

# Effects of Organic Material on Magnetoresistance in Electron-doped Double Perovskite

Ya Fang Li (✉ [missli1129@163.com](mailto:missli1129@163.com))

Henan Normal University <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3325-9129>

Yu Liu

Henan Normal University

Yan-Ming Zhang

Henan Normal University

Jin-Feng Wang

Henan Normal University

---

## Research Article

**Keywords:** La<sub>0.5</sub>Sr<sub>1.5</sub>FeMoO<sub>6</sub> double perovskite, Inorganic/organic composite, Magnetoresistance, Grain boundary

**Posted Date:** March 18th, 2021

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-297068/v1>

**License:**  This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

---

# Effects of organic material on magnetoresistance in electron-doped double perovskite

Ya-Fang Li\*, Yu Liu, Yan-Ming Zhang and Jin-Feng Wang\*

\*Corresponding author

*College of Physics, National Demonstration Center for Experimental Physics Education, Henan Normal University and Henan Key Laboratory of Photovoltaic Materials, Xixiang 453007, China*

**Email:** [missli1129@163.com](mailto:missli1129@163.com) (Ya-Fang Li) or [jfwang@htu.edu.cn](mailto:jfwang@htu.edu.cn) (Jin-Feng Wang)

**Abstract.** The Curie temperature of electron-doped  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$  can be optimized significantly due to the band-filling effect, but accompanying an almost absent low-field magnetoresistance (LFMR), which is unfavorable to applications in the magnetoresistive devices operated at room-temperature. Our previous works confirmed that, a remarkable enhanced LFMR was observed in  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$  by modifying the grain boundary with insulating organic small molecules (glycerin,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OHCHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$ ). However, in this work, modifying the grain boundary strength of the  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  with the insulating organic macromolecules (oleic acid,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$ ) or small molecules (glycerin), both of them have negligible functions on the magnetoresistance behavior in  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$ . Contrary to the glycerin-modified  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$ ,  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$ /oleic acid composites don't exhibit an obviously increased magnetoresistance property. Based on the above experimental results and the related works, it is proposed that, maintaining high spin polarization of the carriers at the Fermi level and improving the tunneling process across the grain boundary by using the suitable organic materials are decisive factors for optimizing the magnetoresistance behavior in the similar electron-doped double perovskites.

**Key words:**  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  double perovskite; Inorganic/organic composite; Magnetoresistance; Grain boundary

## 23 **Declarations**

24 **Funding** This work was supported by fund from the Natural Science Foundation of China (U1504107).

25 **Conflict of interest** The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## 26 **Relevance Summary**

27 1. The Curie temperature of electron-doped  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$  can be optimized significantly but always

28 accompanying an almost absent of low-field magnetoresistance, which is unfavorable to applications

29 in the magnetoresistive devices operated at room-temperature.

30 2. In this work, the transport and magnetic properties of  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  modified by organic

31 materials are discussed systematically. And we may provide an effective method to solve the

32 problem.

## 33 1 Introduction

34 Due to its a half-metallic property with the 100% spin-polarization at the Fermi level, a high Curie  
35 temperature ( $T_C$ ) of  $\sim 415$  K and remarkable large low-field magnetoresistance (LFMR) behavior, double  
36 perovskite  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$  (SFMO) has been paid a great deal of attention in views of its critical fundamental  
37 investigation values and immense potential technological applications for spintronic and  
38 magnetoresistive devices operated at room temperature [1].

39 It is well known that in an ideal SFMO double perovskite structure, the  $\text{FeO}_6$  and  $\text{MoO}_6$  octahedral  
40 arrange alternatively along the three axes of tetragonal structure with the Sr cations occupy the voids  
41 between them. Strong antiferromagnetic correlation exists between the localized magnetic moments  
42 ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}: 3d^5$ ) and the delocalized electron ( $\text{Mo}^{5+}: 4d^1$ ) in a double-exchange-like type, the magnetic  
43 coupling induces a ferrimagnetic state with an ideal saturated magnetization ( $M_s$ ) of  $4 \mu_B$  per formula  
44 unit [2-7]. The strength of magnetic coupling in SFMO double perovskite is mainly controlled by the  
45 carrier density at the Fermi level, so it indicates that doping electrons in the conduction band is an  
46 effective way to enhance  $T_C$  [8-14]. This point was confirmed by a substantial enhancement of  $T_C$  more  
47 than 80 K in  $\text{La}_x\text{Sr}_{(2-x)}\text{FeMoO}_6$  [9] and  $(\text{Ba}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2})_{2-x}\text{La}_x\text{FeMoO}_6$  materials [15]. Obviously, the celebrated  
48 strategy increases the operating temperature range of the electromagnetic applications in SFMO double  
49 perovskite. However, the increased  $T_C$  in electron-doped double perovskites always accompany with a  
50 strong suppression on MR effect [9, 15, 16]. This phenomenon seriously affects functional properties of  
51 materials and constrains the technical application. Hence, it is necessary and meaningful to improve the  
52 MR effect in electron-doping SFMO system.

53 As a fact, a remarkable large MR effect can be observed in polycrystalline SFMO ceramics, but it  
54 is almost absent in SFMO single crystals or epitaxial films [17-19]. This suggests that the LFMR of

55 SFMO is a type of tunneling magnetoresistance, the transport process is related with the spin-dependent  
56 scattering occurred at magnetic domain boundaries, so the existence of grain boundary in SFMO is vital  
57 for magnetoresistance [1]. Previous research proved that LFMR could be improved by enhancing the GB  
58 strength in many methods, such as adding the second phase in GB [20, 21], slightly oxidizing GB [22,  
59 23], reducing the grain size [24, 25] and dispersing the grain uniformly [26]etc. It should be noted that  
60 there are three common points in these methods. First, the increment of LFMR value always accompanies  
61 with the enhancement of resistivity. Actually, a function of  $\rho \propto \exp(\gamma s \sqrt{\Delta})$  was proposed to express  
62 the strength of the GB insulating barriers. From this, the GB strength is directly measured by  $\rho$  [27].  
63 Second, the increment of LFMR value always with the decrement of magnetization. Moreover, the  
64 experiment process of above methods is relatively complex. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a facile  
65 method which can maintain the magnetization while improve the LFMR value of SFMO. In our previous  
66 research, the SFMO ceramic was soaked in organic matter, by the method directly, the resistivity was  
67 increased about 500 times and the LFMR value was effectively improved up to -29.5% at 10 K [28].  
68 Based on the achievement, we infer that the method of preparing  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  (LSFMO)/organic  
69 matter composites could be used to eliminate the negative effect resulting from electrons doping in  
70 SFMO ceramics and then optimize the LFMR effect while ensuring the magnetization.

71 The organic matters of oleic acid ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$ ) and glycerin  
72 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{OHCHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$ ) were used as the modifying material in this work. The oleic acid has a long-  
73 chain structure with the molecular weight of 282.45 and the glycerin has a short-chain structure with the  
74 molecular weight of 92.09. It is obvious that the former has the more excellent insulation.

75 In this work, three composites of LSFMO/oleic acid, LSFMO/glycerin and SFMO/oleic acid were  
76 prepared to investigate the effect of organic materials on the magnetoresistance behavior in electron-

77 doped double perovskite. The structure, magnetization, electrical resistivity and magnetoresistance of  
78 composites were investigated systematically and comparatively. The main results indicate that neither of  
79 the MR behavior in the three experiments has been optimized effectively. It proves that it is critical to  
80 select a suitable organic material to modify GB while maintain the high spin polarization of the carriers  
81 at the Fermi level in the electron-doped double perovskite.

## 82 **2 Experimental**

### 83 **2.1 The method of Experiment I ( $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$ /oleic acid composite)**

84  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  ceramics were synthesized by a conventional solid-state reaction method. First,  
85 the appropriate amounts of analytic grade  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SrCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{MoO}_3$  powders were weighted,  
86 ground 3 h in an agate mortar and sintered at 900 °C for 10 h in air. The sintered powder was ground  
87 again and then pressed into disks. After that, these disks were annealed at 1200 °C for 12 h in the 5%  
88  $\text{H}_2$ /95% Ar reducing atmosphere. Pure LSFMO powder was collected after triturating these annealed  
89 disks.

90 To modify the GB strength, the as-prepared pure LSFMO powder was post-treated as follows: first,  
91 different volume proportions of the oleic acid ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$ ,  $V_1$ ) and alcohol ( $V_2$ )  
92 were fully stirred to form the mixed solution ( $V=0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, V = V_1/V_1 + V_2$ ). For each  
93 treatment, 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of the mixed solution was pipetted and added into 0.2 g as-prepared LSFMO powder.  
94 After six pipetting times, the formed organic/inorganic composite was thoroughly admixed and pressed  
95 into disk, then conserved at room temperature (RT). The collected composites were labeled as C1-C6,  
96 respectively.

### 97 **2.2 The method of Experiment II ( $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$ /glycerin composite)**

98 For contrasting with Experiment I, in this experiment, the modificatory factor oleic acid was

99 substituted by glycerin ( $\text{CH}_2\text{OHCHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$ ). Pure LSFMO powder (in Experiment I) was pressed  
100 into disks and the mass of every disk was 0.2 g. To control the participating content of glycerin at GB,  
101 the disks were soaked in the isometric mixed reagent of glycerin and alcohol under the protection of  $\text{N}_2$ ,  
102 and kept static at room temperature for 5 and 15 days. Subsequently, the disks were taken out and gently  
103 washed three times by alcohol, dried in vacuum condition at RT. The collected disks were labeled as C7  
104 (5 days) and C8 (15 days).

