



# Magnetic, electric and magnetocaloric properties of $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ perovskite: Monte Carlo study and ab-initio calculations

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## Abstract

Studies on the magnetic and electrical behavior of the perovskite complex  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ , which crystallizes in the orthorhombic structure and belongs to the symmetry group (Pbnm), have been conducted based on this study using numerical techniques. More specifically, we investigated the magnetic and electrical properties of the  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  material using approximations created within the framework of density functional theory, such as a full potential linearized augmented plane wave and the generalized gradient approximation. The magnetization, the transition temperature, as well as the fluctuation of the magnetic entropy, the specific heat, and the variation of the adiabatic temperature and relative cooling power, were analyzed using the Monte Carlo simulations when it was discovered via research that this compound exhibits spin-reorientation phenomena as it behaves like a conducting metal.

**Keywords** Monte Carlo simulations · Ab initio calculations · Perovskite · Spin reorientation · Metal material

## 1 Introduction

The manganites and ferrites perovskites are rich by magnetic and electrical properties, such as spin flop [1, 2], spin reorientation [3–6], multiferrocity [7–9], giant magnetoresistance [9–11], and giant magnetocaloric effect [12, 13]. The double exchange interaction is the main mechanism responsible for the magnetoresistance of manganites [8]. These systems exhibit spin-reorientation transition at the transition temperature. The behavior of perovskite structures is fundamentally governed by the exchange interactions between near neighbors, which lead to an arrangement of magnetic moments parallel to each other. It is noted nevertheless that the various orientations are not equivalent and that it is easier to align the magnetization on certain crystallographic axes called axis of easy magnetization. The rare earths orthoferrites  $\text{RMO}_3$  with the ions  $\text{M}^{3+}$  and  $\text{R}^{3+}$  are the site of a variety of interactions which exist between

these ions and which they are often anisotropic–symmetric, isotropic, and super-exchange interaction type [14]. It, therefore, follows an impact on the physical properties of these perovskites. One of the prominent phenomena, which characterizes these structures, is that of spin-reorientation.  $\text{RMO}_3$  is a weak ferromagnetic due to a small canted spin of the antiferromagnetic [15] arrangement of the  $\text{M}^{3+}$  sublattice. The interaction between R and M ions makes the moments belong to the parallel magnetic structure or antiparallel to the moments of  $\text{M}^{3+}$  ions. The phenomenon of spin reorientation is produced in the system under application of an external magnetic field, which is accompanied by the fact that the symmetry of this magnetic arrangement changes axis of easy magnetization by rotation of the moments [14].  $\text{EuFeO}_3$  is an orthoferrite that crystallizes in the perovskite orthorhombic structure with the Pbnm space group, which is the seat of a distortion of its crystallographic structure [16–18]. In this structure, the  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  ions are distributed, such that they populate the A and B sites of the dodecahedral and octahedral networks, respectively, this compound is good dielectric material. In this research, the magnetic, electric, and magnetocaloric properties of the  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  with Pbnm space group and were examined by using the Ab initio calculations and the Monte Carlo method. The prominent impact of the substitution of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ions which is a transition

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metal in the Fe sites of the  $\text{EuFeO}_3$  compound, gives rise to the jahn teller [19] distortion which causes the microscopic distortion of the oxygen octahedral, thus modifying the anion–cation distances which become long and short, in turn impacting the exchange parameters between  $\text{Mn}^{3+}\text{--Mn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}\text{--Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{--Fe}^{3+}$ . This compound exhibit a spin reorientation [14]. One of the effects that we have studied for this compound is the magnetocaloric effect (EMC) which is a physical property of the magnetic material consisting of warming or cooling of the material around its transition temperature when an external magnetic field is applied. Ab initio (from first principles) DFT calculations using approximations make it possible to study and calculate the behavior of materials based on the theory of quantum mechanics.

The electronic and magnetic properties of a series of perovskites and double perovskites were studied by simulations and experimentally [20–23].

Using the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) [24], we deduce the electrical and magnetic behavior by calculating the magnetic moments of Mn, Fe, Eu and O in the system. Magnetocaloric effect in perovskite  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  was studied using the Monte Carlo simulations. We obtain too The Néel temperature  $T_N$  of compound  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ . We present the adiabatic temperature variations and relative cooling power (RCP), as well as the dependency of the magnetization on temperature.

