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Ferromagnetic interactions and martensitic transformation in Fe doped Ni-Mn-In shape memory alloys

D. N. Lobo,¹ K. R. Priolkar,^{1,a)} S. Emura,² and A. K. Nigam³

¹Department of Physics, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa 403 206, India

²Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, Osaka University, 8-1 Mihogaoka, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-0047, Japan

³Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba, Mumbai 400 005, India

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The structure, magnetic, and martensitic properties of Fe doped Ni-Mn-In magnetic shape memory alloys have been studied by differential scanning calorimetry, magnetization, resistivity, X-ray diffraction (XRD), and EXAFS. While $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ ($0 \leq x \leq 0.6$) alloys are ferromagnetic and non martensitic, the martensitic transformation temperature in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{1-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{1-y}\text{Fe}_y$ increases for lower Fe concentrations ($y \leq 0.05$) before decreasing sharply for higher Fe concentrations. XRD analysis reveals presence of cubic and tetragonal structural phases in $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ at room temperature with tetragonal phase content increasing with Fe doping. Even though the local structure around Mn and Ni in these Fe doped alloys is similar to martensitic Mn rich Ni-Mn-In alloys, presence of ferromagnetic interactions and structural disorder induced by Fe affect Mn-Ni-Mn antiferromagnetic interactions resulting in suppression of martensitic transformation in these Fe doped alloys.
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I. INTRODUCTION

The martensitic transformation is one of the most well known magnetostructural property of ferromagnetic shape memory alloys. It's relation to properties like large magneto-caloric effects, magnetic superelasticity¹⁻³ and magnetic field induced giant strains^{4,5} and exchange bias behaviour⁶ find applications in technology.

In case of Ni_2MnGa , a relation between the stability of the martensitic state and the dip in the minority-spin density of states (DOS) at the Fermi level leading to a formation of hybrid states of Ni $3d$ and Ga $4p$ minority-spin orbitals has been pointed out.^{7,8} Studies on $\text{Ni}_{2+x}\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{Ga}$ have shown that the partial substitution of Mn with Ni results in an increase of martensitic transformation temperature (T_M) and a decrease of ferromagnetic ordering temperature (T_C).^{9,10} EXAFS studies on $\text{Ni}_{2+x}\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{Ga}$ have reported the Ni-Ga bond length to be shorter than Ni-Mn bond length resulting in hybridization of Ni $3d$ and Ga $4p$ states.^{11,12}

Furthermore, local structural disorder has been shown to be an important factor in inducing martensitic transformations in Mn rich $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{In}_{1-x}$ alloys.¹³ With increasing Mn concentration the Ni-Mn bond distances decrease much more than Ni-In bond distances giving rise to a local structural disorder which is present well above T_M . These local structural distortions are believed to be responsible for Ni $3d$ -Mn $3d$ hybridization near Fermi level. Such a hybridization has been observed through hard X-ray photoelectron spectroscopic studies on $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{Sn}_{1-x}$ alloys.¹⁴ This Ni-Mn hybridization also plays an important role in the strength of antiferromagnetic interactions in the martensitic state of

these alloys.¹⁵ These antiferromagnetic interactions are present even in the austenitic phase.¹⁶

The above studies create an impression that local structural disorder caused by substitution of relatively bigger In atom by a smaller Mn is an important factor responsible for inducing martensitic transformation in Mn rich Ni-Mn-In alloys. The question then arises if martensitic transformation can be induced by doping atoms of similar size as that of Mn. However, doping with Cr or Fe for Mn in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.4}\text{In}_{0.6}$ has resulted in very contrasting results. While the substitution of Cr increases the martensitic transition temperature, a similar amount of Fe substitution decreases it drastically.¹⁷ Fe substitution is more interesting because very little Fe concentration can suppress martensitic transformation and the suppression of martensitic transformation can be related to strengthening of ferromagnetic interactions.