### 105 **2.3 The method of Experiment III ( $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$ /oleic acid composite)**

106 The modified object LSFMO was substituted by pure SFMO. Specifically, the suitable amounts of  
107 analytic grade  $\text{SrCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{MoO}_3$  powders were weighted, ground and sintered at 900 °C for 10 h  
108 in air. Then the sintered powder was ground again for 3 h and annealed at 1200 °C for 12 h in 5%  $\text{H}_2$ /95%  
109 Ar reducing atmosphere. To modify the GBs, 0.2 g of SFMO powder was mixed homogeneously with  
110 20  $\mu\text{L}$  isopyknic mixed reagent of oleic acid and alcohol solution here. After completely admixing, the  
111 composite was pressed into disk and conserved at RT. The collected disk was labeled as C9.

112 Room-temperature X-ray diffraction (XRD) experiments were performed by using Bruker D8  
113 Discover. The microstructure of the samples was examined through high resolution field emission  
114 scanning electron microscope (FESEM). The C element's distribution was carried out using energy  
115 dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) coupled with FESEM instrument. The magnetization and magnetic  
116 transport data of all samples (C1-C9) were carried out by a physical property measurements system  
117 (PPMS Quantum Design).

### 118 3 Results and discussion

119 The crystal structure of all prepared polycrystalline samples was detected by the X-ray diffraction  
120 (Fig. 1). From the picture, it can be clearly seen that all the ceramics were well consistent with tetragonal  
121 space group of I4/m. Neither XRD peak shifting nor other impurities can be observed in the composites.  
122 It manifests that the organic molecules are mainly located at grain boundaries and have any effect on the  
123 structure of original samples. Otherwise, it can also be interpreted as there was negligible or even no  
124 chemical reaction between them. SrMoO<sub>4</sub> as a common second phase exists in SFMO double perovskite  
125 can be obtained by oxidation [23, 29] or sonication process [30] in experiments. However, such a  
126 secondary phase is not shown up in this work which is evidenced by XRD results. The discrepancies  
127 between the present study and the previous one [29] may result from the different experimental  
128 manipulations, like the prepared method of samples and the content of the solvent in organic matter.

129 Fig.2 shows the FESEM images for pristine LSFMO (C1) and LSFMO/oleic acid composites (C2-  
130 C6). The FESEM images show the grain size about 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in all composites. The phenomenon that  
131 LSFMO grains with small size are inlaid in measured areas can be observed in these images. This is  
132 attributed to the physical mixing process. In this process, the LSFMO's binding force forming in the  
133 annealing time is destroyed by the external pressure and then grains are dispersed, although they are  
134 subsequently pressed into disks again, it cannot distribute uniformly like the annealed samples. The C  
135 element' distributions in these samples measured with EDS are shown in the insets in Figure 2. It can be  
136 observed that the content of oleic acid increases with the increment of the  $V$  values. Based on the FESEM  
137 and EDS measurements, it is reasonable to conclude that the physisorption of oleic acid in LSFMO grain  
138 regions might be the dominant states, which is also confirmed by the XRD analysis.

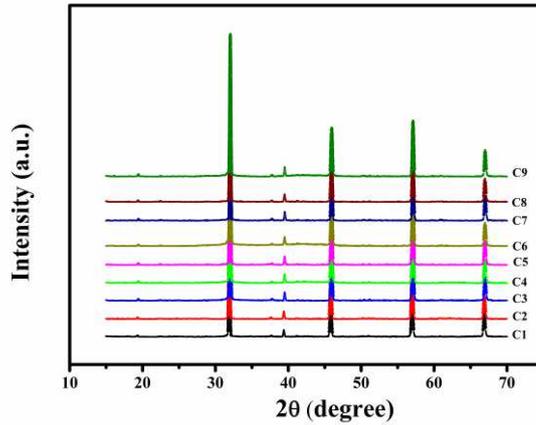


Fig. 1 The XRD patterns of all prepared ceramics (C1-C9)

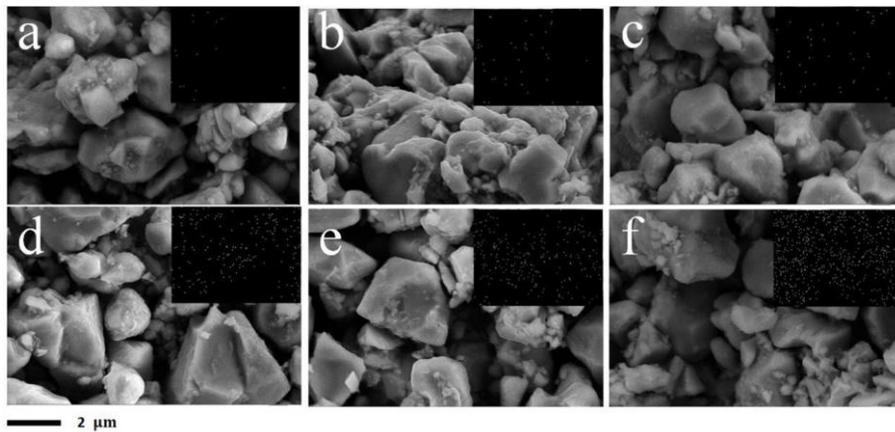
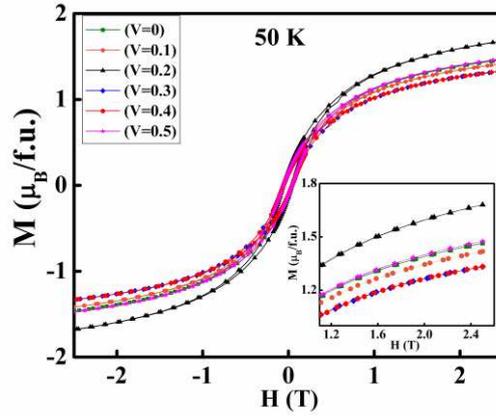


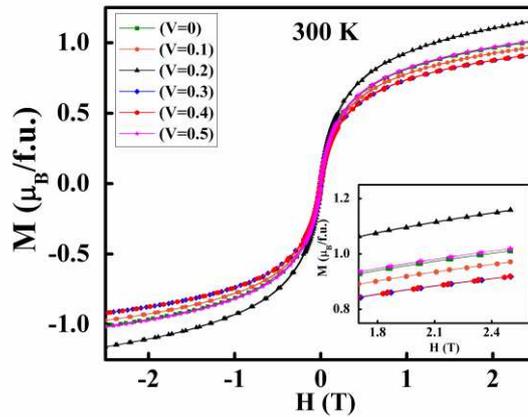
Fig. 2 FESEM images of oleic acid/La<sub>0.5</sub>Sr<sub>1.5</sub>FeMoO<sub>6</sub> composites, (a-f) correspond to C1-C6 samples. The insets are the corresponding C element mappings

The magnetic hysteresis loops of LSFMO with different volume proportions of oleic acid/alcohol solution ( $V=0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5$ ) composites were measured at 50 K and 300 K, shown in Fig. 3 and 4 respectively. Evidently, all the samples show the ferromagnetic nature with a well-saturated feature between -2.5 T and +2.5 T. The mass differences of the pure LSFMO with LSFMO/oleic acid composites are provided in Table 1. It can be observed that the mass of organic matter that entered into LSFMO grain boundaries is too little and this extra mass has negligible effect when we calculate the magnetization values. With the oleic acid content increasing, the  $M_S$  values at 50 K are respectively 1.46, 1.41, 1.68, 1.33, 1.32 and 1.47  $\mu_B/f.u.$  of the corresponding C1-C6 composite samples, which suggests the organic

152 material can maintain the magnetization. Accompanying with the similar coercive field, although oleic  
 153 acid molecules segregate at the grain boundaries, they have no obvious effect on the LSFMO  
 154 ferromagnetic domains. An analogous behavior appears in the M-H curves at 300 K (Fig.4).



