Influence of top Ag layer on ordered $L1_0$ FePt phase formation in thin Ag(0; 7,5 nm)/Fe₅₀Pt₅₀(15 nm) films on SiO₂/Si(001) substrates

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The promising material for use in magnetic recording with high density is films based on $L1_0$ FePt phase due to large magnetocrystalline anisotropy (7×106 J/m³).

The effect of an additional top Ag layer with low surface energy on diffusion processes of L_{10} FePt phase formation and its structural and magnetic properties in Ag (0; 7,5 nm)/Fe₅₀Pt₅₀(15 nm) films on SiO₂(100 nm)/Si(001) substrates were studied. It was established, that in as-deposited films disordered A1 FePt phase was formed. In Fe₅₀Pt₅₀ (15 nm) film the ordered L_{10} FePt phase was formed after annealing at temperature of 700°C. This process is accompanied by sharp coercivity increase. With increasing of annealing temperature the coercivity also rises.

It was found, that the initial compressive stresses in films affect on ordered L_{10} FePt phase formation. Compressive stress reduction caused by additional top Ag layer lead to increase of A1 FePt $\rightarrow L_{10}$ FePt phase transformation temperature to 800°C, wich is 100°C higher than in Fe₅₀Pt₅₀ film. The texture in the [001] direction, which is perpendicular to the substrate, increases. The compressive stress relaxation occurs with L_{10} FePt phase formation in films.