

Spin Reorientation in Antiferromagnetic Layered FePt₅P

Xin Gui, Madalynn Marshall, Ranuri S. Dissanayaka Mudiyanse, Ryan A. Klein, Qiang Chen, Qiang Zhang, William Shelton, Haidong Zhou, Craig M. Brown, Huibo Cao, Martha Greenblatt, and Weiwei Xie*

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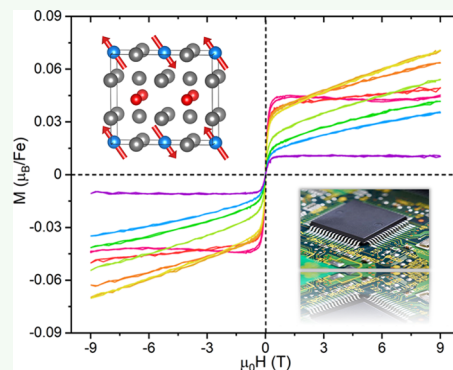
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ABSTRACT: FePt₅P, a substitutional variant of the anti-CeCoIn₅ structure type in the space group *P4/mmm*, was synthesized by a high-temperature solid-state method and structurally characterized by X-ray diffraction. FePt₅P contains layers of FePt₁₂ clusters formed by magnetically active Fe and heavy Pt with strong spin-orbit coupling (SOC); the layers are separated by P atoms. The various Fe–Pt distances in FePt₁₂ clusters generate complex magnetic orders in FePt₅P. According to temperature-dependent magnetic and specific heat measurements, FePt₅P shows a stripe-type antiferromagnetic order at $T_N \approx 90$ K, which is also confirmed by resistivity measurements. Moreover, a spin reorientation occurs at ~ 74 and ~ 68 K in and out of the *ab* plane based on the specific heat measurements. The temperature-dependent neutron powder diffraction patterns demonstrate the antiferromagnetic order in FePt₅P, and the spins orientate up to 58.4° with respect to the *c* axis at 10 K. First-principles calculations of FePt₅P show the band splitting at the Fermi level by strong SOC and the *s*–*d* hybridization between P and Fe/Pt electrons enhances the structural stability and affects the magnetic ordering.

KEYWORDS: layered magnetism, spin-orbit coupling, neutron scattering, spin reorientation, antiferromagnetic spintronics



INTRODUCTION

Design and synthesis of magnetic materials with targeted tunable phenomena have been grand challenges in the materials community for decades. Applying structure–magnetism relationships for materials discovery is a widely used chemical rule. Intermetallic compounds with flexible stoichiometry and tunable valence electron counts are ideal platforms to study the structure–magnetism relationship and to predict the magnetic properties, for example, in the itinerant magnets Ti₃Co₅B₂-type^{1–4} and AlCo₂B₂-type^{5,6} structures.^{7,8}

Recently, we discovered a new family of compounds with the MgPt₅As-type structure, such as the rare-earth-free ferromagnetic (FM) MnPt₅As, antiferromagnetic (AFM) MnPt₅P, and YbPt₅P.^{9–11} These new compounds exhibit various magnetic behaviors ranging from ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism due to complex atomic interactions between magnetically active elements (Mn and Yb) separated by non-magnetic stacking layers.

One approach by solid-state chemists to tune magnetic ordering in new phases is to adjust the valence electron counts. However, the magnetic states in materials can also be manipulated and detected by introducing elements with strong spin-orbit coupling (SOC) on non-magnetic sites. For example, non-magnetic noble metals with large SOC including Rh, Pt, and W have been shown to tune the spin orientation.¹² Moreover, SOC effects in magnetic materials are crucial for other spin-

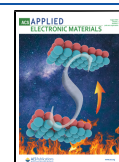
transfer effects, such as spin penetration length,^{13,14} giant magnetoresistance (GMR),¹⁵ and enhanced spin pumping, which are critical to the spintronic devices in information technology.¹⁶ When the SOC effect from Ir/Pt/Au is coupled with 3d electrons from Mn, the appearance of GMR and anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) is appreciable, as in MnX.^{17–21} In addition, the thickness of the antiferromagnetic layers is a key factor to tune the magnitude of existing spin-transfer effects.^{22–25}

Herein, a new bulk AFM material FePt₅P that couples a layered structure with strong SOC was discovered and synthesized. FePt₅P crystallizes with a layered structure, analogous to the well-known layered heavy-fermion superconductor, CeCoIn₅.^{26,27} With the high concentration of Pt per formula unit, it is expected that strong SOC effects are introduced by the Pt atoms. The FePt₁₂ polyhedral layers are separated by P layers in FePt₅P. Such polyhedral clusters are also found in AFM FePt₃ consisting of similar FePt₁₂ polyhedra.^{28,29} Neutron powder diffraction measurements show a clear AFM

