

Band metamagnetism and related phenomena in $\text{Er}(\text{Co}_{1-x}\text{Si}_x)_2$

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Abstract: We report on magnetic, transport, and cohesive properties of $\text{Er}(\text{Co}_{1-x}\text{Si}_x)_2$ compounds in varying external conditions (T, H, p). The localized Er 4f magnetic moments in ErCo_2 order ferromagnetically below $T_c = 33$ K. The Co 3d band states form no moment above T_c , but below T_c the majority and minority 3d sub-bands split due to strong 4f - 3d exchange interaction. Consequently, Co moments of $1 \mu_B$ appear coupled antiparallel to the Er moments. This is accompanied by a 50% resistivity drop and an abrupt lattice expansion. The sharp magnetization, resistivity, and volume anomalies in the critical temperature region indicate a first order magnetic phase transition. Detailed comparative studies reveal that the onset of Co magnetism appears at $T_0 = (T_c - 1)$ K. Si substitution for Co enhances both, T_c (up to 66 K for $x = 0.1$) and $T = T_c - T_0$, but the lattice parameter remains unchanged. In opposite, both the magnetovolume and resistivity anomaly at T_0 become reduced. Pressure effect on $T_c(T_0)$ is large and negative, $dT_c/dp = -28 \text{ K GPa}^{-1}$ for all $x \geq 0.1$. Also the resistivity drop at T_0 and the magnetovolume effect ($\Delta V/V = 3 \times 10^{-3}$ in ErCo_2) below T_0 become reduced with increasing pressure. The latter is reflecting reduction of the Co moment gained below T_0 . © 1997 American Institute of Physics.

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