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Effect of cobalt doping on structural and magnetic characterization of nanocrystalline  $Fe_{72-x}Co_xCr_{28}$  (10<X<22) alloys

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Effect of cobalt doping on structural and magnetic characterization of nanocrystalline

#### Fe<sub>72-x</sub>Co<sub>x</sub>Cr<sub>28</sub> (10<X<22) alloys

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#### Abstract

In this study, the effect of substitution of Co with Fe on structural and magnetic characteristics of nanocrystalline Fe-Co-Cr alloys has been investigated. In this regard, different combinations of Fe, Co and Cr elements with nominal composition of Fe<sub>72-x</sub>Co<sub>x</sub>Cr<sub>28</sub> (10<X<22) were mechanically milled and subsequently annealed in the range of 560-640 °C. The samples were characterized using X-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscopy and vibrating sample magnetometer. Based on results, during milling process Cr and Co elements have been dissolved in Fe matrix and Fe-Cr-Co solid solution (with combination of  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  spinodal phases) has been formed. The coercivity and saturation of magnetization of formed alloys were in the range of 110-187 Oe and 150-175 emu/g, respectively. The coercivity of Fe<sub>72-x</sub>Co<sub>x</sub>Cr<sub>28</sub> (10<X<22) alloys showed an anomalous behavior at 18 at.% of Co as a result of optimal interaction between  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  phases in this composition. The formed Fe-Co-Cr  $\alpha$ -phase solid solutions were not stable and transformed to  $\sigma$  and  $\gamma$  phases during annealing process at temperatures higher than 600 °C. The formation of non-magnetic  $\sigma$  and  $\gamma$  phases had destructive effect on magnetic properties of prepared samples with different composition. **Keywords:** Fe-Cr-Co, Mechanical alloying, Spinodal, Magnetic properties.

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