

Quantum Phase Transition Induced by Chemical Substitution in the valence fluctuating System α -YbAlB₄

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The Yb-based heavy fermion system, α -YbAlB₄, has a noncentrosymmetric crystal structure, while the structure of the isostoichiometric system, β -YbAlB₄ is centrosymmetric¹. β -YbAlB₄ is a rare example of the Yb based heavy fermion systems that shows pronounced non-Fermi-liquid behaviors and a superconducting transition at 80 mK under ambient pressure and field^{2,3,4}. On the other hand, α -YbAlB₄ at low temperatures is well fit to a Fermi liquid type description⁴. Both α and β -YbAlB₄ are valence fluctuating systems with the valence of Yb^{2.73+} and Yb^{2.75+}, in spite of showing Kondo lattice behaviors⁵.

We have succeeded in substituting Fe for Al in α -YbAlB₄, and found a magnetic order at 10 K by magnetic susceptibility measurements. We will discuss the thermodynamic and transport properties in the vicinity of quantum phase transitions found in α -YbAl_{1-x}Fe_xB₄, comparing with β -YbAlB₄.

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