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# The electronic structure, phase transition, elastic, thermodynamic, and thermoelectric properties of FeRh: high-temperature and high-pressure study

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**Abstract:** Using the projector augmented wave (PAW) within the Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE) form of generalized gradient approximation (GGA), We present a study of the electronic structure, phase transition, elastic, thermodynamic, and thermoelectric properties of FeRh. We find that FM structure exhibits the largest Fe magnetic moment, which is in accordance with the experimental data and Fe magnetic moment for A-AFM and G-AFM phases, c-AFM, A'-AFM and Ort phases show lower Fe local magnetic moment. Our most stable structure is orthorhombic phase. This conclusion is supported by Zarkevich and Johnson, but contrary to the results of Aschauer et al., Kim et al. and Gruner et al. The obtained phase transition of Ort  $\rightarrow$  c-AFM occurs at ca. 116.5 GPa and c-AFM to A'-AFM phase transition pressure is 119.0 GPa. The compressional, shear and average velocities as well as the bulk and shear moduli increase monotonically with increasing pressure. It is also found that thermal electronic contributions to specific heat are not negligible and contribution rate of electrons to the total thermal conductivity dominant at high temperature. At lower temperature, lattice thermal conductivity K<sub>L</sub> increases rapidly with the increasing pressure and K<sub>L</sub> has a moderate increase under pressure at higher temperature. Whereas, electronic thermal conductivity Ke is opposite. Most of the heat is carried by phonons with mean free paths ranging from 10 to 300 nm at 300 K.

**Keywords:** elastic properties; electronic structure; phase transition; thermal conductivity; thermodynamic properties.

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# 1 Introduction

The FeRh alloys has received much attention both theoretical and experimental research due to the wide range of intriguing temperature dependent magnetic and transport properties, in particular its potential application in magnetic refrigeration technology an alternative technology to the current gas-compression method [1–3], high-density recording media for future hard disks [4], ultrafast (picosecond) switching [5], and room-temperature antiferromagnetic memory resistors [6].

Experimentally, earlier study works by Fallot [7] and Kouvel et al. [8] found that FeRh exhibits a first-order phase transition from an antiferromagnetic (AFM) structure to a ferromagnetic (FM, CsCl structure) structure around 350~400 K [7, 8]. The phase transition is accompanied by an increase in volume of about 1%, an increase of iron magnetic moment [9], a large increase in entropy [10] and a large drop in electrical resistivity [8]. In contradiction to experiment of Fallot [7] and Kouvel et al. [8], X-ray diffraction measurements by Bergevin and Muldawer [11] showed that the transition is isostructural. In 2005, Kuncser, Nicula, and Ponkratz et al. [12] used the high-pressure energy dispersive X-ray experiments to find a phase transition from body center cubic (bcc) to face-center-cubic (fcc) at 19 GPa.

Theoretically, in 1982, Koenig [13] used the linear muffin-tin orbitals (LMTO) method to calculate the band structure of paramagnetic, ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic ordered FeRh. In 1992, Moruzzi and Marcus [14] predict zero-pressure equilibrium state to be AFM using the augmented-spherical-wave (ASW) method. In 2003, Gruner, Hoffmann and Entel [15] investigated the thermodynamic behavior of FeRh in an Ising-type spin model and explained the transition through entropy associated with competing magnetic states of the Rh atom. In 2005, Gu and Antropov [16] found that the antiferro-ferromagnetic transition in FeRh occurs mostly due to the spin wave excitations via the non-collinear version of the linear muffin-tin orbital method in the atomic-sphere approximation (LMTO-ASA). In the same year, Rajagopalan [17] employed the means of the tight binding linear muffin tin orbital

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method to find a structural phase transition from NaCl-type to tetragonal-type structure to be 20.3 GPa. Aschauer, Braddell, and Brechbuhl et al. [18] in 2016 used the density functional theory calculations to find that usual local density approximation yielding the wrong ground-state structure, and generalized gradient (GGA) extensions being in better agreement with the bulk experimental structure. They also found the ground state in FeRh to be cubic G-AFM phase. In the same year, Kim, Ramesh, and Kioussis [19] found tetragonally expanded G-AFM is the stable structure and cubic G-AFM structure is believed to be metastable via the projector augmented-wave method. Recently, Wolloch, Gruner and Keune et al. [20] predicted the ground-state is B2-AFM phase and confirmed the recently reported lattice instability in the AFM phase using the projector augmented-wave (PAW) method. Very recently, Zarkevich and Johnson [21] obtained the most stable structure to be orthorhombic phase using density functional theory (DFT) based ab initio molecular dynamics. From above theoretical work, we can find that the ground state structure is disagreement for different theoretical calculations.