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ordering transition at $T_N \approx 90$ K. Spin reorientations were observed at lower temperatures, ~ 68 and ~ 74 K along the c axis and in the ab plane, respectively. Large magnetoresistance at 9 T ($\Delta\rho/\rho_0 \sim 35\%$) at 1.7 K is found by field-dependent resistivity measurements, which is frequently observed in AFM spintronic candidates.²² First-principles calculations indicate that the SOC and AFM ordering significantly affect the electronic structures near the Fermi energy in FePt₃P.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Sample Preparation. FePt₃P can be synthesized *via* a high-temperature solid-state method. The mixture of Fe powder (-200 mesh, 99 + %, Alfa Aesar), Pt powder (-22 mesh, 99.99%, BTC), and red P powder (-100 mesh, 99%, BTC) was thoroughly mixed with a molar ratio of 1:5:1.⁴ The mixture was pressed into a solid pellet. The pellet was placed into an alumina crucible and then sealed into an evacuated silica tube ($< 10^{-5}$ torr). The sealed tube was slowly heated up to 1050 °C at a rate of 30 °C per hour to prevent phosphorus from exploding. After annealing at 1050 °C for 2 days, the sample was slowly cooled down to room temperature in 10 days. Polycrystalline FePt₃P is obtained by this process. Small single crystals ($\sim 0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.2$ mm³) are found to be detachable from the sample bulk. The material is stable in the ambient air and humidity.

Phase Identification. To determine the phase purity, the room-temperature powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) pattern was collected on a Rigaku MiniFlex 600 powder X-ray diffractometer with Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.5406$ Å, Ge monochromator). The experiment was performed with the 2θ angle between 5 and 90° with a step of 0.005° at a rate of $0.1^\circ/\text{min}$. Rietveld fitting on the FullProf Suite was employed to obtain the weight percentage of obtained phases.³⁰ The temperature-dependent PXRD patterns were measured every 10 K from 300 to 10 K with a HUBER X-ray diffractometer equipped with a helium cryogenic. The LeBail refinement was performed on each pattern to obtain the phase information and accurate lattice parameters.^{31,32}

Structure Determination. The crystal structure of FePt₃P was determined using a Bruker Apex II single crystal X-ray diffractometer coupled with Mo radiation ($\lambda_{\text{Mo}} = 0.71073$ Å) at room temperature. To ensure the homogeneity, multiple pieces of crystals ($\sim 15 \times 50 \times 50$ μm^3) from different batches were measured. The crystals were mounted on a Kapton loop and protected by glycerol. Four different crystal and detector orientations were generated to take the measurement with an exposure time of 10 s per frame. The scanning 2θ width was set to 0.5° . Direct methods and full-matrix least-squares on F^2 models within the SHELXTL package were applied to solve the structure.³³ Data acquisition was performed *via* Bruker SMART software with the corrections on the Lorentz and polarization effect done by the SAINT program. Numerical absorption corrections were accomplished with XPREP.^{33,34}

Neutron Powder Diffraction (NPD). Neutron powder diffraction patterns were collected on the time-of-flight (TOF) powder diffractometer (POWGEN) at the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The measurement was carried out at various temperatures of $T = 10, 71, 80, 100,$ and 150 K using a neutron wavelength band of $0.97\text{--}2.033$ Å with a central wavelength of 1.5 Å. A powder sample of ~ 3 g was loaded into a 6 mm diameter vanadium sample can with a copper gasket. The sample contains the FePt₃ impurity according to powder X-ray diffraction. The FullProf refinement suite and Sarah programs were used to solve the nuclear and magnetic structure.^{30,32,35}

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). The chemical compositions were confirmed using a high-vacuum scanning electron microscope (SEM) (JSM-6610 LV). Samples were placed on carbon tape prior to loading into the SEM chamber and were examined at 20 kV.

Physical Property Measurements. Magnetic properties, resistivity, and heat capacity measurements were performed on a Quantum Design Dynacool physical property measurement system (PPMS) with the temperature ranging from 1.8 to 300 K with and without applied fields of up to 9 T. The magnetic susceptibility is defined as $\chi = M/H$.

Here, M is the magnetization in units of emu, and H is the applied magnetic field. A standard relaxation calorimetry method was used to measure heat capacity, and the data were collected in a zero magnetic field between 1.8 and 220 K using N-type grease. All the measurements were performed on manually picked single crystal samples of FePt₃P.