Fe doping in isostructural Ni_2MnGa has also shown some interesting trends. On one hand, a complete replacement of Mn with Fe results in T_M to drop from 202 K to 145 K in Ni_2MnGa while T_C increases from 376 K in Ni_2MnGa to 430 K in Ni_2FeGa .¹⁹⁻²¹ On the other hand, studies by Soto *et al.* on the effect of Fe substitution for different atomic species on the structural and magnetic transitions in the Ni-Mn-Ga alloys have indicated a slightly different picture.²² Substitution of Fe in place of Ni in $\text{Ni}_{52.5-x}\text{Mn}_{23}\text{Ga}_{24.5}\text{Fe}_x$ ($1.2 \leq x \leq 5.5$), or Fe for Ga in $\text{Ni}_{51.4}\text{Mn}_{24.5}\text{Ga}_{24.1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ ($0.7 \leq x \leq 2.0$) results in increase in T_C and a decrease in martensitic and premartensitic transformation temperatures. While Fe substitution for Mn in $\text{Ni}_{51.4}\text{Mn}_{25.2-x}\text{Ga}_{23.4}\text{Fe}_x$ shows no appreciable change at either T_M or T_C . It appears from their study that the transformation temperatures scale with e/a ratio.

The above studies indicate that the reasons for changes in martensitic transformation temperature and ferromagnetic ordering temperature on Fe doping in Ni-Mn based magnetic shape memory alloys are far from understood. Important

^{a)}Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. Electronic mail: krp@unigoa.ac.in

question that still remains unanswered is how a small percentage of Fe doping so drastically affects martensitic transformation as well as the magnetic interactions. Could there be other reasons like antisite disorder that have been shown to drastically affect martensitic properties of such alloys?^{23,24} Answering this question is also important in larger context of understanding factors responsible for driving the Mn rich Ni-Mn based Heusler alloys towards martensitic transformation as it would further cement the importance of antiferromagnetic interactions in martensitic transformation in these Mn rich Heusler alloys. To seek answers to these questions a study of structural, magnetic and transport properties of Fe doped Ni-Mn-In alloys has been taken up. In particular, we have investigated alloys of the type $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$, $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$, where $0 \leq y \leq 0.1$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{(1-x)}\text{Fe}_x$ with $0 \leq x \leq 0.55$. These compositions are chosen because the Mn rich alloys $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}$ undergo martensitic transformation in paramagnetic state and therefore do not have a ferromagnetically ordered state while Ni_2MnIn is a ferromagnetic alloy that does not undergo a martensitic transformation. It will therefore be of interest to study the effect of Fe doping on magnetic and martensitic transitions of these alloys. Our studies indicate that Fe doping induces a structural disorder which initially increases T_M but at higher doping concentration leads to formation of Fe rich regions. These regions not only strengthen ferromagnetic interactions but also directly affect the Mn-Ni-Mn antiferromagnetic interactions causing a substantial decrease in T_M .

II. EXPERIMENTAL

The alloys of above composition were prepared by arc melting the weighed constituents in argon atmosphere followed by encapsulating in a evacuated quartz tube and annealing at 750 °C for 48 h and subsequent quenching in ice cold water. The prepared alloys were cut in suitable sizes using a low speed diamond saw. A part of the sample was powdered and reannealed using the same procedure above by covering it in tantalum foil. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns on these reannealed powders were recorded at room temperature in the angular range of $20^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 100^\circ$. Resistivity was measured by standard four probe technique using a closed cycle helium refrigerator in the temperature range from 10 K to 330 K. Magnetization measurements were performed using a SQUID magnetometer. Here, the samples were first cooled from room temperature to 5 K in zero applied magnetic field and the data were recorded while warming (ZFC) followed by cooling (FCC) and subsequent warming (FCW) in the same applied field of 100 Oe. Differential Scanning calorimetric (DSC) measurements were carried out on some of the alloys to confirm their martensitic transformation temperature. For this pieces of 3 to 4 mg were crimped in aluminum pan and heated and cooled along with a crimped empty pan at the rate of 3°/min in the temperature range of 150 K–700 K. EXAFS at Ni K and Mn K edges were recorded at Photon Factory using beamline 12 °C at room temperature. For EXAFS measurements the samples to be used as absorbers, were ground to a fine