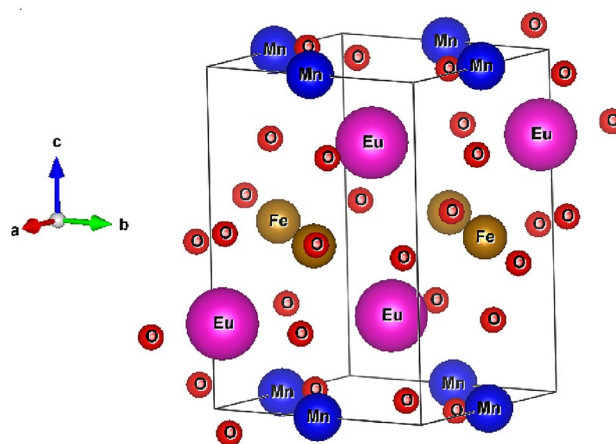
This work intends to study numerically and theoretically, the magnetic, electric properties and the magnetoelectric effect of the  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  Material (Fig. 1). The approach followed in this paper is as follows: we describe the Ab initio calculations to give the total and partial density of states (DOS) and the band structures of the  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  perovskite. We have also used the Monte Carlo simulations to give the variations of the magnetization, magnetic entropy changes, relative cooling power, specific heat changes and adiabatic temperature of  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ . Finally, we have finished by conclusion.

## 2 Ab initio calculations details

This part of the study is devoted to DFT calculations by the Full Augmented Plane Wave (FLAPW) [25] method and the generalized gradient approximation (GGA). We have solved in a self-consistent way Kohn–Sham equations, the muffin-tin approximation, consists in decoupling

**Table 1** The values of exchange interactions used in this work are given with Kelvein (K)

$J_{\text{FeFe}}^1 = +39.45$	$J_{\text{FeFe}}^2 = +37.056$	$J_{\text{FeMn}}^1 = +27.3$	$J_{\text{FeMn}}^2 = +28.1$
$J_{\text{FeEu}}^1 = -2.010$	$J_{\text{FeEu}}^2 = -1.010$	$J_{\text{EuEu}}^1 = +29.550$	$J_{\text{EuEu}}^2 = +27.550$
$J_{\text{MnEu}}^1 = -12.138$	$J_{\text{EuMn}}^2 = -8.038$	$J_{\text{MnMn}}^1 = +34.9$	$J_{\text{MnMn}}^2 = +34.9$



**Fig. 1** Crystallographic structure of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  perovskite

the space into two regions, inside the muffin-tin spheres where the local atomic potentials are spherically symmetrical and the outer region (interstitial) where the potential is smooth or varies very slowly which can be considered constant. The spheres do not overlap and the basis function inside each atomic sphere is a linear expansion of the radial solution of a spherical symmetry potential multiplied by spherical harmonics. In the interstitial region, the wave function was considered as an expansion of plane waves. In the nucleus region, core electrons in nuclei move faster and have been described by atomic wave functions solved in the relativistic framework using the current spherical part. The spin-polarized potential and the anti-ferromagnetic state were taken into consideration. The valence wave functions inside the muffin-tin spheres are expanded in terms of spherical harmonics up to  $l_{\text{max}} = 10$ . The energy of separation between the valence and core states is  $-9.0$  Ry. the  $R_{\text{MT}}$  taken at 2.5 and 2.5  $u$  for the Mn and Fe atoms, respectively. The k-points used in the calculations were based on  $10 \times 10 \times 10$  Monkhorst–Pack scheme. The  $R_{\text{min}}^{\text{MT}} k_{\text{max}} = 7.0$ , while the charge density was Fourier expanded  $G_{\text{max}} = 12$ . In this work, we are interested in the study of the physical properties of the component with parameters found experimentally by X-ray diffraction method  $a = 5.347$  (Å),  $b = 5.623$  (Å), and  $c = 7.602$  (Å) at 293 K [26]. The component crystallized as an orthorhombic perovskite belonging to the  $Pbnm$  space group.

## 3 Monte Carlo simulations

Along with theory and experiment, Monte Carlo simulation methods are one of the fundamental tenets of scientific investigation. The Monte Carlo simulation approach, which is based on the statistical physics principles, enables one to evaluate the average of physical quantities, such that the link

between the Boltzmann factor and the probability of a configuration whose energy is  $E$  as:  $\exp(\frac{E}{k_B T}) = \exp(-\beta E)$  where  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant, and  $T$  is the temperature absolute. The periodic cyclic conditions are imposed in the three dimensions. The Metropolis algorithm [28] will be applied to the Ising model to determine magnetic and magnetocaloric parameters of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ . This system will be described by the following Hamiltonian:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H = & -J_{FeFe}^1 \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} S_i S_j - J_{FeFe}^2 \sum_{\langle\langle i,k \rangle\rangle} S_i S_k - J_{MnMn}^1 \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle} \sigma_l \sigma_m \\
 & - J_{MnMn}^2 \sum_{\langle\langle l,n \rangle\rangle} \sigma_l \sigma_n - J_{EuEu}^1 \sum_{\langle p,q \rangle} q_p q_q - J_{EuEu}^2 \sum_{\langle\langle p,r \rangle\rangle} q_p q_r \\
 & - J_{FeMn}^1 \sum_{\langle i,l \rangle} S_i \sigma_l - J_{FeMn}^2 \sum_{\langle\langle i,m \rangle\rangle} S_i \sigma_m \\
 & - J_{FeEu}^1 \sum_{\langle i,n \rangle} S_i q_n - J_{FeEu}^2 \sum_{\langle\langle i,p \rangle\rangle} S_i q_p \\
 & - J_{MnEu}^1 \sum_{\langle l,p \rangle} \sigma_l q_p - J_{MnEu}^2 \sum_{\langle\langle l,q \rangle\rangle} \sigma_l q_q \\
 & - h \left( \sum_i S_i + \sum_k \sigma_k + \sum_l q_l \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