Therefore, in this work, we predict the electronic structure, phase transition, elastic, thermodynamic and thermoelectric properties of FeRh using the projector augmented-wave method based on the DFT. This paper is proceeded as follows: In section 2, we make a brief review of the theoretical method. The calculated results with some discussions are shown in section 3 and compared with the previously available experimental and theoretical results. Conclusions are summarized in section 4.

## 2 Theoretical method

Our density functional theory (DFT) computations with spin-polarized have been performed employing the Vienna ab-initio simulation package (VASP) [22-24], using the projector augmented-wave (PAW) method [24, 25]. The plane wave energy cutoff was set to 550 eV and the Brillouin zone was sampled with Γ-centered Monkhorst-Pack using  $19 \times 19 \times 19$  k grid for orthorhombic structure and  $12 \times 12 \times 12$  k mesh for other phases. Exchange and correlation potentials were treated within the generalized gradient approximation of Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE) [26]. Valence-electron configurations for pseudoatoms were Fe 3pd7s1 and Rh 4p5s4d. Atomic positions and lattice parameters were fully optimized to obtain relaxed structures at a range of fixed volumes and the maximum energy of each phase were no more than 10<sup>-9</sup> eV. Accurate total energy calculations were performed by means of the

linear tetrahedron method with Blöchl's correction [27]. The finite temperature for electric structure was treated with Fermi-Dirac-smearing method of Mermin [28]. The phonon frequency was computed via the small displacement method within the quasi-harmonic approximation [29]. To obtain a vibrational free energy converged within 1 meV,  $4 \times 4 \times 4$  super cells are used for FM-FeRh. The elastic constants are calculated as the second derivatives of the internal energy with respect to the strain tensor proposed by Sin'ko and Smirnov [30].

To calculate the electrical conductivity and thermal conductivity from electrons of FeRh, Boltztrap2 code which is based on Boltzmann transport theory [31] under the constant relaxation time approximation was used. Moreover, 40,000 k-points was used in Brillouin zone to obtain convergence. Relaxation time  $(\tau)$  in our calculations is assumed to have direction independency and is treated constant  $(10^{-14} \, \text{s})$  within a consideration temperature range.

Via Boltzmann transport equation (BTE) within the relaxation time approximation (RTA), the lattice thermal conductivity is given as

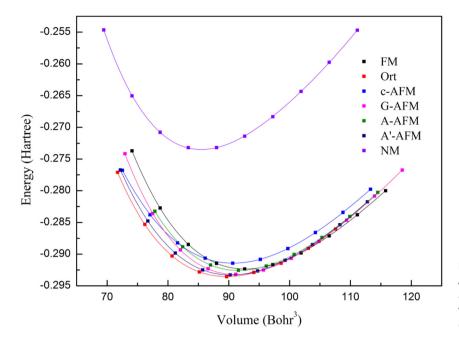
$$k^{\mu\nu}(T) = \frac{1}{VN} \sum_{q} C_{q}(T) \nu_{q}^{\mu}(T) \nu_{q}^{\nu}(T) \tau_{q}(T)$$
 (1)

Here, V is the unit-cell volume, N is the number of a points, Cq is the lattice specific heat, vq is the group velocity, and  $\tau_q = [2\Gamma_{qn}(\omega_{qn})]^{-1}$  is the lifetime of phonon q.  $\Gamma_{qn}(\omega)$  is the imaginary part of the phonon self-energy from the cubic an harmonicity. A detailed description of this method can be found in Ref. [32]. The thermal conductivity calculations are performed by using ALAMODE package [32].

#### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Electronic structure and phase transition

2For FM, c-AFM, G-AFM, A-AFM, A'-AFM, orthorhombic (Ort, Pmmn space group no. 59) and nonmagnetic (NM, CsCl structure) structure, the total energy E and corresponding a primitive cell volume are calculated, and then make a fit of these energy-volume (E-V) data to the fourth-order Birch-Murnaghan (BM4) equation of state (EOS) [33, 34]. For comparison purposes, the energy versus volume curves are plotted in Figure 1, here volume is equal to the volume of primitive cell divided by number of atoms. AFM structure can be described as alternating FM planes which are antiferromagnetically coupled along the sheet normal direction, for c-AFM, G-AFM, A-AFM and A'-AFM phase, FM planes are the (110), (001), (111), and (100) planes, respectively [19]. It can be noticed that the total energies are increased in the following



**Figure 1:** Energy (*E*) of FM, c-AFM, G-AFM, A-AFM, A'-AFM, NM, and orthorhombic (Ort) as a function of volume (*V*) at 0 K, in which volume is equal to the volume of primitive cell divided by number of atoms.