Electronic Structure Calculations. The band structure and density of states (DOS) of FePt₃P were calculated using the WIEN2k program, which has the full-potential linearized augmented plane wave method (FP-LAPW) with local orbitals implemented.³⁶ The electron exchange-correlation potential was used to treat the electron correlation within the generalized gradient approximation, which is parameterized in ref 37.³⁷ The conjugate gradient algorithm was applied, and the energy cutoff was set at 500 eV. Reciprocal space integrations were completed over an $8 \times 8 \times 4$ Monkhorst–Pack k -point mesh for non-magnetic calculation and $3 \times 12 \times 4$ for magnetic calculation.³⁸ With these settings, the calculated total energy converged to less than 0.1 meV per atom. The spin-orbit coupling (SOC) effects were only applied for Pt atoms. The structural lattice parameters obtained from single crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) are used for both calculations for non-magnetic calculation, while for magnetic calculation, the magnetic structure obtained from NPD was utilized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Crystal Structure and Phase Determination of FePt₃P.

The crystal structure of FePt₃P determined by single crystal XRD is shown in Figure 1a. The crystallographic data, including atomic coordinates, site occupancies, and equivalent isotropic thermal displacement parameters, are listed in Tables 1 and 2. As can be seen in Figure 1a, FePt₃P adopts a layered tetragonal

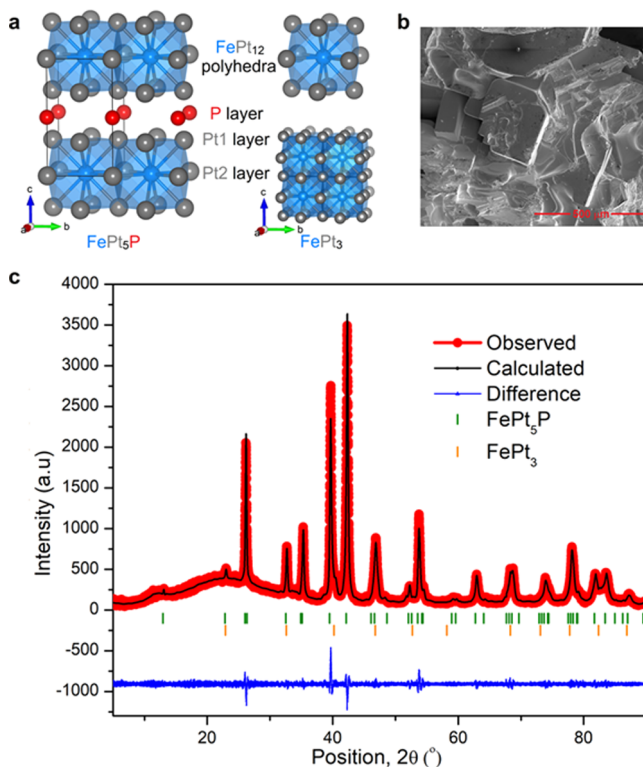


Figure 1. (a) Crystal structure of FePt₃P and FePt₃. Blue, gray, and red balls represent Fe, Pt, and P atoms, respectively. (b) SEM picture of polycrystalline FePt₃P with a layered feature. (c) Powder XRD pattern with Rietveld fitting of polycrystalline FePt₃P. The red line with ball indicates the observed pattern, the black line represents the calculated pattern of FePt₃P, and the blue line stands for the residual intensities. The Bragg peak positions of different phases are indicated by the vertical ticks.

Table 1. Single Crystal Structure Refinement for FePt₃P at 296 (2) K

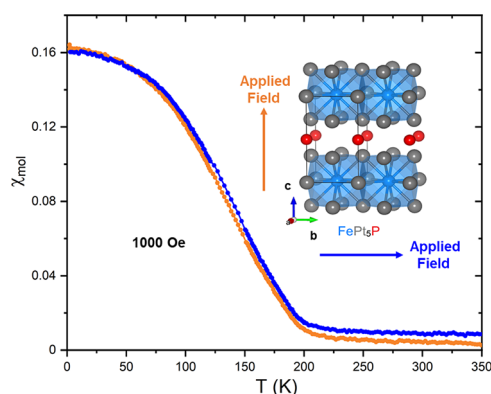
refined formula	FePt ₃ P
F.W. (g/mol)	1062.27
space group; Z	<i>P4</i> / <i>mmm</i> ; 1
<i>a</i> (Å)	3.901 (1)
<i>c</i> (Å)	6.857 (3)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	104.4 (1)
θ range (°)	2.971–30.321
no. reflections; <i>R</i> _{int}	484; 0.0262
no. independent reflections	127
no. parameters	12
<i>R</i> ₁ ; ωR_2 (<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>))	0.0262; 0.0609
goodness of fit	1.125
diffraction peak and hole (e [−] /Å ³)	4.557; −1.849

^aValues in parentheses indicate one standard deviation.