The terms in the Hamiltonian  $S(\text{Fe}) = 5/2$ ,  $\sigma(\text{Mn}) = 2$ ,  $q(\text{Eu}) = 3$  are the values of the spin moments of Fe, Mn and Eu, respectively.  $J_{AB}$  is an exchange parameter where A and B represents Fe, Mn and Eu, while the exponents  $i = 1$  and  $i = 2$  in  $J_{ij}$  indicate exchange parameter values between the first and the second neighbors in the environment of each one of Fe, Mn and Eu.

$\langle , \rangle$  and  $\langle\langle , \rangle\rangle$  are used to denote the interactions between first and second neighbors of each spin, respectively; the system is under the action of an external magnetic field  $h$ .

The ab initio calculations [25] were used to calculate the exchange parameters with Kevin unity, which take the following values (see Table 1).

The sample contains a spin number for each atom as follows:

Number of  $S(\text{Fe})$  in the system is  $N_1 = 2291$ , Number of  $\sigma(\text{Mn})$  in the system is  $N_2 = 2339$  and Number of  $q(\text{Eu})$  in the system is  $N_3 = 1300$ .

The investigations of the magnetic behaviors and magnetocaloric effects of the component can be deduced from the magnetization defined as  $M = \frac{1}{N} \langle \sum S_i \rangle$

where the internal energy of the system is  $E = \frac{1}{N} \langle H \rangle$

The magnetizations by spin of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  are

$$M_{\text{Fe}}^{3+} = \frac{1}{N_1} \sum_i \langle S_i(\text{Fe}) \rangle$$

$$M_{\text{Mn}}^{3+} = \frac{1}{N_2} \sum_i \langle \sigma_i(\text{Mn}) \rangle$$

$M_{\text{Eu}}^{3+} = \frac{1}{N_3} \sum_i \langle q_i(\text{Eu}) \rangle$  where  $S_i$ ,  $\sigma_i$  and  $q_i$  are the magnetic spins of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  magnetic ions. In addition,  $N = N_1 + N_2 + N_3$ .

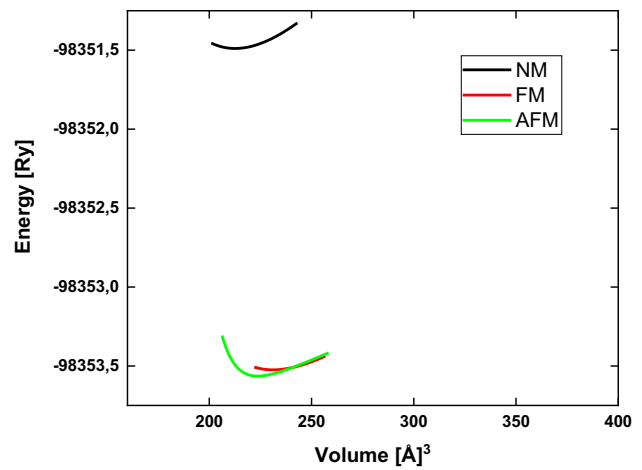


Fig. 2 The total energy vs. volume corresponding to the unit cell of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  perovskite

The total magnetization is given by

$$M = \frac{N_1 \times M_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} + N_2 \times M_{\text{Mn}^{3+}} + N_3 \times M_{\text{Eu}^{3+}}}{N_1 + N_2 + N_3}$$

Magnetic specific heat of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  is given by

$$C_m = \frac{\beta^2}{N} [\langle E^2 \rangle - \langle E \rangle^2] \text{ where } \beta = \frac{1}{KB}$$

From the following Maxwell's thermodynamic equations relations  $(\frac{\partial S_m}{\partial h})_T = (\frac{\partial M}{\partial T})_h$ , the entropy variation is associated with the magnetocaloric effect. Considering an isothermal environment, the variation of the corresponding magnetic entropy is given by the following relation:

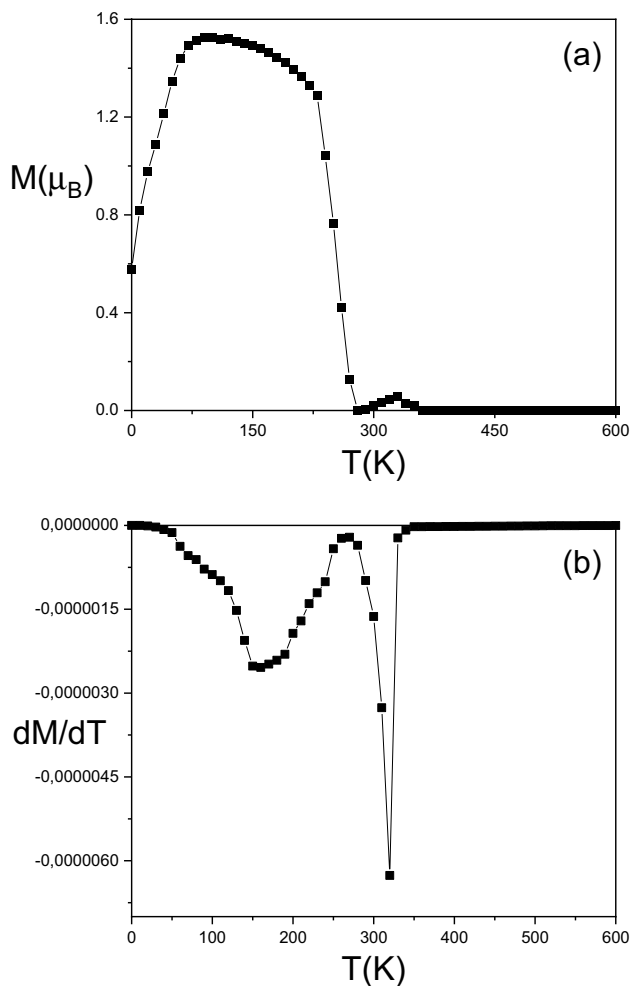
$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta S_m(T, h) &= S_m(T, h \neq 0) - S_m(T, 0) \\
 &= \int_0^{h_{\text{max}}} \left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \right)_{h_i} dh = \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \right)_{h_i}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $h_{\text{max}}$  is the maximum value of external magnetic field and  $(\frac{\partial M}{\partial T})_{h_i}$  is the thermal magnetization for a fixed magnetic field  $h_i$ .

The famous expression of relative cooling power RCP is:  $\text{RCP} = \int_{T_c}^{T_h} \Delta s(T) dT$ , where  $T_h$  and  $T_c$  are the hot and the cold temperatures, respectively.

## 4 Results and discussion

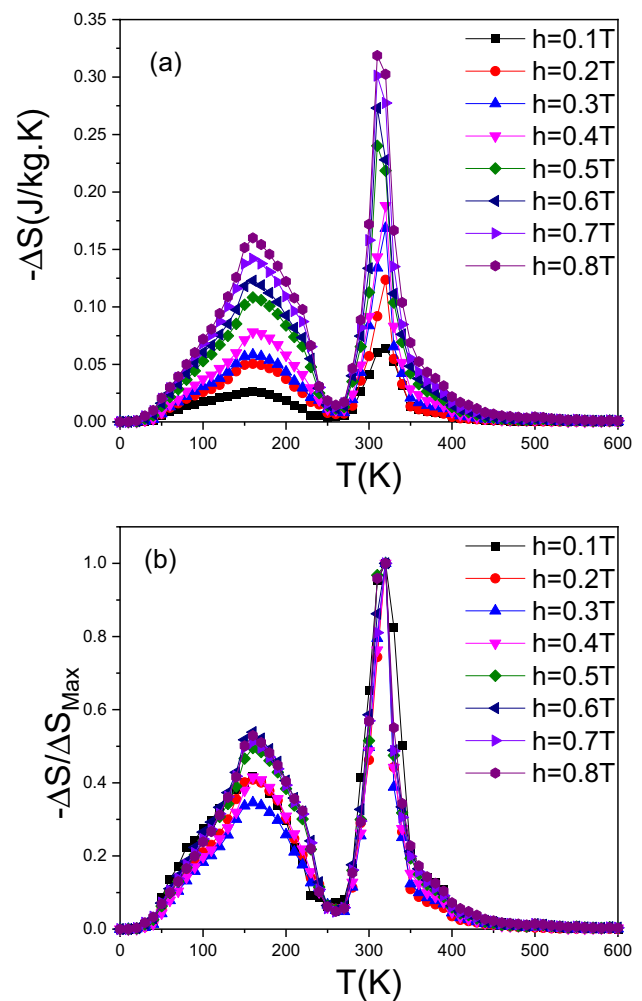
Ab initio calculations and Monte Carlo simulations have been used to study the magnetic and electrical properties of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  perovskite.