**Table 1:** Calculated and experimented equilibrium Volume  $V_0$  (Å<sup>3</sup>), lattice parameters (a, b and c, Å), relative energy ( $\Delta E$ , eV), and magnetic moment (M,  $\mu_B$ ) in different structures.

structure		$V_0$	a	В	С	c/a	ΔΕ	$ \mathbf{M_{Fe}} $	M <sub>Rh</sub>
FM	This work	27.49	3.018		3.018	1.000	0.00000000	3.21	1.05
	Exp.		2.989ª		2.989ª	1.000°		3.2 <sup>b</sup>	0.9b
	PAW		3.004°		3.004°	1.000°		3.17°	1.02°
	ASW		3.020 <sup>d</sup>		3.020 <sup>d</sup>	1.000 <sup>d</sup>		3.23 <sup>d</sup>	1.00 <sup>d</sup>
c-AFM	This work	26.64	2.770		3.504	1.265	0.04975250	3.00	
	PAW		2.749°		3.498°	1.27°		2.95°	
G-AFM	This work	27.04	3.002		3.002	1.000	-0.04554840	3.15	
	PAW		2.987°		2.986°	1.000°		3.12°	
A-AFM	This work	27.15	3.078		2.866	0.931	-0.01217110	3.16	
	PAW		3.064°		2.850°	0.93°		3.12°	
A'-AFM	This work	26.78	2.770		3.490	1.260	-0.05217110	2.96	
	PAW		2.761°		3.472°	1.26°		3.15°	
NM	This work	25.36	2.938		2.938	1.000	1.02864400		
Orth	This work	26.61	2.801	4.270		1.588	-0.06629230	2.89	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Ref. [36].

trend as Ort < A'-AFM < G-AFM < A-AFM < FM < c-AFM, i.e., Ort phase has the lowest energy at its equilibrium volume. This conclusion is also supported by Zarkevich and Johnson [21].

In Table 1, we report the equilibrium volume, lattice parameters, relative energies and magnetic moments together with the previously other calculations [15, 19] and available experimental data [35, 36]. Our predict results of all the considered phase are in good agreement with the available experimental values and other theoretical data and the differences for lattice parameters are less than 1.0%. The FM structure has the largest Fe magnetic

moment, which is in good agreement with the experimental value of 3.2  $\mu_{\rm B}$  [35]. However, Fe magnetic moment for A-AFM and G-AFM phases decreases and c-, A'-AFM and Ort phases show lower Fe local magnetic moment.

The relationship between enthalpy and pressure is shown in Figure 2. Here, the pressure *P* can be obtained by

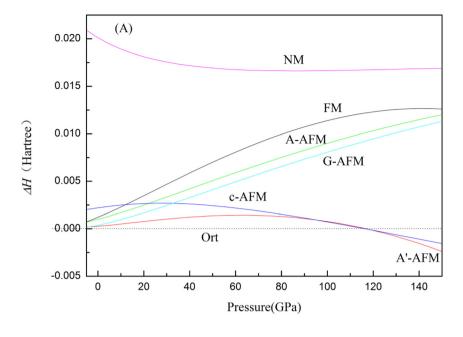
$$P = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial V} \tag{2}$$

where *E* and *V* are energy and volume, respectively. From this figure, we can observe that Ort structure is stable up to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Ref. [35].

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Ref. [19].

dRef. [15].



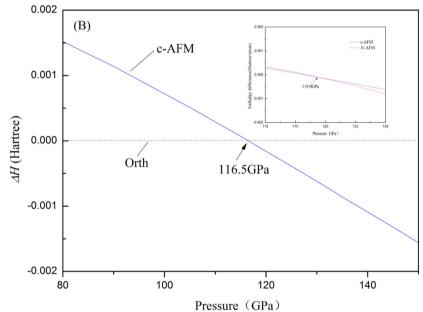


Figure 2: (A) The calculated enthalpy differences ( $\Delta H$ ) for FM, c-AFM, G-AFM, A-AFM, and A'-AFM phases with respect to Ort phase as a function of pressure. (B)The enthalpy of c-AFM, A'-AFM, and Ort phase ( $\Delta H$ ) as a function of pressure (P) is presented. In the inset, the enthalpy difference of c-AFM and A'-AFM as a function of pressure (P) is presented.