powder and uniformly distributed on a scotch tape. These sample coated strips were adjusted in number such that the absorption edge jump gave $\Delta\mu t \leq 1$, where $\Delta\mu$ is the change in absorption coefficient at the absorption edge and t is the thickness of the absorber. The incident and transmitted photon energies were simultaneously recorded using gas-ionization chambers as detectors. Measurements were carried out from 300 eV below the edge energy to 1000 eV above it with a 5 eV step in the pre-edge region and 2.5 eV step in the EXAFS region. At each edge, at least three scans were collected to average statistical noise. Data analysis was carried out using IFEFFIT²⁵ in ATHENA and ARTEMIS programs.²⁶ Here, theoretical fitting standards were computed with FEFF6.^{27,28} The data in the k range of 2 to 14 Å⁻¹ and R range of 1 to 3 Å were used for analysis.

III. RESULTS

A. $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ alloys

The martensitic transformation temperature in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{In}_{1-x}$ alloys scales with excess Mn concentration or the e/a ratio.^{2,29} The transformation temperature increases quite rapidly and the alloys with $x > 0.4$ (e/a ratio > 8) undergo martensitic transformation in a paramagnetic state. In the martensitic state, these alloys order magnetically with dominant antiferromagnetic interactions. While $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ has $T_M = 420$ K, it increases to 500 K in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}$ and further to 620 K in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.7}\text{In}_{0.3}$. This is quite a rapid increase in T_M for a relatively small change in Mn content. To study the effect of similar amount of Fe doping on martensitic transformation temperature, we have prepared $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.1$ alloys.

The XRD patterns for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{1-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ alloys, in limited range of $35 \leq 2\theta \leq 50$ are presented in Fig. 1. The XRD patterns in the entire range, $20 \leq 2\theta \leq 100$ are shown in Supplementary material.³⁰ The

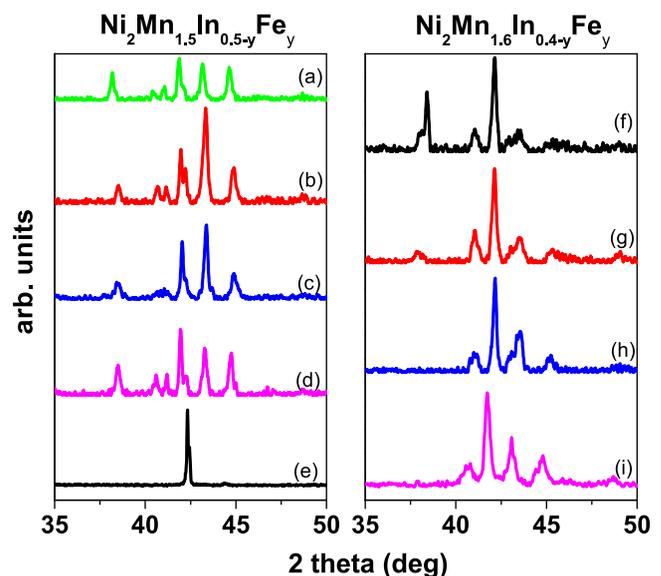


FIG. 1. XRD patterns for (a) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.48}\text{Fe}_{0.02}$, (b) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.465}\text{Fe}_{0.035}$, (c) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.45}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$, (d) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.425}\text{Fe}_{0.075}$, (e) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$, (f) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.38}\text{Fe}_{0.02}$, (g) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.37}\text{Fe}_{0.03}$, (h) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.35}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$, (i) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$.

