

Central Lancashire Online Knowledge (CLoK)

Title	Valence of cerium ions in selected ternary compounds from the system Ce-
	Rh-Sn
Type	Article
URL	https://clok.uclan.ac.uk/id/eprint/12562/
DOI	
Date	2010
Citation	Gamza, Monika, Gumeniuk, Roman, Schnelle, Walter, Slebarski, Andrzej, Rosner, Helge, Grin, Yuri and Burkhardt, Ulrich (2010) Valence of cerium ions in selected ternary compounds from the system Ce-Rh-Sn. HASYLAB Annual Report.
Creators	Gamza, Monika, Gumeniuk, Roman, Schnelle, Walter, Slebarski, Andrzej, Rosner, Helge, Grin, Yuri and Burkhardt, Ulrich

It is advisable to refer to the publisher's version if you intend to cite from the work.

For information about Research at UCLan please go to http://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/

All outputs in CLoK are protected by Intellectual Property Rights law, including Copyright law. Copyright, IPR and Moral Rights for the works on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Terms and conditions for use of this material are defined in the http://clok.uclan.ac.uk/policies/

Valence of cerium ions in selected ternary compounds from the system Ce-Rh-Sn

M. Gamża^{1,2}, R. Gumeniuk¹, W. Schnelle¹, A. Ślebarski³, H. Rosner¹, and Yu. Grin¹, U. Burkhardt¹

- 1. Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids, Nöthnitzerstr. 40, D-01187 Dresden, Germany
- 2. Institute of Materials Science, University of Silesia, ul. Bankowa 12, 40-007 Katowice, Poland
- 3. Institute of Physics, University of Silesia, Uniwersytecka 4, 40-007 Katowice, Poland

Over the last years, intermetallic compounds from the system Ce–Rh–Sn have attracted a considerable attention owing to a rich variety of strongly correlated electron phenomena they exhibit. CeRhSn₂, Ce₅Rh₄Sn₁₀, Ce₂Rh₃Sn₅ and Ce₃Rh₄Sn₁₃ are magnetically ordered heavy fermion systems [1-5]. Interestingly, for $Ce_{3+x}Rh_4Sn_{13-x}$ (0.2<x<0.6) no sign of Kondo effect and long range magnetic order was found down to the temperature of 0.4 K [5]. In turn, CeRhSn shows non-Fermi liquid-type thermodynamic and transport properties at low temperatures [6-7] accompanied by an intermediate valence state of the Ce ions. Further, for CeRhSn, CeRhSn₂ and CeRh₂Sn₄ spin fluctuations due to the Rh 4d electrons were also suggested [1,7-8]. The possible coexistence of magnetic phenomena originating from Ce and Rh makes the unequivocal interpretation of experimental data for these compounds very difficult. Consequently, a detailed understanding of the very complex physical properties/behavior requires the use of a broad spectrum of experimental methods, including extended thermodynamic and transport measurements as well as careful investigations of electronic structure. For these systems the full characterization of Ce 4f states in regard to their occupancy, localization in a conduction band and hybridization with the other valence band states is crucial for an unambiguous determination of ground state properties and the low energy excitations. Thus, X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) is here of great use as a bulk probe which is highly sensitive on chemical states of elements. Furthermore, absorption measurements at the Ce $L_{\rm III}$ edge results in spectra with minimized lifetime broadening, largely unaffected by complicated many-electron final state effects. These spectra can be used to estimate the numbers for the fractional valence of Ce which originates from the strong hybridization between the Ce 4f and the other valence band states related to the valence fluctuation phenomena and/or to the formation of covalent bonds.

The Ce $L_{\rm III}$ XAS spectra were recorded in a transmission arrangement at the EXAFS beamlines A1 and C of the HASYLAB at DESY. The wavelength selection was realized using the Si (111) double crystal monochromator which yielded an experimental resolution of approximately 1.5 eV (FWHM) at the Ce $L_{\rm III}$ threshold of 5723 eV (C), or using the two-crystal mode (A1). The powdered materials were mixed with small amounts of B₄C and mounted on a 1cm² window sample holder using the paraffin wax. Measurements were performed at ambient temperature and at low temperatures down to 5 K using a He-gas flow cryostat. Experimental data were recorded using CePO₄ or CeO₂ as external reference compounds with Ce ions in a trivalent or in a tetravalent state, respectively.

