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**FERROMAGNETISM OF POLYCRYSTALLINE $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x$ ($x \sim 0.5$) FILMS
WITH A SELF-ORGANIZING STRUCTURE**

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The results of a comprehensive study of magnetic, magneto-transport and structural properties of nonstoichiometric $\text{Mn}_x\text{Si}_{1-x}$ ($x \approx 0.51-0.52$) films grown by the Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD) technique onto $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(0001)$ single crystal substrates at $T = 340^\circ\text{C}$ are presented. A highlight of used PLD method is the non-conventional (“shadow”) geometry with Kr as a scattering gas during the sample growth [1]. It is found that the films exhibit high-temperature (HT) ferromagnetism (FM) with the Curie temperature $T_C \approx 370$ K accompanied by positive sign anomalous Hall effect (AHE); they also reveal the polycrystalline structure with unusual distribution of grains in size and shape. It is established that HT FM order is originated from the bottom interfacial self-organizing nanocrystalline layer which consists of small (~ 5 nm) rounded grains. The upper layer adopted

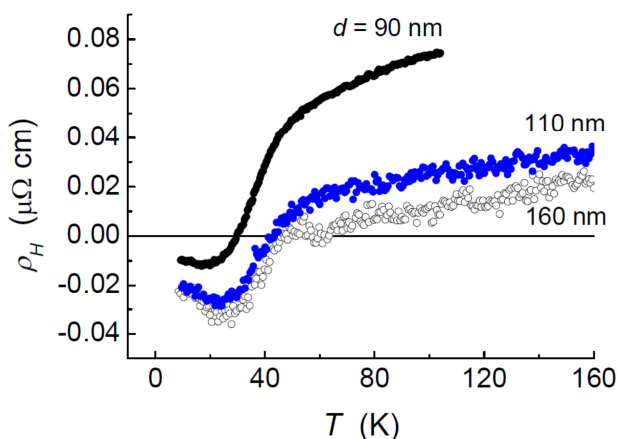


Fig.1. The temperature dependences of Hall resistivity $\rho_H(T)$ measured in the field $B = 1.2$ T for samples with various $\text{Mn}_x\text{Si}_{1-x}$ film thickness ($d \approx 90, 110$ and 160 nm).

columnar structure with the lateral grain size ≥ 50 nm, possesses low temperature (LT) type of FM order with $T_C \approx 46$ K and contributes essentially to the magnetization at $T \leq 50$ K. Under these conditions, AHE changes its sign from positive to negative at value of $T = 30-50$ K depending on film thickness (Fig.1). We attribute observed properties to the synergy of distribution of $\text{Mn}_x\text{Si}_{1-x}$ crystallites in size and shape as well as peculiarities of defect-induced FM order in shadow geometry grown polycrystalline $\text{Mn}_x\text{Si}_{1-x}$ ($x \approx 0.51-0.52$) films.

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[1] V.V. Rylkov, A.S. Bugaev, O.A. Novodvorskii et al., J. Magn. Magn. Mater., V.383, 39-43 (2015).