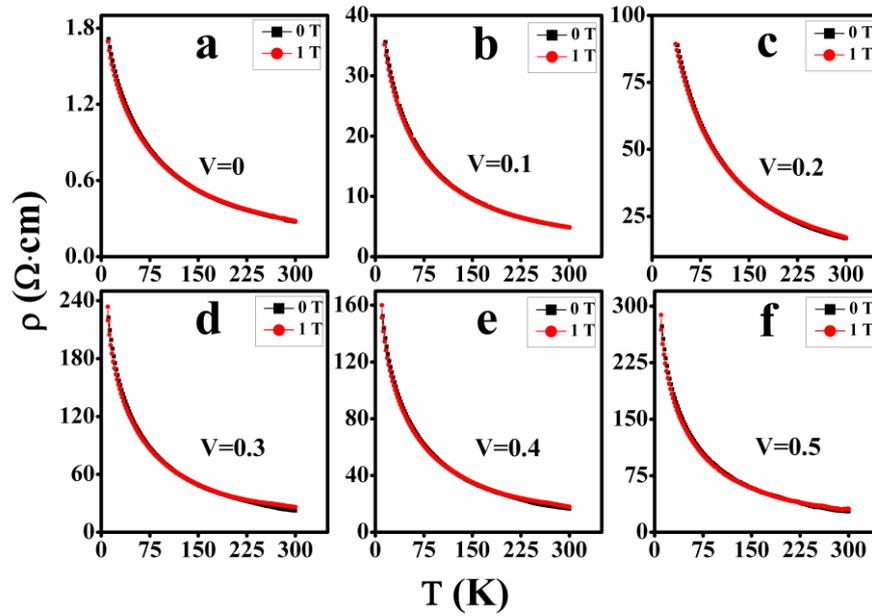
155  
 156 **Fig. 3** The magnetization versus magnetic field (M-H) curves measured at 50 K for Experiment I. The inset  
 157 is the locally enlarged M-H curves



158  
 159 **Fig. 4** The magnetization versus magnetic field (M-H) curves measured at 300 K for C1-C6 in Experiment I.  
 160 The inset is the locally enlarged M-H curves

161 **Table 1** The mass differences of the pure LSFMO with LSFMO/oleic acid composites

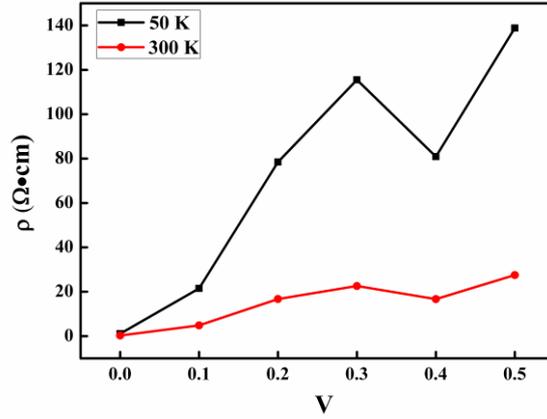
Sample	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
Mass before soaking (g)	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000
Mass after soaking (g)	0.2000	0.2002	0.2008	0.2011	0.2027	0.2036
Mass difference (%)	0%	0.10%	0.40%	0.55%	1.35%	1.80%



162

163 **Fig. 5** Temperature dependent resistivity curves for C1-C6 (a-f) measured at 10 K-300 K with 0 T and 1 T extra  
 164 field

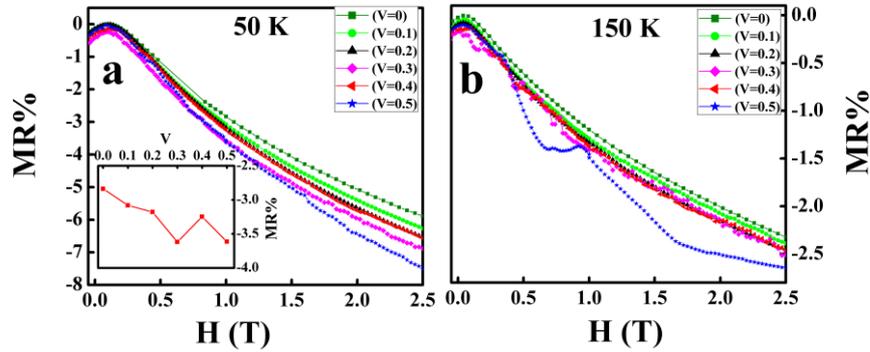
165 Fig. 5 shows the temperature dependent resistivity curves for C1-C6 composites with 0 T and 1 T  
 166 extra field. All the ceramics exhibit a semiconductor-like behavior in the range of investigating. In this  
 167 system, it can be observed a systematic enhancement in resistivity over the whole temperature range of  
 168 10-300 K while adding the extra amount of oleic acid without reducing the SFMO content. The measured  
 169 curves with 0 T and 1 T are almost overlapped in this figure, it suggests extra field has no obvious  
 170 influence on resistance property. In order to describe resistivity more directly, the resistivity values  
 171 (without extra field) of C1-C6 at 50 K and 300 K are shown (Fig. 6) In this picture, values of C6  
 172 composite are 138.8  $\Omega$  cm and 27.5  $\Omega$  cm at 50 K and 300 K respectively, exhibiting  $\sim$ 130 times and  
 173  $\sim$ 100 times of C1 (1.0661  $\Omega$  cm at 50 K, 0.27  $\Omega$  cm at 300 K). The variation of resistivity implies that  
 174 the charge transport is significantly influenced by the nature of GB, it can be explained by that oleic acid  
 175 effectively weak the tunneling conduction ability of charger carriers when they across the grain  
 176 boundaries. The jump points in C5 composite ( $V=0.4$ ) may result from the preparation process.



177

178

Fig. 6 The resistivity-volume proportions curves of samples (C1-C6) at 50 K and 300 K with zero-field



179

180

181

182

Fig. 7 MR% versus applied magnetic field plots of  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  with different volume proportions of oleic acid/alcohol contents ( $V=0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5$ ) measured at 50 K (a) and 150 K (b). The inset in (a) was the volume proportions dependent MR at 1 T

183

184

185

186

187

188

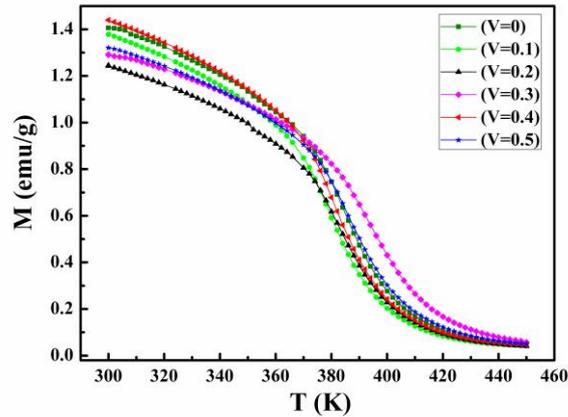
189

190

191

MR% versus applied magnetic field (MR%-H) curves for C1-C6 at 50 K and 150 K were depicted in Fig. 7a and Fig. 7b, respectively. The MR% is defined here as  $MR\% = (\rho_H - \rho_0) / \rho_0 \times 100\%$ , where  $\rho_H$  and  $\rho_0$  are the values of resistivity with and without a magnetic field. From figure 7, the MR% value is slightly enhanced with the organic matter content, but the enhancement is negligible when compare with other researches [28-32]. From the inset in Fig. 7a, the LFMR (H=1 T) value of C1 composite at 50 K is -2.8% and it gets to the maximum -3.6% of C6, it just improves 0.8%. Moreover, the same phenomenon occurred at 150 K, depicted in Fig. 7b. These data can strongly prove that the method of modifying LSFMO by organic matter is not available to improve LFMR response. This result violates the previous inference which is the stronger GB strength portend higher MR. To make our result

192 compelling, more in-depth comparisons and discussions will be addressed in next content.

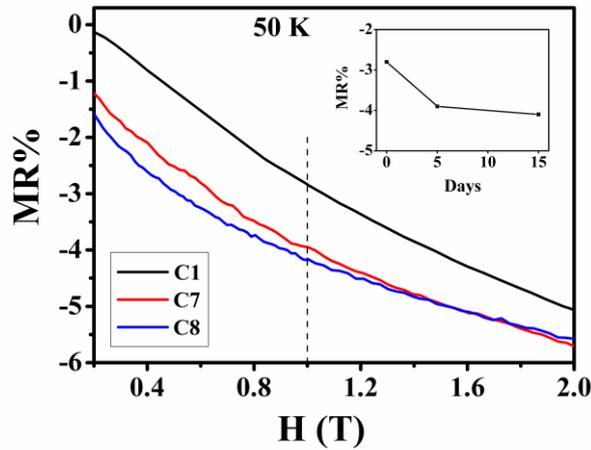


193

194 **Fig. 8** Magnetization-temperature (M-T) curves for C1-C6 measured from 300 K to 450 K

195 Fig. 8 shows the magnetization versus temperature plots of C1-C6 composite samples that measured  
196 from 300 K to 450 K. Almost samples undergo a ferromagnetic to paramagnetic transition at the same  
197 temperature (~420 K). By adding the oleic acid molecules in GB, there is no obvious change in the  
198 magnetic transition temperature of samples. This is yet another confirmation that the organic matter is  
199 not beneficial to enhance the ferromagnetic coupling strengths of the LSFMO material.

200 It is expected that, the insulating big molecules (oleic acid) located at GBs of LSFMO double  
201 perovskite can increase the tunneling probability of spin electrons, and thus enhance the LFMR behavior.  
202 Unfortunately, according to the analysis with Experiment I, we conclude that the method is not workable.  
203 However, a remarkable LFMR enhancement in SFMO modified with small molecules (glycerin) was  
204 observed in our previous study, in which the LFMR of SFMO/glycerin composite was more than 2 times  
205 larger than that of the pure SFMO [28]. Therefore, we designed Experiment II (LSFMO/glycerin) to  
206 further study.