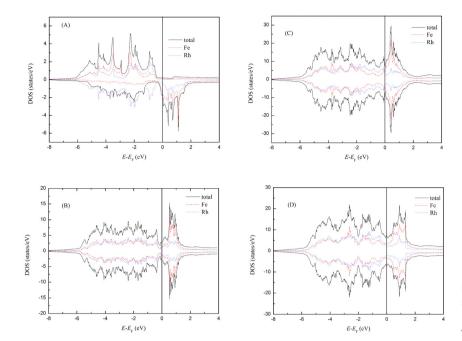
116.5 GPa at 0 K, i.e., the phase transition of Ort  $\rightarrow$  c-AFM occurs at ca. 116.5 GPa according to the curve of enthalpy and pressure. It is also noted that the c-AFM to A'-AFM phase transition pressure is 119.0 GPa.

The total and local densities of states (DOS) for FM, Ort, c-AFM, and A'-AFM phases are displayed in Figure 3. In the FM state, strong hybridization of the Fe and Rh states in spin-up and spin-down channels is apparent, which leads to the large atomic magnetic moments: 3.21  $\mu_B$  for Fe and 1.05  $\mu_B$  for Rh. In the AFM-FeRh states (Ort, c-AFM, and A'-AFM), total majority and minority DOS and local Rh DOS for the spin-up and spin-down projections are equal, respectively, i.e., total

magnetic moment and Rh magnetic moment equal to 0  $\mu_B$ . This result is in good agreement with the available theoretical calculations [37, 38] except for Ort phase.

#### 3.2 Elastic properties

The obtained elastic constants for FM at zero and high pressures are listed in the Table 2 and together with other theoretical results [18, 39]. Obviously, our results are in good agreement with the theoretical values at zero pressure. It is found that  $c_{11}$ ,  $c_{12}$  and  $c_{44}$  have rapid linear increases under the effect of pressure and  $c_{44}$  increases



**Figure 3:** The total and local densities of states (DOS) for different phases. (A) FM-FeRh; (B)Ort-FeRh; (C) c-AFM; (D)A'-AFM, wherein  $E_F$  denotes the Fermi energy.

Table 2: Elastic constants of FM at different pressures.

	P (GPa)	C <sub>11</sub>	C <sub>12</sub>	C <sub>44</sub>	В	G	$R_{G/B}$	σ
This work	0	259.1	162.5	110.9	194.7	79.4	0.408	0.3204
	5	287.4	182.1	119.1	217.2	85.8	0.395	0.3254
	10	310.0	200.6	129.9	237.1	91.8	0.387	0.3285
	15	325.7	216.9	140.5	253.2	96.1	0.380	0.3316
	20	341.9	233.5	155.2	269.6	101.9	0.378	0.3322
Ref. [39]	0	278.3	179.4	110.2	194.9			
Ref. [18]	0	251.6	164.2	109.8	193.3			

moderately. The conditions for the mechanical stability of crystal have been explained by sin'ko [30]:

For cubic structure, we have

$$(c_{11} - P) > 0$$
,  $(c_{44} - P) > 0$ ,  $(c_{11} - P) > |c_{12} + P|$  (3)

$$(c_{11} + 2c_{12} + P) > 0 (4)$$

So we can judge that FM-FeRh is mechanically stable in the range of pressure considered.

From elastic constants, the isotropic aggregate bulk modulus B and shear modulus G can be obtained according to the Voigte-Reusse-Hill (VRH) average scheme [40]. For cubic crystals, the relationship between bulk modulus B and elastic constants is

$$B = 1/3(c_{11} + 2c_{12} + P) (5)$$

The shear modulus G are expressed as (In the following formulas, subscript  $\nu$  denotes the Voigt bound, r denotes the Reuss bound)

$$G_r = 5(c_{11} - c_{12})c_{44}/(4c_{44} + 3c_{11} - 3c_{12})$$
 (6)

$$G_{v} = (c_{11} - c_{12} + 3c_{44})/5 \tag{7}$$

Hence, Hill bulk modulus and shear modulus are

$$B = \frac{1}{2} (B_v + B_r), \quad G = \frac{1}{2} (G_v + G_r)$$
 (8)

