XMCD-Signatures of Kondo and Heavy Fermion Behaviour in the Surface Intermetallic $CePt_5/Pt(111)$

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We explore the detection of magnetic signatures of Kondo and heavy fermion physics by x-ray spectroscopy and study the anisotropic paramagnetic Ce-4f response in CePt₅, prepared on Pt(111). Qualitatively, the magnetic behaviour above $T \gtrsim 20$ K is readily understood in terms of interacting, considerably screened Ce-4f moments in a hexagonal crystal field (CF). A quantitative description necessitates distinct CF parameters for "inner" and "surface" atomic layers (supported by electron diffraction). Yet, treating both CF and Kondo physics at the NCA level [1] proved unsatisfactory.

The paramagnetic response displays a remarkable anomaly $(T^* \approx 18 \text{ K})$, which we shall discuss as signalling the transition towards the coherent heavy fermion state. Well below T^* we find Ce-4f saturation moments much smaller than the free ion values. Their occurrence, too, can be understood to be characteristic of the coherent state and associated with a Lifshitz transition as predicted theoretically [2].

References:

[1] G. Zwicknagl, V. Zevin and P. Fulde, Z. Phys. B 79, 365 (1990)

[2] K. S. D. Beach and F. F. Assaad, Phys. Rev. B 77, 205123 (2005)