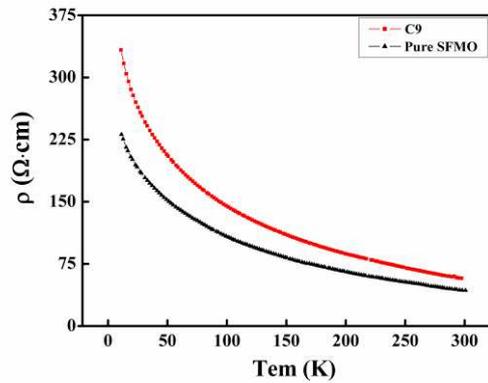


207  
208  
209

Fig. 9 MR% versus applied magnetic field of C1, C7 and C8 measured at 50 K (Experiment II). The inset is the LFMR value at 1 T of C1, C7 and C8

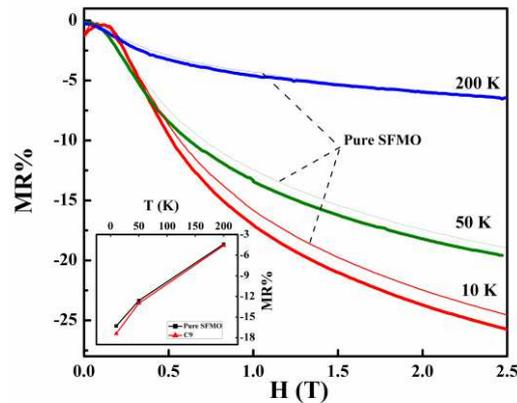
210 In order to understand the effect of glycerin molecules on LSFMO, the MR% versus applied  
211 magnetic field curves are presented in Figure 9. Since the content of glycerin in grain boundary increased  
212 with soaking time, the LFMR effect must grow consistently as well as the GB strength. However, from  
213 the inset, the LFMR at 50 K of C1, C7, C8 composites are -2.8%, -3.9% and -4.1% respectively. It is  
214 obviously that the LFMR effect of LSFMO/glycerin composite cannot also be optimized very well,  
215 which has a sharp contrast with SFMO/glycerin [28]. The difference between them may lie in that, La  
216 electrons doped at Sr sites leads to two effects: one is band-filling effect, and the other is the increased  
217 Fe/Mo anti-site defects concentration, both of them can decrease the amounts of spin-polarized electrons  
218 that tunneling across GB. So, we can conclude that maintaining high spin polarization of the carriers at  
219 the Fermi level is a crucial factor to obtain an excellent MR behavior in similar electron-doped double  
220 perovskite.

221 Based on the experiments, we noticed that it is necessary to maintain a high spin polarization of  
222 carriers to obtain a large MR effect. In Experiment III, we prepared the SFMO with a high Fe/Mo  
223 ordering degree to ensure a high spin polarization of carriers at the Fermi level, and then fabricate it with  
224 the oleic acid molecule.



225  
226

**Fig. 10** Resistivity versus temperature curves for pure SFMO and C9 at 10 K-300 K with zero-field



227  
228  
229  
230

**Fig. 11** MR% versus applied magnetic field of pure SFMO sample (*thin lines*) and C9 (*thick lines*) measured at 10 K, 50 K and 200 K. The inset in figure is the measured temperature dependent low field magnetoresistance at 1 T for the two samples

231 It can be directly gotten from Fig. 10 that the resistivity of SFMO can be enhanced by introducing  
 232 oleic acid in the whole temperature range, similarly with the previous statement. The MR of the pure  
 233 SFMO (thin lines) and C9 composite (thick lines) were measured at 10 K, 50 K and 200 K, shown in  
 234 Figure 11. As the picture presents, the LFMR of pure SFMO at 1 T are -16.3%, -12.6%, -4.4%  
 235 respectively and -17.4%, -13.0%, -4.6% for C9 in 10 K, 50 K and 200 K. It is obvious that the SFMO  
 236 modified by oleic acid still cannot effectively optimize the LFMR. Otherwise, this behavior is in a sharp  
 237 contrast with the SFMO/glycerin work [28]. Therefore, we noticed that the different results may due to  
 238 the different molecular structure and insulation properties of oleic acid and glycerin.

239 Organic molecules have been already acknowledged as the suitable spin transport medium in  
240 magnetic materials [33-36]. In these works, the chemical bonding between organic molecules and  
241 ferromagnetic grains is the decisive factor for the enhancement of LFMR. Oleic acid is recognized as an  
242 efficient barrier when it closely contacts with the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$  grains with a single molecular  
243 layer. But this phenomenon has not happened in our present work. It may derive from that oleic acid  
244 molecule is physically bonded with SFMO grains.

245 An efficient optimization of LFMR have been observed in SFMO/glycerin [28], which has a sharp  
246 contrast with SFMO/oleic acid. The reasons maybe lie in the different molecular structure of the organic  
247 matter and bonding strength between organic molecules and SFMO grain boundary. As for SFMO/oleic  
248 acid, it is difficult to form a single layer between two grains due to big molecule oleic acid and different  
249 preparation process compared with  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  or  $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$  grains, thus the stronger energy barrier  
250 between oleic acid big molecule and SFMO grain will weak the spin injection efficiency and therefore  
251 suppress to LFMR effect. But in the SFMO/glycerin system, compared with oleic acid, glycerin has a  
252 smaller molecular size and three hydroxyl groups, leads to a relative strong bonding strength with the  
253 SFMO interfacial grain. Therefore, glycerin is beneficial to spin injection and the improvement of LFMR  
254 effect.

255 Based on the analysis, we conclude that oleic acid can be recognized as a suitable transport medium  
256 when it chemically bonds to ferromagnetic grain. But when it bonds in physically, like the present work,  
257 oleic acid cannot optimize efficiently LFMR of the SFMO. In this case, it's available to select the smaller  
258 organic molecule with many hydroxyl groups to modify GB to enhance LFMR in the similar double  
259 perovskite materials.

## 260 **4 Conclusion**

261  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$ /oleic acid composite was prepared to expect to improve the magnetoresistance of  
262  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  electron-doped double perovskite in Experiment I, but the result shows that the  
263 modifying treatment is noneffective. In order to make it clear,  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$ /glycerin composite  
264 (Experiment II) and  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$ /oleic acid composite (Experiment III) were designed and the MR  
265 behavior were detailedly discussed respectively. Contrary to the glycerin-modified  $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$  which  
266 has made a remarkable enhanced LFMR in our previous works, both of the composites in Experiment II  
267 and III don't exhibit the obviously increased MR. Based on the analysis of the experiments and the related  
268 works, we conclude the invalid MR effect on  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$ /oleic acid composite results from two  
269 respects: the lower spin polarization of carriers at the Fermi level and the weaker spin injection efficiency  
270 in GB derived from the oleic acid macromolecule. Maybe our work provides a direction for the MR  
271 enhancement of electron-doped double perovskite: it is necessary to maintain a high spin polarization in  
272 materials and select the small organic molecule to improve the tunneling process across GB. The further  
273 work is certainly required and we believe this is an interesting topic for future work.

## 274 **References**

- 275 [1] K.I. Kobayashi, T. Kimura, H. Sawada, K. Terakura, Y. Tokura, *Nature* 395, 677 (1998)  
276 [2] L. Balcells, J. Navarro, M. Bibes, A. Roig, B. Martínez, J. Fontcuberta, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 78, 781  
277 (2001)  
278 [3] J. Navarro, J. Nogués, J.S. Muñoz, J. Fontcuberta, *Phys. Rev. B* 67, 174416 (2003)  
279 [4] Z. Wang, A.H. Tavabi, L. Jin, J. Ruzs, D. Tyutyunnikov, H. Jiang, Y. Moritomo, J. Mayer, R.E. Dunin-  
280 Borkowski, R. Yu, J. Zhu, X. Zhong, *Nat. Mater.* 17, 221 (2018)  
281 [5] I. Hussain, M.S. Anwar, S.N. Khan, J.W. Kim, K.C. Chung, B.H. Koo, *J. Alloys Compd.* 694, 815  
282 (2017)  
283 [6] S. Varaprasad, K. Thyagarajan, Y. Markandeya, K. Suresh, G. Bhikshamaiah, *J. Mater. Sci. : Mater.*  
284 *Electron.* 29, 13606 (2018)  
285 [7] L.D. Hien, N.P. Duong, L.N. Anh, T.T. Loan, S. Soontaranon, A. de Visser, *J. Alloys Compd.* 793,  
286 375 (2019)  
287 [8] M. Tovar, M.T. Causa, A. Butera, J. Navarro, B. Martínez, J. Fontcuberta, M.C.G. Passeggi, *Phys.*

288 Rev. B 66, 024409 (2002)

289 [9] J. Navarro, C. Frontera, L. Balcells, B. Martínez, J. Fontcuberta, Phys. Rev. B 64, 092411 (2001)

290 [10] J. Fontcuberta, D. Rubi, C. Frontera, J.L. García-Muñoz, M. Wojcik, E. Jedryka, S. Nadolski, M.

