

***f* electrons are localized in heavy-fermion intermetallic:  
YbRh<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>**

R.J. Radwanski,<sup>1,2</sup> D.M. Nalecz,<sup>1,2</sup> S.S. Fedyk,<sup>1,2</sup> and Z. Ropka<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Physics, Pedagogical University, 30-084, Krakow, Poland*

<sup>2</sup>*Center of Solid State Physics, S<sup>nt</sup> Filip 5, 31-150 Krakow, Poland*

After 40 years of intensive studies of heavy-fermion (h-f) intermetallics, of numerous papers in most prestigious journals and the invited talks underlying *f*-electron itinerant origin of heavy-fermion phenomena, there is more and more experiments showing the almost perfect localization of the *f*-electrons in the canonical h-f system: YbRh<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>. The successful revealing of the Yb<sup>3+</sup> crystal-field (CEF) states confirms the Quantum Atomistic Solid State Theory (QUASST) worked out by Radwanski *et al.* (Acta Phys Pol. B 31 (2000) 3079, Acta Phys. 7-8 (2007)). QUASST was the only theory, which has claimed from 1992 the existence of the discrete CEF electronic structure and the Kramers doublet ground state in heavy-fermion intermetallics.

The removal of the Kramers degeneracy via spin-dependent interactions is origin of the large specific heat at low temperatures (a hallmark of the h-f phenomena) and of low-energy neutral spin-like excitations. The existing h-f theories will be reviewed, in particular with respect to the theoretical description of *f* electrons in intermetallics. Such studies should lead to a better understanding of the origin of the magnetism and the formation of the magnetic state.