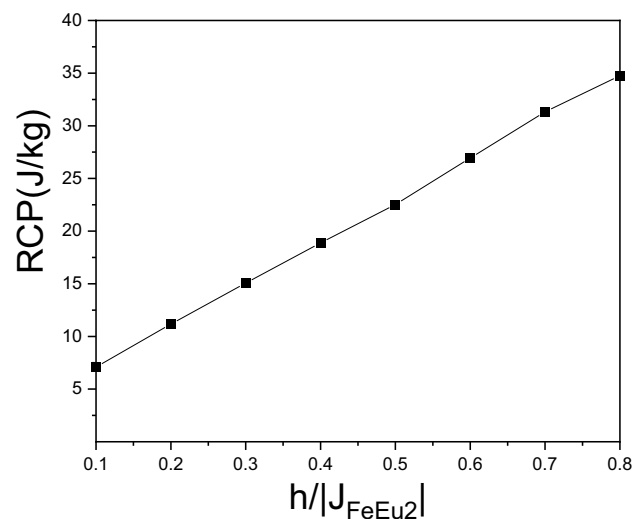
**Fig. 3** Magnetization **a** and  $dM/dT$  **b** vs. temperature

In this work, Murnaghan's equation of state is employed to plot the curve for minimizing total energy in Fig. 2. The model report that the antiferromagnetic magnetic structure is the most stable, such as given in Refs. [27, 28]. The structural parameters  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are obtained and stored in Table 2.

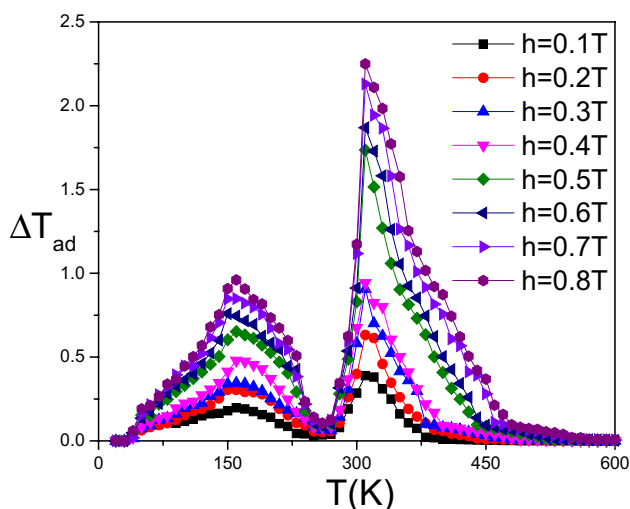
$E_{\text{Tot}} = \frac{VB_0}{B_0} \left( \frac{1}{1+B_0} \right) \left[ \frac{V_0}{V} + B_0 \left( 1 - \frac{V_0}{V} \right) - 1 \right] + E_0$  with  $V_0$  is the equilibrium volume,  $B_0$  and  $B$  are, respectively, the compressibility modulus and derivative of  $B_0$  is given in Table 2. Then, we have studied by Monte Carlo simulation the variation of the magnetization according to the temperature Fig. 3a which shows that there is a temperature lower than the transition temperature  $T_N \approx 310$  K for which the magnetization becomes zero. This temperature is the compensation temperature which characterizes ferrimagnetic materials.  $T_{\text{comp}} \approx 270$  K. note that the phenomenon of spin reorientation does not appear in this curve. on the other hand, in Fig. 3b which represents how  $dM/dT$  varies with



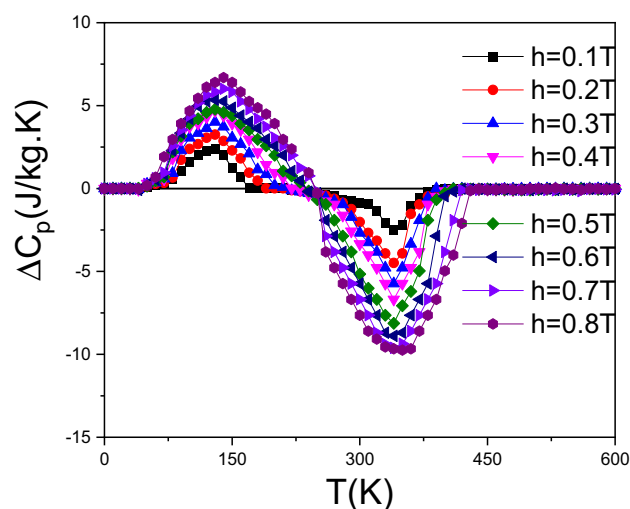
**Fig. 4** Temperature dependence of the magnetic entropy Changes for different external magnetic fields **(a)** and **(b)**



