



# AN IDEAL SYSTEM TO BE STUDIED IN X-RAY AT HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD

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# Outline

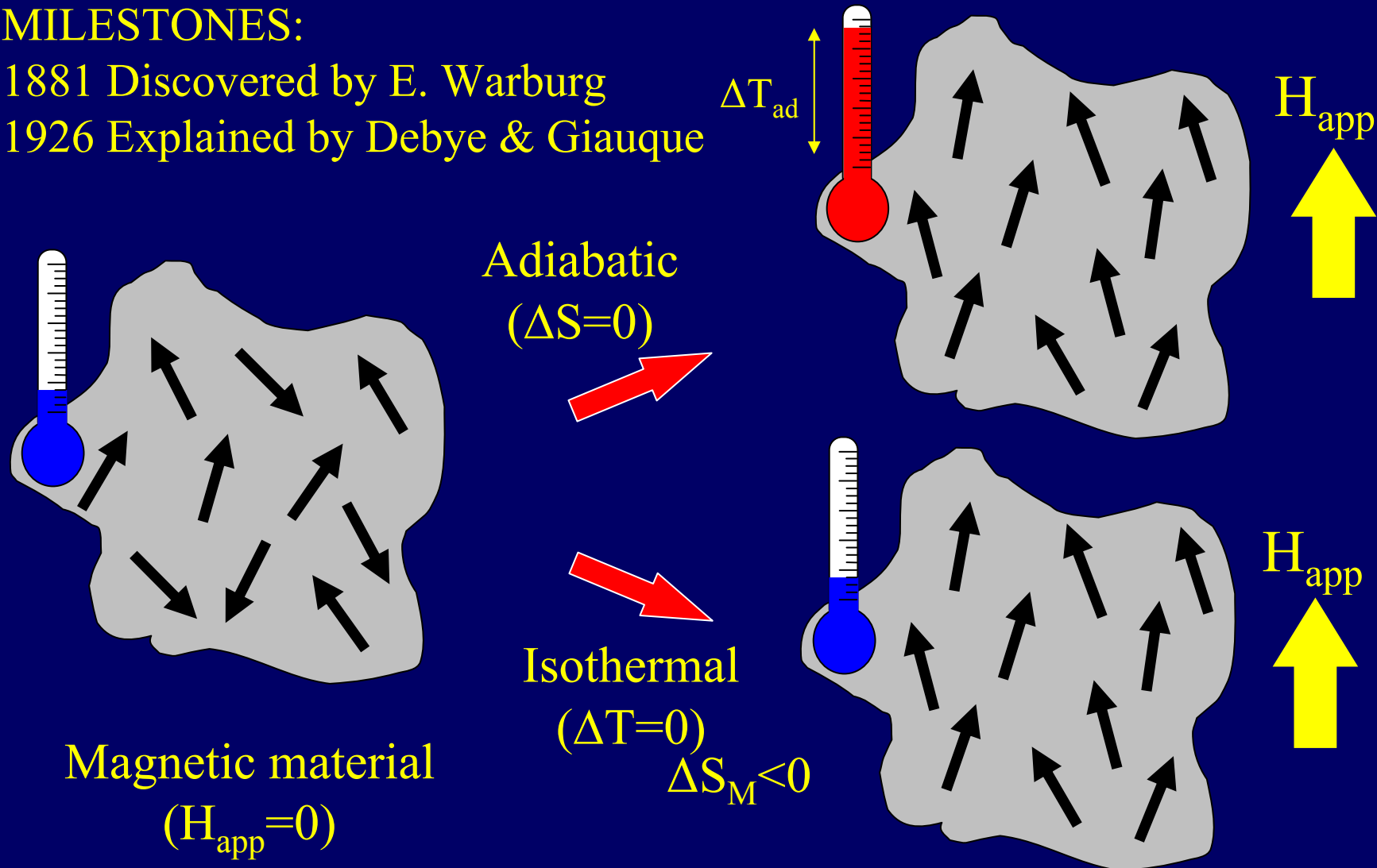
- ▶ Introduction to the  $R_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$  alloys:
  - Giant magnetocaloric effect (GMCE) & magnetic refrigeration.
  - Origin of GMCE – Field-induced magnetostructural transitions.
- ▶ Magnetostructural effects in  $R_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$ 
  - $\text{Gd}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$
  - $\text{Tb}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$
  - $\text{Er}_5\text{Si}_4$
- ▶ Conclusions
- ▶ Use of X-ray & magnetic field in 5:4 alloys?

# The Magnetocaloric Effect (MCE)

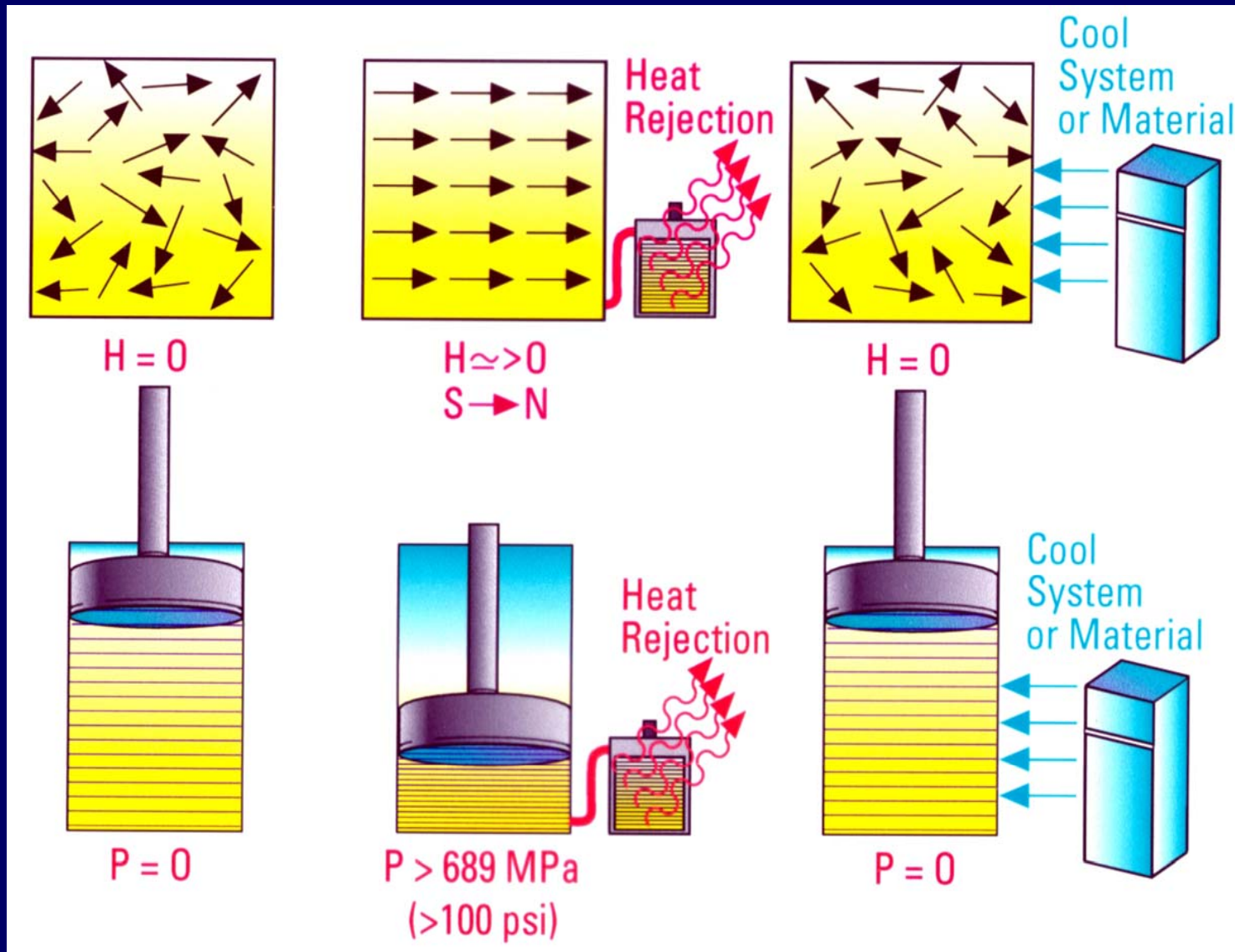
## MILESTONES:

1881 Discovered by E. Warburg

1926 Explained by Debye & Giauque

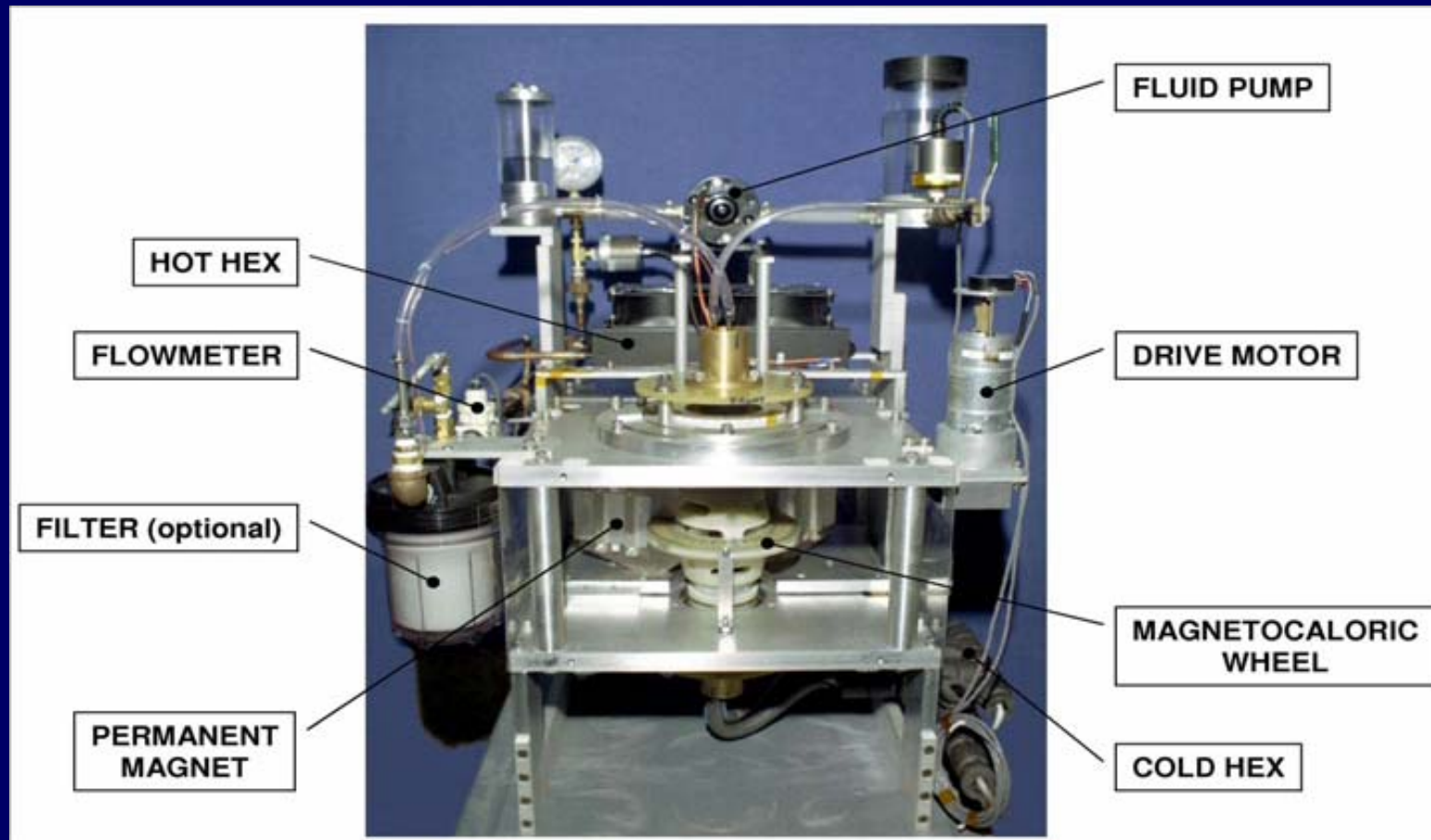


# MCE & Magnetic Refrigeration





# Magnetic Refrigeration Technology



- Laboratory Prototype Refrigerator (2001).
- Permanent Magnet Rotary Device - 1 Hz (in 2004 update, 4 Hz).  
(Astronautics Corporation of America, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US)

# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Giant MCE Compounds

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## Giant Magnetocaloric Effect in Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub>)

V. K. Pecharsky and K. A. Gschneidner, Jr.

Ames Laboratory and Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-3020

(Received 22 November 1996)

An extremely large magnetic entropy change has been discovered in Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub>) when subjected to a change in the magnetic field. It exceeds the *reversible* (with respect to an alternating magnetic field) magnetocaloric effect in any known magnetic material by at least a factor of 2, and it is due to a first order [ferromagnetic (I) ↔ ferromagnetic (II)] phase transition at 276 K and its unique magnetic field dependence. [S0031-9007(97)03321-8]

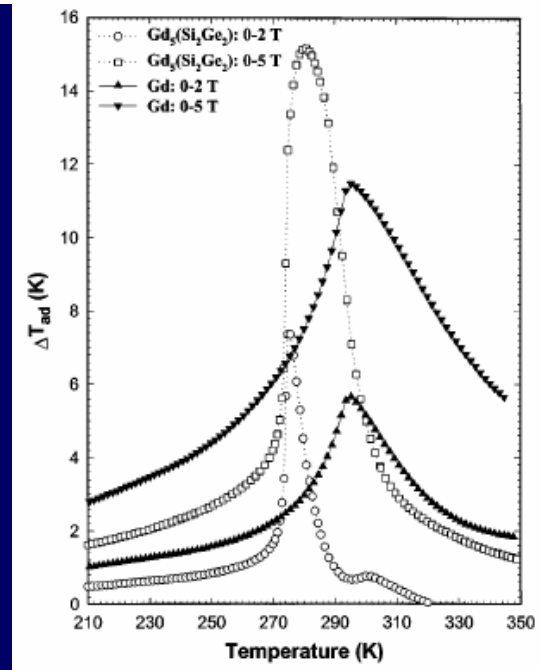
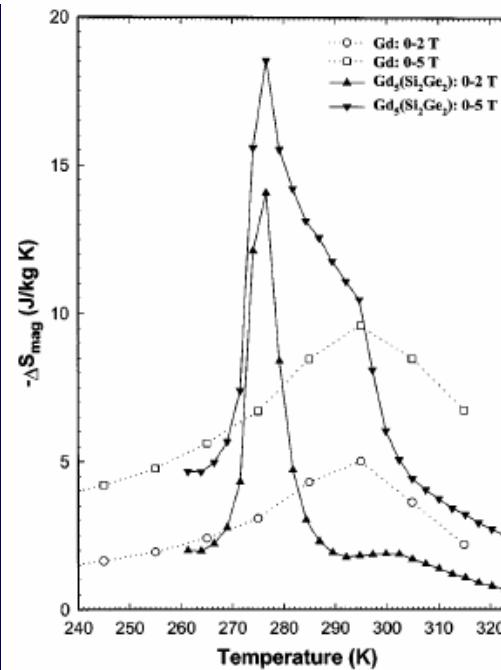
### RECORD VALUES:

$$-\Delta S_M = 36 \text{ J/kg-K}$$

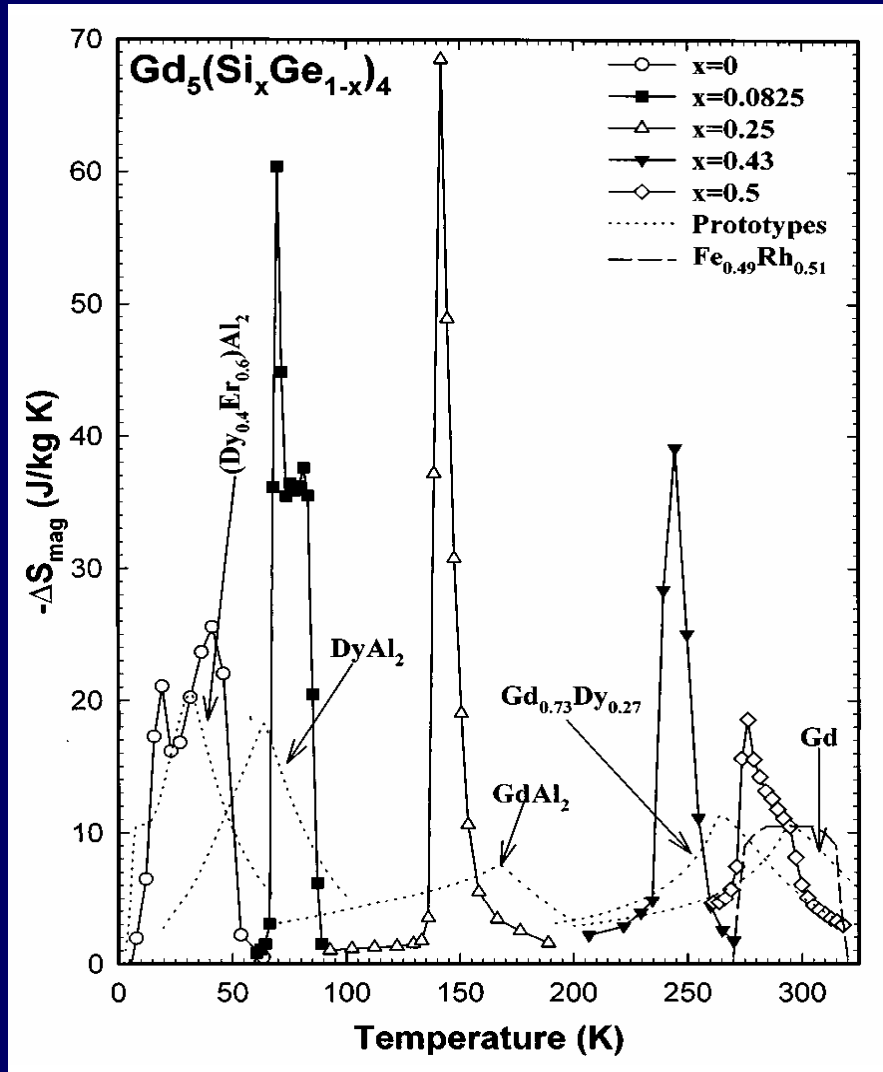
$$\Delta T_{ad} = 17 \text{ K}$$

V. K. Pecharsky et al.

J. Appl. Phys. **93**, 4722 (2003)



# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Tunable GMCE



$\text{Gd}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4 \quad x \leq 0.5$

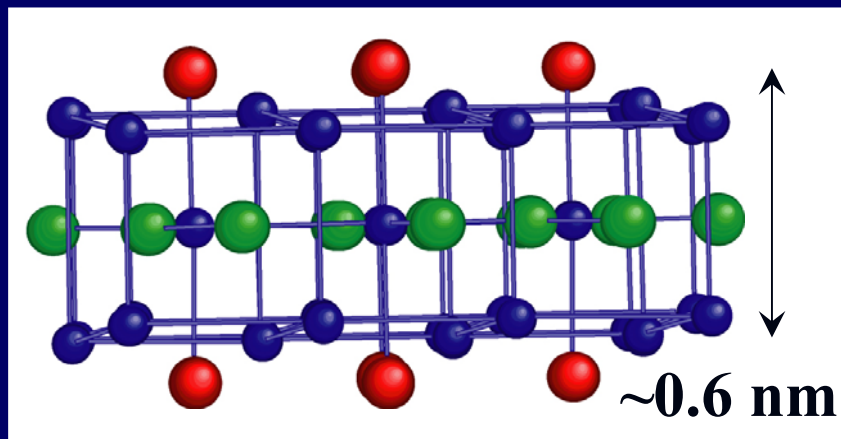
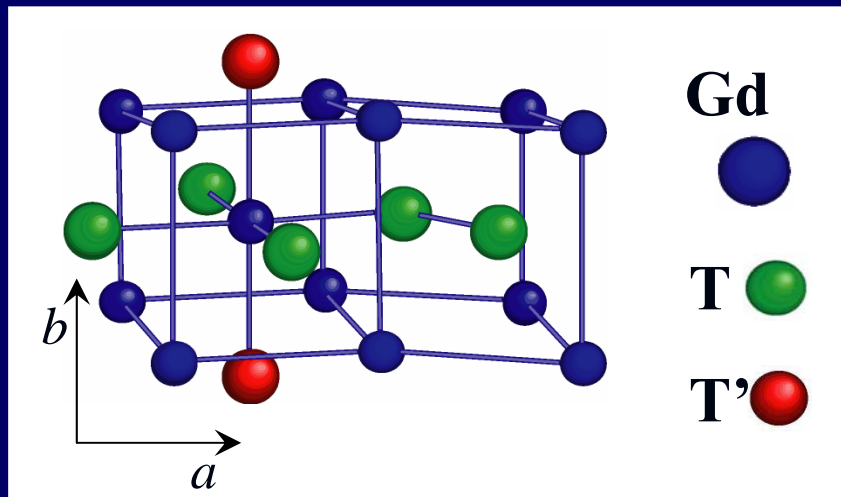
x	$-\Delta S_M$ (J/Kg-K)
0	20-25
0.0825	60
0.25	68
0.43	39
0.5	18

- Temperature tuning of GMCE by changing the Si/Ge ratio.