Thus, the isotropically averaged aggregate velocities for compressional  $(v_P)$  and shear waves  $(v_S)$  are written as

$$v_p = \sqrt{\left(B + \frac{4}{3}G\right)/\rho}, \ v_s = \sqrt{G/\rho}$$
 (9)

The average velocities approximately is given by [41]

$$\nu_m = \left[ \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{2}{\nu_s^3} + \frac{1}{\nu_p^3} \right) \right]^{-1/3} \tag{10}$$

Figure 4 presents the pressure dependence of bulk modulus, shear modulus, compressional velocities ( $\nu_P$ ), shear waves velocities ( $\nu_S$ ) and average velocities ( $\nu_m$ ). One

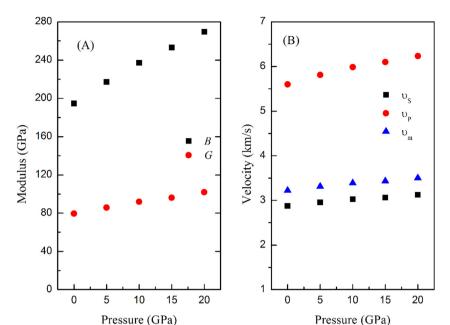


Figure 4: (A) Pressure dependence of bulk modulus and shear modulus in FM-FeRh (B) Predicted compressional and shear wave velocities and average velocities of the FM-FeRh as a function of pressure.

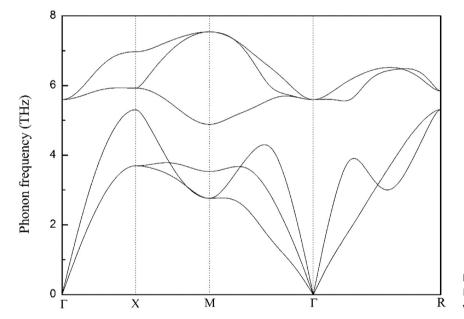


Figure 5: Predicted phonon dispersions for FM-FeRh at zero temperature equilibrium volume.

noted that the bulk modulus, shear modulus, and velocities ( $\nu_{\rm P}$ ,  $\nu_{\rm S}$ ,  $\nu_{\rm m}$ ) show a linear increase with increasing pressure. Our bulk modulus at zero GPa is 194.7 GPa, which agree well with the results of 194.9 GPa by He et al. [39] and 193.3 GPa by Aschauer et al. [18]. The obtained compressional velocities ( $\nu_{\rm P}$ ), shear waves velocities ( $\nu_{\rm S}$ ) are 2.878 and 5.598 km/s at 0 GPa, which are in excellent agreement with the experimental values [42, 43].

According to Pugh criteria, G/B ratio ( $R_{\rm G/B}$ ) of 0.5 separates ductile and brittle materials. If  $R_{\rm G/B}$  < 0.5, the material behaves in a ductile manner, otherwise the

material behaves in a brittle manner. The calculated G/B values for FM-FeRh are less than 0.5 at 0 GPa and decreases as the pressure increasing. This indicates that higher pressure can improve the ductility of FM-FeRh. It is known that Poisson's ratio is associated with the volume change during uniaxial deformation, which usually ranges from -1 to 0.5. Poisson's ratio  $\sigma$  is expressed as

$$\sigma = (3B - 2G)/(6B + 2G) \tag{11}$$

The larger the Poisson ratio, the better the plasticity [44]. For FM, the Poisson's ratio increases under the effect

on pressure, which implies that the plasticity can be enhanced by pressure.

# 3.3 Thermodynamic properties

The predicted phonon dispersions at 0 K for FM-FeRh are shown in Figure 5. It is observed that FM-FeRh is stable at 0 K since all phonon modes have real frequencies in the entire Brillouin zone. As discussed by Kim, Ramesh and Kioussis [19], the low-frequency acoustical branches are related with the displacements of both Fe and Rh atoms, while the optical branches and high-frequency acoustical

branches are mainly related with Fe and Rh displacements, respectively. Unfortunately, there are not yet experimental data on phonon dispersions of FM-FeRh to compare with our calculated results

Figure 6 plots the Helmholtz free energy of FM-FeRh versus volume at different temperatures. The equilibrium volumes with minimum free energy are derived from fitting curves of the BM fourth equation of states [33, 34]. The dot line with circles connecting the minimum energy shows the lattice equilibrium volume becomes larger with the application of temperature.

The relation between the ratios of relative volume  $V/V_0$  and pressure at several temperatures are displayed in Figure 7.