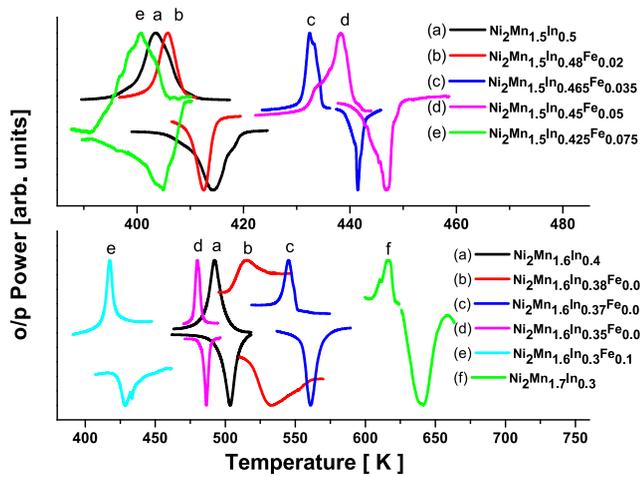


FIG. 2. DSC plots as a function of temperature for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ alloys.

patterns indicate that all the alloys have 7M modulated structure with the exception of $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$, which shows a cubic structure at room temperature. This implies that except for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$ all other alloys undergo martensitic transformation above room temperature while $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$ either has a stable cubic crystal structure or a martensitic transformation below room temperature.

In order to determine the martensitic transformation temperatures, DSC measurements were carried out on all the alloys. The heat output curves during heating and cooling cycles are presented for all alloys except for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$ in Fig. 2. Relatively sharp exothermic and endothermic peaks with hysteretic behaviour were observed, respectively, during cooling and heating cycles in all samples. These peaks indicate a transformation from high temperature austenitic phase to low temperature martensitic phase. The transformation temperature T_M is then

taken as average temperature of exothermic and endothermic peaks.

It can be seen that in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$, T_M increases slowly up to 5% Fe doping and then decreases rapidly. In the case of $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$, the martensitic transformation temperature is well below room temperature (at 120 K as deduced from resistivity measurements (not shown)). This fits well to the observed cubic austenitic structure in XRD at room temperature of this alloy. A similar variation of T_M is also observed in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$.

Magnetization measurements have been carried out for $y=0, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.1$ for the alloys $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ in a field of 100 Oe during ZFC, FCC, and FCW cycles and are plotted in Fig. 3. It can be seen that, both, $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ (Fig. 3(a)) and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}$ (Fig. 3(d)) undergo martensitic transformation in paramagnetic state as indicated by insets in Figs. 3(a) and 3(d). No signature of ferromagnetic transition is observed down to 5 K in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$. Similarly the alloys with $y=0.05$ for both series (Figs. 3(b) and 3(e)) also undergo martensitic transformation in paramagnetic state at 420 K and 500 K, respectively. While a sharp rise in magnetization is observed just above 300 K in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.35}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$ indicating a possibility of magnetic transition, no such transition is observed in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.45}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$. However, a small increase in magnetization is observed just above 300 K in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.45}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$ (Fig. 3(b)) and may be associated to magnetic ordering in the martensitic phase. A clear paramagnetic to ferromagnetic transitions are observed in $y=0.1$ alloys of both series (Figs. 3(c) and 3(f)). Martensitic transformation can also be seen to occur in both the alloys at 120 K (Fig. 3(c)) and at about 425 K (Fig. 3(f)). While the values of T_M obtained from magnetization curves agree quite well with those observed from DSC and resistivity, the magnetization measurements distinctly show that not