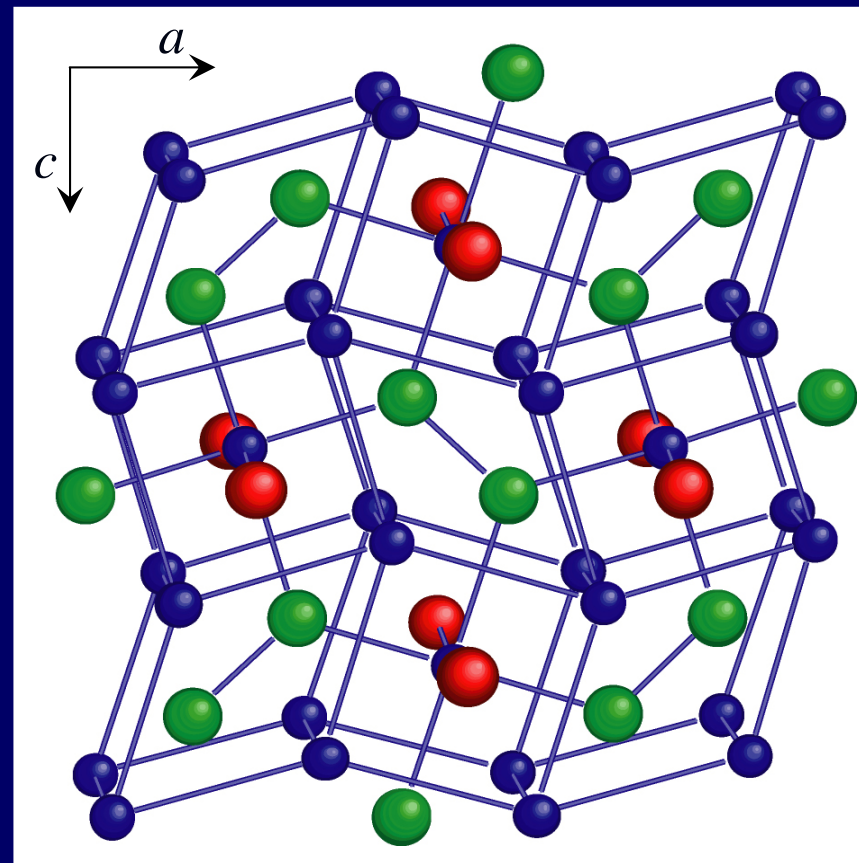
V. K. Pecharsky et al.  
Appl. Phys. Lett. 70, 24 (1997)

# $\text{Gd}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$ – a Nanolayered Structure

Building blocks



2D layer - “slab”





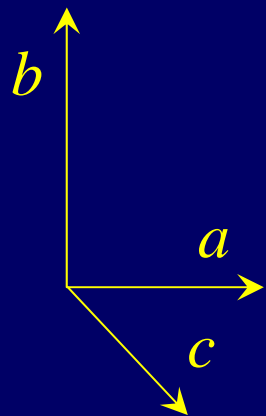
# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – 3D Structure & Bonding

$$a \approx 7.5 \text{ \AA}$$

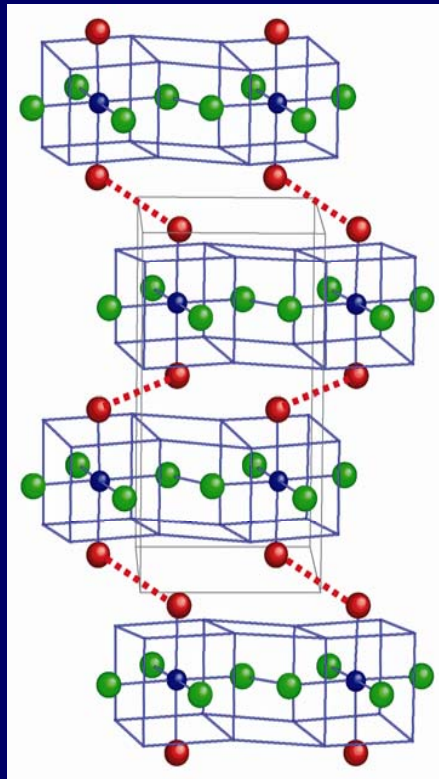
$$b \approx 14.8 \text{ \AA}$$

$$c \approx 7.8 \text{ \AA}$$

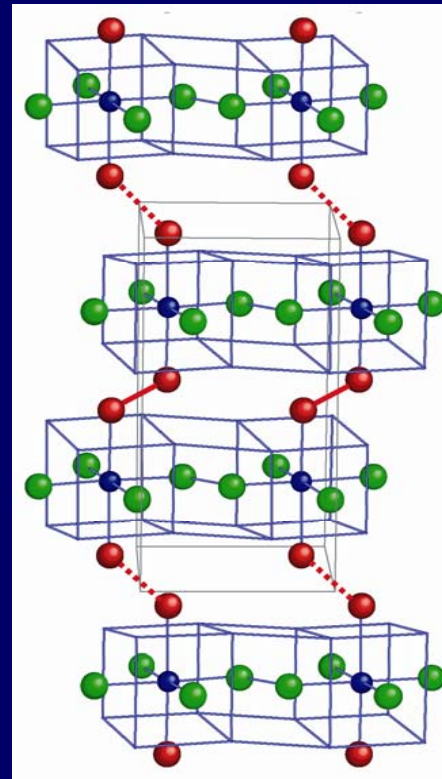
$$V \approx 870 \text{ \AA}^3$$



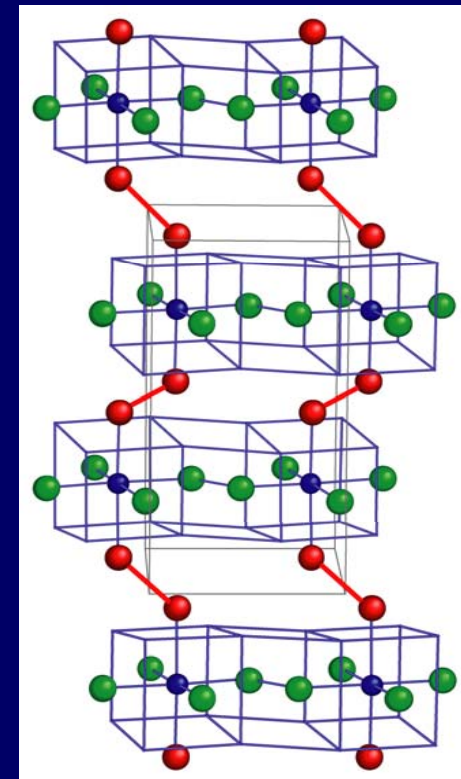
Orthorhombic  
*Pnma* [*O*(II)]



Monoclinic  
*P112*<sub>1</sub>/*a* [*M*]



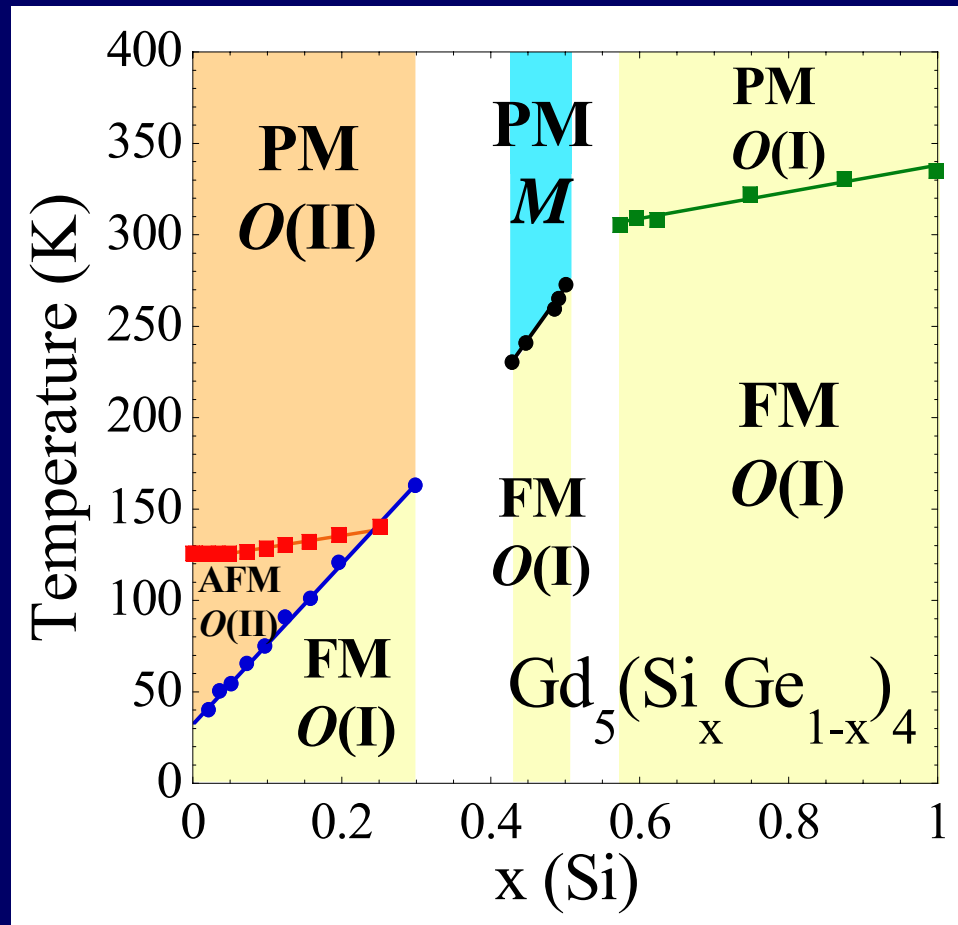
Orthorhombic  
*Pnma* [*O*(I)]



— T'<sub>2</sub> (interlayer bond) ≈ 2.6 Å  
 ..... T'-T' (unbonded pair) ≈ 3.5 Å

Δ ≈ 33%

# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Structure & Magnetism



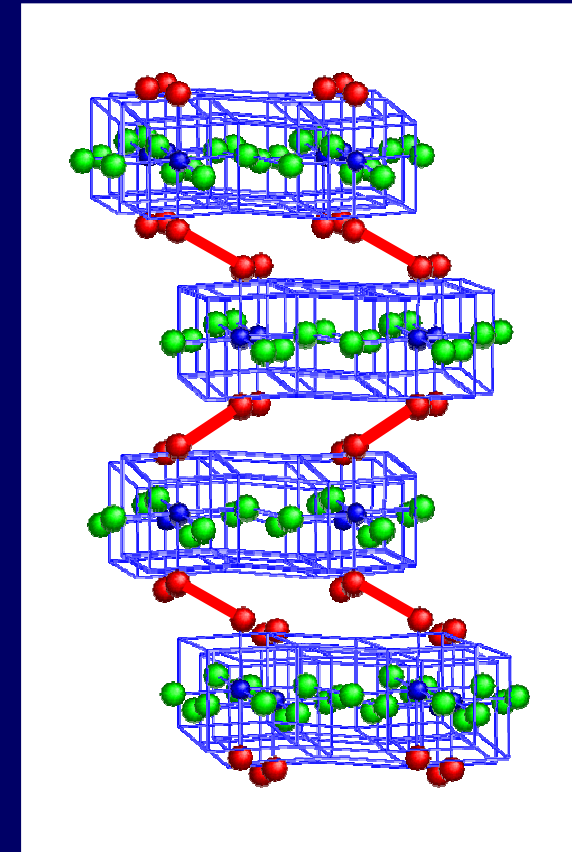
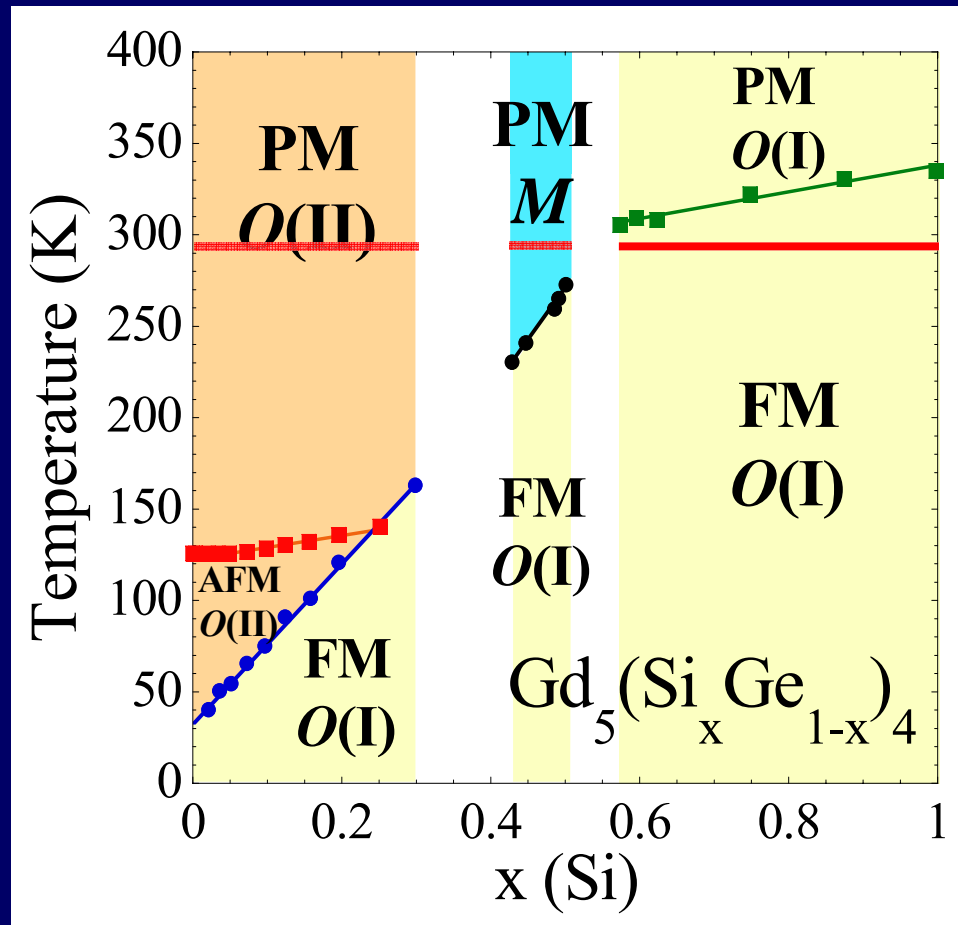
## Three solid-solution regions:

- Sm<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub>-type, *O*(II)  
Ge-rich ( $0 < x \leq 0.3$ )
- Gd<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub>-type, *M*  
Intermediate ( $0.4 < x \leq 0.5$ )
- Gd<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub>-type, *O*(I)  
Si-rich ( $0.575 \leq x \leq 1$ )  
&  
Low T Ground State ( $0 < x \leq 1$ )

V. K. Pecharsky et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. **70**, 3299 (1997)  
 L. Morellon et al., Phys. Rev. B **62**, 1022 (2000)  
 A. O. Pecharsky et al., J. All. & Comp. **338**, 126 (2002)  
 W. Choe et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **84**, 4617 (2000)

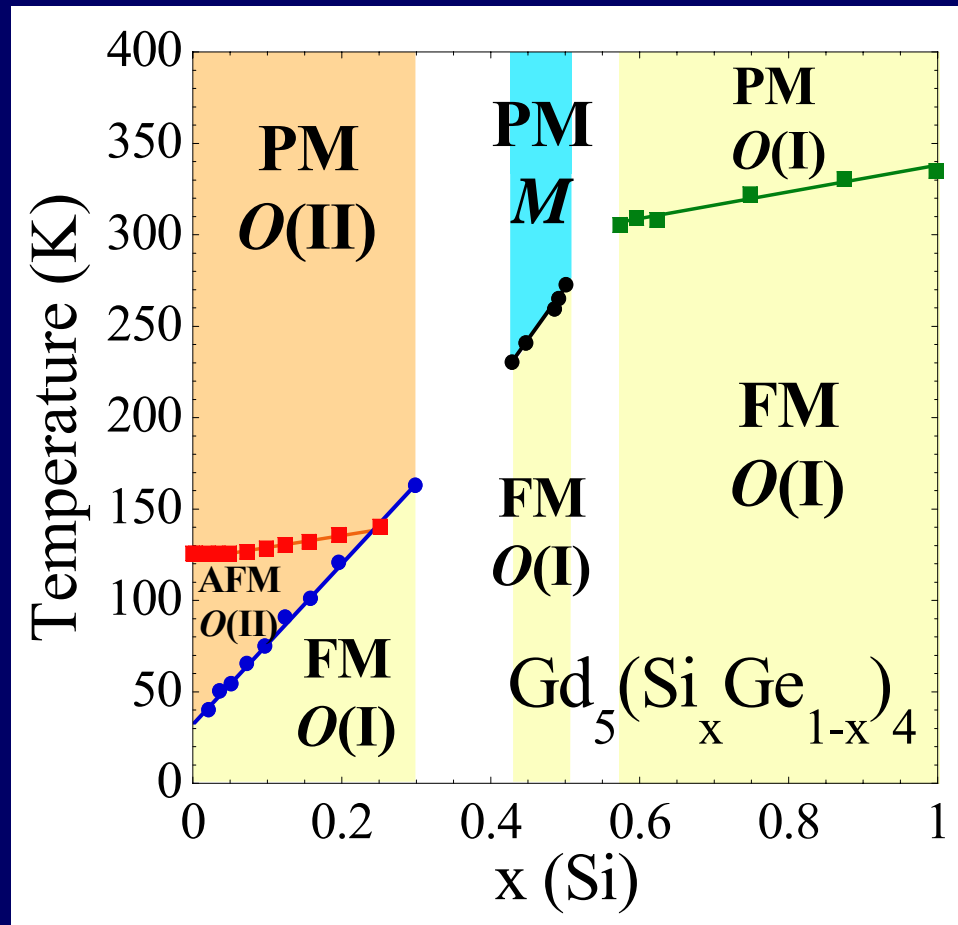


# $Gd_5(Si_xGe_{1-x})_4$ – Structure & Magnetism



- V. K. Pecharsky et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. **70**, 3299 (1997)  
 L. Morellon et al., Phys. Rev. B **62**, 1022 (2000)  
 A. O. Pecharsky et al., J. All. & Comp. **338**, 126 (2002)  
 W. Choe et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **84**, 4617 (2000)

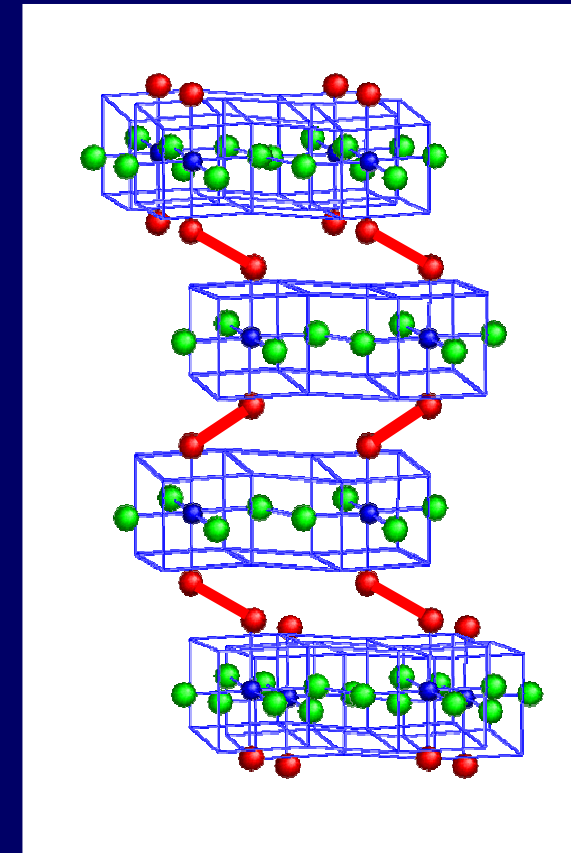
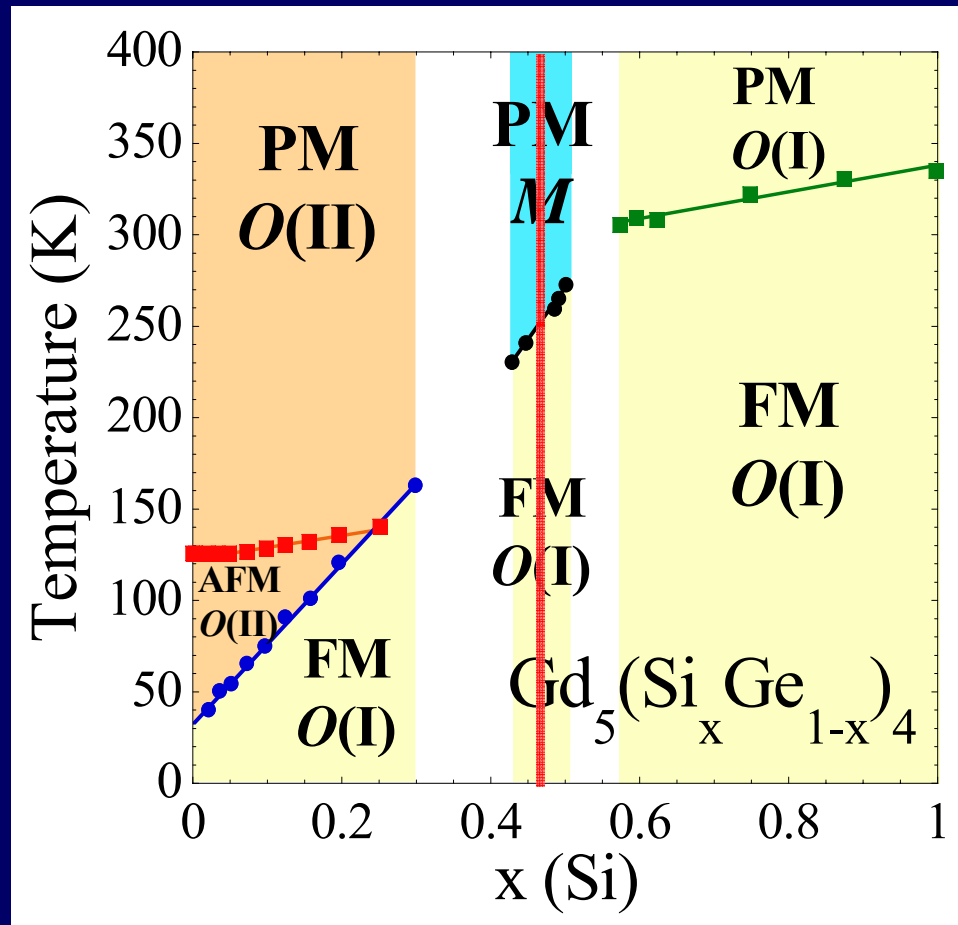
# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Structure & Magnetism



- ▶ The number of  $T'_2$  bonds governs the competition between magnetic interactions:
  - intralayer (4f-indirect RKKY exchange)
  - interlayer (FM) (Gd- $T'_2$ -Gd superexchange-like)
- Formation of  $T'_2$  induces 3D FM
- $T_C(\text{Si-rich}) > T_C(\text{Gd}) = 294 \text{ K}$

V. K. Pecharsky et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. **70**, 3299 (1997)  
 L. Morellon et al., Phys. Rev. B **62**, 1022 (2000)  
 A. O. Pecharsky et al., J. All. & Comp. **338**, 126 (2002)  
 W. Choe et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **84**, 4617 (2000)

# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Structure & Magnetism



- Intermed.  $0.4 < x \leq 0.503$

$M$ -PM  $\rightarrow$   $O(I)$ -FM

i.e.  $x = 0.5 \rightarrow \Delta V/V \approx -0.4\%$

$$\Delta a/a \approx -0.9\%$$

$$\Delta b/b \approx -0.1\%$$

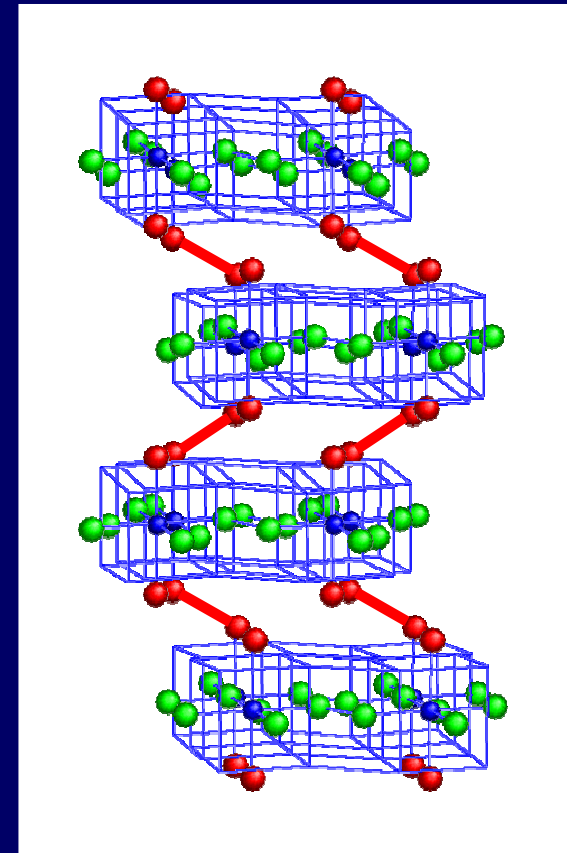
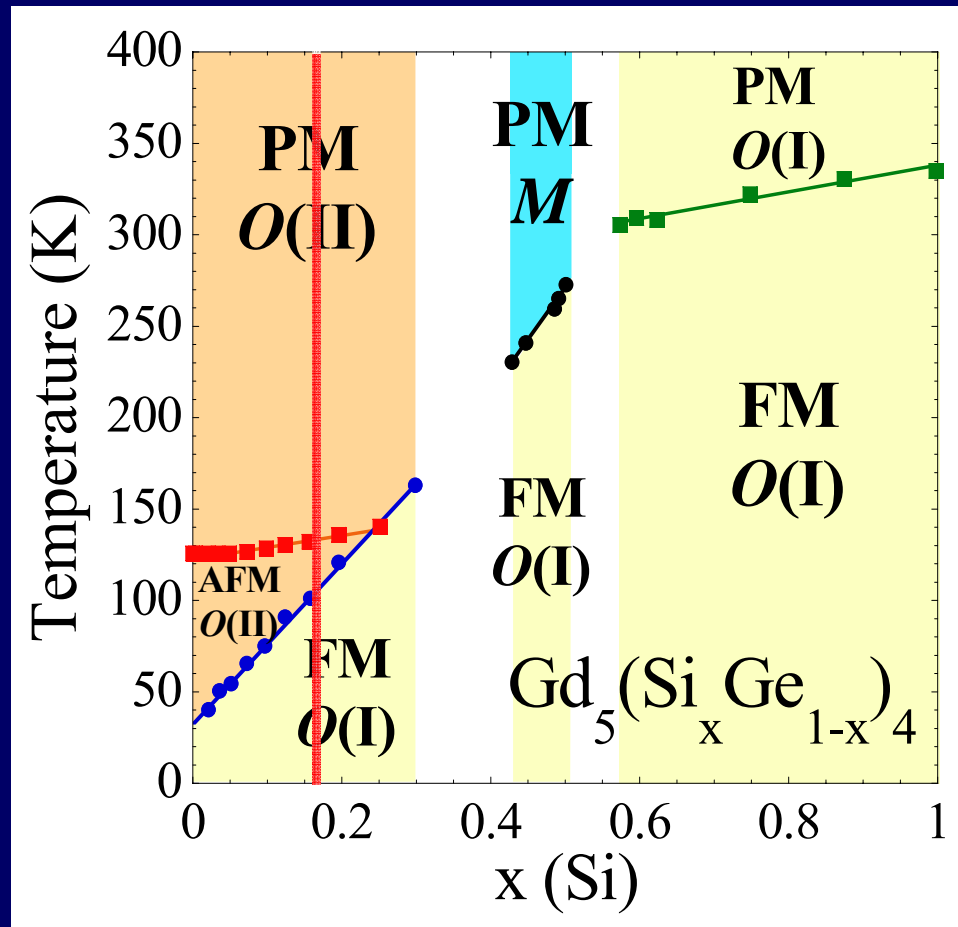
$$\Delta c/c \approx +0.2\%$$

➤ REVERSIBLE

➤ MAGNETOSTRUCTURAL

➤ 1<sup>st</sup> - ORDER TRANSITION

# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Structure & Magnetism



- Ge-rich  $0 < x \leq 0.3$

$O(II)$ -PM  $\rightarrow$  AFM  $\rightarrow$   $O(I)$ -FM  
 i.e.  $x = 0.1 \rightarrow \Delta V/V \approx -1\%$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta a/a \approx -1.6\% \\ \Delta b/b \approx -0.1\% \\ \Delta c/c \approx +0.5\% \end{array} \right.$

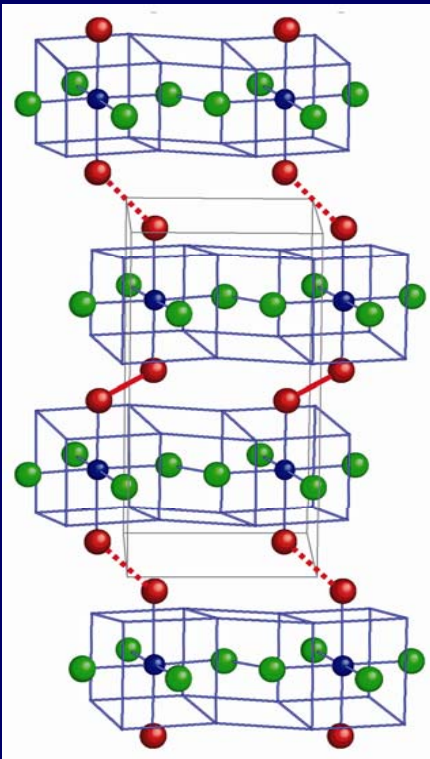
- REVERSIBLE
- MAGNETOSTRUCTURAL
- 1<sup>st</sup> - ORDER TRANSITION

# $Gd_5(Si_xGe_{1-x})_4$ – Magnetic Field Effects

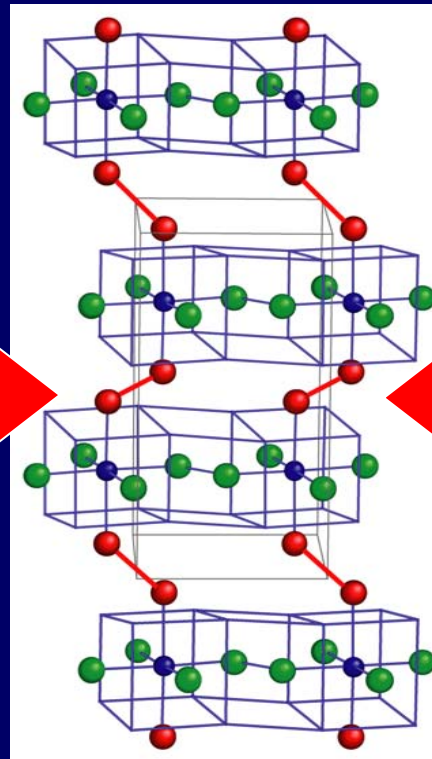
$M$  – PM

$O(I)$  – FM

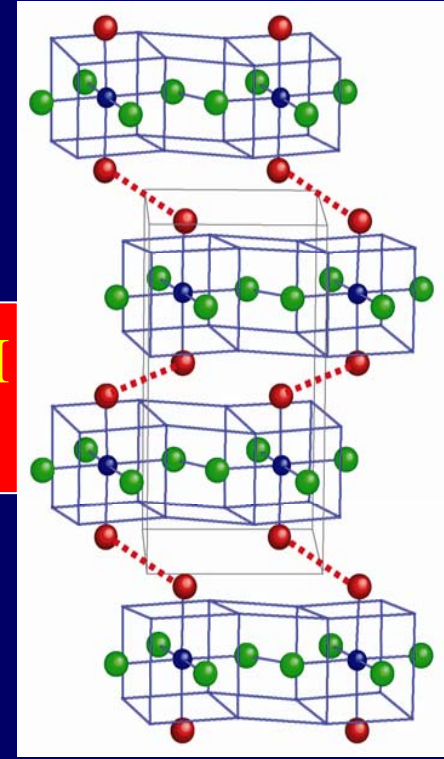
$O(II)$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{PM} \\ \text{AFM} \end{array} \right.$



SWITCH  
FIELD



SWITCH  
FIELD



MAGNETIC-FIELD-INDUCED  
TRANSITION at  $T > T_C$  ( $T_N$ )

- REVERSIBLE
- MAGNETOSTRUCTURAL
- 1<sup>st</sup> - ORDER TRANSITION

# $\text{Gd}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$ – Magnetic Field Effects

► Magnetostructural transition causes dramatic changes in:

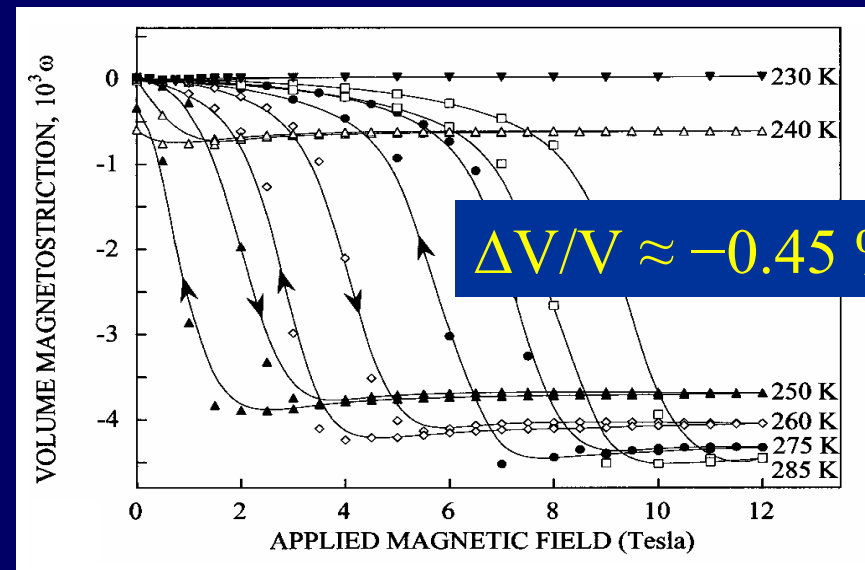
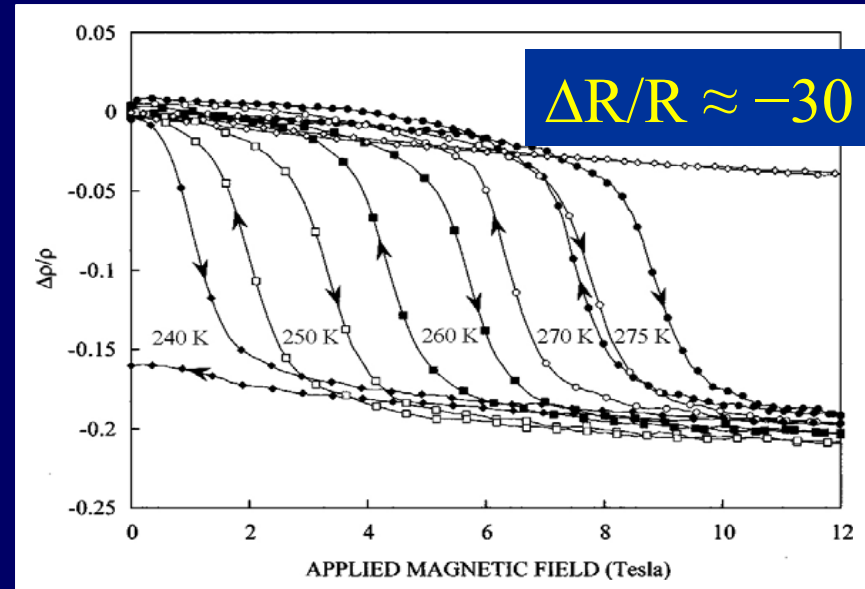
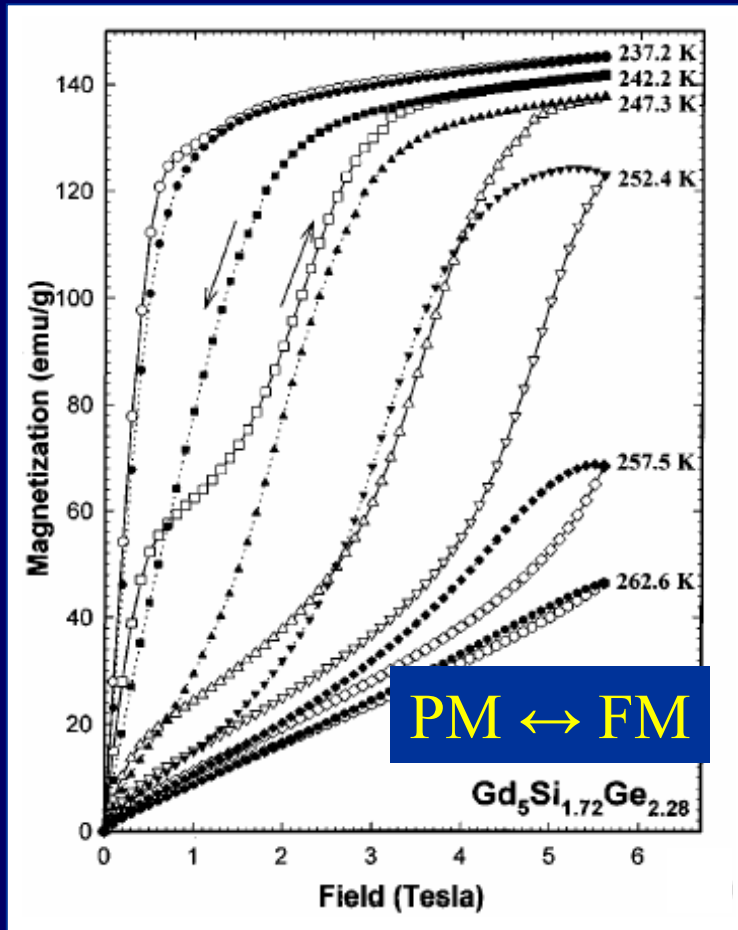
- Magnetism.
- Crystal structure (and chemical bonding!).
- Electronic Structure.

...and it is the origin of GMCE.

$$\Delta S_T = (\Delta S_{mag})_T + (\Delta S_{str})_T = \mu_0 \int_0^H \left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \right)_H + (\Delta S_{str})_T$$



# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Magnetic-field effects

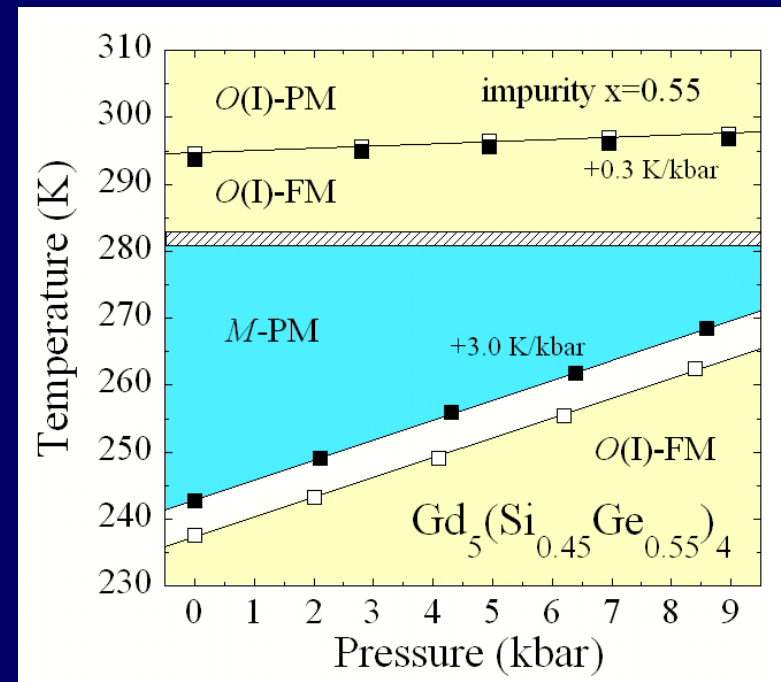
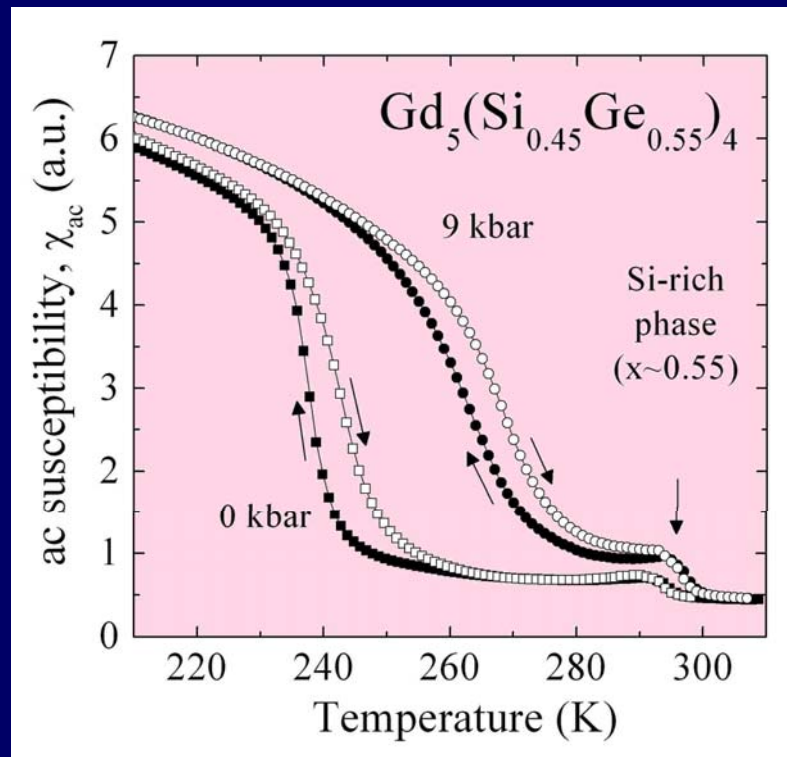


- V. K. Pecharsky et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. **70**, 3299 (1997)
- L. Morellon et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. **73**, 3463 (1998)
- L. Morellon et al, Phys. Rev. B **58**, R14721 (1998)

# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – Hydrostatic Pressure

Pressure dependence of T<sub>C/N</sub>:

- High in Magnetostructural Changes → dT<sub>C</sub>/dP=+3.0 K/kbar (x=0.45, 0.1)
- Small in Pure Magnetic Transitions →  $\begin{cases} dT_C/dP=+0.3 \text{ K/kbar} & (x=0.8) \\ dT_N/dP=+0.7 \text{ K/kbar} & (x=0.1) \end{cases}$



Morellon et al., J. Phys.: Condens. Matter **16**, 1623-1630 (2004)

# Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> - Pressure on polycrystals

## VOLUME VS. ELECTRONIC EFFECTS

$$\Gamma = \frac{d \ln T_{C,N}}{d \ln V} = -\frac{1}{\kappa T_{C,N}} \frac{dT_{C,N}}{dP}$$

$\Gamma \rightarrow$  from pressure results  
( $\kappa \approx 1.8 \text{ Mbar}^{-1}$  for all  $x$ )

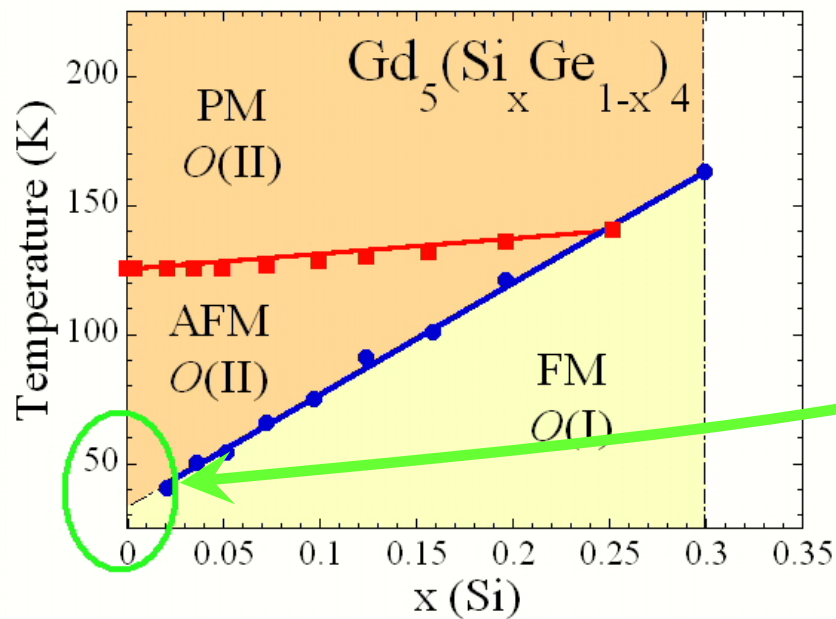
$\Gamma^* \rightarrow$  from  $x$ - $T$  phase diagram  
(cryst. data)

A. O. Pecharsky et al.,  
J. All. and Comp. 338 126 (2002)

$x$	$\Gamma$	$\Gamma^*$	$\Gamma^*/\Gamma$
0.8	-0.5	-7	14
0.45	-7	-87	12.4
0.1 ( $T_C$ )	-20	-167	8.4
0.1 ( $T_N$ )	-3	-14	4.7

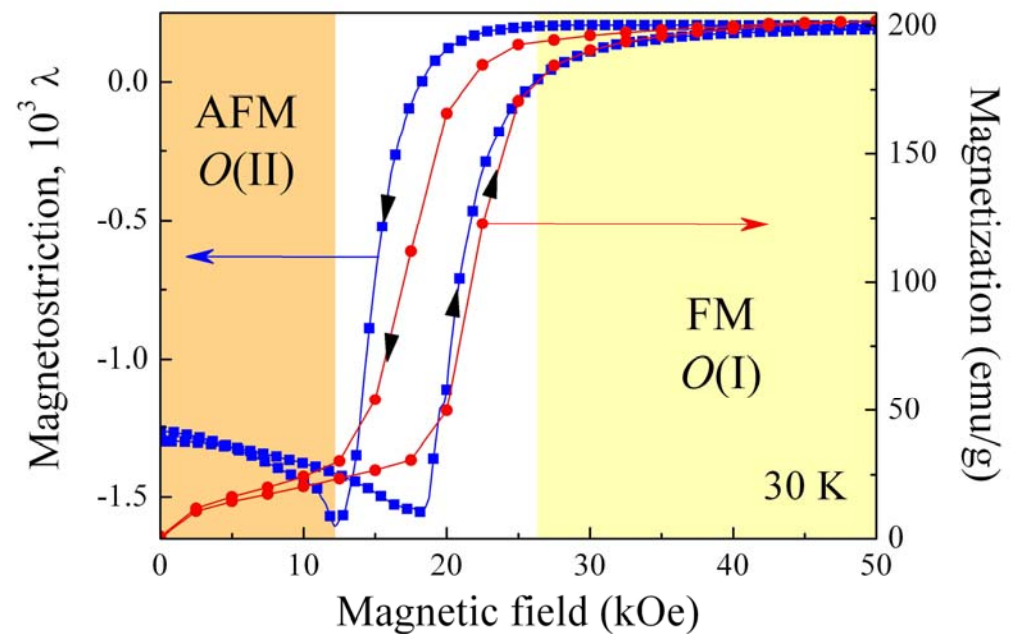
$\Gamma^* \gg \Gamma \rightarrow$  Electronic effects are more important !!!

# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Magnetic Field Effects



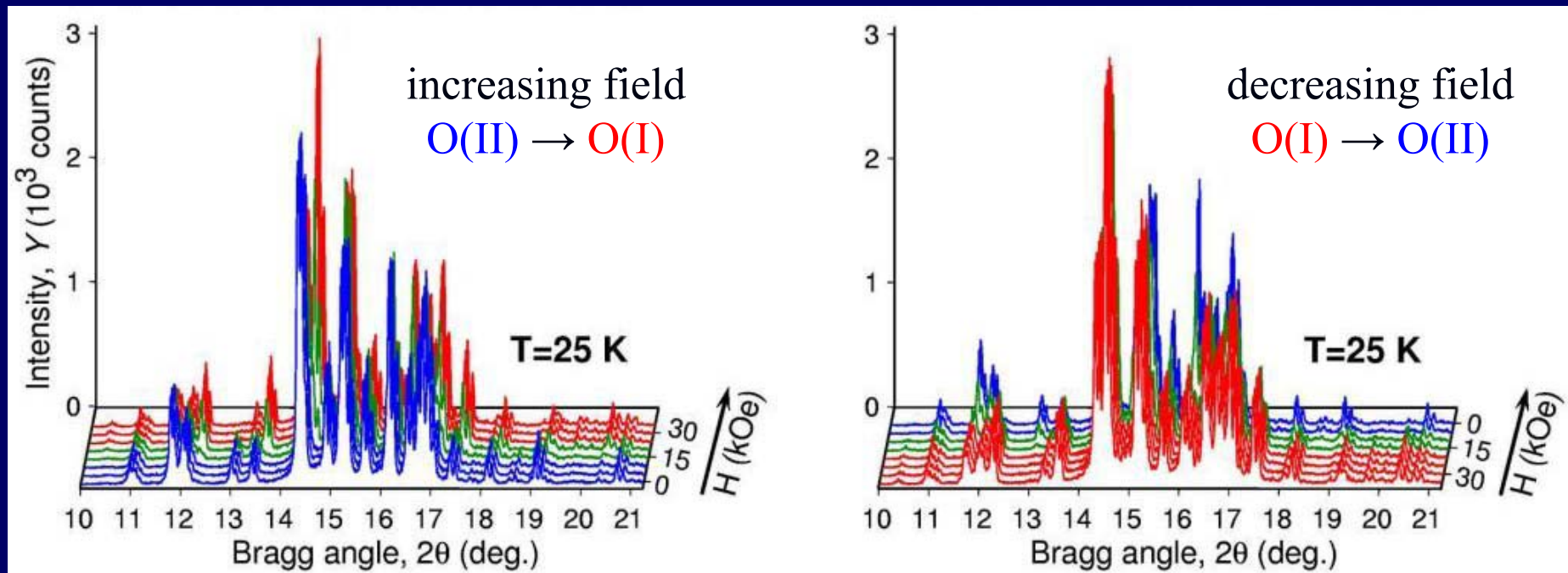
- NO spontaneous (zero-field) low temperature FM ground state

- Magnetic field induced magnetic & structural changes.
- AFM- $O(\text{II}) \rightarrow$  FM- $O(\text{I})$  transition?



# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Magnetic Field Effects

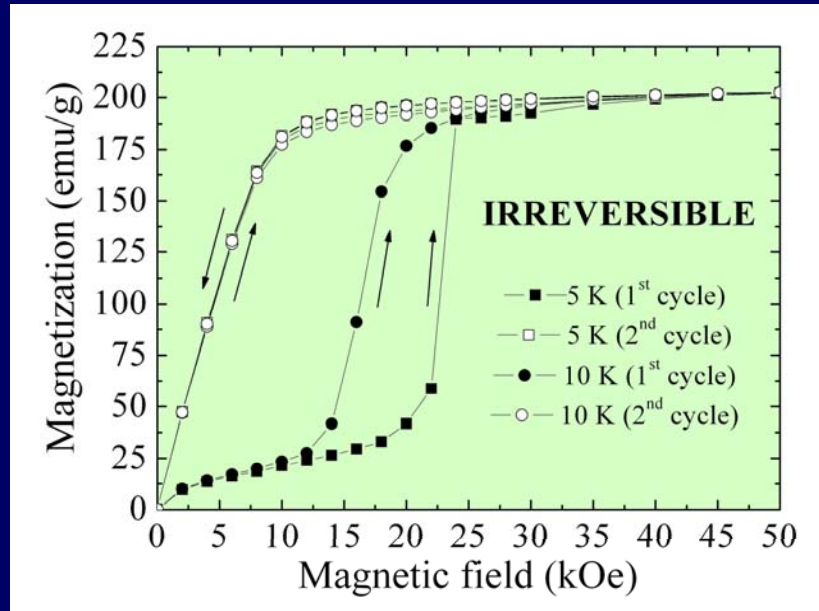
- High-resolution x-ray powder diffraction up to **H = 35 kOe**.
- First direct **microscopic evidence of the *O*(II) ↔ *O*(I) structural transition.**



V. K. Pecharsky et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 197204 (2004)

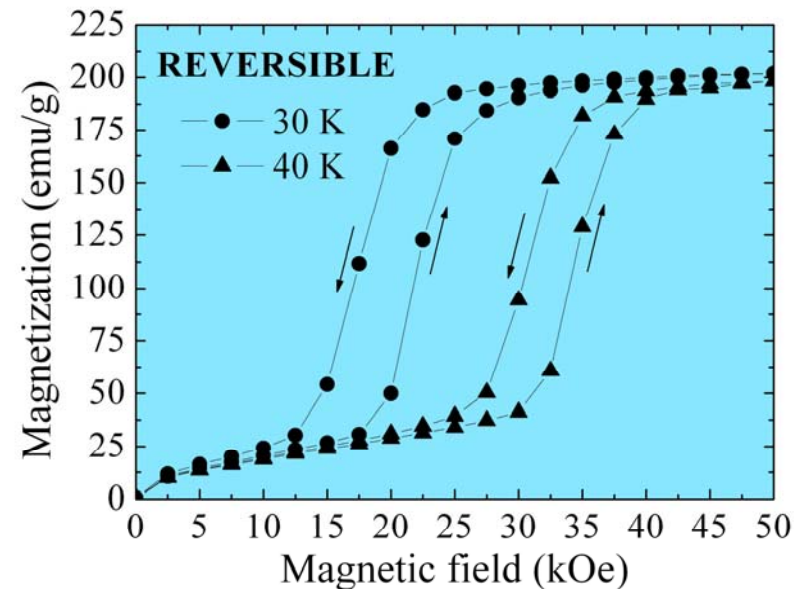
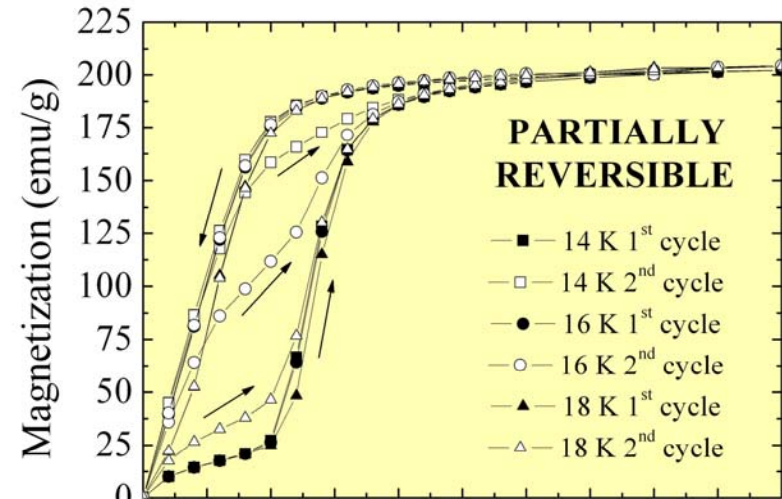


# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Anomalous Magnetic Field Effects



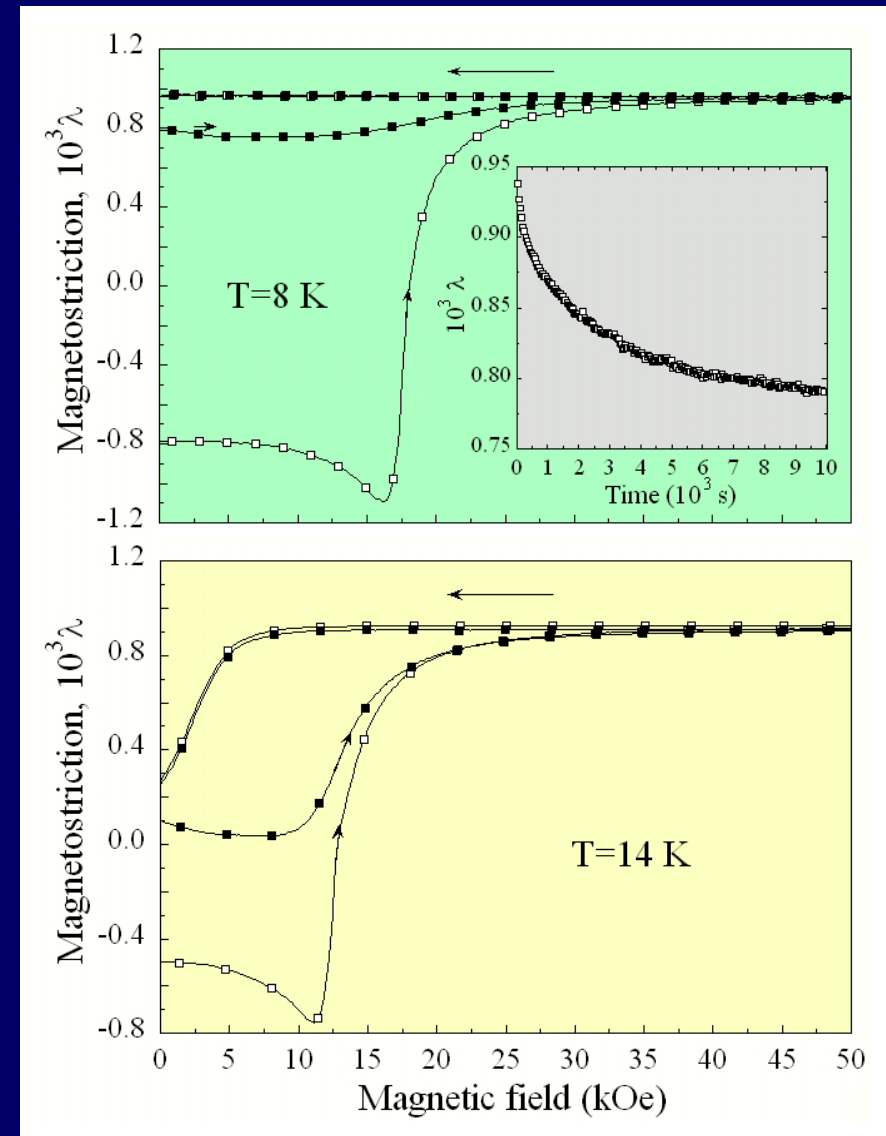
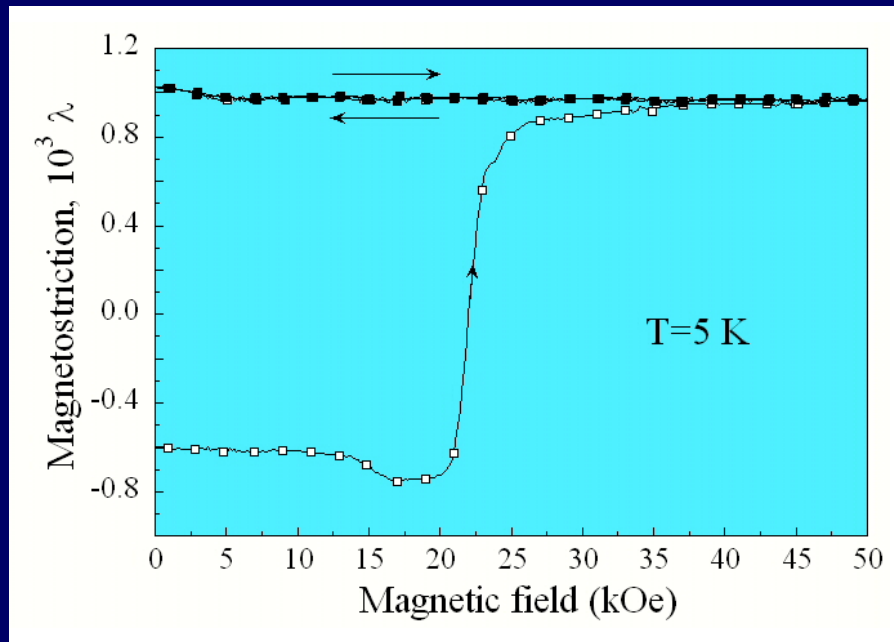
- Field-induced AFM → FM transition...
  - Irreversible at  $T < 14$  K.
  - Partially reversible  $14 \text{ K} \leq T \leq 20$  K.
  - Reversible  $T > 20$  K

Levin et al., Phys. Rev. B **65**, 214427 (2002)





# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Anomalous Magnetic Field Effects



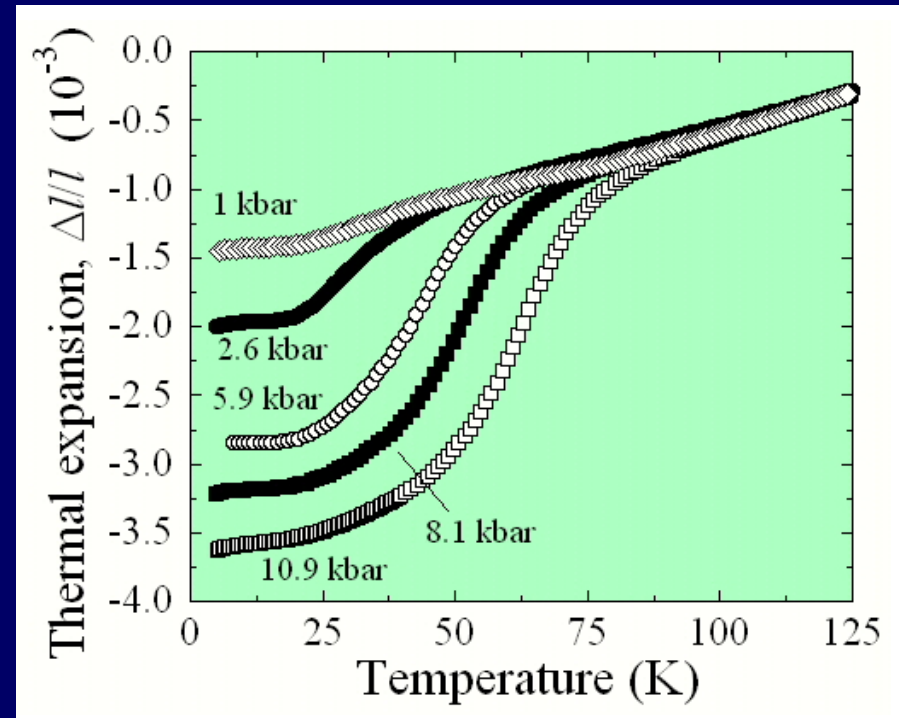
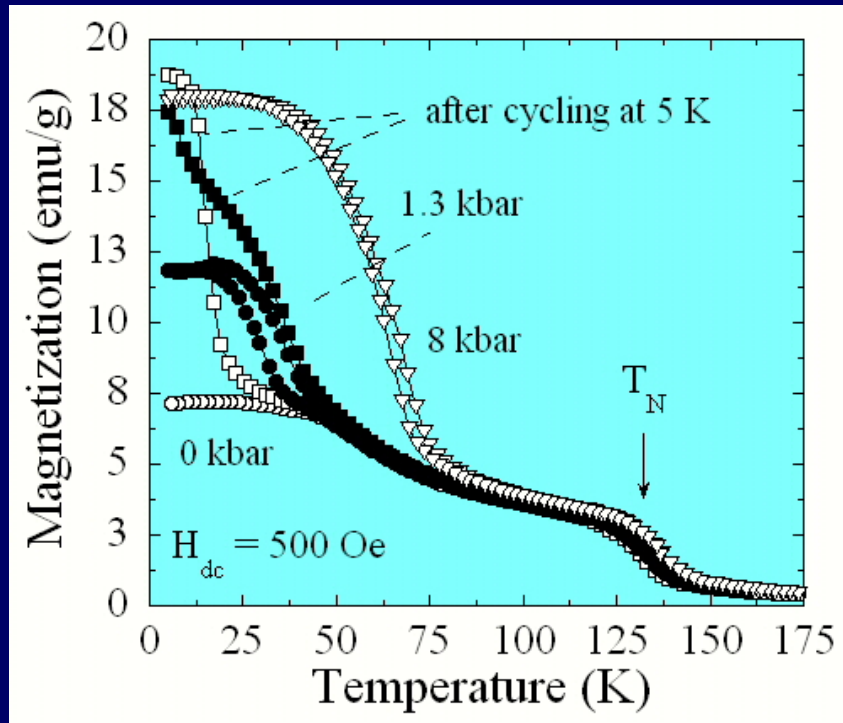
- Field-induced  $O(II) \rightarrow O(I)$  transition:
  - Irreversible at  $T < 8$  K
  - Partially reversible  $8 \text{ K} < T < 20$  K
  - Reversible  $T > 20$  K

Magen et al., J. Phys:Condens Matter **15**, 2389 (2003)

# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Pressure induced *O(I)*-FM State

## ► Pressure induced anomalies at low temperature:

- Rise of magnetic signal (FM?) with “ $T_C$ ” increasing with pressure.
- Onset of LTE anomaly increasing in size and temperature with pressure.

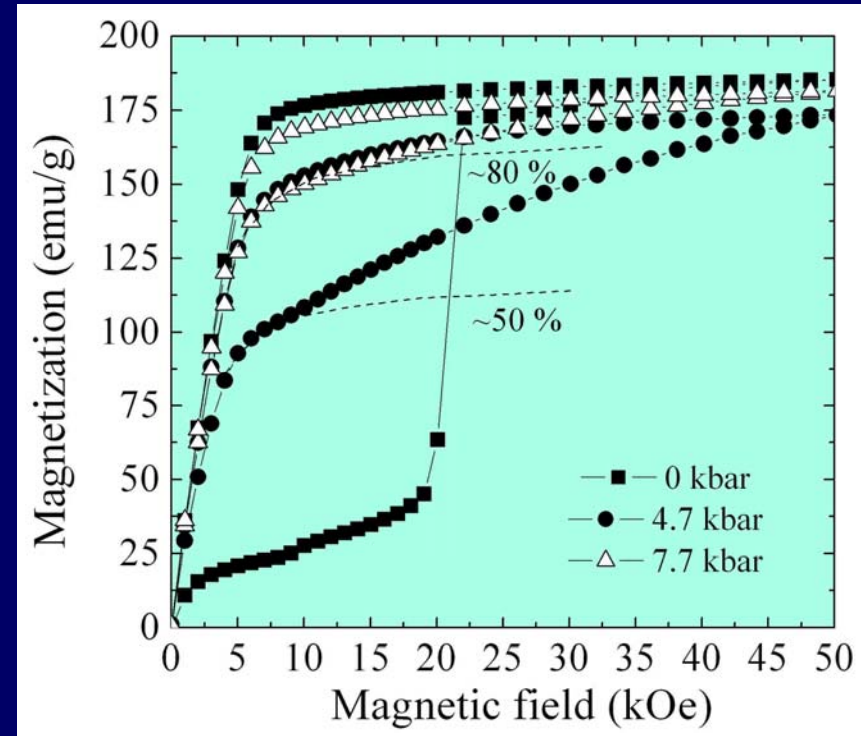
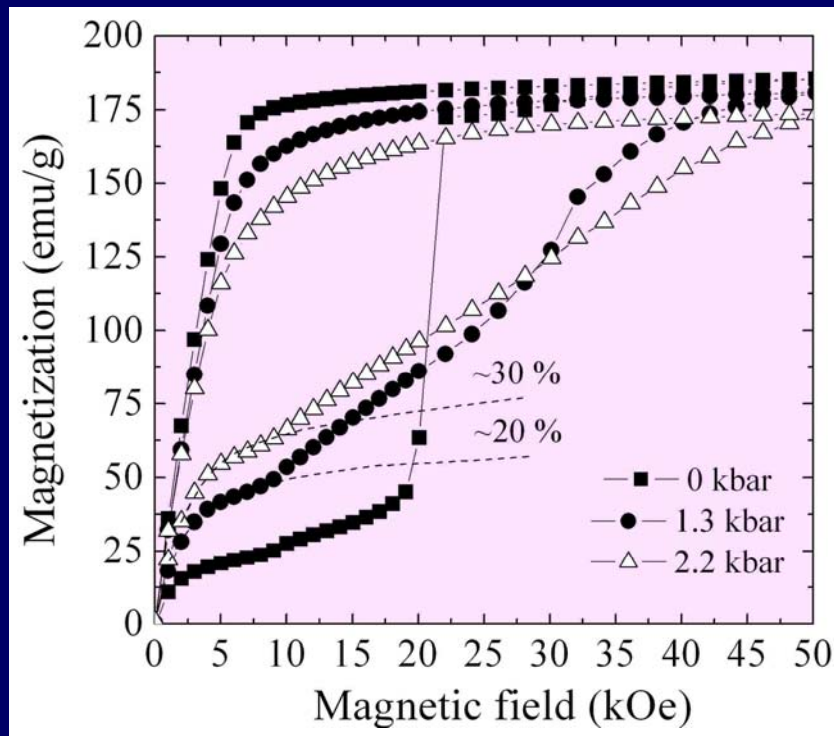


Magen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 207202 (2003).

# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Pressure-induced *O(I)*-FM State

## ► Magnetization isotherms:

- Progressive increase of a FM component.
- Estimation of a volume of FM regions considering 100% FM at 11 kbar.

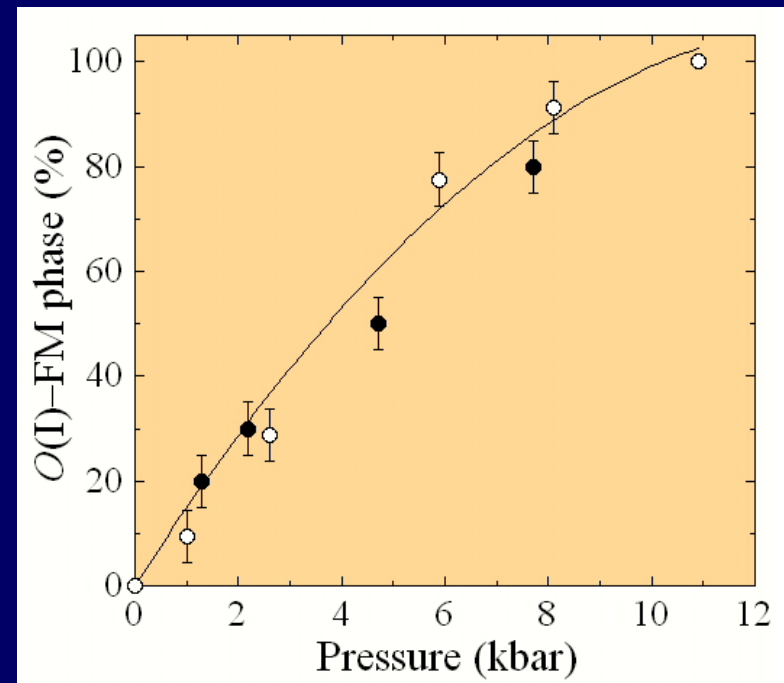
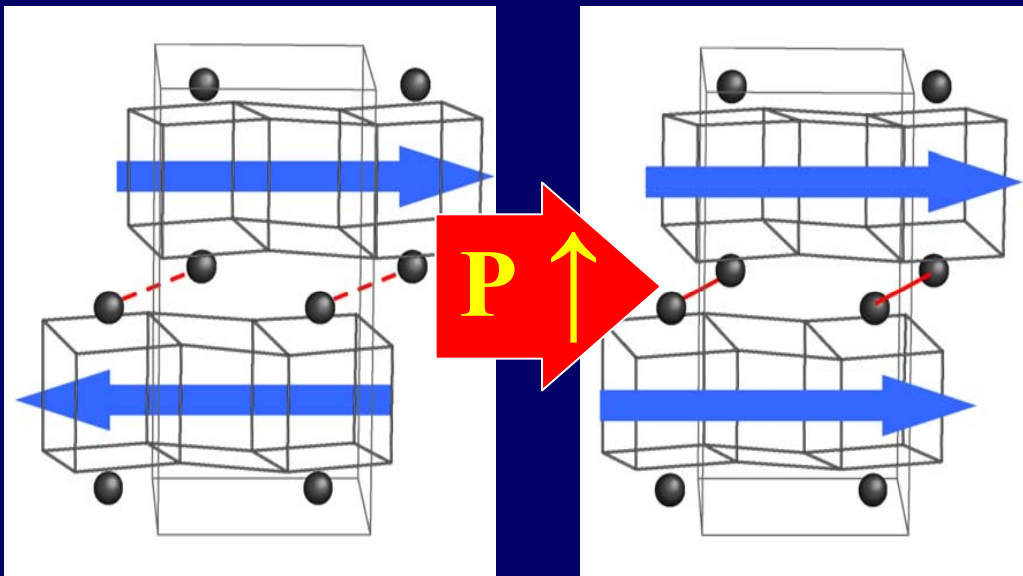


Magen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 207202 (2003).

