

Contents

Introduction	1
1 Theoretical concepts	5
1.1 Fulde-Ferrell-Larkin-Ovchinnikov state	5
1.1.1 Introduction	5
1.1.2 Pauli paramagnetism and superconductivity	6
1.1.3 FFLO state	8
1.1.4 Order of the FFLO phase transition and dimensionality	12
1.1.5 Orbital effects	14
1.1.6 FFLO state in <i>d</i> -wave superconductors	17
1.1.7 Conclusions	18
1.2 Charge-density wave phenomena	20
1.2.1 Introduction	20
1.2.2 Instability in a one-dimensional electron gas	20
1.2.3 Mean-field approach to charge-density wave phenomena	21
1.2.4 Fluctuations and strong electron-phonon coupling effects . . .	24
1.2.5 Conclusions	25

2	Experimental methods: Pressure cells	27
2.1	Miniaturized specific heat pressure cell	27
2.2	Pressure cell for resistivity studies	29
2.2.1	MP35N	32
2.3	Uniaxial stress pressure cell	34
3	Possible Fulde-Ferrell-Larkin-Ovchinnikov state in the heavy-fermion compound CeCoIn₅	37
3.1	CeCoIn ₅ a good candidate for the FFLO state formation	37
3.1.1	Crystal structure and basic properties	38
3.1.2	Quasi-2D electronic structure	40
3.1.3	Unconventional superconductivity	41
3.1.4	Clean-limit superconductor	47
3.1.5	Pauli-limited SC and signatures of the FFLO state	48
3.2	Non-Fermi liquid behavior in the normal state in CeCoIn ₅	53
3.3	Specific heat experiments under pressure and in magnetic field	55
3.3.1	Heat capacity setup	56
3.3.2	Experimental results	57
3.3.3	Magnetic field effect on the SC transition for $B \parallel (a, b)$	63
3.3.4	Magnetic field effect on the SC transition for $B \parallel c$	71
3.3.5	Discussion and conclusions	73
4	Superconducting order parameter symmetry in UBe₁₃ probed by uniaxial stress	85
4.1	Introduction	85
4.2	Normal state and non-Fermi liquid behavior in UBe ₁₃	86
4.3	Unconventional superconductivity in UBe ₁₃	89

4.4	Possible uniaxial strain effect on the SC order parameter	91
4.5	Effect of tetragonal distortion on the superconducting transition in UBe_{13}	96
4.5.1	Conclusions	102
5	Interplay of superconductivity and charge-density wave instability in $\text{Tl}_x\text{V}_6\text{S}_8$	103
5.1	Introduction	103
5.1.1	Crystal structure	104
5.1.2	Possible charge-density wave formation in $\text{Tl}_x\text{V}_6\text{S}_8$	104
5.1.3	Superconductivity in $\text{Tl}_x\text{V}_6\text{S}_8$	106
5.2	Interplay of SC and CDW in $\text{Tl}_x\text{V}_6\text{S}_8$	108
5.2.1	Experimental setup	109
5.2.2	Influence of Tl content	110
5.2.3	Influence of pressure on the charge-density wave instability and on the superconductivity	121
5.3	Conclusions	128
6	Conclusions	129
	Appendix: AC specific heat under uniaxial stress in CeCoIn_5	133
	Bibliography	135
	Acknowledgments	151