**Fig. 5** Variation relative cooling power with several external magnetic field

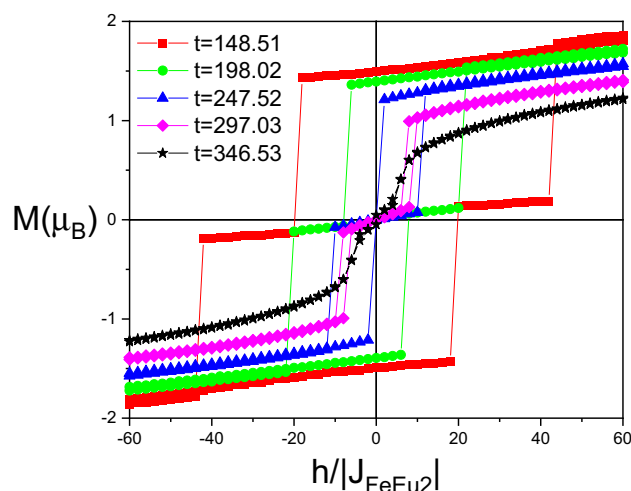


**Fig. 6** Temperature dependence of the adiabatic Temperature



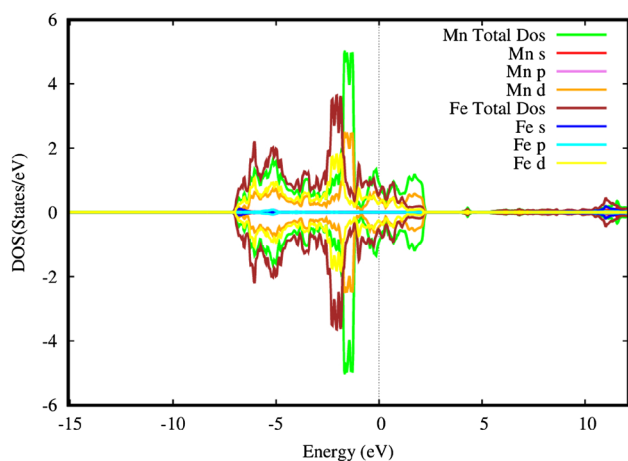
**Fig. 7** Dependence temperature of specific heat for several values of external magnetic field

temperature, we notice a rise in  $dM/dT$  indicating an increase in magnetization which evolves towards a new magnetic order (quasiparamagnetic phase) which is the spin reorientation which produced at temperature  $T_{sr} \approx 260$  K followed again by a decrease in  $dM/dT$  which will reach its minimum at transition temperature  $T_N = 310$  K. The application of a magnetic field allows to align the magnetic moments thus creating a form of order in the system, the transition from a disordered state to an ordered state is accompanied by a reduction of the entropy.  $\Delta S$  in Fig. 4a



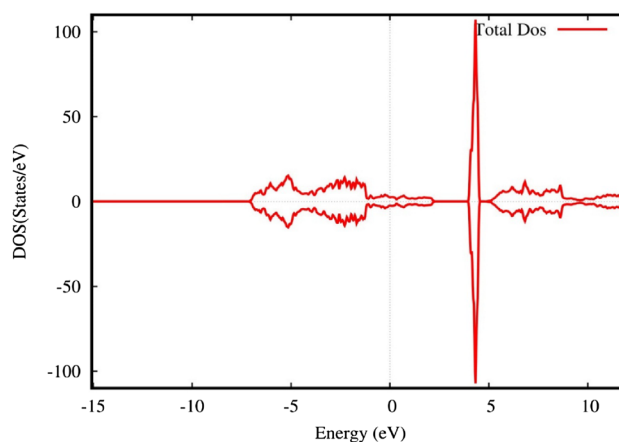
**Fig. 8** Hysteresis cycle for several temperatures of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$

represents the dependence of magnetic entropy on temperature for several values of the external magnetic field  $h$ . we see again and in agreement with the results of Fig. 3a. the spin reorientation which is manifested by the decrease in entropy  $S$  from the temperature  $T$  180 K and to reach a minimum value at a temperature of  $T_{sr} = 260$  K corresponding to a magnetic order then  $\Delta S$  begins to increase by increasing the temperature for take the value  $\Delta S_{\text{Max}}$  at the transition temperature  $T_N = 310$  K. The same behavior of  $\Delta S$  is observed in Fig. 4b. Variation relative cooling power with different several externals is plotted in Fig. 5. After then, changes in magnetic entropy and magnetic specific heat can be used to indirectly determine the adiabatic temperature change  $\Delta T_{\text{ad}}$ . Figure 6 illustrates the relationship between adiabatic temperature change and temperatures. The  $\Delta T_{\text{ad}}$  values of the perovskite are under  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  action of different values of external magnetic field, and the maximum of  $\Delta T_{\text{ad}}$  coincides with the transition temperature 310 K. This result confirmed that given in figures before. Moreover, The  $T_{\text{ad}}$  curves vary in the same way as the corresponding entropy reaching a maximum in the magnetic transition temperature interval. The maximum of  $\Delta T_{\text{ad}}$  is situated at the transition temperature point of 310 K. This result is consistent with those found in Fig 4a, b. In the plot of Fig. 7, the magnetic fluctuations are described by the specific heat, a parameter that changes with temperature. It was noted that throughout the period [0.50 K], the specific heat capacity curve does not change and stays at zero. Then, increases to reach a peak and begins to decrease until  $\Delta C_p = 0$  at the reorientation temperature  $T_{sr}$  found before. The specific heat continues to decrease until a peak indicating a second-order