# Gd<sub>5</sub>Ge<sub>4</sub> – Pressure-induced *O(I)*-FM State

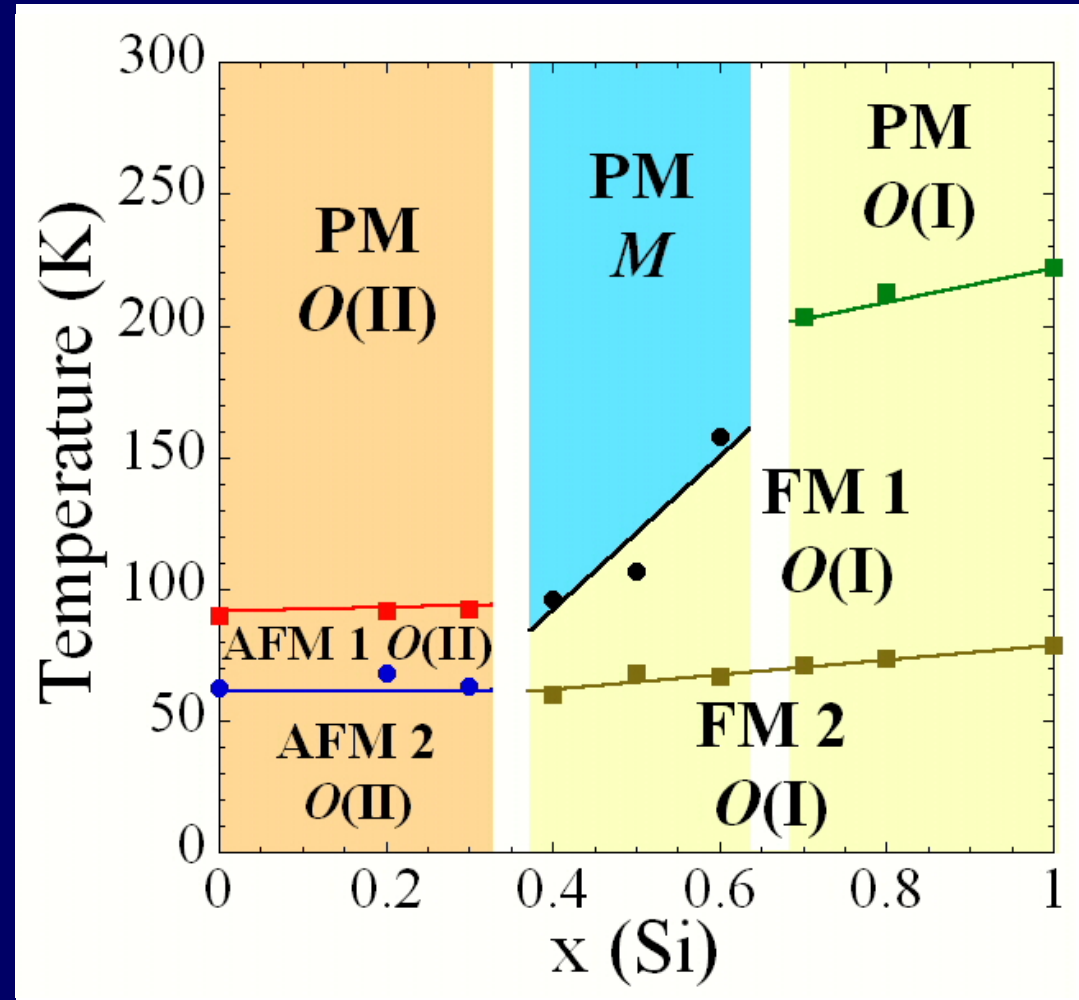
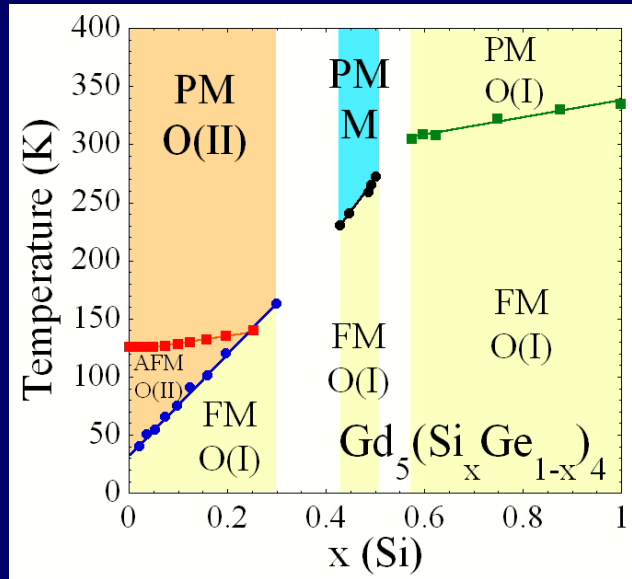
► Phase segregation induced by hydrostatic pressure:

- *O(II)*-AFM → *O(II)*-AFM + *O(I)*-FM → *O(I)*-FM.
- 100 % of *O(I)*-FM at  $P \approx 10$  kbar.



Magen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 207202 (2003).

# Tb<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – x-T Phase Diagram



- The same crystal structures
- Transitions shifted to lower T
- Wealth of magnetic structures

New transitions:

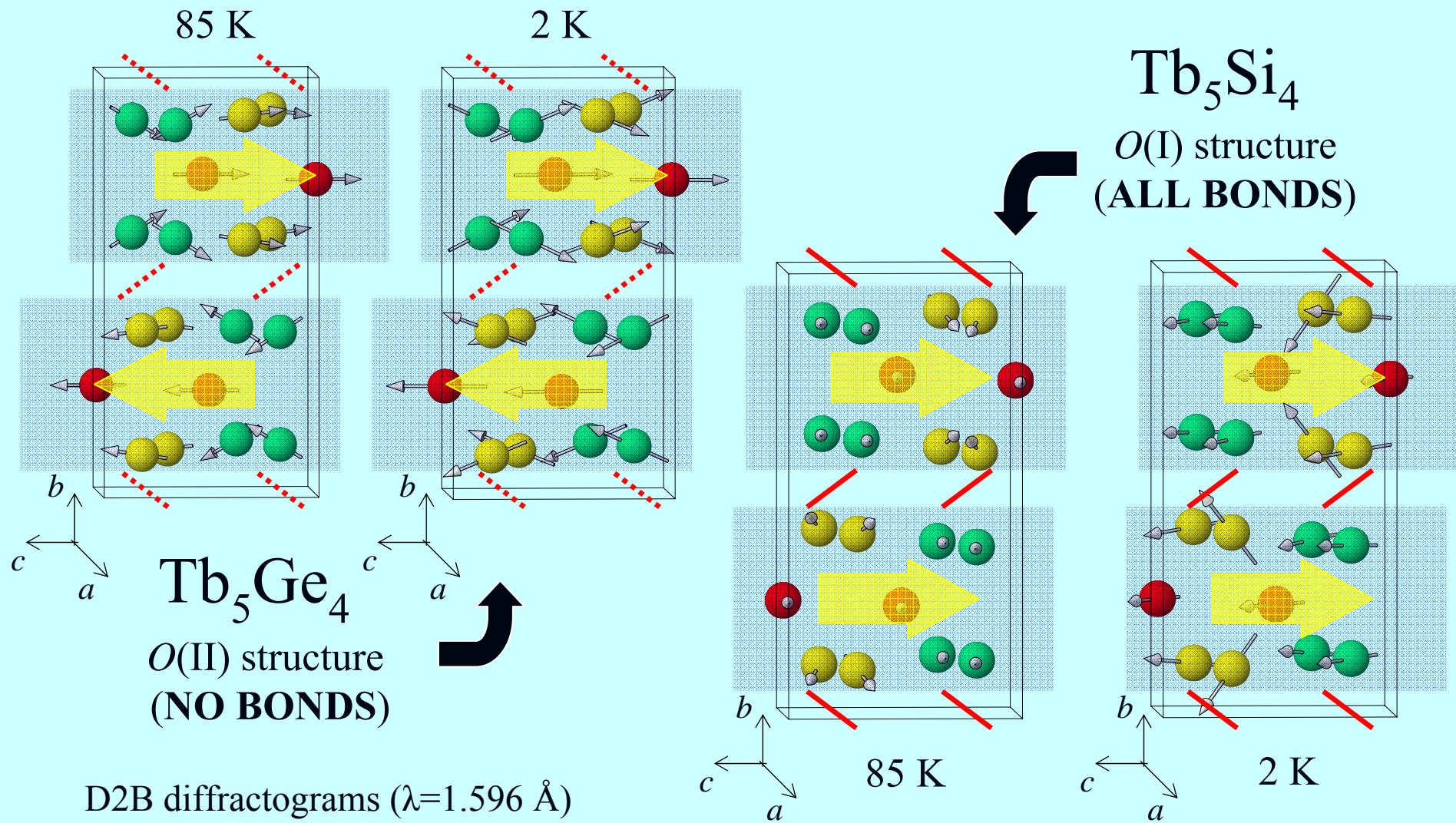
FM1 ↔ FM2 [in O(I)]

AFM1 ↔ AFM2 [in O(II)]

C. Ritter et al., Phys. Rev. B **65**, 094405 (2002).



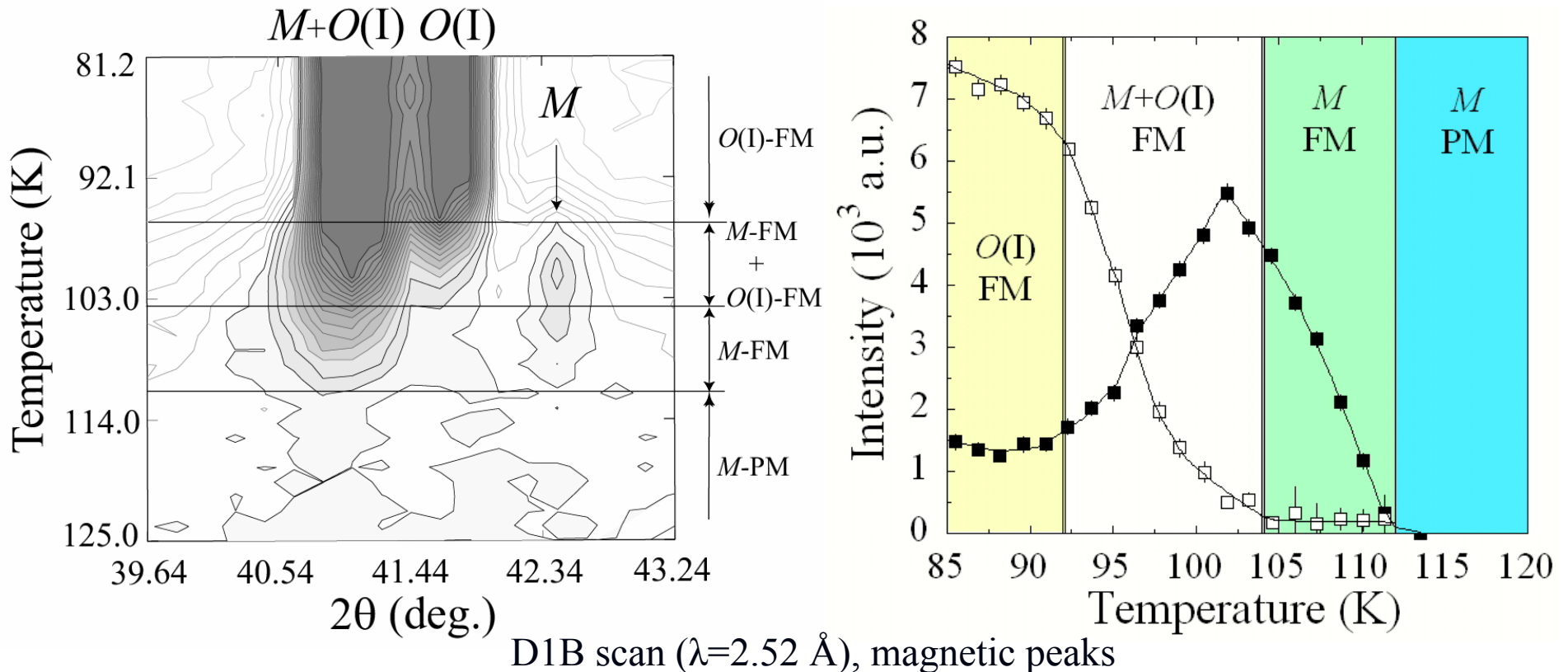
# Tb<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub> – x-T Phase Diagram



C. Ritter et al., Phys. Rev. B **65**, 094405 (2002).



# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Decoupling of magn. & struc.



- No coupled  $M$ -PM  $\leftrightarrow$   $O(I)$ -FM transition takes places.
- A new intermediate  $M$ -FM phase grows in the 105-115 K.

Morellon et al., Phys. Rev. B **68**, 024417 (2003)

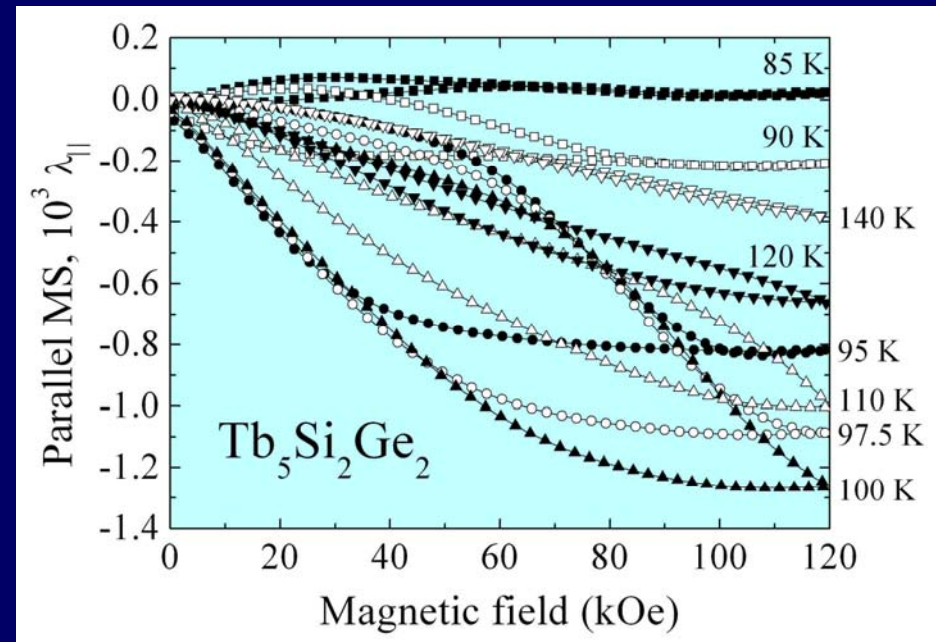
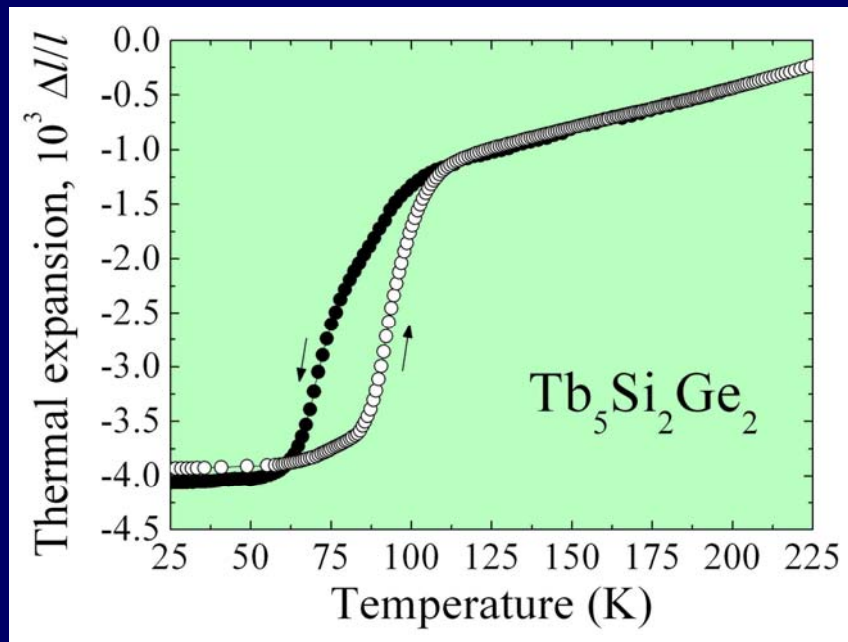
# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Field-induced transition?

- Disagreement → temperature ≠ field induced transformations.

Examples: LTE/MS, transport measurements.

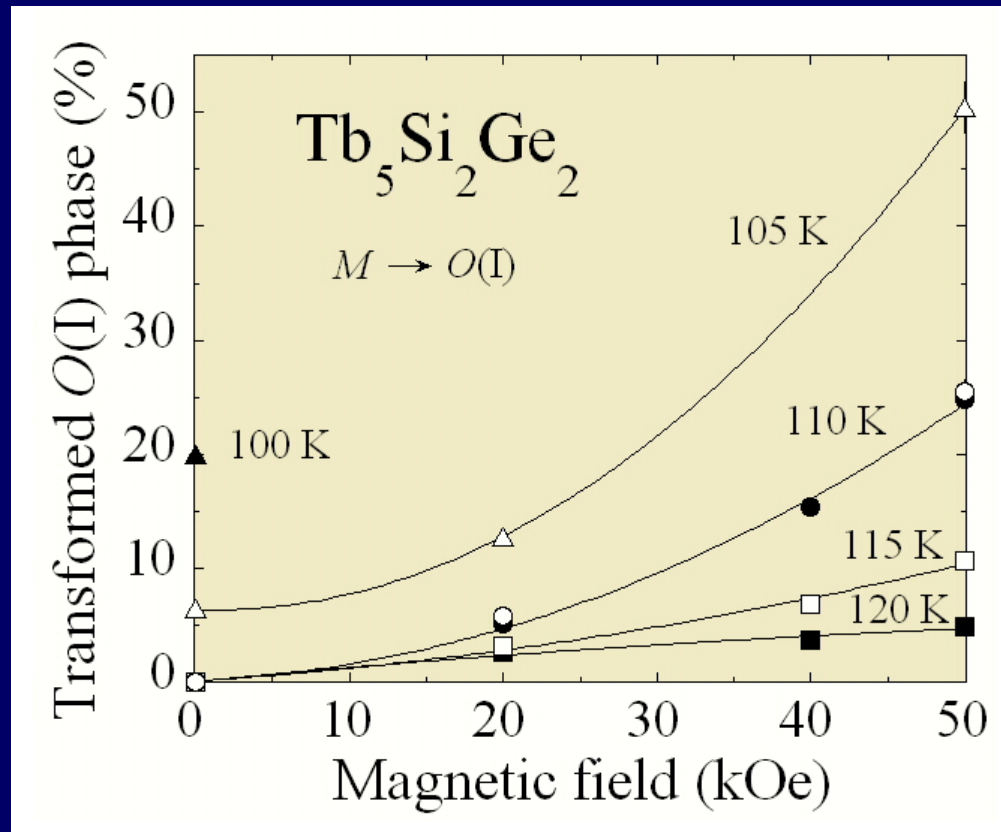
$$\Delta L/L \approx +0.26 \% \neq MS_{\max} \approx +0.12 \%$$

$$\Delta R/R \approx -30 \% \neq MR_{\max} \approx -14 \%$$



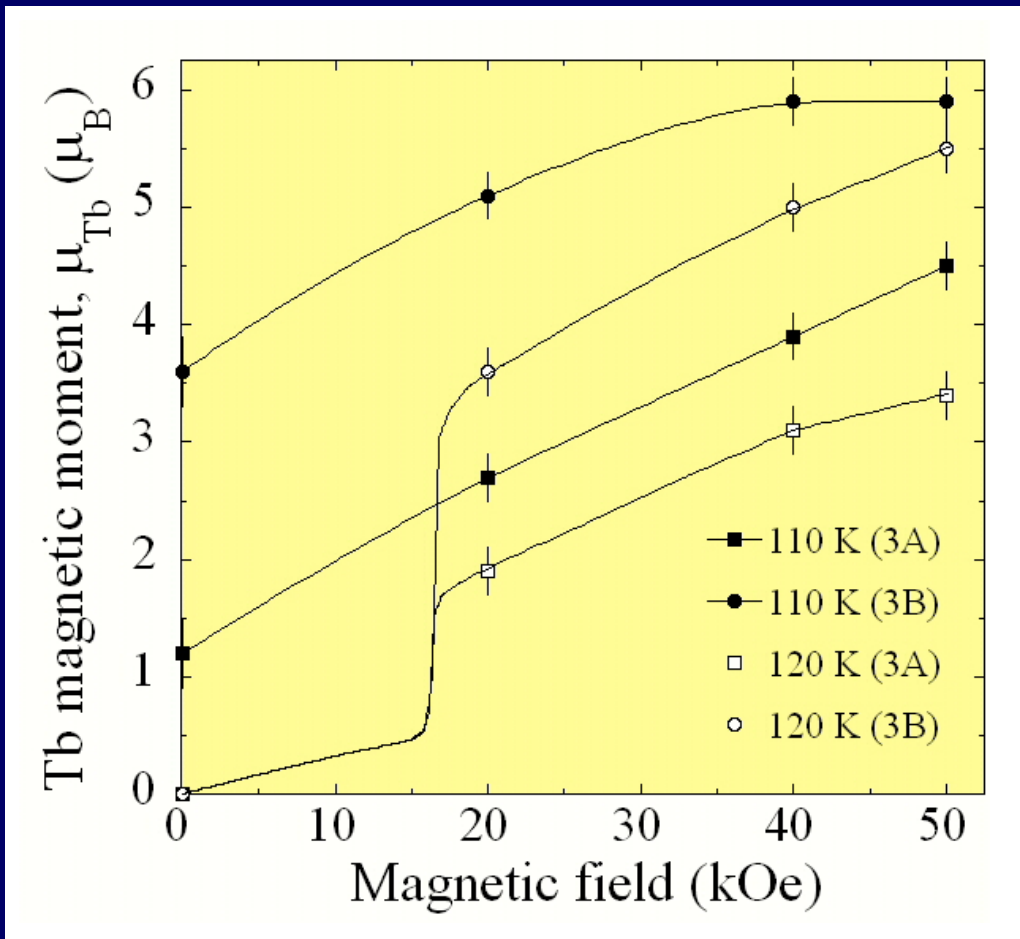
# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Field-induced transition?