291 Izquierdo, J. Avila, M.C. Asensio, J. Magn. Mater. 290-291, 974 (2005)

292 [11] C. Frontera, D. Rubi, J. Navarro, J.L. García-Muñoz, J. Fontcuberta, C. Ritter, Phys. Rev. B 68,

293 012412 (2003)

294 [12] Q. Zhang, Z.F. Xu, H.B. Sun, X. Zhang, H. Wang, G.H. Rao, J. Alloys Compd. 745, 525 (2018)

295 [13] J.F. Wang, T.F. Shi, Z.T. Zhuang, Q.Q. Gao, Y.M. Zhang, RSC Adv. 8, 29071 (2018)

296 [14] Imad Hussain, M.S. Anwar, S.N. Khan, Jong Woo Kin, Kook Chae Chung, Bom Heun Koo, J. Alloys

297 Compd. 694, 815 (2017)

298 [15] D. Serrate, J.M. De Teresa, J. Blasco, M.R. Ibarra, L. Morellón, C. Ritter, Appl. Phys. Lett. 80, 4573

299 (2002)

300 [16] D. Rubi, C. Frontera, J. Nogués, J. Fontcuberta, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 16, 3173 (2004)

301 [17] C.L. Yuan, S.G. Wang, W.H. Song, T. Yu, J.M. Dai, S.L. Ye, Y.P. Sun, Appl. Phys. Lett. 75, 3853

302 (1999)

303 [18] S.R. Shinde, S.B. Ogale, R.L. Greene, T. Venkatesan, K. Tsoi, S.W. Cheong, A.J. Millis, J. Appl.

304 Phys. 93, 1605 (2003)

305 [19] Y. Tomioka, T. Okuda, Y. Okimoto, R. Kumai, K. Kobayashi, Y. Tokura, Phys. Rev. B 61, 422 (2000)

306 [20] N. Kumar, G. Khurana, A. Gaur, R.K. Kotnala, J. Appl. Phys. 114, 053902 (2013)

307 [21] J. Zhang, W.J. Ji, J. Xu, Z.B. Gu, Y.B. Chen, S.T. Zhang, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 31, 225001

308 (2019)

309 [22] D. Niebieskikwiat, A. Caneiro, R.D. Sánchez, J. Fontcuberta, Phys. Rev. B 64, 180406 (2001)

310 [23] D. Niebieskikwiat, A. Caneiro, R.D. Sánchez, J. Fontcuberta, Phys. B 320, 107 (2002)

311 [24] L. Harnagea, B. Jurca, P. Berthet, J. Solid State Chem. 211, 219 (2014)

312 [25] D.D. Sarma, S. Ray, K. Tanaka, M. Kobayashi, A. Fujimori, P. Sanyal, H.R. Krishnamurthy, C.

313 Dasgupta, Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 157205 (2007)

314 [26] E. Burzo, I. Balasz, S. Constantinescu, I.G. Deac, J. Magn. Mater. 316, e741 (2007)

315 [27] D. Niebieskikwiat, F. Prado, A. Caneiro, R.D. Sánchez, Phys. Rev. B 70, 132412 (2004)

316 [28] J.-F. Wang, B. Hu, J. Zhang, Z.-B. Gu, S.-T. Zhang, J. Alloys Compd. 621, 131 (2015)

317 [29] J.F. Wang, J. Zhang, B. Hu, Z.B. Gu, S.T. Zhang, J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 47, 445003 (2014)

318 [30] W. Zhong, W. Liu, C.T. Au, Y.W. Du, Nanotechnology 17, 250 (2006)

319 [31] M. Saloaro, S. Majumdar, H. Huhtinen, P. Paturi, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 24, 366003 (2012)

320 [32] A. Nag, S. Jana, S. Middey, S. Ray, Indian J. Phys. 91, 883 (2017)

321 [33] F.J. Yue, S. Wang, L. Lin, H.F. Ding, D. Wu, Jo J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 45, 075001 (2012)

322 [34] S. Wang, F.J. Yue, D. Wu, F.M. Zhang, W. Zhong, Y.W. Du, Appl. Phys. Lett. 94, 012507 (2009)

323 [35] L. Xi, J.H. Du, J.H. Ma, Z. Wang, Y.L. Zuo, D.S. Xue, J. Alloys Compd. 550, 365 (2013)

324 [36] F.J. Yue, S. Wang, D. Wu, Appl. Phys. A 111, 347 (2013)

325

# Figures

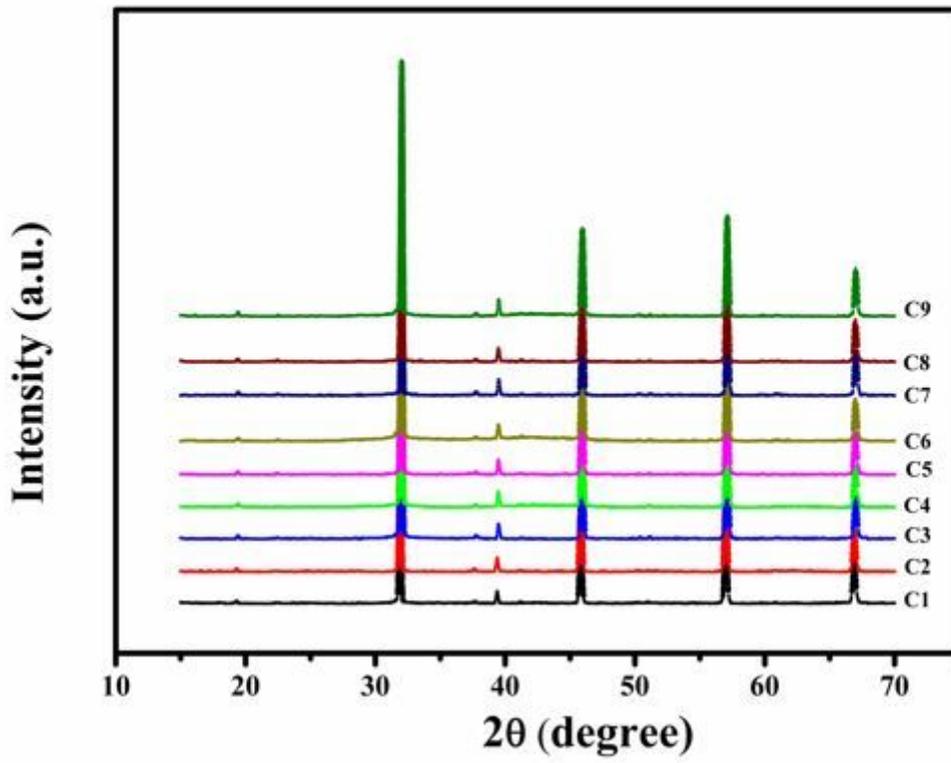


Figure 1

The XRD patterns of all prepared ceramics (C1-C9)

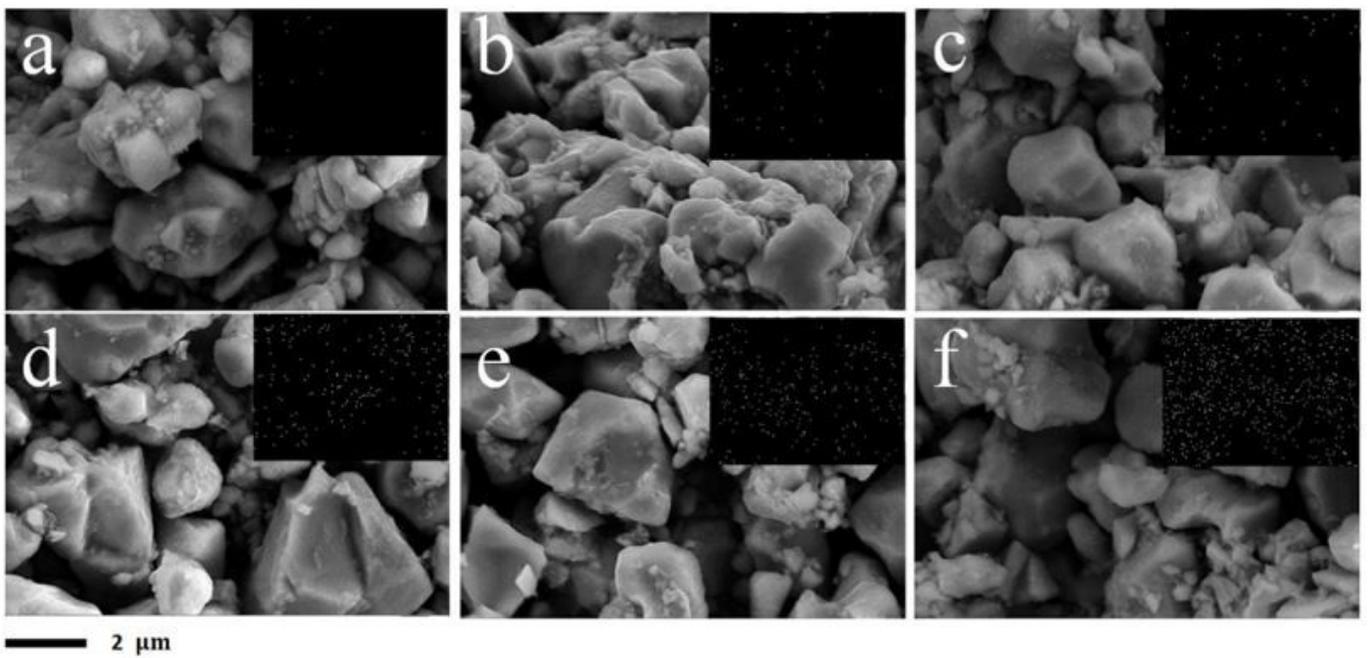


Figure 2

FESEM images of oleic acid/La<sub>0.5</sub>Sr<sub>1.5</sub>FeMoO<sub>6</sub> composites, (a-f) correspond to C1-C6 samples. The insets are the corresponding C element mappings

