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Pressure Dependence of the Kondo Resistance Anomaly and the Pair Breaking Effect in La-Ce Alloys

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The pressure dependence of the pair breaking effect and of the resistance anomaly was measured in LaCe alloys. The results indicate that the maximum in the pressure dependent pair breaking effect is due to a monotonic shift of the Kondo temperature T_k with pressure from values $T_k \! \ll \! T_{c0}$ to $T_k \! \gg \! T_{c0}$, where T_{c0} is the superconducting transition temperature of pure lanthanum.

Introduction

Measurements of the superconducting transition temperature T_c of La-Ce alloys by Smith¹ have shown that the depression of T_c by paramagnetic impurities of concentration c is pressure dependent. Coqblin and Ratto² have explained this effect by assuming a pressure dependent enhancement of the exchange parameter |J|, defined by the Hamiltonian $H = -JS \cdot \sigma$ where S and σ are the spins of the localized impurity and the conduction electron, respectively. Referring to the theories of Zuckermann³ and Müller-Hartmann and Zittartz⁴, a relative maximum of $\Delta T_c/\Delta c$ has been predicted as a function of pressure⁵. According to these theories $\Delta T_c/\Delta c$ is a function of T_k/T_{c0} (T_k =Kondo Temperature, T_{c0} =superconducting transition temperature of the host metal), and the maximum of $\Delta T_c/\Delta c$ corresponds to a certain value of $T_k/T_{c0} = 9$ which amounts to $9 \approx 2$ (Ref. 3) or $9 \approx 12$ (Ref. 4). For a Kondo alloy with $T_k \leqslant T_{c0}$ (at zero pressure) the depression of the transition tempera-

¹ Smith, T. F.: Phys. Rev. Letters 17, 386 (1966).

² Coqblin, B., Ratto, C. F.: Phys. Rev. Letters 21, 1065 (1968).

³ Zuckermann, M. J.: Phys. Rev. 168, 390 (1968).

⁴ Müller-Hartmann, E., Zittartz, J.: Z. Physik 234, 58 (1970).

⁵ Umlauf, E.: In: Sommerschule f
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