- Incomplete  $M \leftrightarrow O(I)$  transition, max. 50 %  $O(I)$ -FM. X-ray vs. High Field?
- Inefficient magnetic field in PM, need for FM in  $M$  phase.



D2B diffractograms vs. H ( $\lambda=2.398 \text{ \AA}$ )

# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Field-induced transition?

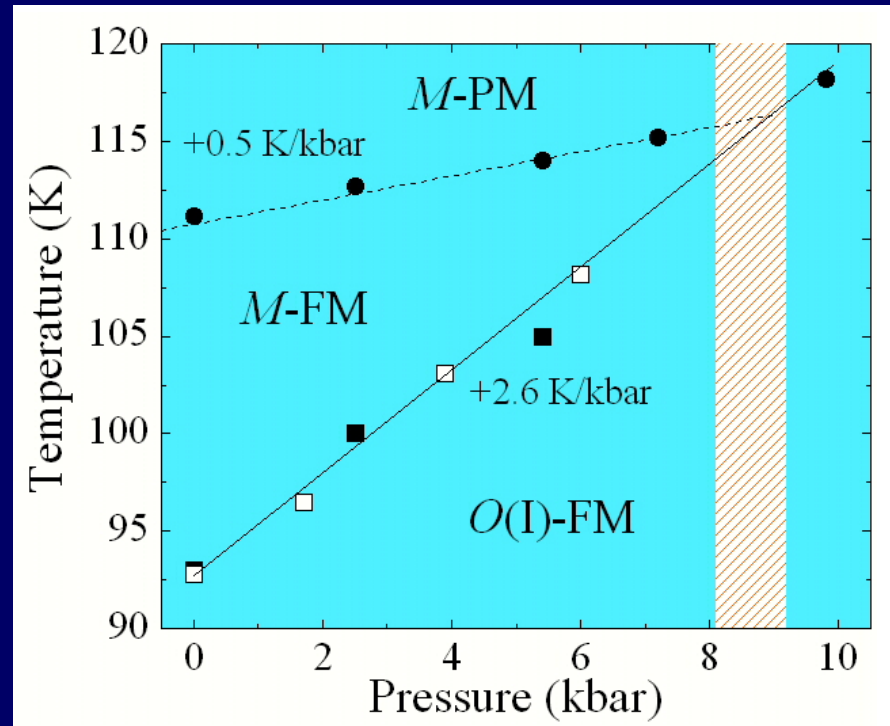
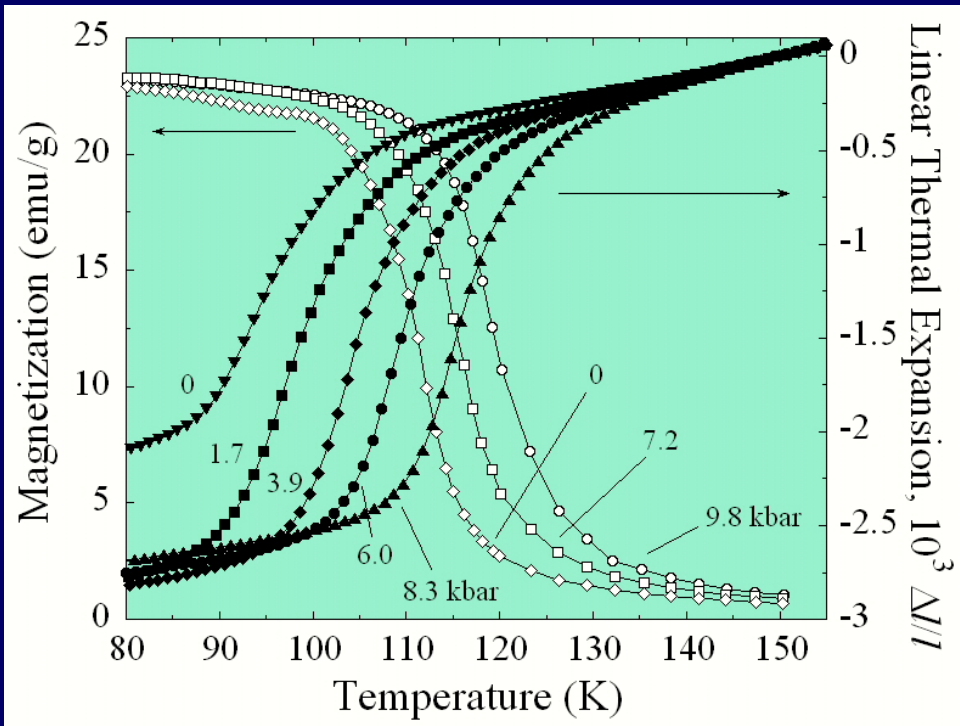


D2B diffractograms vs. H ( $\lambda=2.398 \text{ \AA}$ )

- Tb 3A – near the bonds
- Tb 3B – near the broken pairs
- $\mu_{Tb3A}$ 's >  $\mu_{Tb3B}$ 's
- The existence of T'-T' bonds enhances the FM interactions (higher magnetic moments)
- T=120 K (*M* phase):
  - Low-field: PM
  - High-field: FMField-induced FM ordering in the *M* phase!

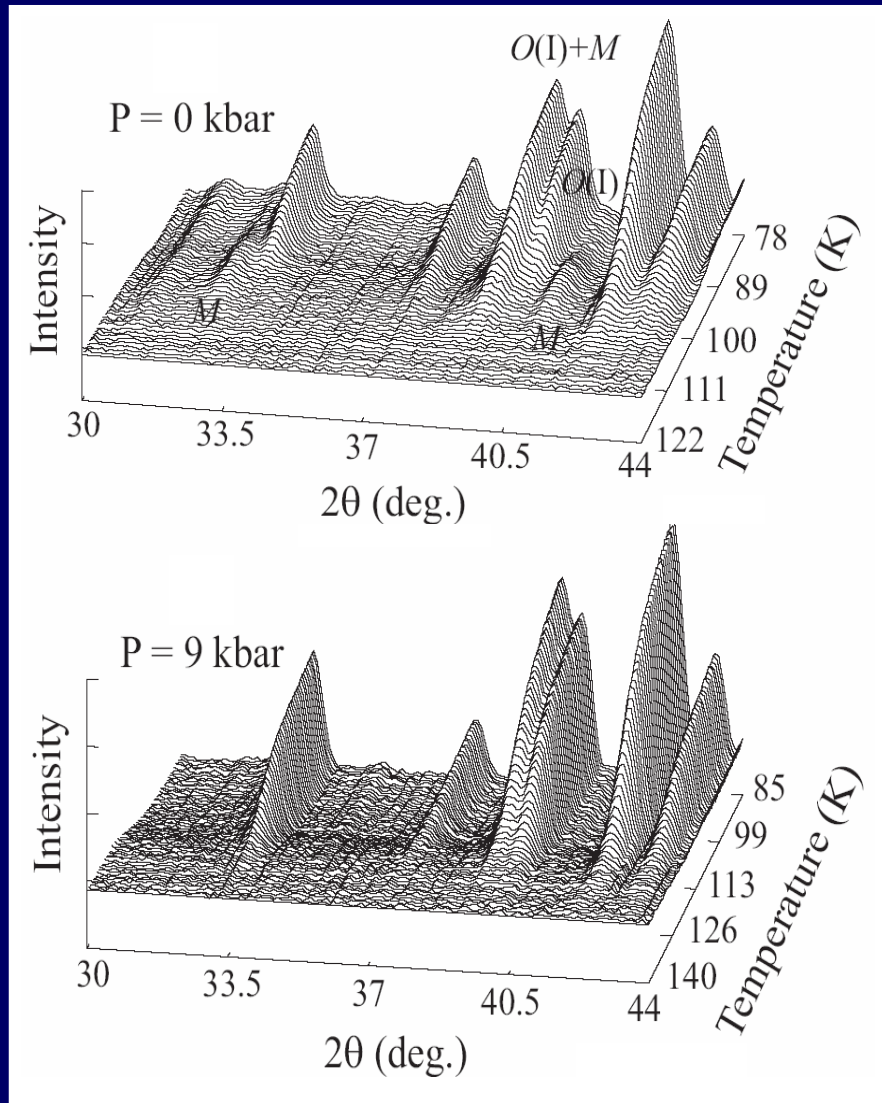
# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Decoupling, but... ?

- ▶ Remember Gd<sub>5</sub>(Si<sub>x</sub>Ge<sub>1-x</sub>)<sub>4</sub>!
- Magnetic anomalies – low P dependence  $dT_C/dP \approx +0.3-0.7$  K/kbar
- Structural anomalies – high P rate  $dT_C/dP \approx +3.0$  K/kbar
- ▶ Is it the same in Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub>? Could we merge both anomalies?





# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – ... Pressure kills *M*-FM!



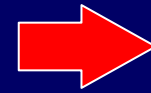
D20 thermal scans vs.  $P$  ( $\lambda=2.4$  Å)  
Magnetic peaks

**Upon increasing pressure...**

- *M* magnetic peaks disappear
- All peaks [*O(I)*] grow together
- ▶ Pressure-induced recoupling  
of the crystal and magnetic changes  
& destruction of the *M*-FM phase

# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Pressure enhancement of MCE

Recoupling of the structural and magnetic transitions/entropy changes!!!



Enhancement of the MCE  
Onset of GMCE

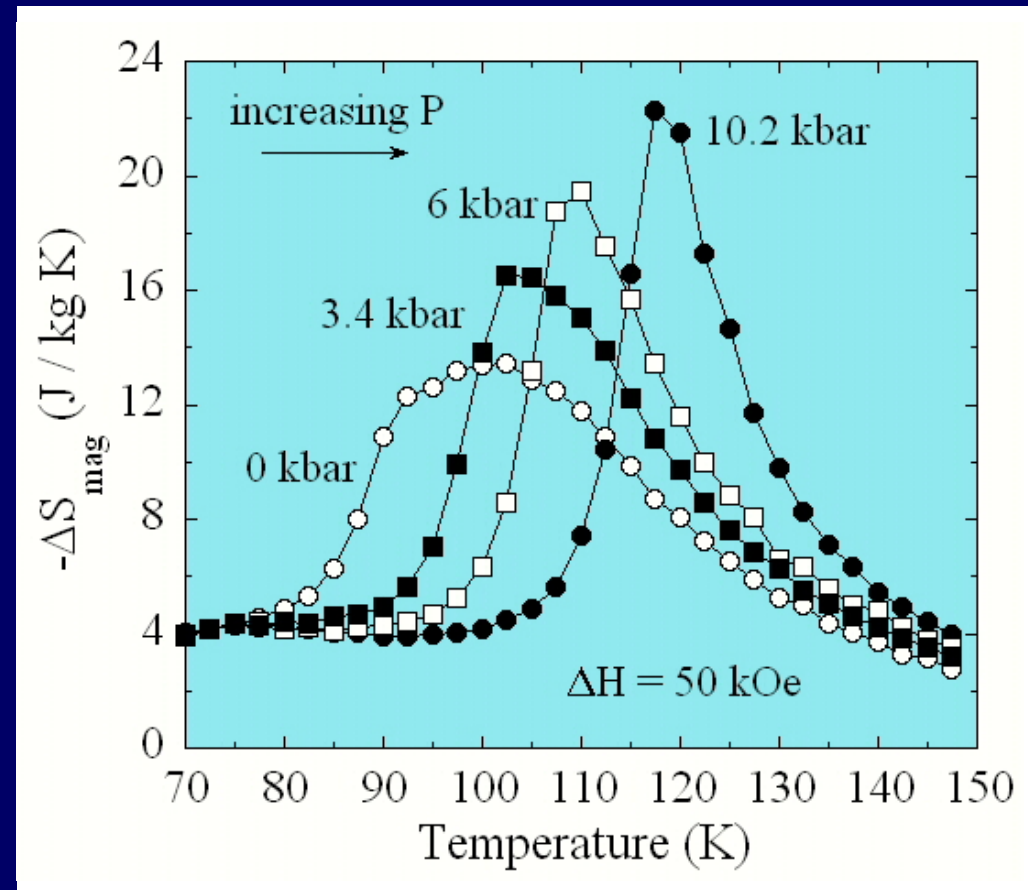
- Calculation of the MCE

$$\Delta S_M = \int_{H_1}^{H_2} \left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \right)_H dH$$

- Contributions to the MCE:

$$\Delta S_M = \Delta S_{\text{mag}} + \Delta S_{\text{str}}$$

Morellon et al.  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 137201 (2004).



# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – Griffiths-like behavior in *M*-PM

► **What's A Griffiths Phase (GP)?**  $T_C < T < T_G$  ( $T_G$  = Griffiths temp.)

THEORY: **Non-analytical** thermodynamical functions.

MICROSCOPIC INGREDIENTS:

- **Randomly** distributed magnetic interactions (**disorder**).
- **Phase coexistence** phenomena.
- **Competition** between magnetic **interactions**:  
e.g., FM double exchange – AFM superexchange, Kondo vs. RKKY.
- Others: magnetic anisotropy, intrinsic disorder.

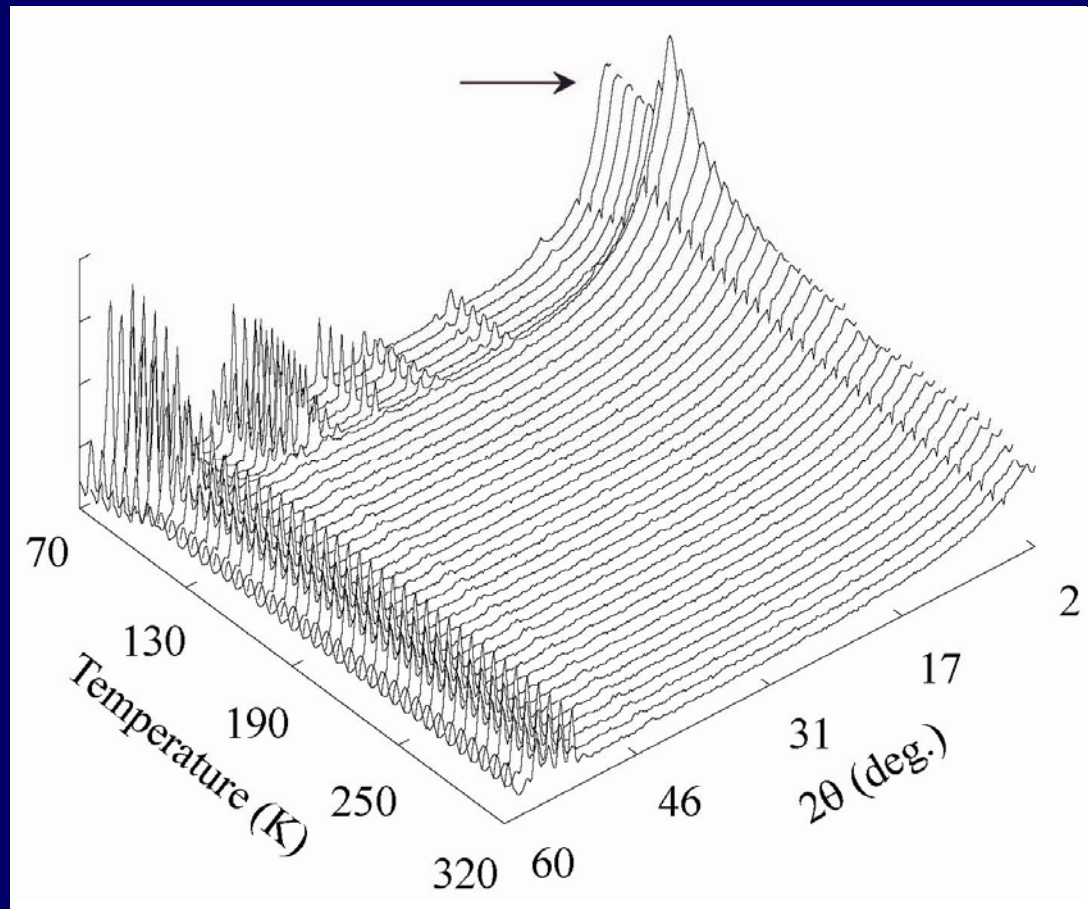
MACROSCOPIC ANOMALIES:

e.g. **cluster-like** behavior in **magnetic susceptibility**.

$$\chi^{-1} \propto (T - T_C)^{1-\lambda}, \quad 0 < \lambda < 1$$

# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – GP-like behavior in *M*-PM

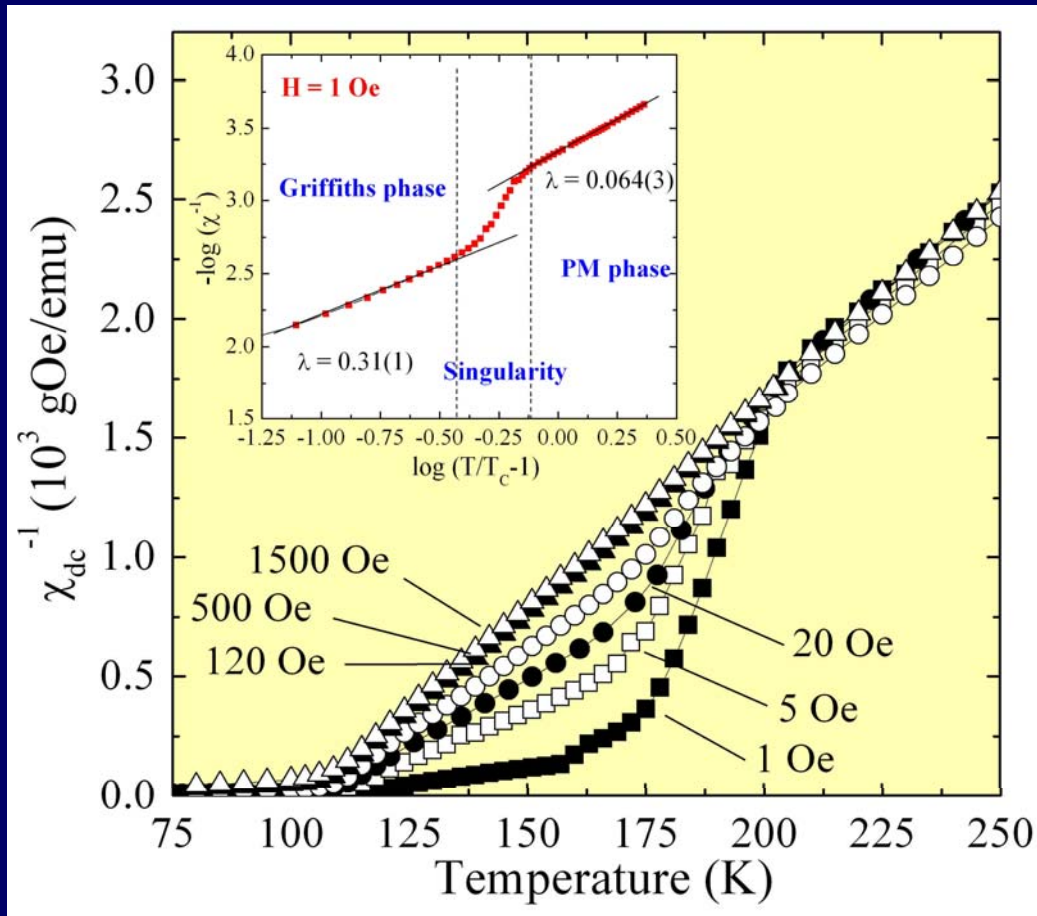
- Anomalous SANS contribution at  $T > T_C$  in  $\theta < \theta_{\text{Bragg}}$



D1B temperature scan ( $\lambda=2.52 \text{ \AA}$ )

# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – GP-like behavior in *M*-PM

- High spin entities at 110 K < T < 200 K in low field ( $\mu_{\text{eff}} > 9.72\mu_{\text{eff}}/\text{Tb}$ ).
- GP behavior  $\leftrightarrow \lambda \sim 0.3$  in 125 K < T < 165 K.

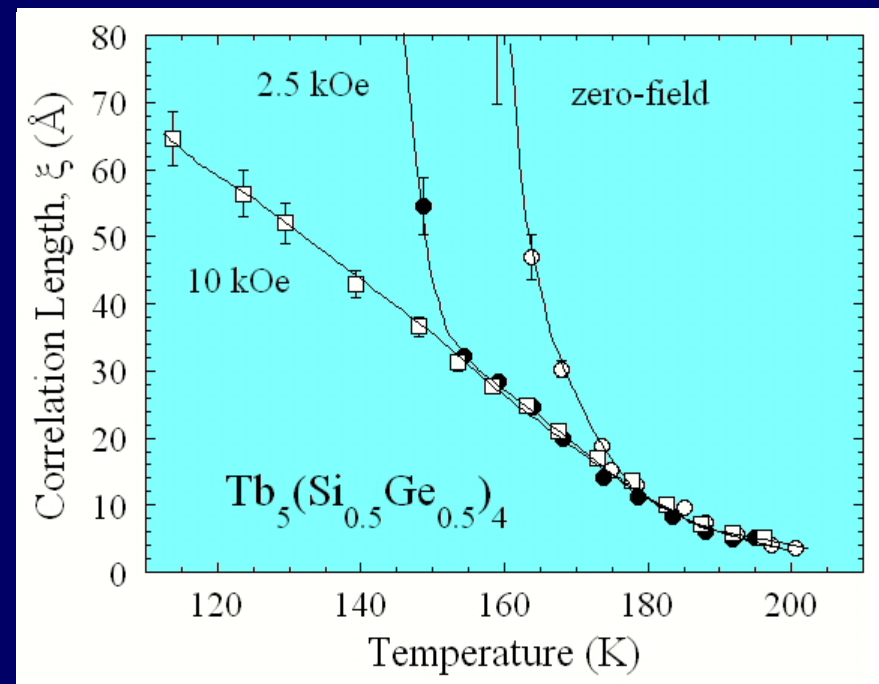
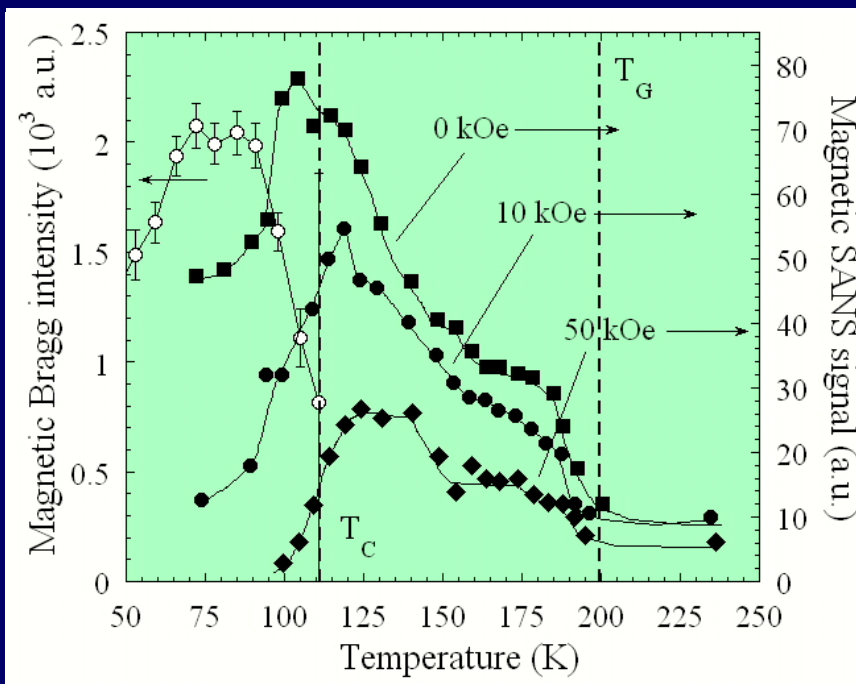


Magen et al.  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **96**, 167201 (2006).