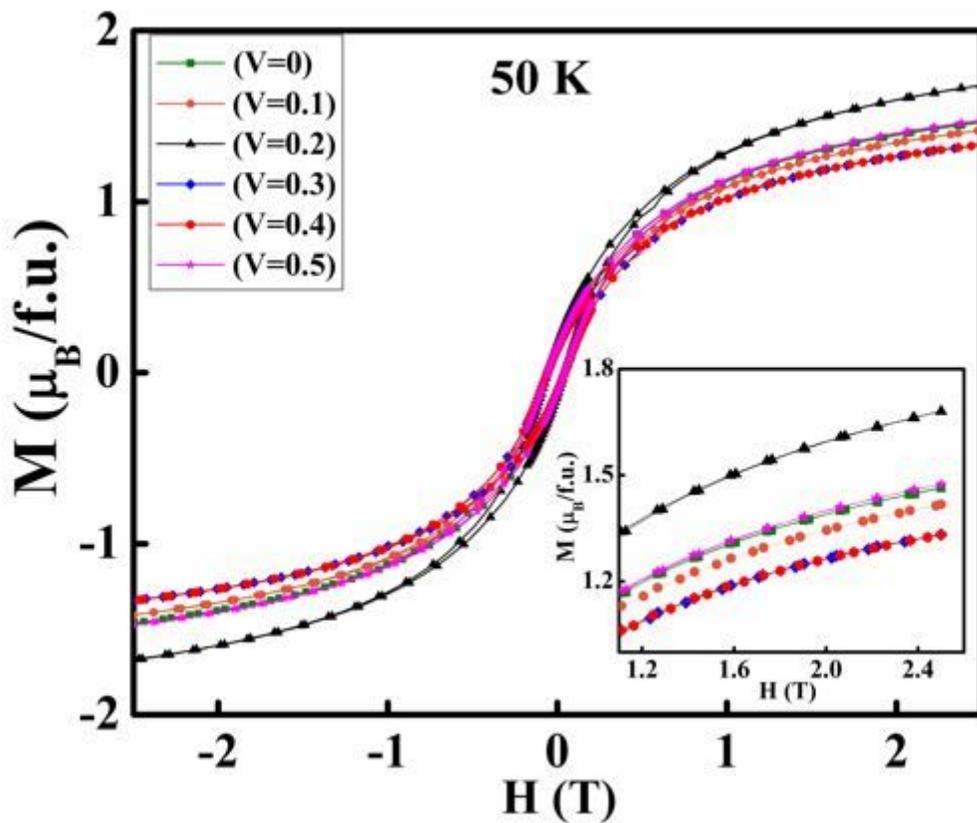


Figure 3

The magnetization versus magnetic field (M-H) curves measured at 50 K for Experiment  $\square$ . The inset is the locally enlarged M-H curves

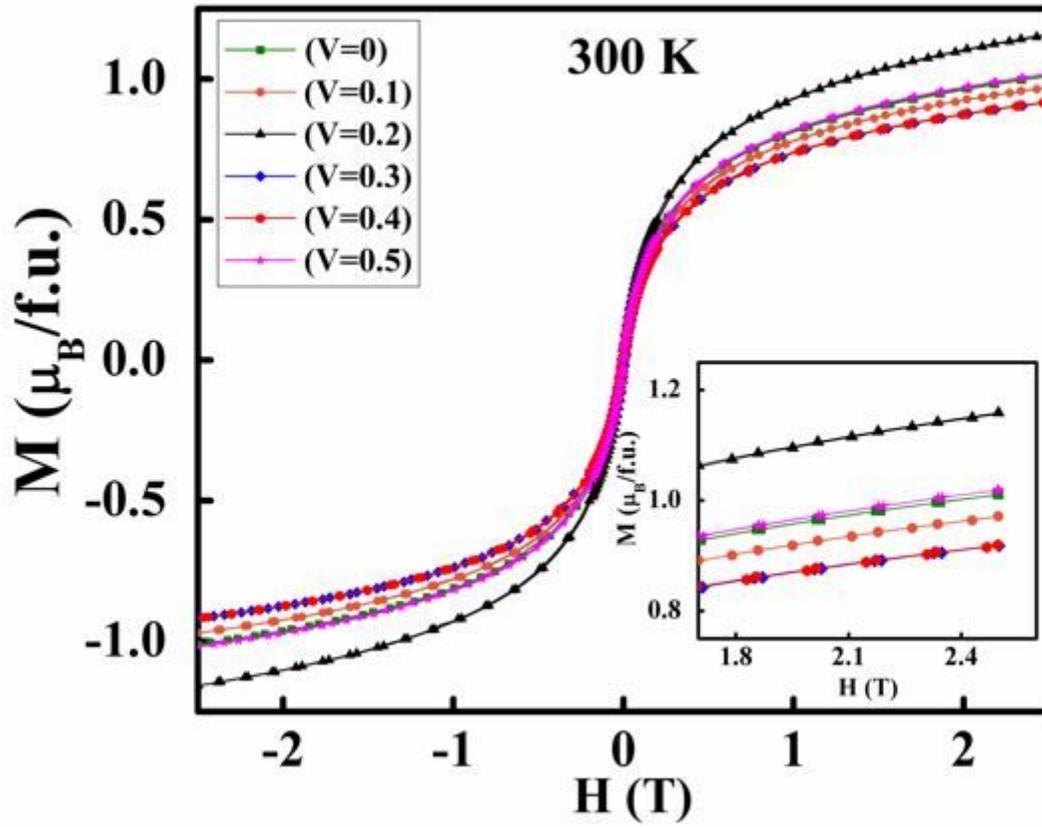


Figure 4

The magnetization versus magnetic field (M-H) curves measured at 300 K for C1-C6 in Experiment  $\square$ . The inset is the locally enlarged M-H curves

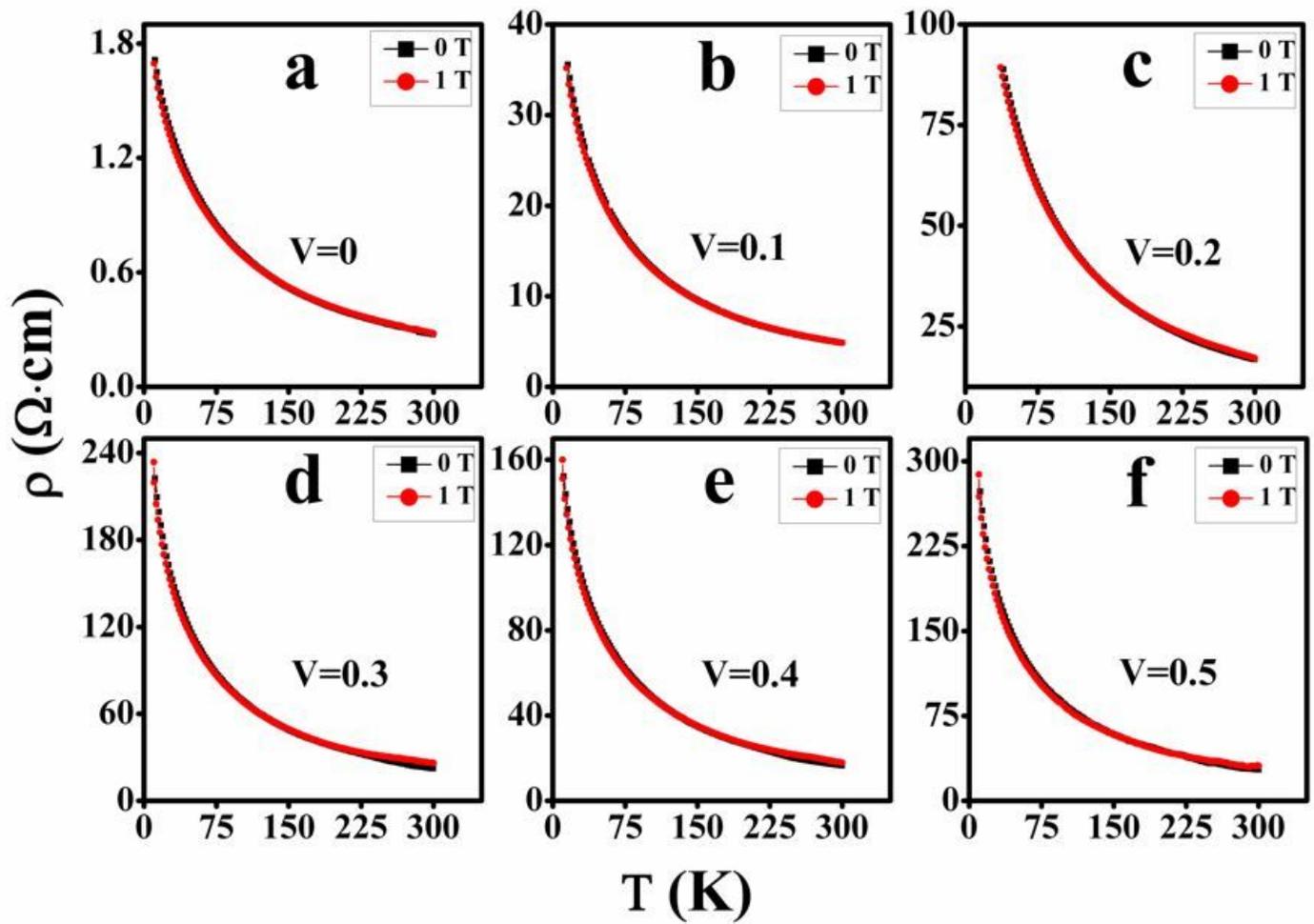


Figure 5

Temperature dependent resistivity curves for C1-C6 (a-f) measured at 10 K-300 K with 0 T and 1 T extra field