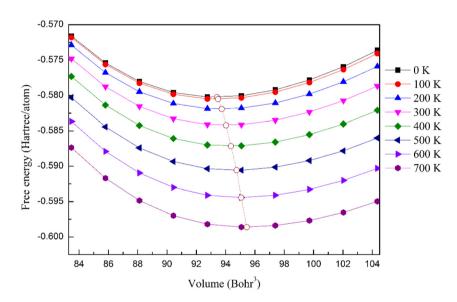
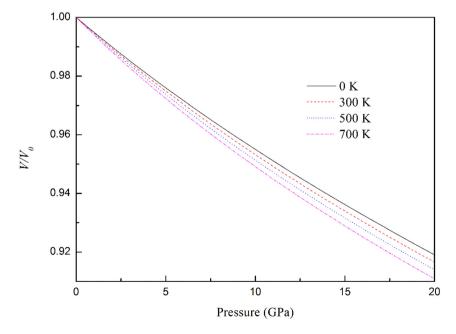
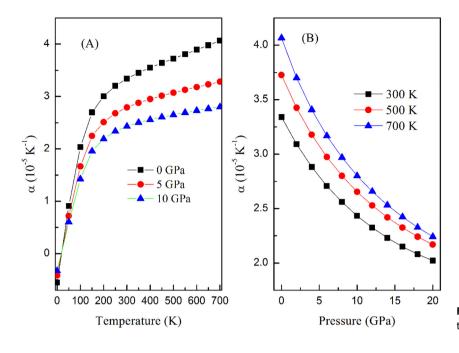


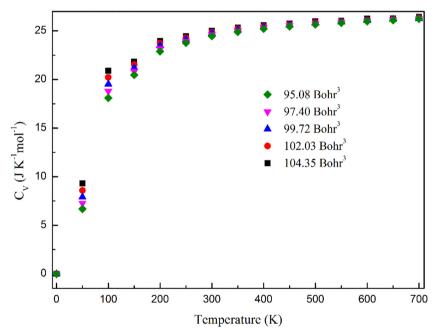
Figure 6: The relations between Helmholtz free energy and volume for FM-FeRh. The dot line connects points (circles) of minimum of free energy at each temperature. Here, volume is equal to the volume of primitive cell divided by number of atoms.



**Figure 7:** The relative volume  $V/V_0$  as a function of pressure, where  $V_0$  is zero-pressure equilibrium primitive cell volume at that temperature and V is volume of primitive cell at that pressure and that temperature.



**Figure 8:** The thermal expansion versus temperature and pressure.



**Figure 9:** Specific heat  $C_V$  as a function of temperature at various volumes. Here, volume is equal to the volume of primitive cell divided by number of atoms.

The relative volume  $V/V_0$  decrease with the increasing pressure at given temperature. Similarly, the relative volume  $V/V_0$  decrease with the rise of temperature at given pressure, which indicate the compressibility increases at high temperature due to more intense molecular thermal motion.

The volume thermal expansion coefficients at different temperatures and pressures are presented in Figure 8. The thermal expansion  $\alpha$  changes rapidly when T < 300 K and P < 10 GPa and approaches gradually to almost a linear increase at T > 300 K. In Figure 8A, the difference of  $\alpha$  at 0 and 5 GPa is larger than the difference of  $\alpha$  at 5 and

10 GPa. In Figure 8B, the higher the temperature, the smaller the change in volumetric thermal expansion  $\alpha$  at given pressure. Linear thermal expansion coefficient is defined as  $\alpha_l = (1/l) (dl/dT)$ . Our linear thermal expansion coefficient is  $1.11 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at 300 K and 0 GPa, which is in good agreement with the experimental value of  $0.95 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1} [45]$  and theoretical result of  $1.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1} [20]$ .

Figure 9 depicts the temperature dependence of specific heat  $C_V$  at different volumes. As volume expansion, specific heat  $C_V$  increases at given temperature. This is caused by Helmholtz free energy. As shown in Figure 10,

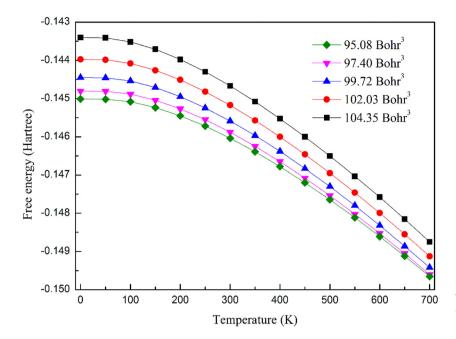
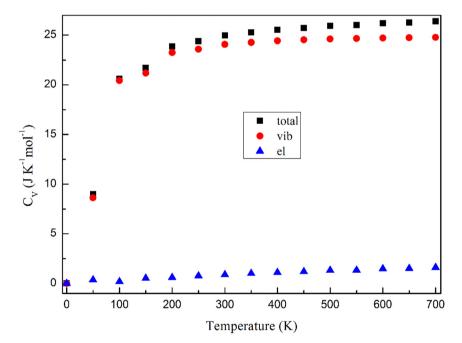


Figure 10: Helmhotz free energy against temperature at several volume (volume is equal to the volume of primitive cell divided by number of atoms).



