional fact that the *shape* of the line is well represented over a range of a few electron volts by the many-body power law only serves to deepen the puzzle since that shape is thought to be applicable only to the simple metals, i.e., those in which the density of states (DOS) remains constant near E_F . In graphite the DOS at E_F is very small and initially rises linearly in both directions. The resolution of this dilemma requires an extension of the usual treatment of the many-body screening formalism.

In the sophisticated treatment of the many-body phenomenon the behavior is studied only in the

limit of small excitation energy.^{1,2} The DOS, g , is assumed to be well behaved (i.e., no singularity) at E_F so that only $g(E_F)$ enters explicitly into the many-body line shapes. Using the approach due to Hopfield³ it can be shown⁴ that the joint density of states (JDOS) for electron-hole pair excitation plays a crucial role in determining the line shape. For a well-behaved DOS the JDOS rises linearly for small excitation energy. Such a linear rise translates directly into the many-body line shape

$$I(\omega) \propto [(\omega - \omega_0)/\xi]^{-1}. \quad (1)$$

For simple metals it has been shown⁵ that this behavior is realized over a range of $\sim E_F/4$, as one would expect on the basis of a calculated JDOS. In metals with highly structured DOS more detailed calculations using a JDOS obtained from the actual band structure are required.⁴

For graphite this approach was tried with two forms of the band structure, those shown by Weinberger *et al.*⁶ and by Dresselhaus, Dresselhaus, and Fischer.⁷ The latter has more detailed structure in the vicinity of E_F . Neither one gives a line shape resembling that of graphite, largely because the JDOS is small and has strong positive curvature for small excitations.

The data shown in Fig. 1 were taken with a HP 5950A spectrometer on a piece of vacuum cleaved graphite, highly oriented pyrolytic graphite (HOPG), grade ZYB, obtained from Union Carbide. Other forms of graphite give similar results. The data were fitted over a range from 282.2 to 287.2 eV with the power-law line shape, by use of the equation of Doniach and Sunjic,⁸ and a closed-form expression for the instrumental resolution function. The resulting line is shown over full range of the data up to the 6-eV plas-

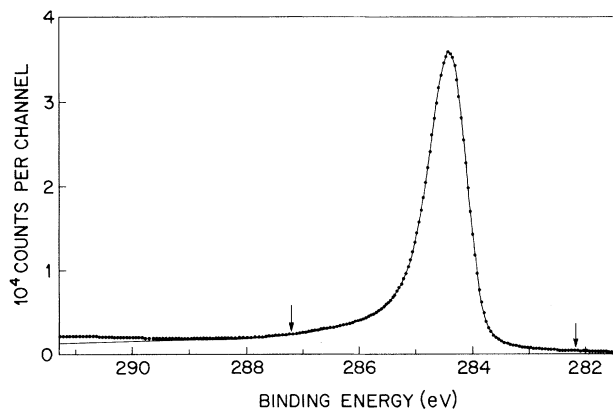


FIG. 1. X-ray photoemission spectrum of the C 1s electrons of highly oriented pyrolytic graphite. The solid line represents a least-squares fit to the data between the arrows (see text for details).