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Properties of Fe-Au alloy films near the structural transformation region

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Fe-Au alloys are characterized by the complete solubility, and form and exhibit an fcc-bcc structural transformation near the Fe-rich side of the system. The optical and magneto-optical properties of Fe-Au alloy films, and the influence of the structural fcc-bcc transformation on the electronic structure of the alloys are studied. The magneto-optical (equatorial Kerr effect : EKE) and optical properties of $Fe_{1-x}Au_x$ (0.10 $\langle x \langle 0.93 \rangle$) were investigated in the 0.5 - 5.0 eV energy range. The x-ray diffraction study shows the structural bcc-fcc transformation around 80 at.%. Noticeable changes in the optical properties of the alloys come from the structural bcc-fcc transformation : Fe1-xAux alloys with the bcc phase have an absorption peak at 2.1 - 2.2 eV (which results from the Fe peak at 2.4 eV) in the optical-conductivity spectra. This absorption peak disappears in the fcc phase. The shape and intensity of the EKE spectra as well as the field dependence of the magneto-optical response are also significantly changed. The first-principles calculations on the electronic structure and the optical properties of the Au-Fe alloys are used to explain the obtained results.