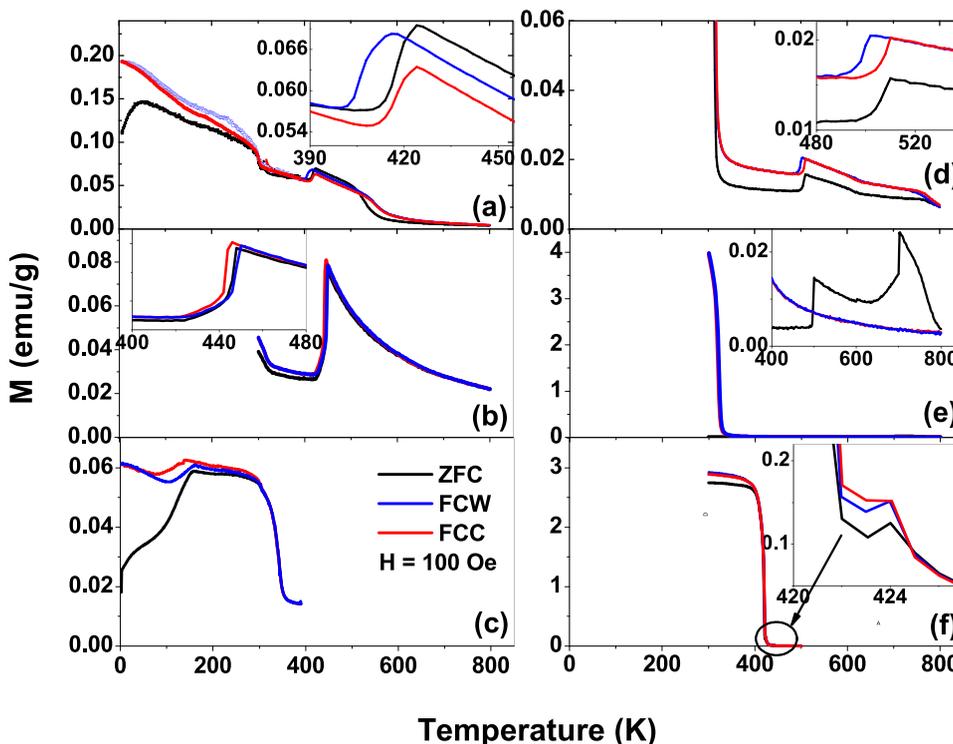


FIG. 3. Magnetization for (a) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$, (b) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.45}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$, (c) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$, (d) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}$, (e) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.35}\text{Fe}_{0.05}$, and (f) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$ alloys.

only T_C increases with increase in Fe concentration, ferromagnetism can also be induced in alloys with no prior ferromagnetic transition by Fe doping.

The variation of T_M with Fe concentration is plotted in Fig. 4. In the case for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$, the undoped compound transforms at 420 K. When Mn content is increased to 1.6, T_M increases to 500 K as shown by the blue dashed line in Fig. 4. As Fe is doped in the alloy to realize $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.1}$, the T_M initially increases to 440 K for $y=0.05$ and then sharply decreases to 120 K for $y=0.1$ as depicted by solid black line. Though a similar behaviour is seen in the case of $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ there is a distinct difference. The rate of decrease of T_M in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ is much sharper than in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ alloys. This could be due to higher amount of Mn atoms present at In sites.

B. $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys

In order to study the effect of Fe substitution in alloys that do not previously undergo martensitic transition, the alloys of the type $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$, $0 \leq x \leq 0.6$, were prepared. The resistivity plots for $x=0.35$ and 0.6 are presented in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b), respectively. These alloys show metallic behaviour throughout the temperature range from 300 K to 10 K with no discontinuity indicating martensitic transformation. The variation of resistivity is also identical to that in Ni_2MnIn as can be seen in inset of Fig. 5(b). The other alloys of this series also exhibit similar metallic behaviour.

