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Magnetism of ultrathin Fe film grown on GaAs(001) below 120K.

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We study growth kinetics and magnetic properties of ultrathin Fe films grown on GaAs(001) at low temperature (below ~120K). We intend such low temperature growth to suppress chemical reactions between Fe and substrate atoms (interface alloying and As- segregation). Through photoemission study using synchrotron radiation, we confirm that the interface alloying is negligibleand surface segregation of As is effectively blocked. As a result, chemically abrupt interface is obtained in the low temperature growth. Magnetic properties of these films, whose thickness varies from 1Å to 20Å, are studied by magnetic-optic Kerr effect (MOKE) and x-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD). Salient magnetic features are observed: the Fe film of ~1Å is magnetically alive. For 3Å thick Fe film, ferromagnetic order is already observed. Furthermore, the Fe film shows perpendicular magnetic anisotropy (PMA). The spin reorientation transition occurs between 4Å and 5Å film. For 5Å Fe film, the easy axis lies in the sample plane.