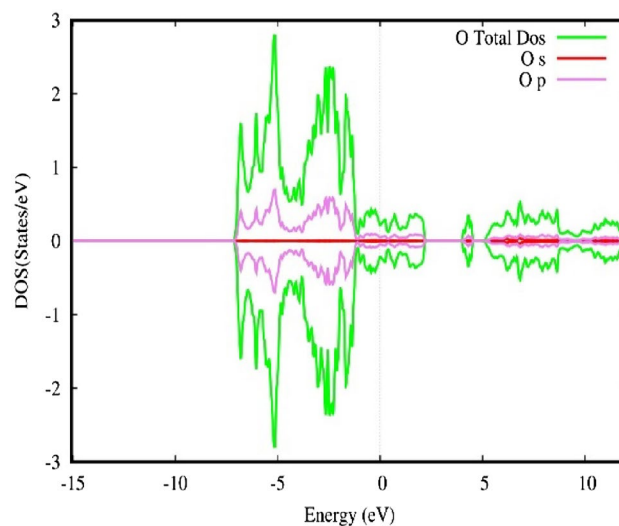


**Fig. 9** Total and partial DOS for both Fe and Mn atoms

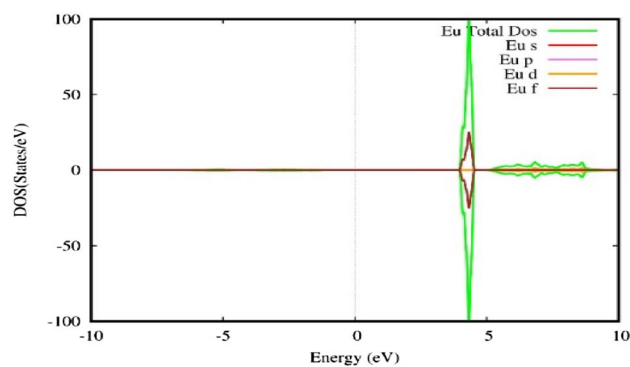
phase transition arrives. The temperature of the minimum  $T = 315$  K. Coincides with the transition temperature  $T_N$  called Néel temperature. The hysteresis cycles plotted in Fig. 8 for different temperature values show a double jump concerning the saturation magnetization, since it jumps discontinuously from one value to another during the symmetrical cycle of magnetization and demagnetization. The more the temperature increases the more the loop of the cycle tightens and disappears near the transition temperature  $T_N = 315$  K. In the perspective of investigating the electronic properties of the compound  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ , the partial and total densities of the states of this material have been studied using the GGA approximation and the results have been represented in Figs. 9, 10, 11 and 12, where 0 eV is used as the fixed Fermi level. From Figs. 9, 11 and 12, the partial DOS of Mn and Fe atoms were compared, and the results showed that Mn–d and Fe–d atoms have a large contribution in the cases of spin up and spin down, while atoms O and Eu show a weak magnetic contribution in compound  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ . The total, partial and interstitial magnetic moments of each atom in our system were calculated by using GGA (Table 3). Furthermore, it appears that the region of the valence band for the compound is located in the interval  $[-7.5; 0]$  eV is that it is composed essentially by d orbitals of Mn and Fe atoms (see partial DOS of Mn and Fe in Figs. 9, 11, 12 and 13). While the conduction band region for the compound  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  (Total DOS in Fig. 10) is only created by the s orbital of Eu. As a result of the total and partial DOS results, the contribution of the compound  $\text{EuMn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  is mainly due to Fe–d and Mn–d in the