Magnetization studies carried out on the same two alloys also support observations drawn from resistivity. Plots of magnetization as a function of temperature for $x=0.35$ and $x=0.6$ are plotted in Fig. 6. The alloys undergo a paramagnetic to ferromagnetic transition at 333 K and 334 K, respectively, and no other transitions are noted down to 5 K. Ni_2MnIn undergoes paramagnetic to ferromagnetic transition at 306 K (inset of Fig. 6(b)). Therefore, there is an increase in T_C due to Fe doping and is also supported by other studies in literature.^{20,31} At this stage a common observation that can be drawn is that irrespective of Mn concentration, doping of Fe leads to strengthening of ferromagnetic

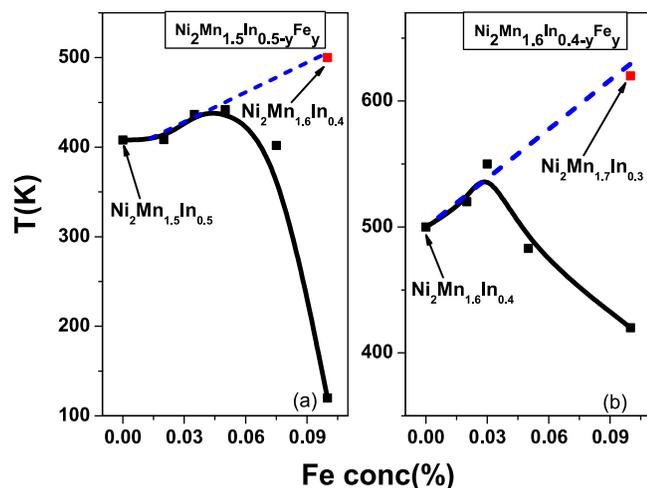


FIG. 4. Variation of T_M with Fe concentration for (a) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and (b) $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ alloy.

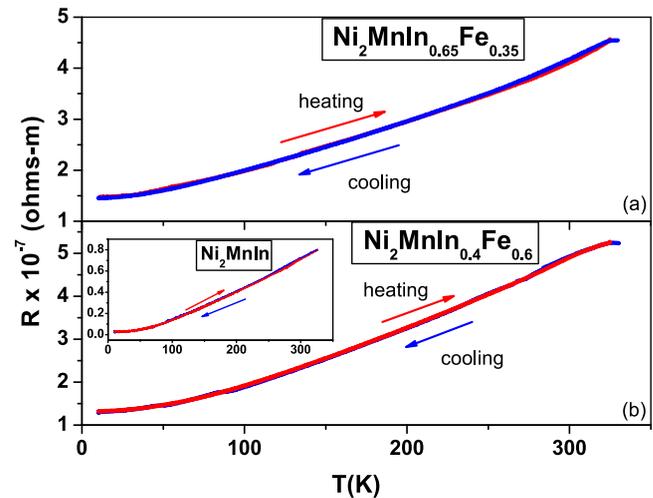


FIG. 5. Resistivity for $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys (a) for $x=0.35$ and (b) for $x=0.6$. The red and blue lines indicate warming and cooling cycles, respectively. The inset of (b) is the resistivity plot for Ni_2MnIn .

interactions. However, no martensitic transition is observed in $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ in spite of Fe content being in the same range as that in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{In}_{1-x}$. This is surprising as Fe should have introduced a similar local structural disorder as Mn upon doping in Ni_2MnIn . In order to understand the crystal and local structure of these Fe doped Ni_2MnIn , we have carried out XRD and Ni and Mn K edge EXAFS studies.

The room temperature XRD pattern for the series $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ ($0.35 \leq x \leq 0.6$) are shown in Fig. 7 and are compared with the room temperature XRD pattern of stoichiometric Ni_2MnIn alloy. Ni_2MnIn is in austenitic $L2_1$ phase of space group $\text{Fm}\bar{3}\text{m}$ and $a = 6.069 \text{ \AA}$.^{18,29} For the Fe doped alloys, besides the main (220) peak at $2\theta = 42.3^\circ$, a lower intensity peak at $2\theta = 43.2^\circ$ is also seen. This Bragg reflection grows in intensity with increasing Fe doping. The appearance of this along with some other peaks suggests the formation of tetragonal ($I4/mmm$) phase. The lattice parameters and percentage of cubic and tetragonal phases have been

