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COMPLEX VOLUME CHANGES INDUCED BY HIGH PRESSURE AND EXTERNAL MAGNETIC FIELD IN NI 2 MNSN-BASED HEUSLER ALLOY

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The Heusler Ni 2 Mn 1+x Sn 1-x alloys exhibit structural martensitic transformation from cubic (austenite) into orthorhombic (martensite) phase in a narrow composition range, $0.4 \le x \le 0.6$, only. The transformation is accompanied by a significant changes of volume, magnetization and by large anomalies in transport properties. We have studied forced volume magnetostriction, Joulian magnetostriction, thermal expansion and effect of high pressure on magnetization of the Ni 1.92 Mn 1.56 Sn 0.52 alloy in wide range of temperature, magnetic field and pressure. The pronounced decrease of magnetization under pressure, = -11.810 -3 GPa -1, points to an itinerant character of magnetism of the alloy. Using the Maxwell relation, dω/dH = - $\rho dM/dP$, the received value of dlnM/dP can be perfectly compare with value of forced volume magnetostriction, $d\omega/dH = 3.1110$ -6 T -1, received by dilatometric measurement at field above 0.3 T. The Joulian magnetostriction at low temperature and low magnetic field (with $\Delta L \parallel < 0$ and $\Delta L \boxtimes > 0$) confirms a competition between strengths of magnetocrystalline anisotropy and elastic energy in martensite of Ni 1.92 Mn 1.56 Sn 0.52 that is characterized by a zigzag twins structure. The relevant model proposed by O'Handley will be discussed. The observed change of volume during martensitic transformation of the alloy was verified by Xray diffraction measurements.

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