Table 2. Atomic Coordinates and Equivalent Isotropic Displacement Parameters for FePt₃P at 296 (2) K^a

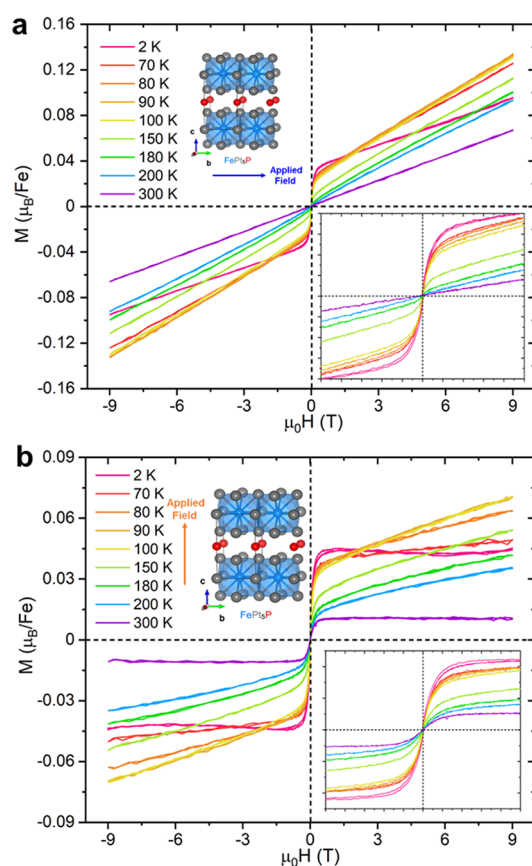
atom	Wyckoff	Occ.	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>U</i> _{eq}
Pt1	4 <i>i</i>	1	0	1/2	0.2884 (1)	0.0104 (3)
Pt2	1 <i>a</i>	1	0	0	0	0.0103 (4)
Fe3	1 <i>c</i>	1	1/2	1/2	0	0.011 (1)
P4	1 <i>b</i>	1	0	0	1/2	0.012 (2)

^a*U*_{eq} is defined as one-third of the trace of the orthogonalized *U*_{ij} tensor (Å²). Values in parentheses indicate one standard deviation.

**Figure 2.** Temperature-dependence of magnetic susceptibility of FePt₃P crystals with the magnetic field applied (blue: parallel to the *c* axis; orange: perpendicular to the *c* axis) from 1.8 to 350 K.

structure with the space group *P4*/*mmm*. In FePt₃P, the face-sharing FePt₁₂ polyhedral cluster layers are separated by P layers. By comparing it with the crystal structure of binary FePt₃, also shown in Figure 1a, it is seen that similar FePt₁₂ polyhedra exist in FePt₃.^{29,39} The Fe–Pt bond distances in FePt₃P within the *ab* plane and out of the *ab* plane are 2.757 (1) Å and 2.776 (1) Å respectively, both of which are slightly longer than Fe–Pt bond lengths in FePt₃ (2.738 (1) Å). The significant difference between FePt₃P and FePt₃ is the Fe–Fe distance, which doubles in FePt₃P along the *c* axis and contributes to the magnetic anisotropy in FePt₃P. The SEM image of the FePt₃P chunk is shown in Figure 1b where the layered structural feature is easily observed.

The phase purity of polycrystalline FePt₃P was examined by PXRD at 300 K. The Rietveld refined powder pattern is shown in Figure 1c. FePt₃ was included in the refinement as the impurity. According to the results, the weight percentages of FePt₃ is 4.72

**Figure 3.** Hysteresis loops of FePt₃P at various temperatures with an external magnetic field from −9 to 9 T: (a) Perpendicular to the *c* axis and (b) parallel to the *c* axis. The inset of figures shows the enlarged figure at a low field range between −1 and 1 T.

(1) wt %. The refinement results *R*_p, *R*_{wp}, and χ^2 are 5.01, 6.53, and 1.05, respectively, which indicate a reasonable PXRD refinement.

Magnetic Properties of Single Crystal FePt₃P. Magnetic properties of FePt₃P were measured on the small single crystals with a small portion of FePt₃ impurity. The single crystals are sequentially aligned with two different orientations: the external magnetic field is first perpendicular (*B*⊥*c*) and then parallel to the *c* axis (*B*//*c*) in two separate measurements. The results of temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility are presented in Figure 2 with an applied magnetic field of 1000 Oe. The magnetic susceptibility shows an upturn starting from 200 K, which originates from the impurity FePt₃, and as the temperature decreases, the magnetic susceptibility increases and reaches a plateau below ~90 K. Similar magnetic behaviors are seen by both zero-field cooling (ZFC) and field cooling (FC) in Figure S1. When the applied magnetic field was parallel to the *c* axis, the magnitude of magnetic susceptibility is nearly identical but with a slightly smaller value in the high temperature region (>200 K), which implies a small magnetic anisotropy. With increasing the applied magnetic fields (Figure S1), the transitions occurring between 65 and 90 K appear, which is consistent with our neutron scattering measurements described below. The hysteresis loop of FePt₃P is shown in Figure 3. The results from both applied magnetic field directions imply soft magnetic behavior. Weak magnetic anisotropy is observed. Interestingly, when the applied magnetic field is parallel to the *c* axis, the magnetization of the sample shows a small, saturated