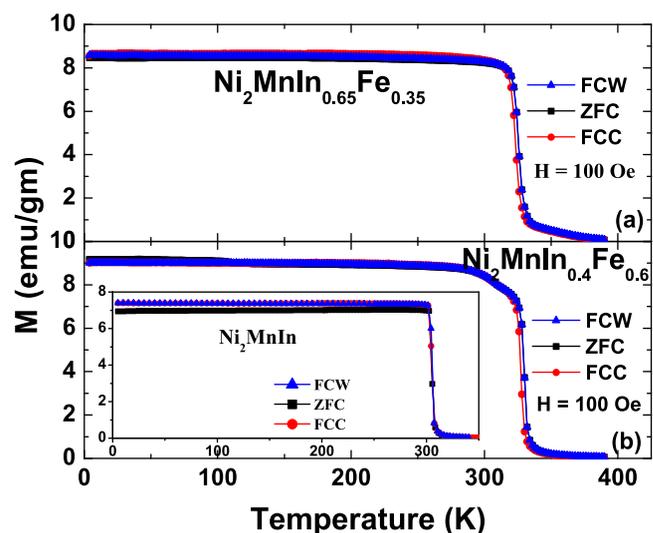


FIG. 6. Magnetization for $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys (a) for $x=0.35$ and (b) for $x=0.6$.

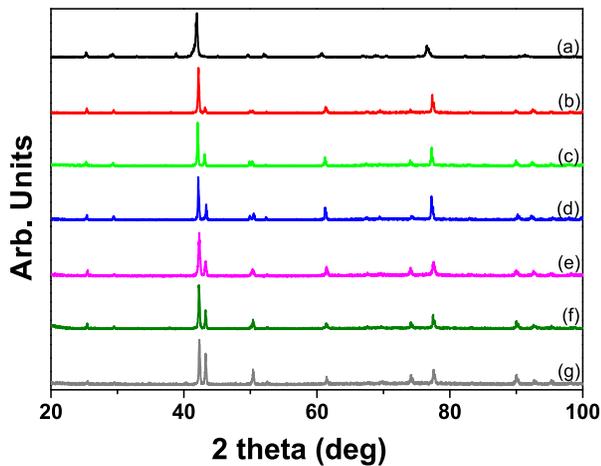


FIG. 7. XRD pattern for (a) Ni_2MnIn and (b) $x=0.35$ (c) $x=0.4$ (d) $x=0.45$ (e) $x=0.5$ (f) $x=0.55$ (g) $x=0.6$ for $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys.

found using Rietveld refinement and are given in Table I. It can be seen that amount of tetragonal phase increases with Fe doping.

The non modulated martensitic alloys have been reported to possess a similar structure, however, as seen from magnetization and resistivity studies, these Fe doped alloys do not undergo martensitic transformation. Another possible reason could be the presence of antisite disorder induced by Fe. Fe is known to prefer X as well as Y sites of X_2YZ Heusler structure as can be seen by the formation of Fe_2MnGa alloys.³² Such an antisite disorder can give rise to Fe-Fe ferromagnetic interactions leading to increase in T_C .

In order to compare the local structures of different atoms in these Fe doped alloys with that of Ni_2MnIn and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.4}\text{In}_{0.6}$ alloys, EXAFS analysis have been carried out at the Ni and Mn K edge for $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys. Due to strong absorption by Mn and interference of its EXAFS oscillations, Fe K EXAFS could not be analyzed. A

TABLE I. Table of percentage of cubic and tetragonal phases and lattice parameters for $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1+x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys.