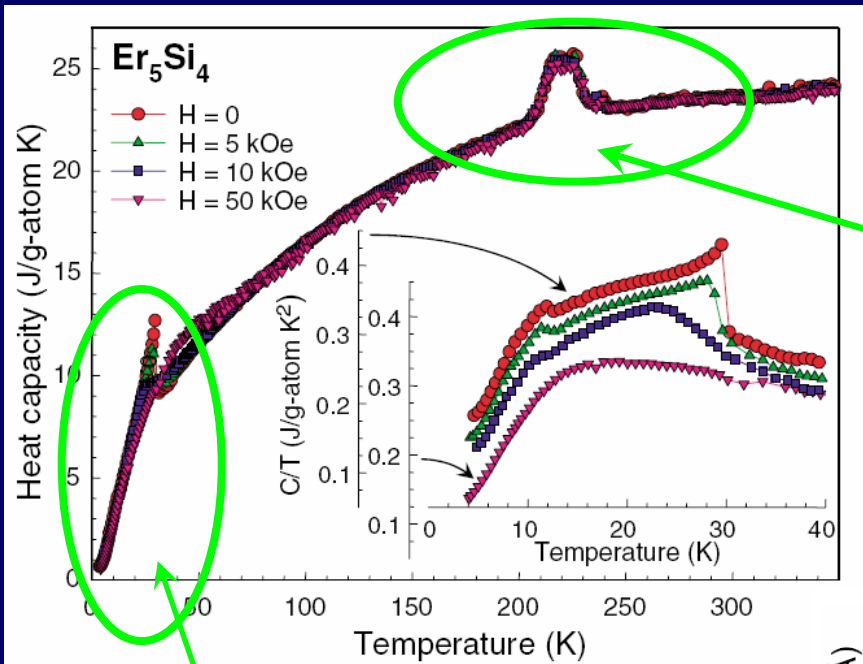


# Tb<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> – GP-like behavior in *M*-PM

- Increasing magnetic field:
  - Decrease of  $I_{\text{SANS}}$  (scattering centers)
  - Divergence of  $\xi$  at lower  $T$ 's
- $\xi$  saturates at  $H \approx 5$ -10 kOe
- $T_G \approx 200$  K  $\approx T_C$  of Si-rich O(I)  $\rightarrow$  Possible O(I) character? X-ray vs. Field!

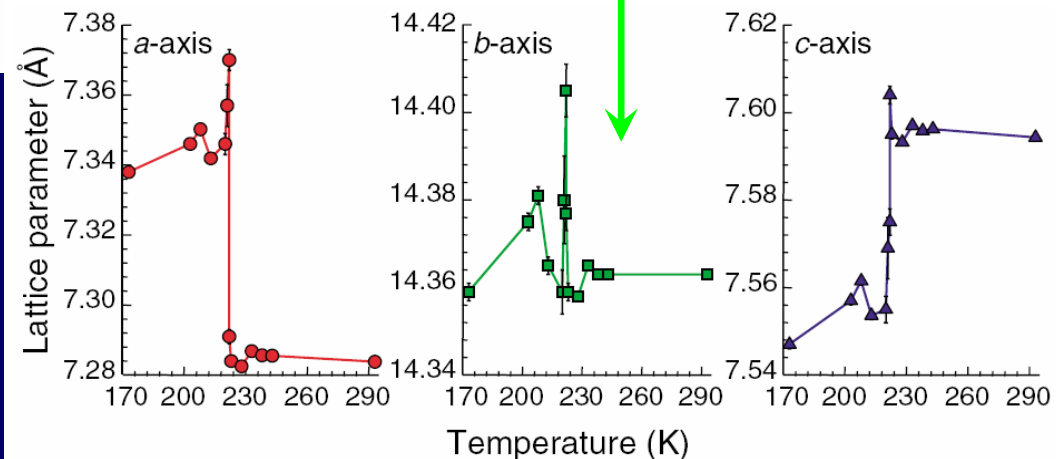


# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – A new way of decoupling



High-temperature structural transformation on cooling  $O(I) \rightarrow M$   
*Inverse order of the phases!*

Low-T FM ordering (FM, ...also  $M$ ?)

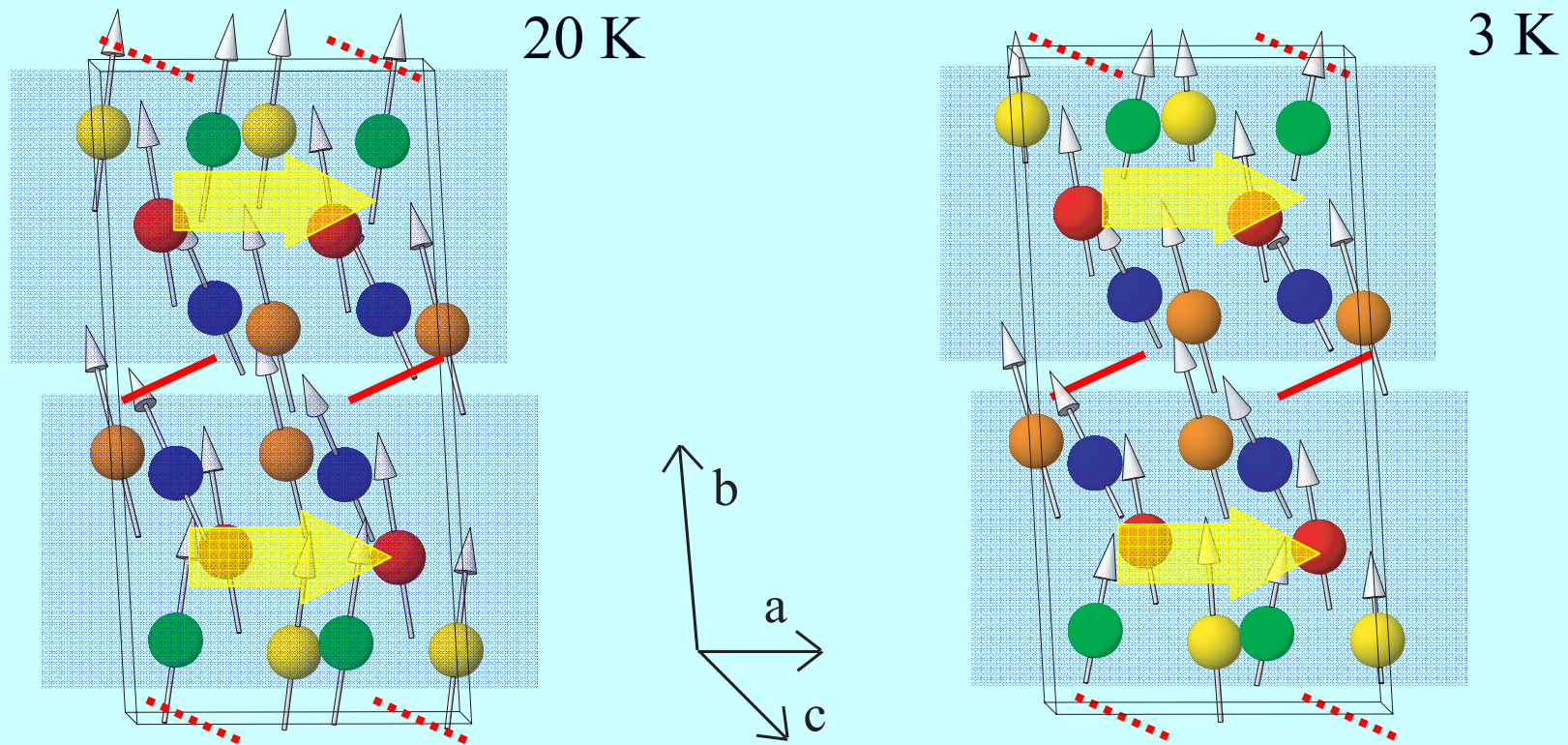


V. K. Pecharsky et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 207205 (2004)

# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Magnetic Structure

- Net FM component along  $b$  + small AFM canting in the (010) plane
- Low temperature  $M$ -FM structure & Spin Reorientation at  $T \approx 15$  K

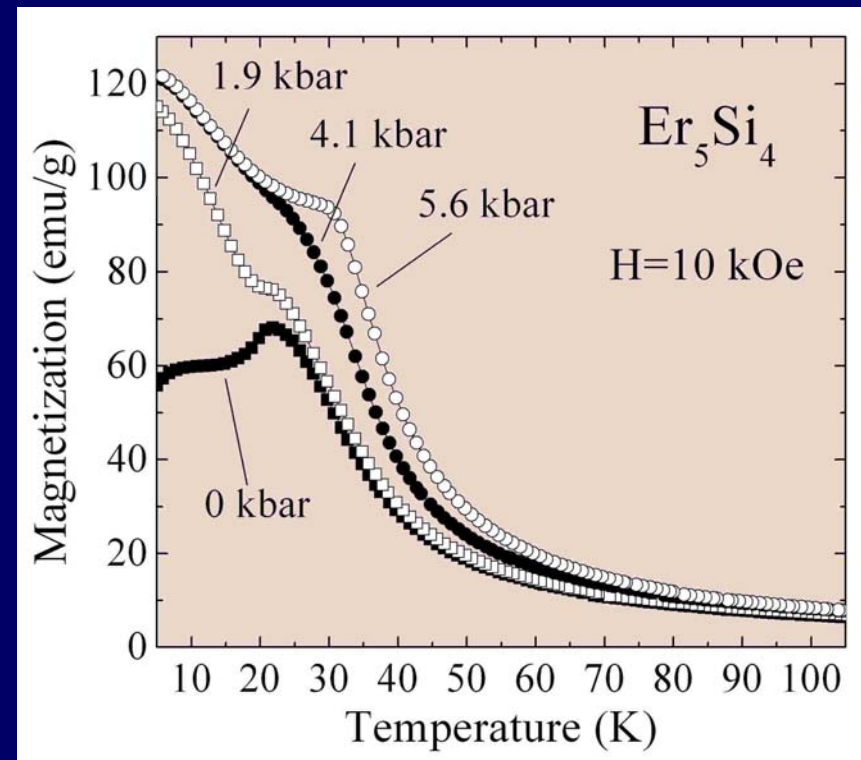
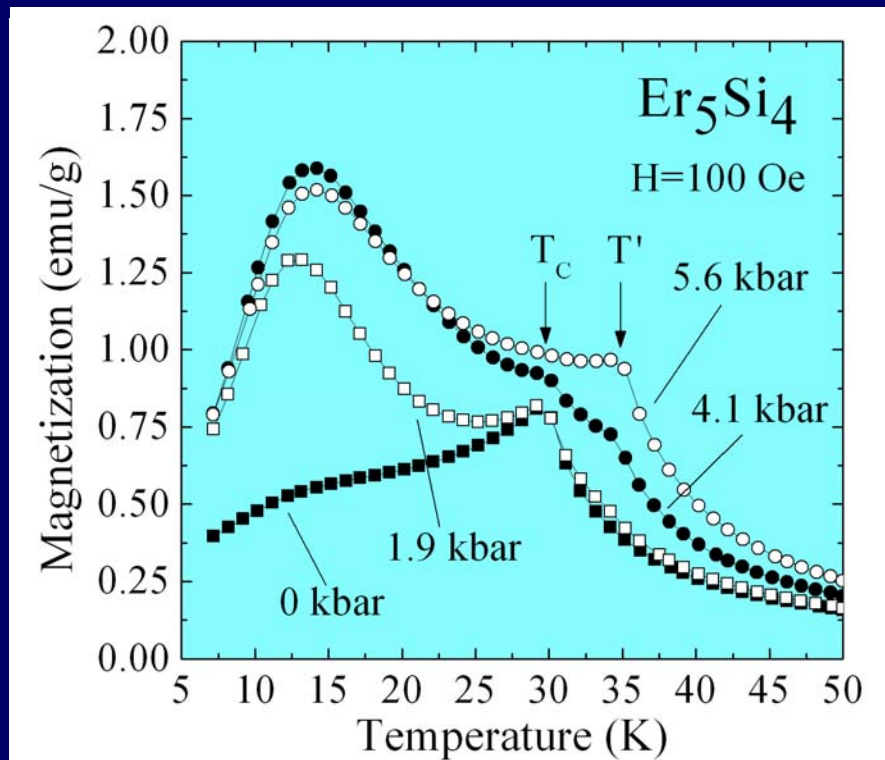
D2B diffractograms ( $\lambda=1.596$  Å)



C. Ritter et al., J. Phys.: Condens. Matter. **18**, 3937 (2006).

# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Astonishing pressure effects (M)

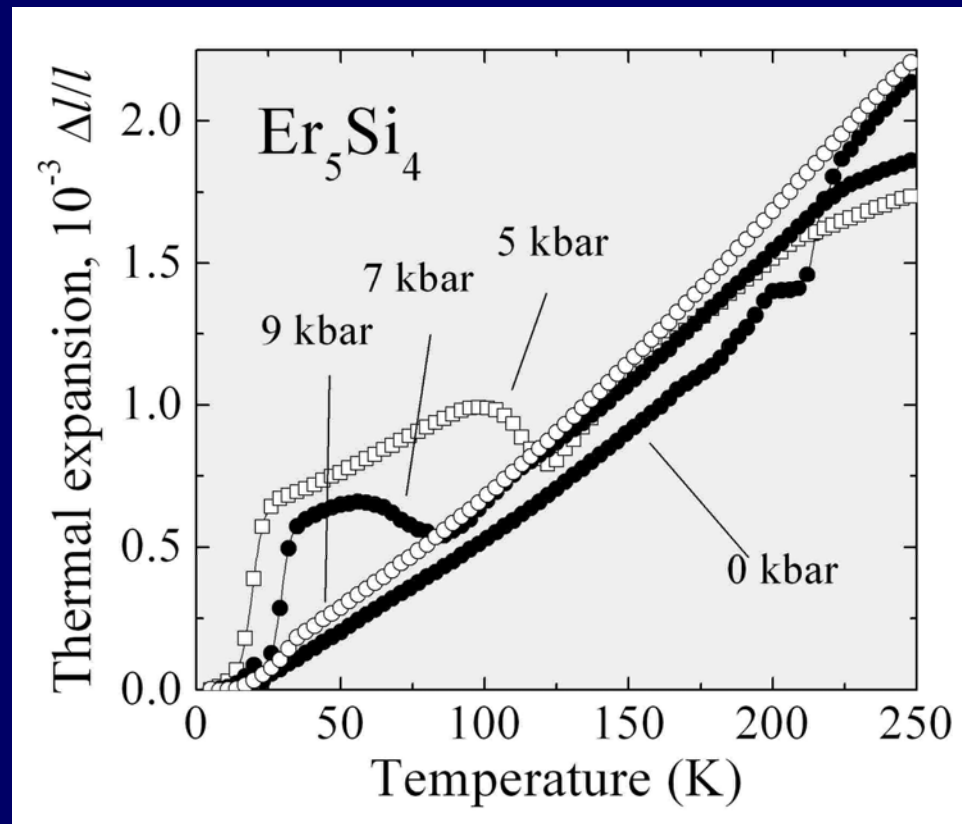
- P-induced rise of magnetization below T<sub>C</sub> (FM→FM' transition?).
- Rise of ordering temperature changes from T<sub>C</sub>=30 K to T'=35 K



Magen et al., Phys. Rev. B 74, 134427 (2006).

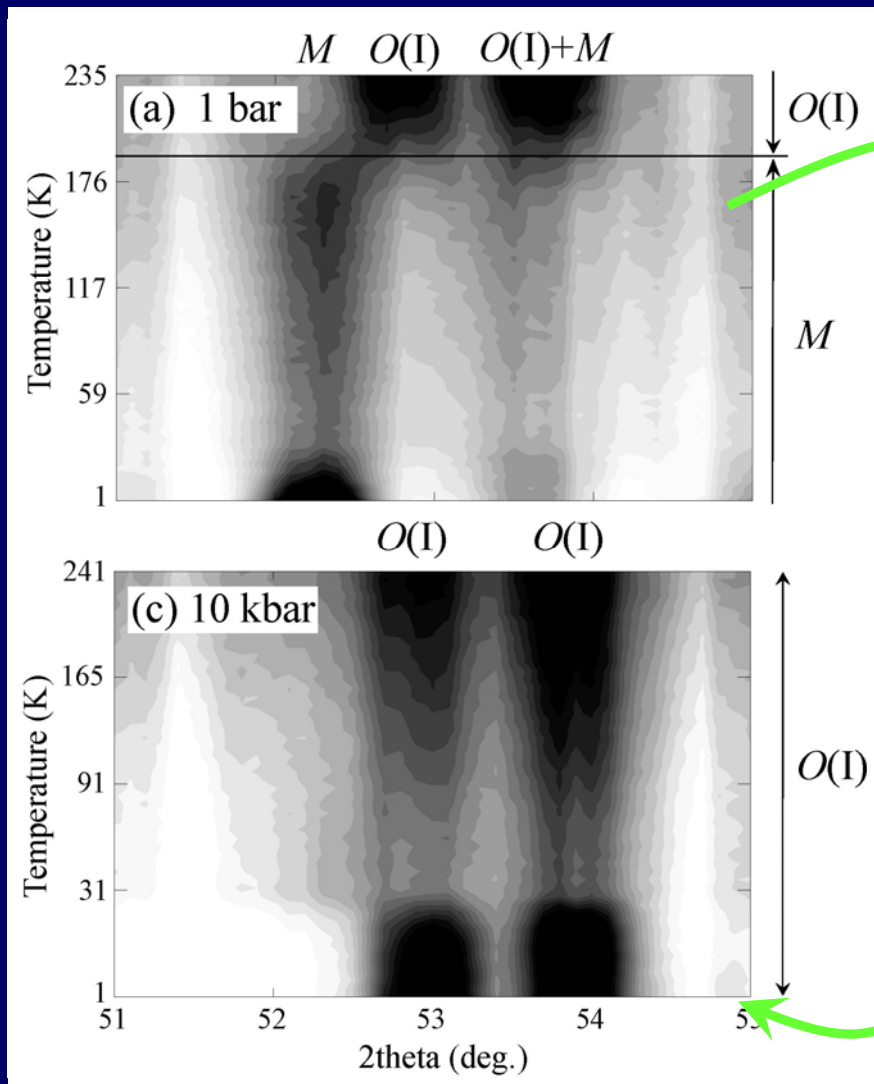
# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Astonishing pressure effects (LTE)

- $O(I) \leftrightarrow M$  transition rapidly shifted to low temperature.
- Inverse structural change appears below  $T_C$ .
- Both anomalies kill each other below 9 kbar

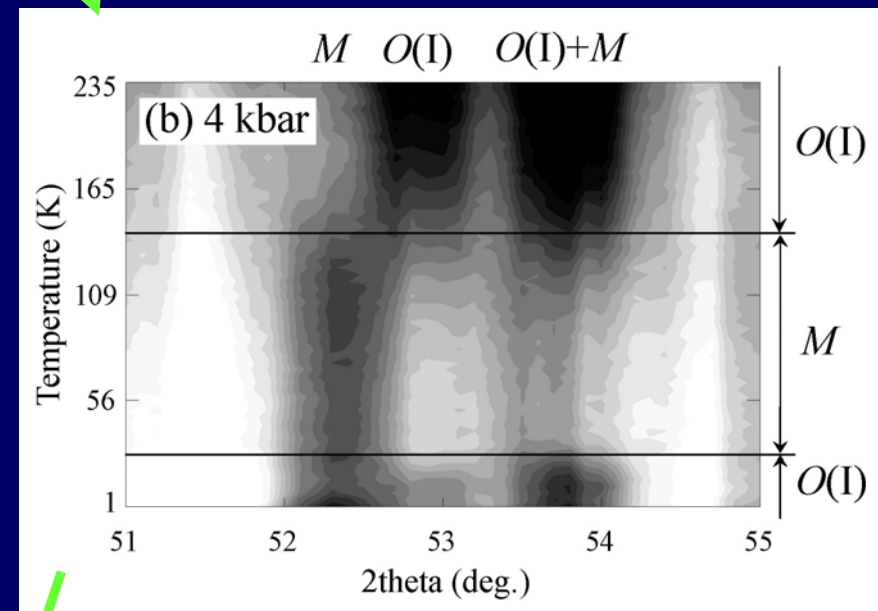




# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Astonishing pressure effects (neutrons)



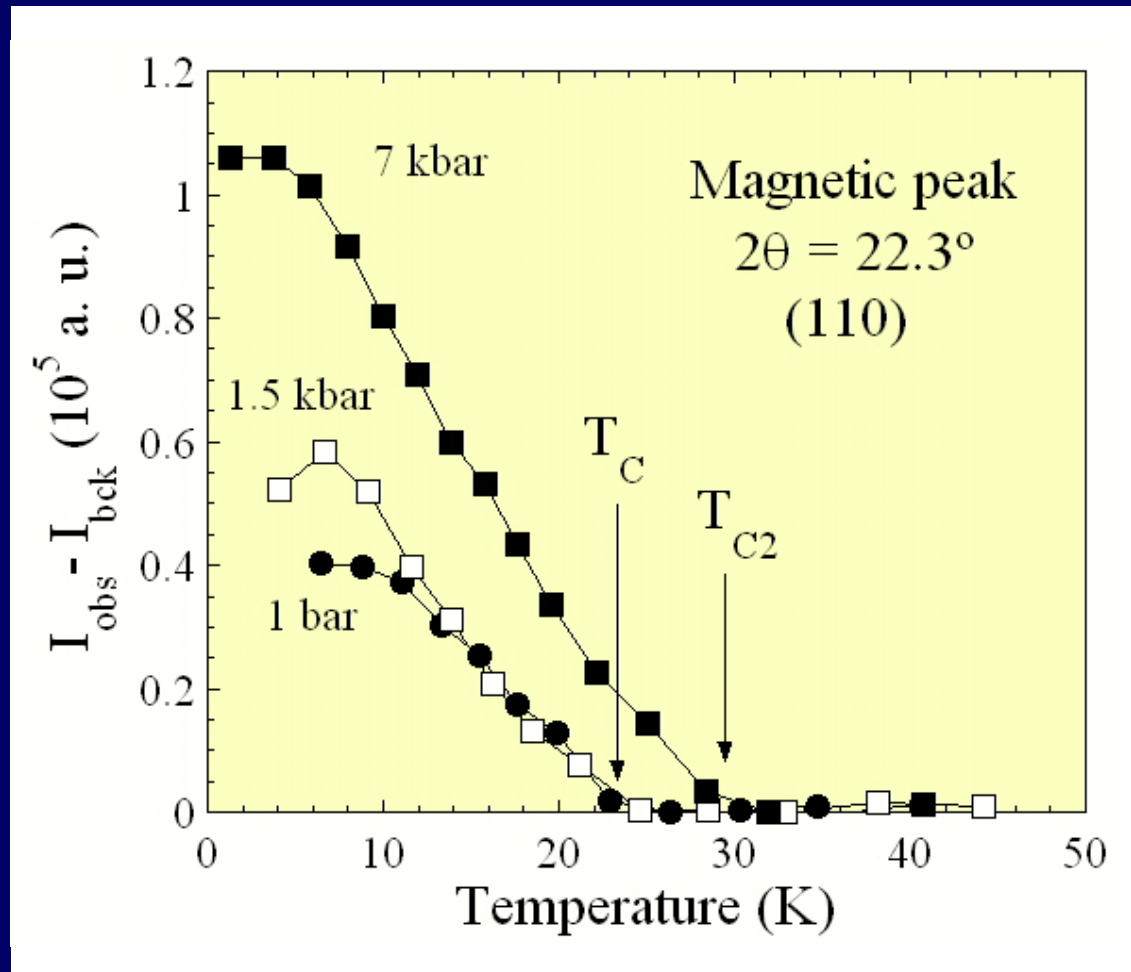
D20 diffractograms vs T, P



- Neutrons confirm LTE behavior.