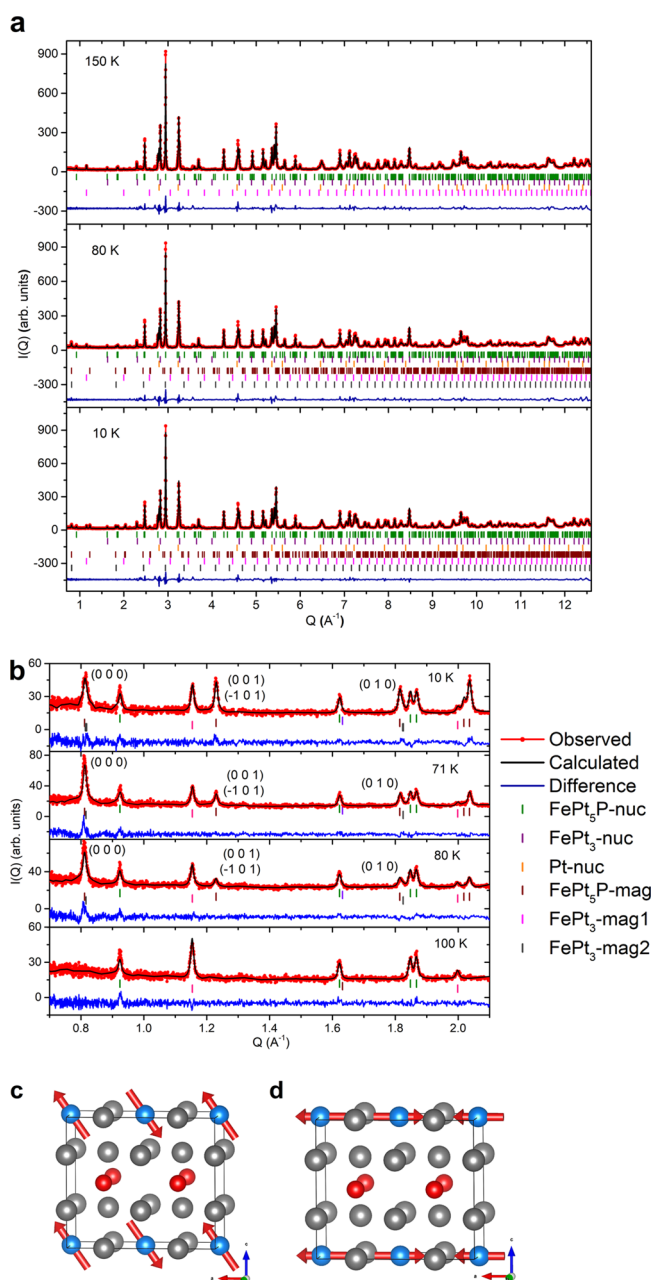


Figure 4. (a) Refined neutron powder diffraction patterns at 150, 80, and 10 K. (b) Enlarged low- Q region for refined patterns at 10, 71, 80, and 100 K. The lattice plane marked on the figure indicates where the magnetic peaks originate. (c) Magnetic structure of FePt₅P refined from NPD. (d) Hypothetical magnetic structure without spin reorientation for theoretical calculations.

moment of $\sim 0.010\ \mu_B/\text{Fe}$ in Figure 3b after subtracting the FePt₃'s magnetic contribution. However, the hysteresis loop of FePt₅P with the applied magnetic field parallel to the c axis shows a linear increase till $\sim 0.06\ \mu_B/\text{Fe}$ at 9 T and 300 K, which still does not reach saturation. Moreover, when the sample was cooled down, both orientations displayed larger absolute values of the slope down to 90 K where the magnetizations at 9 T reached their maxima. After the temperature was decreasing to below 90 K, i.e., 80 K, the absolute value of the slope dropped along with the decrease of the magnetization value. This indicated that another magnetic ordering of FePt₅P occurred near 90 K.

