Unusual negative magnetisation effect in antiferromagnetic YbFe₄Al₈ compound

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The nowadays-published experimental reports on the magnetic and transport properties of rare earth RFe₄Al₈ systems are not numerous and still controversial. One of the most intriguing is the possibility of superconductivity in the Lu- or Yb systems [1]. To clarify this point we performed investigations of the magnetic and transport properties of YbFe₄Al₈ intermetallic compound by the methods of DC magnetisation, microwave absorption, Mössbauer effect and four-point resistivity measurements. The Mössbauer effect measurements reveal a broad antiferromagnetic phase transition which begins at $T_{\rm N}=160~{\rm K}$ and is completed at the temperature of 100 K. This compound exhibits also a negative magnetisation below 34 K. We explain this effect in terms of antiferromagnetic interactions between the moment of Yb and the effective moment of canted Fe spins.

[1] H. Drulis et al., Solid State Commun. 123 (2002) 391.

→ 13.4 cm −

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9.7 cm