Thermodynamics and Kinetics-driven Dual States in FeMn(PSi) Alloys

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Fe₂P-type alloys have been an interesting research topic because of the potential application as magneto-caloric materials and also because of the rich physical properties for fundamental research. We have investigated the magnetic exchange interactions, microscopic theory of magnetism, magneto-elastic effect, the magneto-structural coupling in Fe₂P-type alloys as well as the phase stability of FeMnPSi alloys.

Here we report on thermodynamic-state and kinetic-process dependent dual magnetic states in FeMn(PSi) alloys. Our investigations are based in density functional theory formualted within the exact muffin-tin orbitals method in combination with the coherent potential approximation. We identify both ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic states in FeMnP_{0.75}Si_{0.25} [1] and confirm the co-existence of dual ferromagnetic orders in FeMnP_{0.55}Si_{0.45} [2]. We discuss that the thermodynamic state in the high temperature paramagnetic phase and the kinetic diffusion process upon cooling co-determine the magnetic order at low temperature. The results suggest that careful control of the kinetic diffusion process in FeMnPSi alloys serves as a another tuning parameter when searching for new magnetocaloric candidate materials.

Key Words: magnetocaloric, FeMnPSi, density functional, alloy theory **References**

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