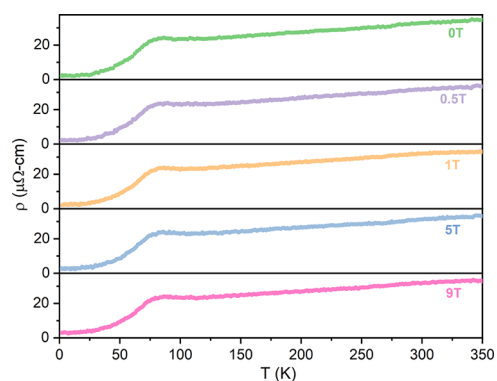


Figure 5. Temperature dependence of resistivity measured between 1.7 and 350 K under different external magnetic fields (0, 0.5, 1, 5, and 9 T).

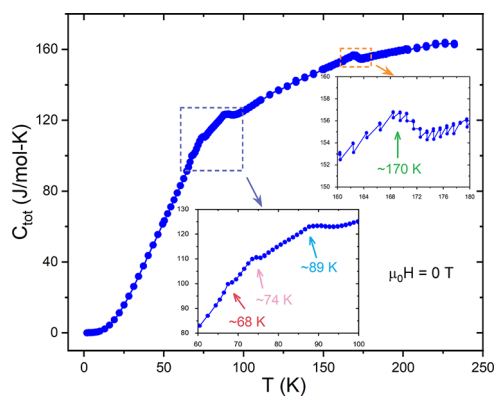


Figure 6. Heat capacity of the FePt₅P crystal between 1.8 and 225 K without an applied magnetic field. The insets show the enlarged picture of entropy change regions.

Magnetic Structure of FePt₅P. Time-of-flight (TOF) neutron powder diffraction (NPD) data was collected at POWGEN (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) to determine the magnetic structures of FePt₅P at various temperatures. Figure 4a shows the refined neutron diffraction patterns measured at 150, 80, and 10 K. Two impurity phases are identified in the sample including FePt₃ and Pt, which is consistent with PXRD results. The crystal structures of FePt₅P, FePt₃ and Pt reproduce well the peaks observed at 180 and 300 K, as shown in Figure S2. The analysis of NPD data further confirms the tetragonal $P4/mmm$ structure of FePt₅P, in agreement with the PXRD results. Above 150 K, the magnetic reflections can be indexed with a propagation vector $k = (1/2, 1/2, 0)$, belonging to the FePt₃ phase.^{28,40} The minor peaks, which cannot be included in the FePt₅P or FePt₃ phases, are also examined and compared at all the temperatures. It can be concluded that these minor peaks present are not temperature-dependent and have no contribution to the magnetic phases of FePt₅P. Further cooling down to 80 K, additional magnetic reflections are observed associated with the AFM order in FePt₅P, as shown in Figure 4b. These magnetic reflections can be indexed with the propagation vector $k = (1/2, 0, 0)$. The magnetic peaks from typical lattice planes of FePt₅P ($(0\ 0\ 0)$, $(0\ 0\ 1)$, $(-1\ 0\ 1)$, $(0\ 1\ 0)$) were gradually suppressed when the temperature was increased up to 100 K. The refinement using the unit cell $2a \times b \times c$ revealed FePt₅P to have a stripe-type AFM ordering with the magnetic space group $P_a nma$ (#51.298) including FM bc planes coupling AFM along the a axis. NPD measurements performed at 70 K consist of similar magnetic