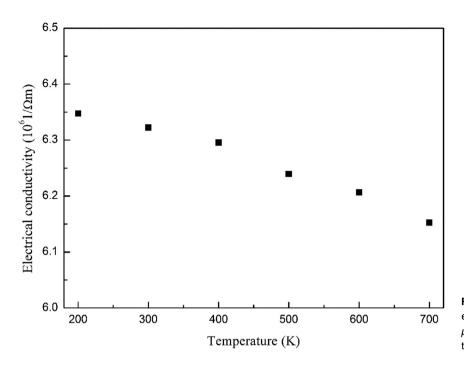
**Figure 11:** Specific heat C<sub>V</sub> at zero pressure for the FM-FeRh. Squares, circles and triangles represent total, vibrational and electronic C<sub>V</sub>, respectively.

Helmhotz free energy increases with increasing volume at given temperature. The variation curves of specific heat  $C_V$  with temperature T at 0 GPa of FM-FeRh are displayed in Figure 11. For the thermal electronic contributions to specific heat is small when temperature is lower and lattice vibration make the dominant contribution to specific heat. As the temperature increases, thermal electronic contributions to specific heat increases and is not negligible at high temperature. It is also found the vibrational

 $C_V$  tends to the classical constant 3R with the increasing temperature. This is analogue to those of other metal materials [46].

## 3.4 Thermal conductivity

The electrical conductivity for FM-FeRh is shown in Figure 12. The electrical conductivity decreases with the



**Figure 12:** Temperature dependence electrical conductivity for FM-FeRh at  $\mu = E_f$ , where  $\mu$  and  $E_f$  are chemical potential and Fermi energy, respectively.

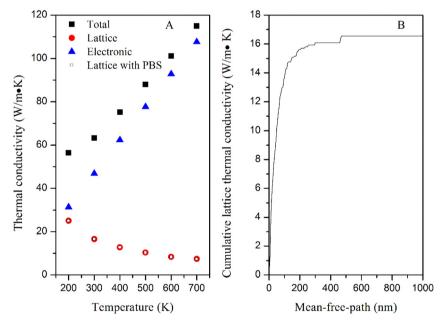
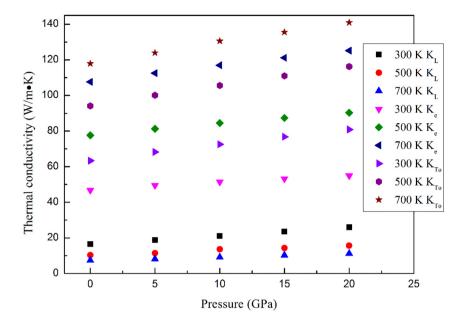


Figure 13: (A) The relationship between thermal conductivity of FeRh and temperature at 0 GPa. The squares, circles and triangles denote total thermal conductivity, lattice thermal conductivity and electronic thermal conductivity, respectively. The open square indicates lattice thermal conductivity with phonon-boundary scattering (PBS). (B) Cumulative lattice thermal conductivity versus phonon mean free path is presented.

increasing temperature. This is related to the increased electron-phonon scattering with temperature. At 300 K, the electrical conductivity is  $6.32 \times 10^6 \, (\Omega m)^{-1}$  i.e., the electrical resistivity is 15.8  $\mu\Omega$ cm, which is in good agreement with the experimental value of 13.4  $\mu\Omega$ cm [47].