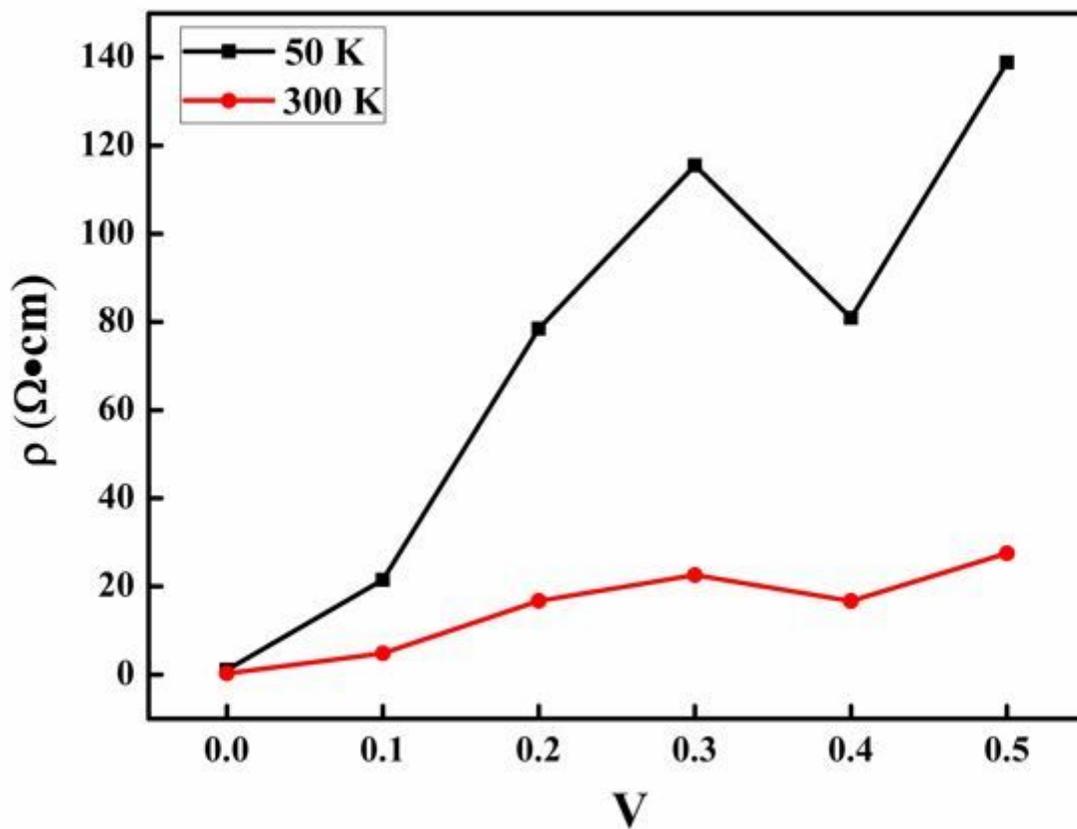


Figure 6

The resistivity-volume proportions curves of samples (C1-C6) at 50 K and 300 K with zero-field

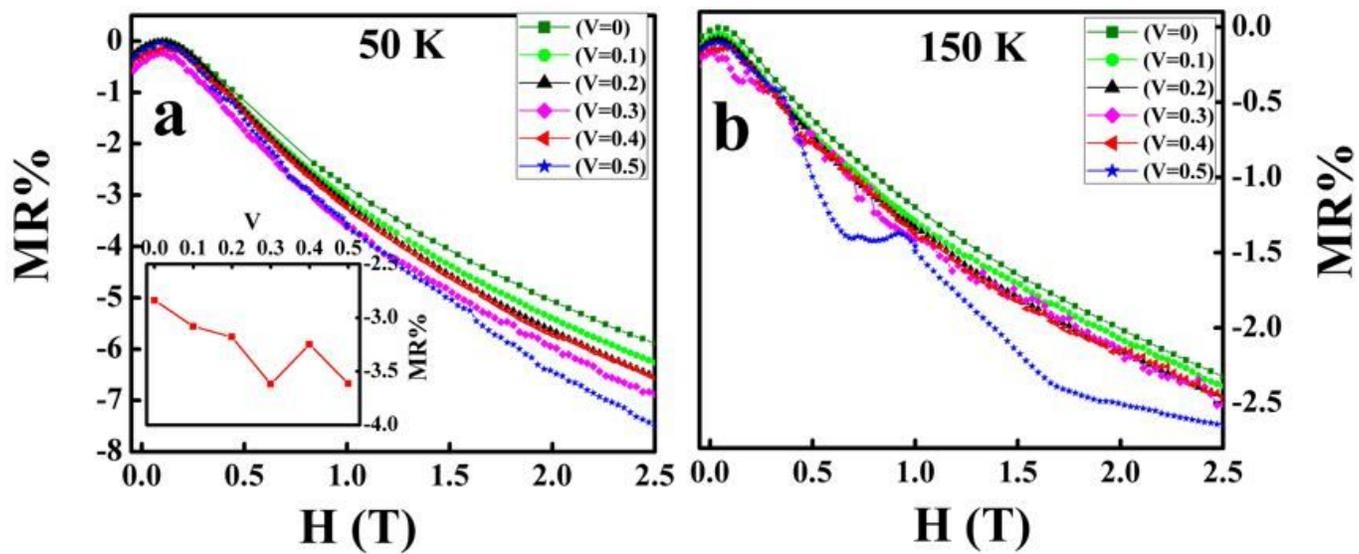


Figure 7

MR% versus applied magnetic field plots of  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{FeMoO}_6$  with different volume proportions of oleic acid/alcohol contents ( $V=0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5$ ) measured at 50 K (a) and 150 K (b). The inset in (a) was the volume proportions dependent MR at 1 T