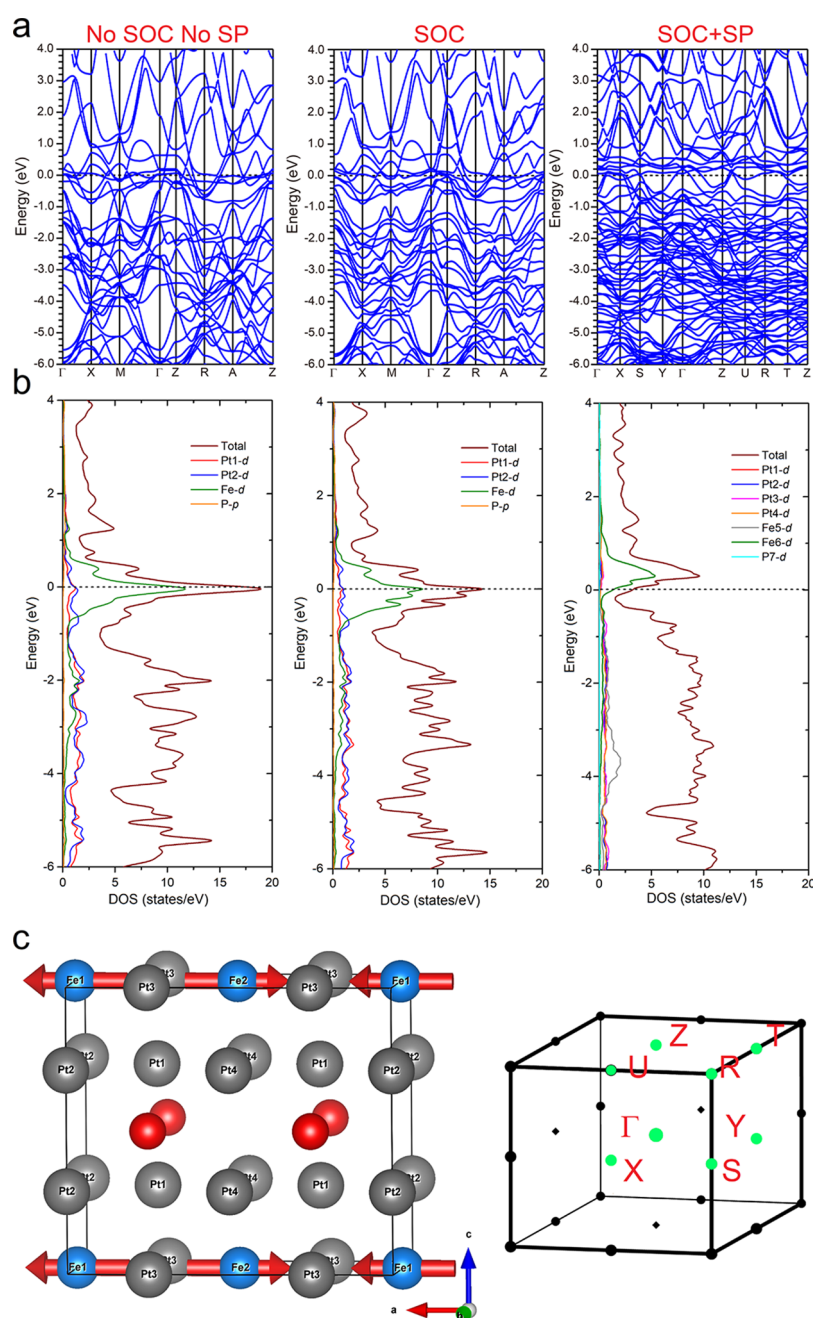


Figure 7. (a) Band structures of FePt₅P with/without consideration of the SOC effect and SP. (b) Density of states of FePt₅P corresponding to panel a. (c) Magnetic unit cell and Brillouin zone of magnetically ordered FePt₅P.

reflections as those at 80 K. Thus, the ordered moments are 2.2 (2) μ_B /Fe and 2.8 (1) μ_B /Fe at 80 and 70 K, respectively. A second magnetic transition of FePt₃ also occurred at 80 K and was indexed using the k vector (0, 0, 1/2).²⁹ The magnetic structure of FePt₃ has a stripe-type AFM ordering along the a axis with an ordered moment of 1.01 (3) μ_B /Fe at 80 K. The NPD data collected at 10 K reveals no new reflections; however, a rotated AFM axis for FePt₅P is observed. The resulting ordered moment for this state was determined to have the components $m_a = 3.0$ (2) μ_B /Fe and $m_c = 1.8$ (3) μ_B /Fe with a total ordered moment of $m_{\text{tot}} = 3.5$ (3) μ_B /Fe. Considering the ordered moments along the a and c directions, the rotated angle of the AFM axis was calculated to deflect toward the c axis and determined to be $\sim 58.4^\circ$. The magnetic structures for FePt₅P, with and without spin reorientations, are shown in Figure 4c,d.

Resistivity and Heat Capacity of FePt₅P Crystals. A four-probe method was applied to measure the resistivity on one of the larger pieces of crystals used in magnetic property measurements. The temperature dependence of resistivity under five different magnetic fields, 0, 0.5, 1, 5, and 9 T, is presented in Figure 5a. The resistivity of FePt₅P showed similar linear $\rho(T)$ behavior above ~ 118 K in all cases, as fitted by the white line, except the one measured under 1 T where a kink was observed around 300 K in Figure S4. The resistivity started to increase when the temperature dropped below ~ 118 K and reached a maximum at ~ 86 K. Based on the NPD results, that the magnetic ordering of FePt₅P starts between 80 and 100 K, the increasing $\rho(T)$ at ~ 118 K could be due to the small amount of ordered FePt₃ impurity scattering the electrons of FePt₅P. Moreover, the subsequent drop of resistivity can be interpreted

as the s–d electron scattering based on its T^3 behavior when fitted to $\rho(T) = \rho_0 + AT^n$ where ρ_0 is the residual resistivity due to defect scattering, A is a constant, and n is an integer determined by the interaction pattern. The magnetoresistance of FePt₃P displayed in Figure S3 implies that ~35% magnetoresistance can be observed at 1.7 K at an applied magnetic field of 9 T. With increasing temperature, the large magnetoresistance was suppressed gradually (Figure S4).