The Ce $L_{\rm III}$ XAS spectra for the compounds Ce₃Rh₄Sn₁₃, Ce_{3.2}Rh₄Sn_{12.8}, Ce_{3.5}Rh₄Sn_{12.5}, CeRh₂Sn₄, Ce_{1.2}Rh₂Sn_{3.8} and Ce_{2.1}Rh_{3.1}Sn_{4.8} (Fig. 1) show only a single 'white line' at the energy of ~5722 eV. These maxima correspond to $4f^4(5d6s)^3$ configuration of the Ce³⁺. There is no evidence for additional peaks in the measured spectra, distributed analogously to the maxima observed in the spectrum for the CeO₂ standard. Thus one can conclude that Ce ions in the investigated systems are exclusively in a trivalent state. Furthermore, there is basically no difference between the spectra measured at ambient conditions and at low temperatures. This indicates that the trivalent electronic configuration

of Ce in these compounds is stable over the examined temperature range. In case of Ce₂Rh₃Sn₅, however, there is also a weak additional peak in the Ce $L_{\rm III}$ XAS spectra at the energy of nearly +9 eV above the 'white line', which can be ascribed to $4f^0(5d6s)^4$ configuration of the Ce⁴⁺. This minor contribution diminishes with increasing temperature, as often observed for Ce-based intermediate valence systems [9]. Further, the presence of this additional maximum in the measured Ce $L_{\rm III}$ XAS spectra was found to be very sensitive on chemical composition. For Ce_{2.1}Rh_{3.1}Sn_{4.8} a stable trivalent state of Ce ions has been observed within the whole investigated temperature range (Fig. 1).

Quantitative evaluation of the Ce $L_{\rm III}$ XAS spectra for Ce₂Rh₃Sn₅ was performed using the Athena program package [10]. Deconvolution of the normalized spectra was carried out considering two Gaussian functions representing the defined transitions and an arctan step function to account for the transitions of photoelectrons ejected from $2p_{3/2}$ states to the continuum. Analysis of the relative decrease of the $4f^0(5d6s)^4$ peak with increasing temperature leads to the rough estimate of the mean valence of Ce ions in Ce₂Rh₃Sn₅ changing from +3.10 at 6 K to +3.05 at ambient temperature.

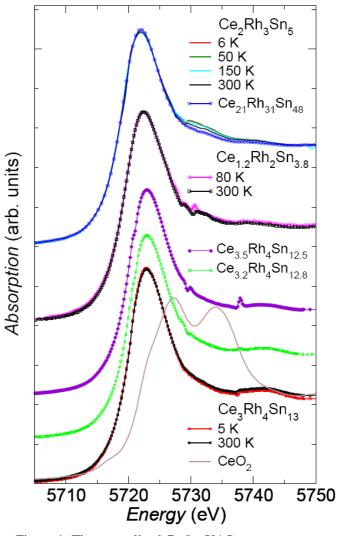


Figure 1: The normalized Ce $L_{\rm III}$ XAS spectra.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Dr E. Welter and Dr D. Zając from HASYLAB for their helpful assistance.

References

- 1. Gamża M, Ślebarski A and Rosner H 2008 *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **20** 025201; Hossain Z, Gupta L C and Geibel C 2002 *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **14** 9687 and references there in
- 2. Gamża M, Ślebarski A and Rosner H 2008 Eur. Phys. J. B 63 1 and references there in
- 3. Patil N G and Ramakrishnan 1999 Phys. Rev. B 59 12054
- 4. Ōduchi Y et al. 2007 J. Magn Magn. Mater. 310 249
- 5. Gamża M et al., to be published
- 6. Ślebarski A. et al. 2002 Philos. Mag. B 82 943 and references there in
- 7. Ślebarski A et al. 2002 Phil. Mag. B 82 1275; Ślebarski A et al. 2006 Phys. Rev. B 73 205115
- 8. Gamża M et al. 2009 J. Phys.-Condes. Matter. 21 325601
- 9. D Kaczorowski et al. 2010 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 22 215601
- 10. Ravel B and Newville M 2005 J. Synchrotron Rad. 12 537