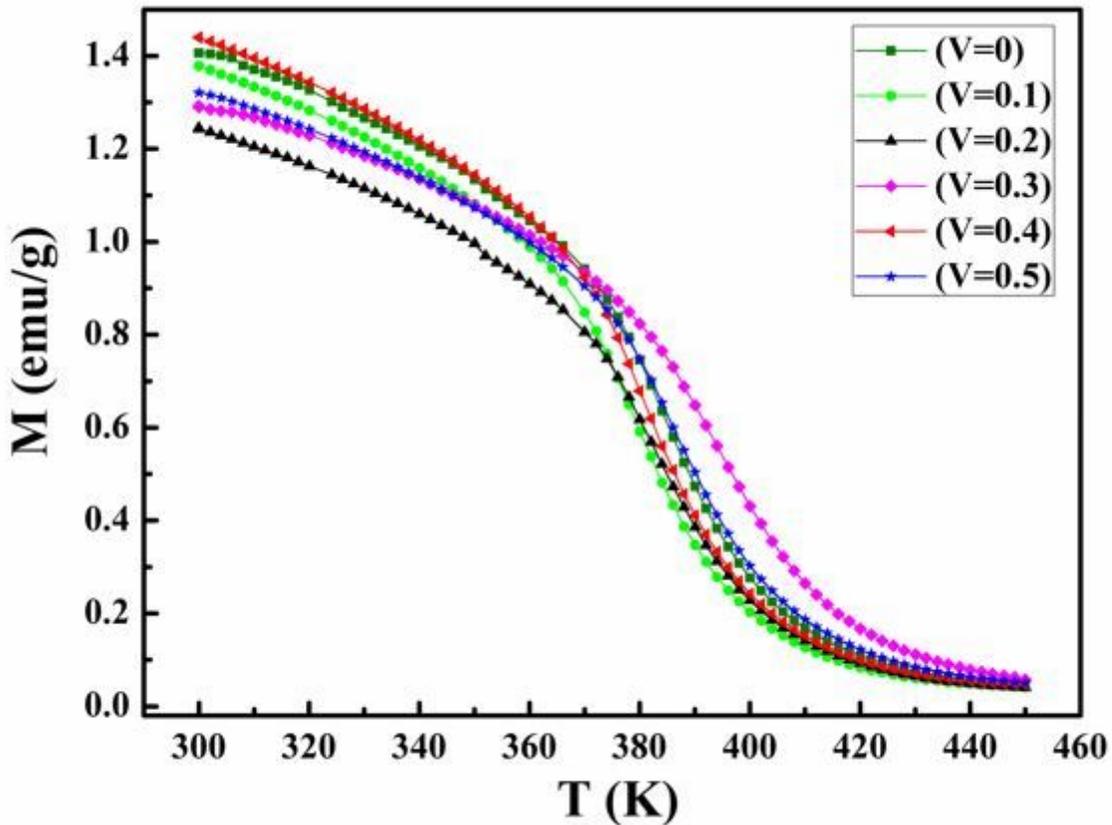


Figure 8

Magnetization-temperature (M-T) curves for C1-C6 measured from 300 K to 450 K

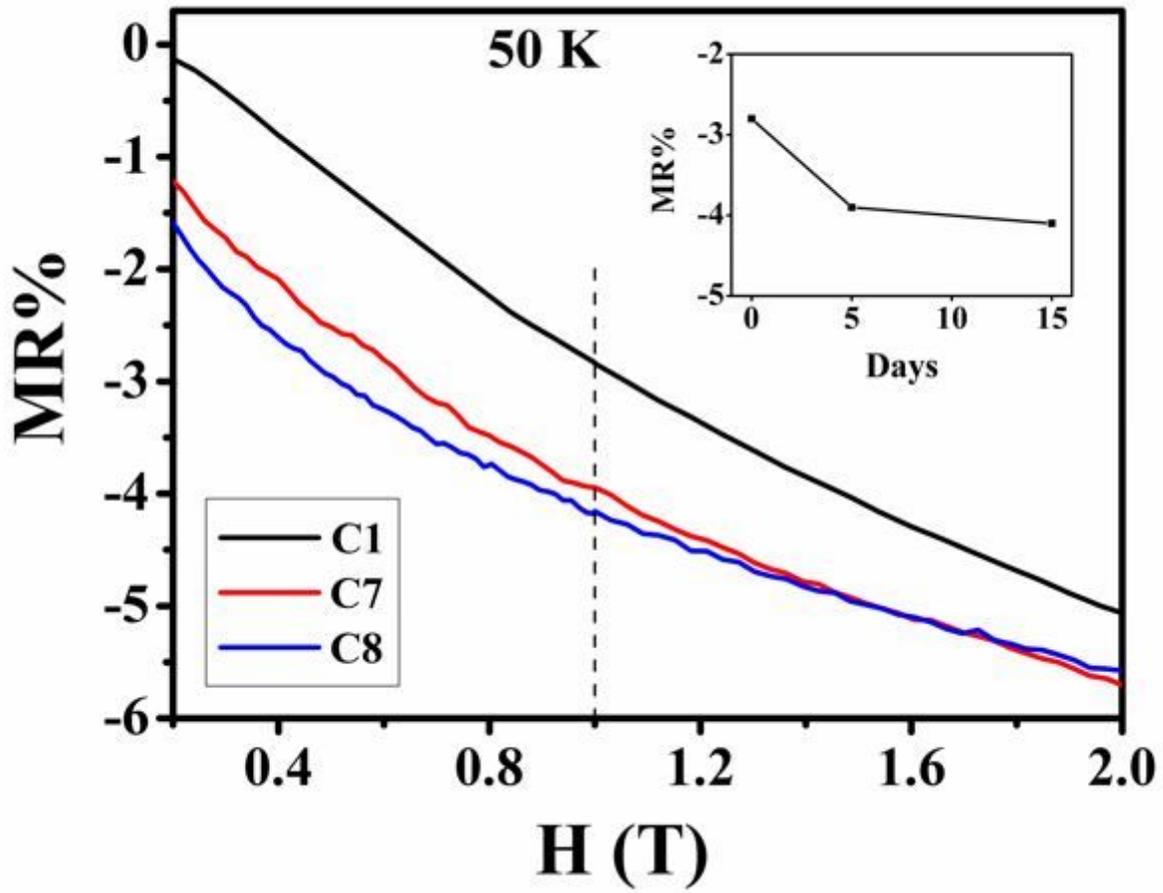


Figure 9

MR% versus applied magnetic field of C1, C7 and C8 measured at 50 K (Experiment  $\boxtimes$ ). The inset is the LFMR value at 1 T of C1, C7 and C8

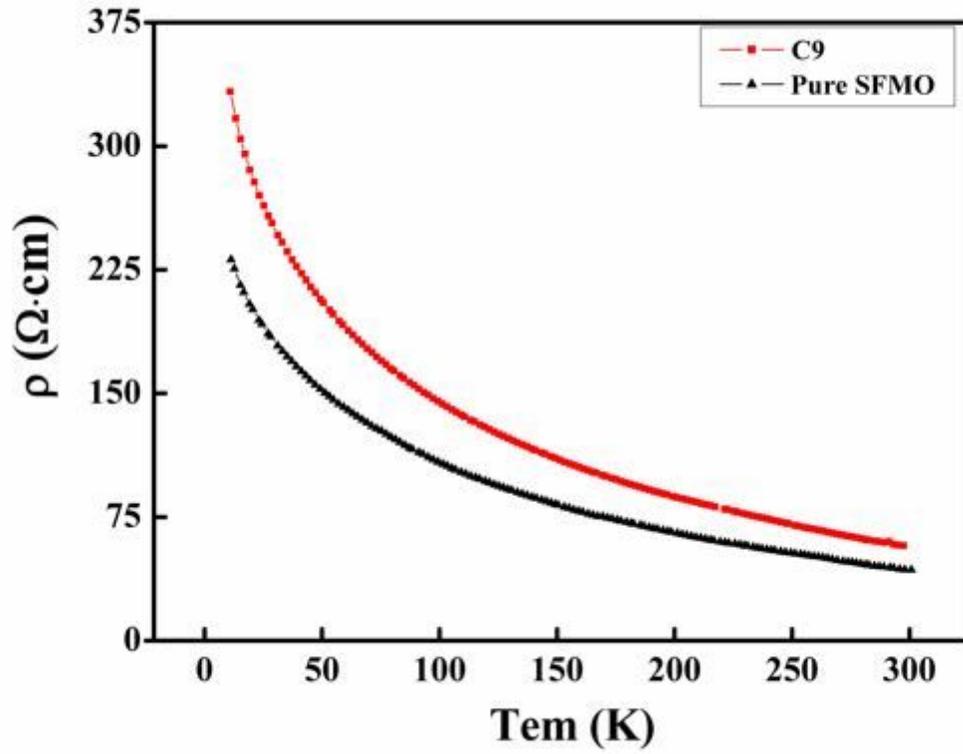


Figure 10

Resistivity versus temperature curves for pure SFMO and C9 at 10 K-300 K with zero-field

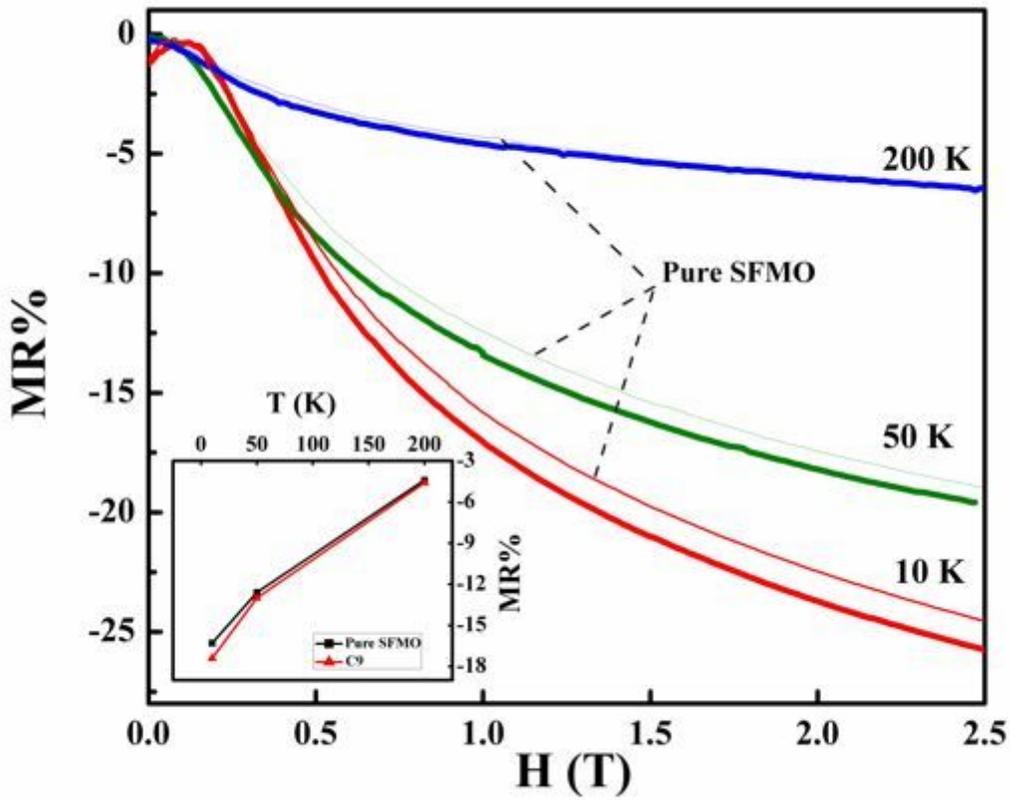


Figure 11

MR% versus applied magnetic field of pure SFMO sample (thin lines) and C9 (thick lines) measured at 10 K, 50 K and 200 K. The inset in figure is the measured temperature dependent low field magnetoresistance at 1 T for the two samples