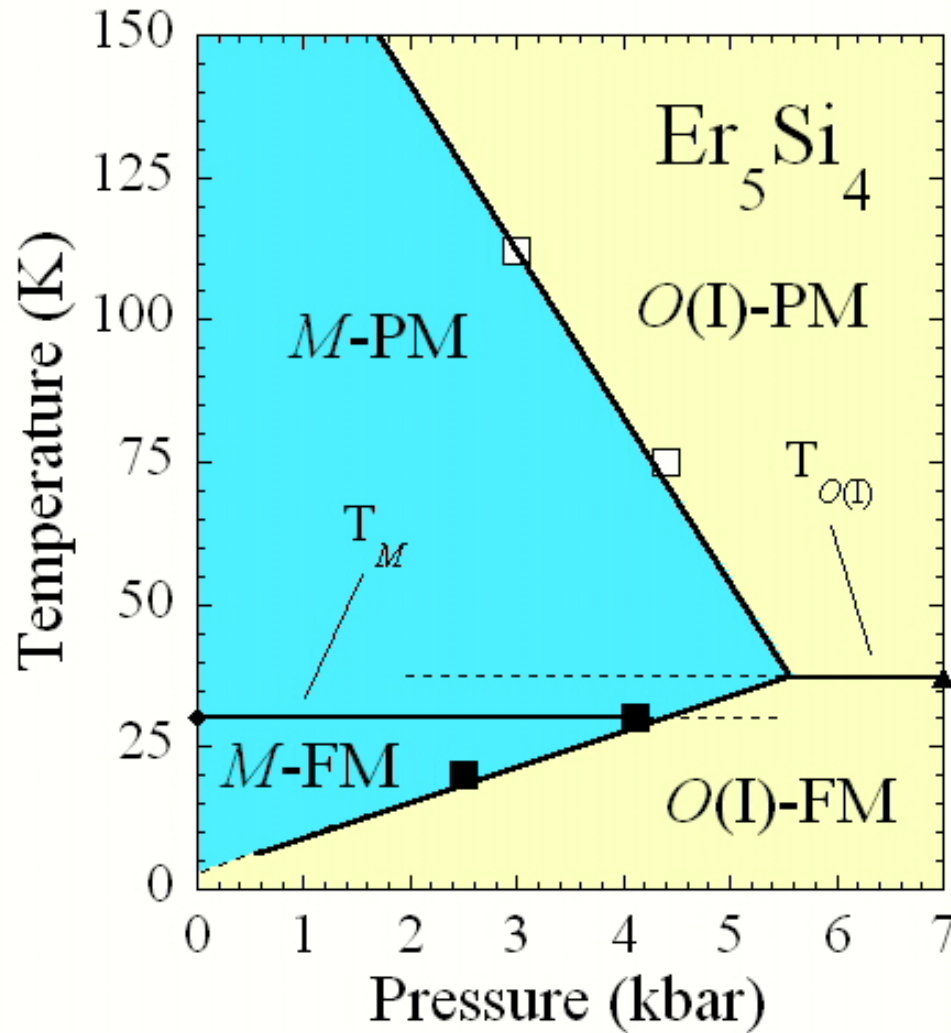
# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Astonishing pressure effects (neutrons)

- Neutrons confirm magnetization behavior →  $T_{C2} [O(I)] > T_{C1} [M]$



D20 diffractograms vs T, P

# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> - T-P phase diagram

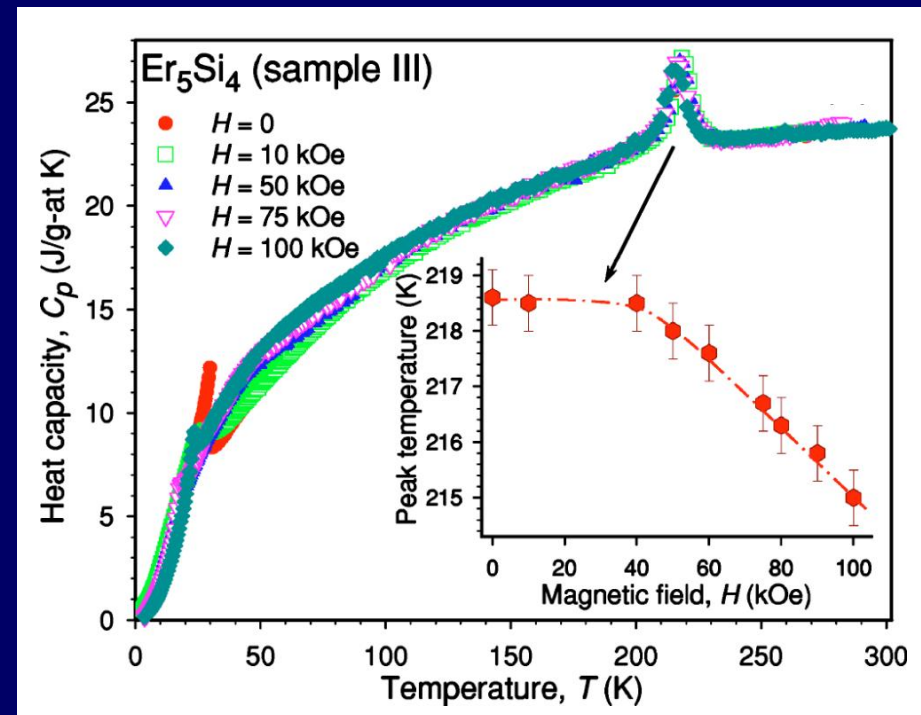
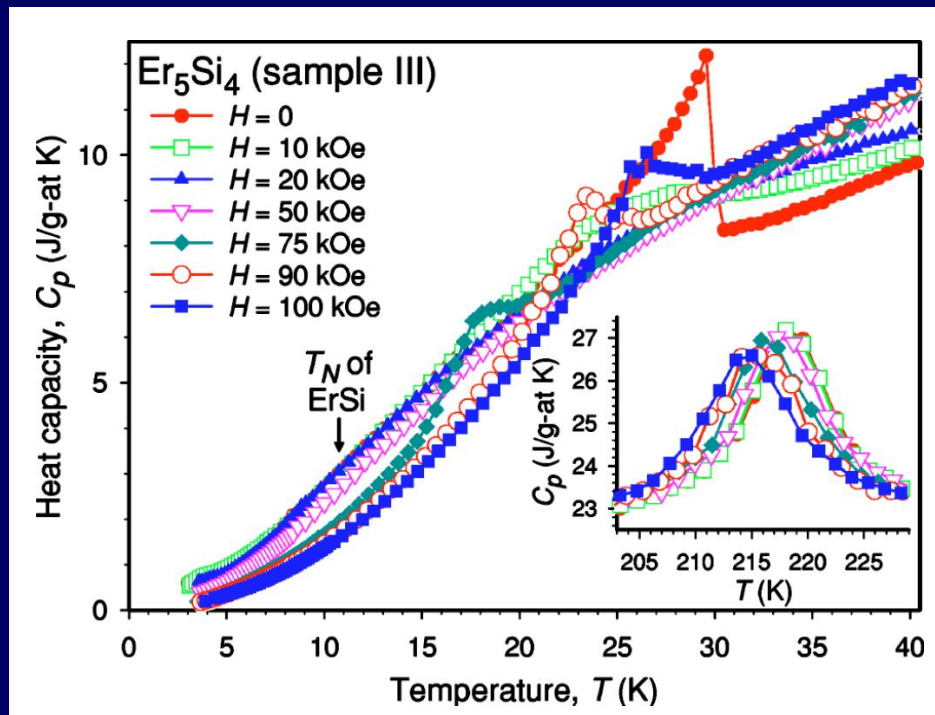


- Rapid  $O(I) \rightarrow M$  (high T)  
 $dT_{t1}/dP \approx -23-30$  K/kbar
- Slow  $M \rightarrow O(I)$  (low T)  
 $dT_{t2}/dP \approx +6$  K/kbar
- $P > 5.5$  kbar,  $O(I)$  at all T's
- Structure-dependent magnetism
  - $M$  is FM ( $T_M = 30$  K)
  - $O(I)$  is FM ( $T_{O(I)} = 36$  K)

Magen et al.  
Phys. Rev. B 74, 134427 (2006).

# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Can we do the same with field?

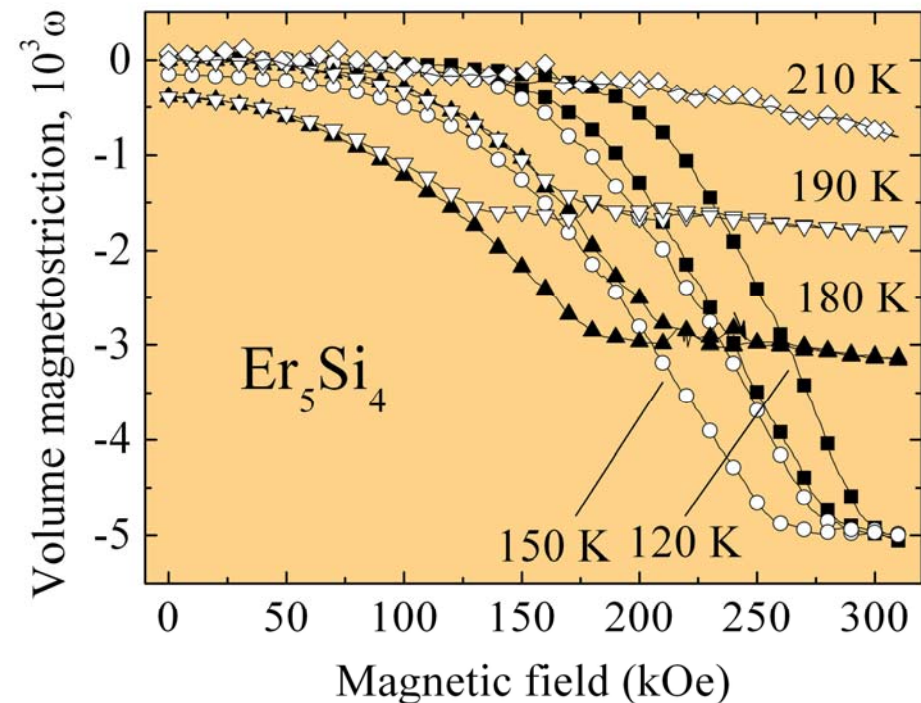
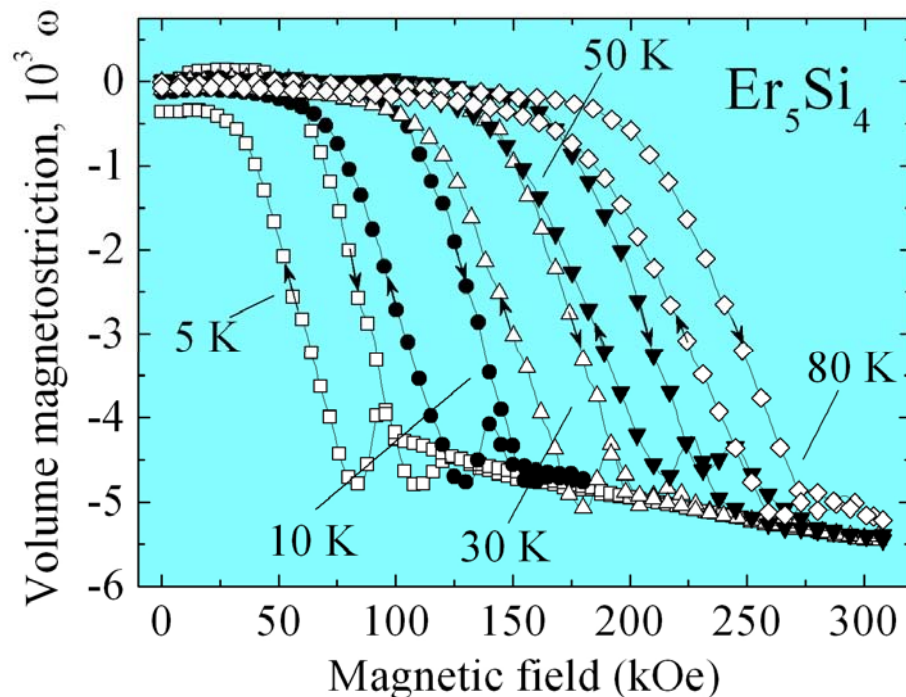
- Heat capacity experiments show some field dependences:
  - At high T, a tiny change of T<sub>t</sub> is suggested... REAL?
  - At low T, an anomaly appears and rises upon field.



A. O. Pecharsky et al., Phys. Rev. B 70, 144419 (2004)

# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Field induced structural transition

- Field-induced anomaly at low temperature ( $M \rightarrow O(I)$ ):  $\Delta V/V = -0.5\%$
- It is not evident that magnetic field shifts high temperature  $M \rightarrow O(I)$

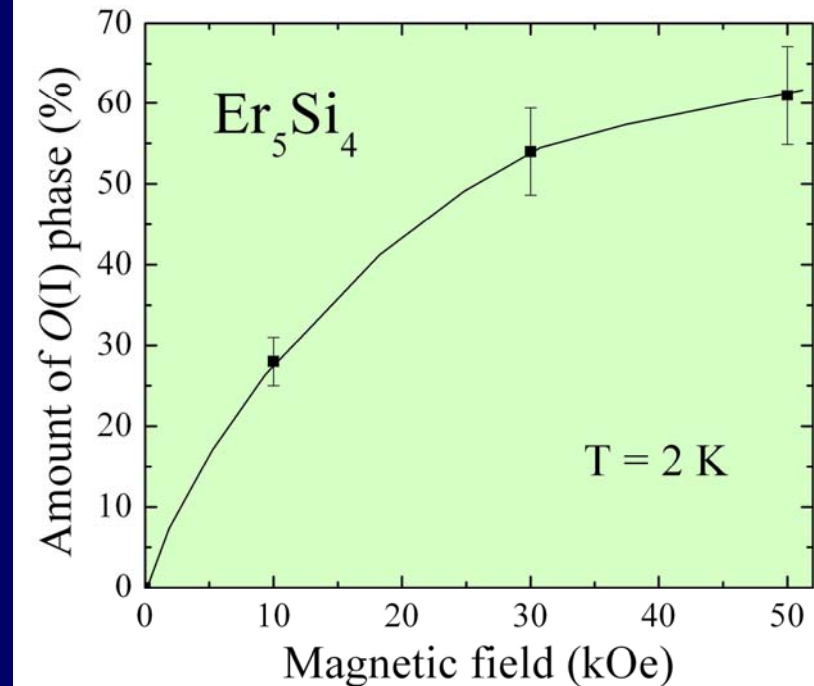
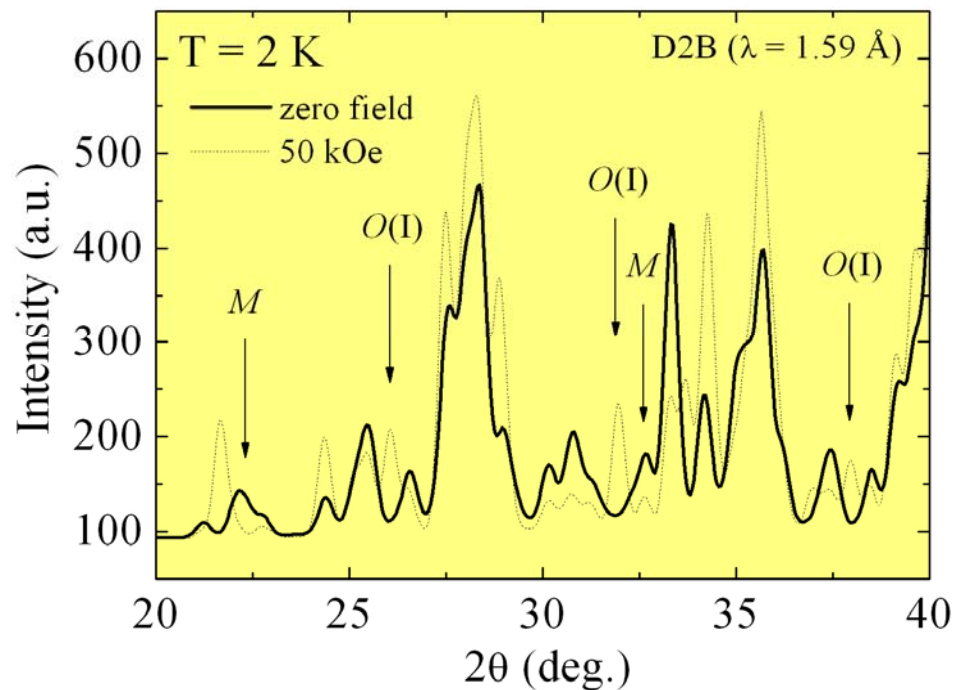


High pulsed magnetic fields ( $H_{\max} = 31$  T)



# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Field induced structural transition

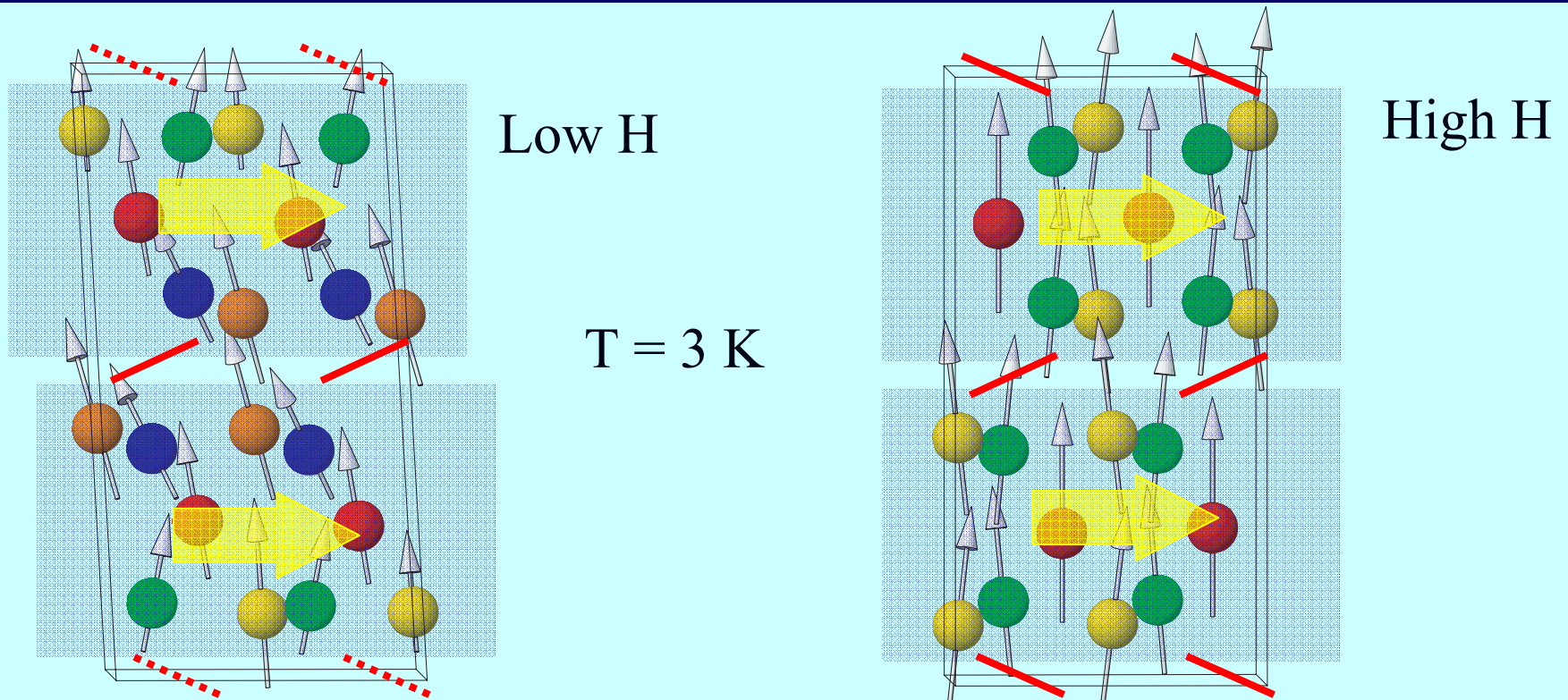
- Yes! Neutrons show that *O(I)* phase appear at high field (50 kOe).
- ...but transformation is again incomplete.



D2B diffractograms vs. H ( $\lambda = 1.596 \text{ \AA}$ )

# Er<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>4</sub> – Field induced structural transition

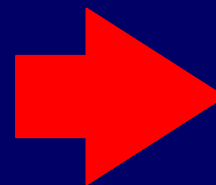
- Magnetic field induces the *M*-FM → *O*(I)-FM transformation
- Formation of T'-T' bonds enhances FM → nearly collinear FM structure



D2B diffractograms vs. H ( $\lambda = 1.596 \text{ \AA}$ )

# Main Conclusions

- ▶ Influence of bonding in the interlayer magnetic coupling.
- ▶ Temperature, Magnetic Field and Hydrostatic pressure governs the physical properties of the 5:4 phases:
  - Changes de volume cell / crystallographic phase.
  - Magnetostructural coupling → change of the magnetic structure.
- ▶ Importance of the nature of the magnetic transitions for the magnetocaloric effect:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> order
  - Reversible
  - Magnetostructurally coupled!



**GMCE**  
**Magnetic**  
**refrigeration!**

# Future Work – X-ray vs. H?

- ▶  $\text{Gd}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$ 
  - Magnetic structure at low T is unfeasible for neutrons...  
...magnetic diffraction with x-rays at zero-field and  $H \neq 0$ ?
  - Relaxation effect in field induced transition of  $\text{Gd}_5\text{Ge}_4$ .
- ▶  $\text{Tb}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$ 
  - Higher fields – is it possible to complete the transition?
  - Support for the SANS scenario/collateral structural effect?
- ▶  $\text{Er}_5\text{Si}_4$ 
  - Confirmation of complete structural transformation vs H?
  - Is the small shift of the high T transition something real?
- ▶  $\text{R}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4$ : unexplored R = Ce, Dy, Tm...
- ▶ ...

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(University of Porto, Porto, Portugal)