The thermal conductivity as a function of temperature for FM-FeRh is depicted in Figure 13. The electronic thermal conductivity is 56.43 W/mK at 200 K, and then increase linearly with temperature and the value increase to

107.59 W/mK at 700 K. It is noted that the lattice thermal conductivity  $K_L$  decreases exponentially with increasing temperature, this mainly results from the increasing phonon–phonon scattering with temperature. Whereas,  $K_L$  tends to be proportional to 1/T at high temperature. We also noted that the phonon boundary scattering has no effect on lattice thermal conductivity within a consideration temperature range and the total thermal conductivity increases monotonically as temperature increasing. When the



**Figure 14:** shows the thermal conductivity as a function of pressure at selected temperatures, in which  $K_{To}$ ,  $K_L$ ,  $K_e$  are total thermal conductivity, lattice thermal conductivity and electronic thermal conductivity, respectively.

temperature increases from 200 to 700 K, the contribution rate of electrons to the total thermal conductivity increases from 55.6 to 93.6%. It is also noted that most of the heat is carried by phonons with mean free paths ranging from 10 to 300 nm at 300 K.

Figure 14 shows thermal conductivity dependence on pressure. At given temperature, thermal conductivities ( $K_L$ ,  $K_e$ ,  $K_{To}$ ) increase linearly as pressure. The total thermal conductivity  $K_{To}$  varies between 63.4 at 0 GPa and 80.9 W/mK at 20 GPa for T=300 K and between 117.9 and 140.9 W/mK for T=700 K. At lower temperature,  $K_L$  increases rapidly with an increase in pressure and at higher temperature,  $K_L$  increases slowly under pressure. Whereas,  $K_e$  is opposite. At given pressure,  $K_L$  decreases with growing the temperature. This phenomenon is due to the enhancement of intrinsic phonon–phonon scattering with temperature increasing. When temperature is constant, the contribution rate of electrons to the total thermal conductivity decreases with pressure increasing. The higher the temperature, the smaller the decrease.

## 4 Conclusions

Through the projector augmented wave (PAW) based on density functional theory, we can draw the following conclusions.

(a) Our equilibrium volume, lattice parameters, relative energies and magnetic moments agree well with the available experimental values and other theoretical results. Our most stable structure is Ort phase. This conclusion is in accordance with that of Zarkevich and Johnson. The phase transition of Ort  $\rightarrow$  c-AFM occurs at ca. 116.5 GPa and the c-AFM to A'-AFM phase transition pressure is 119.0 GPa.

- (b) In the FM state, strong hybridization of the Fe and Rh states in spin-up and spin-down channels leads to the large atomic magnetic moments: 3.21  $\mu_B$  for Fe and 1.05  $\mu_B$  for Rh. In the AFM-FeRh states (Ort, c-AFM, and A'-AFM), total magnetic moment and Rh magnetic moment equal to 0  $\mu$ B. This result is in good agreement with the available theoretical calculations except for Ort phase.
- (c) The obtained elastic constants of FM-FeRh at 0 GPa agree well with the other theoretical values. The bulk modulus, shear modulus, compressional velocities, shear waves velocities and average velocities ( $\nu_{\rm m}$ ) show a linear increase with application pressure. These results are in good agreement with the available experimental and theoretical values. By analyzing G/B, FM-FeRh behaves in a ductile manner.
- (d) Through finite temperature density functional theory within the quasi-harmonic approximation, the Helmholtz free energy as a function of volume at different temperatures, the dependence of the volume on pressure at various temperatures, the dependence of volume thermal expansion coefficients on temperatures and pressures and specific heat  $C_V$  vs temperature have been successfully obtained. At 300 K and 0 GPa, linear thermal expansion coefficient is  $1.11 \times 10^{-5}$  K<sup>-1</sup>, which is in good agreement with the experimental value of  $0.95 \times 10^{-5}$  K<sup>-1</sup> and theoretical result of  $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$  K<sup>-1</sup>.

- Thermal electronic contributions to specific heat increases with the application of temperature and is not negligible at high temperature. The vibrational  $C_V$ tends to the classical constant 3R with the increasing temperature.
- (e) At 300 K, the predicted electrical conductivity is  $6.32 \times 10^6 \ (\Omega m)^{-1}$  i.e., the electrical resistivity is 15.8  $\mu\Omega$ cm, which is in good agreement with the experimental value of 13.4 μΩcm. At higher temperature, contribution rate of electrons to the total thermal conductivity dominant. Thermal conductivities (K<sub>I</sub>, K<sub>e</sub>, K<sub>To</sub>) increase linearly as pressure. At lower temperature, K<sub>L</sub> increases rapidly with the increasing pressure and K<sub>L</sub> has a moderate increase as increasing pressure at higher temperature. Whereas, K<sub>e</sub> is opposite. It is found that most of the heat is carried by phonons with mean free paths ranging from 10 to 300 nm at 300 K.

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