Heat capacity measurement made on the same piece of crystal used in the resistivity measurement was performed without an applied magnetic field, and the result is presented in Figure 6. Four peaks are observed within the explored temperature range (1.8 to 225 K) at around 170, 89, 74, and 68 K. Based on previous results, the smaller peak around 170 K ($\Delta C \approx 3.5 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$) can be attributed to the magnetic ordering of FePt₃ impurity, which is consistent with the suggested reason of resistivity increasing after 118 K. The heat capacity jumps of the other three peaks are $\sim 7.0 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ($\sim 89 \text{ K}$), $\sim 3.0 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ($\sim 74 \text{ K}$), and $\sim 4.2 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ($\sim 68 \text{ K}$). According to the NPD results, the three peaks at 89, 74, and 68 K reflect the entropy changes of the AFM transitions and spin reorientations along different directions of FePt₃P. The specific heat peak at 170 K is consistent with the magnetic reflections observed in the NPD at 150 K, which stem from the AFM transition of FePt₃.^{29,39}

Electronic Structure of FePt₃P. The band structures calculated for FePt₃P are shown in Figure 7a. The projection of significant orbitals for each atomic site is also given in Figure S4. Spin-orbit coupling (SOC) effects from Pt and spin polarization (SP) from Fe were taken into account, and the comparison among band structures with/without those effects was also calculated. In the left two figures of Figure 7a, the band structures with/without consideration of the SOC effect are given, where the Brillouin zone (BZ) was generated from the original unit cell. Some of the bands around the Fermi level are split and lead to band gaps, such as the bands from ~ -0.05 to $\sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$ between Γ and X points. New saddle points are observed near the E_F when SOC is included, such as at the M point (Figure 7a). When including both SOC and SP, with the type of atoms and construction of the BZ shown in Figure 7c, the density of bands near E_F is less compared with the one where only the SOC effect is considered. Fewer saddle points can also be seen at the Fermi level (with SOC and SP), which indicates a more stable state for FePt₃P. The contribution of both SOC and SP to stability of FePt₃P is recognized intuitively in Figure 7b, which lists the density of states (DOS) corresponding to band structures in Figure 7a. It is clear in Figure 7b that the DOS at E_F decreases dramatically with SOC and SP included. Moreover, the E_F in the SOC + SP case is moving toward a pseudo gap at $\sim -0.2 \text{ eV}$. The Fe-d orbitals have the largest contribution at the Fermi energy, far larger than that of Pt and P atoms, which is also displayed in Figure S5.

CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we synthesized the first ternary compound in the Fe–Pt–P system, FePt₃P, which crystallizes in a layered tetragonal structure in the space group $P4/mmm$ and orders antiferromagnetically along the c direction of the unit cell below $T_N \approx 90 \text{ K}$. The spins are reoriented below $\sim 68 \text{ K}$. Resistivity measurements indicate metallic behavior and the dominance of s–d scattering below T_N . First-principles calculations of electronic structure show s–d electronic interaction governing the resistivity in FePt₃P, which is heavily influenced by the effect

of SOC and magnetism. The new material serves as an ideal model for the investigation of the relationship of magnetism, structure, and spin-orbit coupling in low-dimensional correlated electronic phases with constituent atoms of coupled magnetic and spin-orbit couple properties, respectively.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsaelm.1c00459>.

CIF file of FePt₃P (CIF)

Magnetic susceptibility of FePt₃P; Magnetic structure of FePt₃ at 150 K; Magnetoresistivity at various temperatures; Projection of orbitals from Fe, Pt, and P atoms on band structure; Table of Rietveld refinement reliability factors; Low-temperature PXRD; Lattice parameters and volume of FePt₃P unit cell changes (PDF)

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Weiwei Xie – Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, United States; orcid.org/0000-0002-5500-8195; Email: weiwei.xie@rutgers.edu

Authors

Xin Gui – Department of Chemistry, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544, United States; orcid.org/0000-0003-0616-2150

Madalynn Marshall – Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, United States; Neutron Scattering Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, United States

Ranuri S. Dissanayaka Mudiyanse – Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, United States

Ryan A. Klein – NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, United States; Materials, Chemical, and Computational Sciences Directorate, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado 80401, United States

Qiang Chen – Department of Physics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, United States

Qiang Zhang – Neutron Scattering Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, United States

William Shelton – Cain Department of Chemical Engineering, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Los Angeles 70803, United States

Haidong Zhou – Department of Physics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, United States

Craig M. Brown – NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, United States; orcid.org/0000-0002-9637-9355

Huibo Cao – Neutron Scattering Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, United States

Martha Greenblatt – Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, United States; orcid.org/0000-0002-1806-2766

Complete contact information is available at:
<https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acsaelm.1c00459>

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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ADDITIONAL NOTE

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