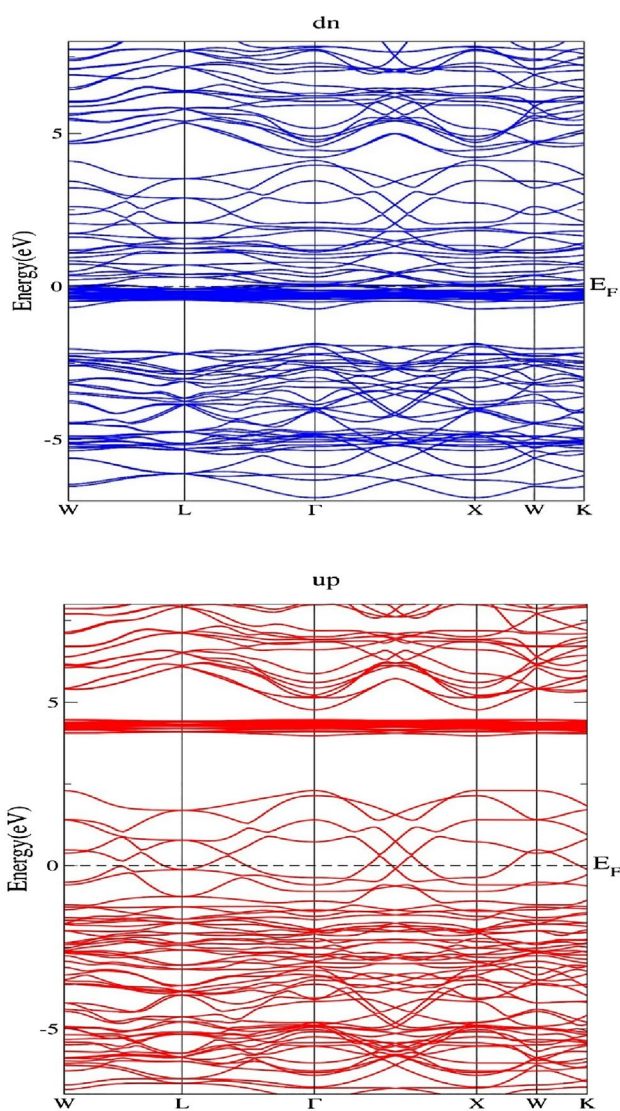
**Fig. 10** Total DOS of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$



**Fig. 11** Partial and total DOS of oxygen for s and p orbitals



**Fig. 12** Partial and total DOS of Europium



**Fig. 13** Band structure of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  using GGA for both spin up and spin down

**Table 2** Lattice parameters  $a_0(\text{Å})$ ,  $b_0(\text{Å})$ ,  $c_0(\text{Å})$ , equilibrium volume  $V_0(\text{Å}^3)$ , total energy  $E_0(\text{Ry})$ , bulk modulus  $B_0(\text{GPa})$  and its pressure derivative  $B'_0$  for  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  compound

Structure	$a_0(\text{Å})$	$b_0(\text{Å})$	$c_0(\text{Å})$	$V_0(\text{Å}^3)$	$E_0(\text{Ry})$	$B_0(\text{GPa})$	$B'_0$
$\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$	5.24852	5.51944	7.50269	223,169	- 98,351.49	515.224	27.215

**Table 3** Total, partial and interstitial magnetic moments calculated of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  using GGA

$M_{(\text{T})}(\mu_B)$	$M_{[\text{Eu}]}(\mu_B)$	$M_{[\text{Mn}]}(\mu_B)$	$M_{[\text{Fe}]}(\mu_B)$	$M_{[\text{O1}]}(\mu_B)$	$M_{[\text{O2}]}(\mu_B)$	$M_{[\text{O3}]}(\mu_B)$
- 11.55613	- 6.31441	3.00547	3.01526	0.12289	0.07695	0.15159

valence band regions and due to Eu-s in the conduction band. Moreover, the results showed that the up and down spins of total DOS are symmetric. Thus, proving the ferrimagnetic behavior of the compound. The band structure of the compound shows that there is an overlap between the valence band and the conduction band around the Fermi level and the gap between these two bands is zero. This property is that of a conductive metal.

### 5 Conclusion

A ferrimagnetic system makes up the perovskite model under study. We looked at the material's magnetic, electrical, and magnetocaloric characteristics using Monte Carlo simulations. Consequently, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the transition from the ferrimagnetic to the paramagnetic phases is of second order. The magnetization vs temperature graph shows the compensating phenomena. While the fluctuation curves of  $S$ ,  $dM/dT$ , and  $\Delta T_{ad}$  show the spin reorientation phenomena. In addition, the magnetocaloric effect of  $\text{EuFe}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  was investigated by using the Monte Carlo simulations. The portion of the investigation based on FLAPW and GGA revealed that Fe-d, Mn-d, and Eu-s in the compound are mostly responsible for the components magnetic. Equally on the electrical side the latter is metallic in character.

**Author's contribution** M.I: conceptualization, methodology, software, investigation, validation, formal analysis, formal analysis, no funding acquisition, writing—original draft preparation, writing—reviewing and editing, supervision, project administration. R.M: conceptualization, methodology, software, investigation, validation, formal analysis, formal analysis, no funding acquisition, writing—original draft preparation, writing—reviewing and editing, supervision, project administration.

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**Data availability** Not applicable.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interests** The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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