Alloy	% composition	Lattice parameters
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.65}\text{Fe}_{0.35}$	Tetragonal:13.77(1.10)	$a = b = 4.275(1)$ $c = 5.746(1)$
	Cubic: 86.23 (3.23)	$a = 6.022(0)$
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.6}\text{Fe}_{0.4}$	Tetragonal:24.49(1.85)	$a = b = 4.268(0)$ $c = 5.747(1)$
	Cubic: 75.51 (3.80)	$a = 6.023(0)$
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.55}\text{Fe}_{0.45}$	Tetragonal:31.03(2.23)	$a = b = 4.271$ $c = 5.752$
	Cubic: 68.97 (3.87)	$a = 6.019(1)$
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}$	Tetragonal:30.70(2.13)	$a = b = 4.273(1)$ $c = 5.761(1)$
	Cubic: 69.30(3.64)	$a = 6.021(1)$
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.45}\text{Fe}_{0.55}$	Tetragonal:30.26(2.10)	$a = b = 4.271(0)$ $c = 5.751(0)$
	Cubic: 69.74(3.68)	$a = 6.019(0)$
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.6}$	Tetragonal:38.83(3.04)	$a = b = 4.263(1)$ $c = 5.780(1)$
	Cubic: 61.17(4.26)	$a = 6.020(1)$

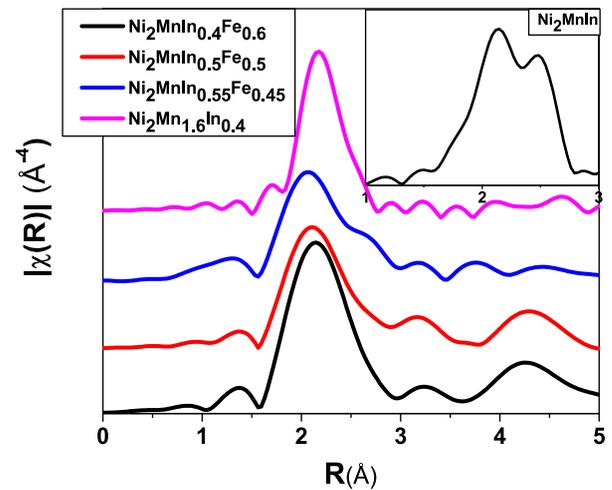


FIG. 8. Magnitude of FT plots for (a) $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{(1-x)}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys with inset plot for Ni_2MnIn .

comparison of near edge features at Fe K edge with those of Mn and Ni in the same alloy also did not lead to any clear conclusion. This could either be due to interference of Mn EXAFS and/or site occupancy disorder. The magnitude of Fourier transform (FT) at the Ni K edge in the interval of $R=1$ to 3 \AA for $x=0.45, 0.5$, and 0.6 along with $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.4}\text{In}_{0.6}$ are shown in Fig. 8. The FT magnitude of Ni K EXAFS in Ni_2MnIn is also shown as an inset in the Fig. 8.

The observed FT magnitudes in Fe doped alloys are very similar to that of $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.4}\text{In}_{0.6}$ rather than that in Ni_2MnIn . Earlier EXAFS studies^{13,33} on $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{In}_{1-x}$ have reported that the dual peak structure in case of Ni_2MnIn is due to different back-scattering amplitudes and phases from equidistant Mn and In atoms surrounding the absorber (Ni) atom. Increasing Mn doping in place of In, results in a single peak due to local structure distortion arising due to shorter Ni-Mn bond distance than Ni-In bond distance.^{13,33} Therefore, the observation of a single peak in the magnitude of FT plot in $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys is also suggestive of a local structural disorder around the Ni atom. The various bond lengths obtained for fitting Ni and Mn K edge EXAFS in $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.6}$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}$ alloys are presented in Table II. The fitted spectra in R space and back transformed k space for one of the composition are shown in Supplementary material.³⁰ The difference in Ni-Mn/Fe and

TABLE II. Bond distances obtained from analysis of Ni and Mn K edge EXAFS in $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1+x}\text{Fe}_{1-x}$ alloys for cubic phase. The numbers in parenthesis indicate uncertainty in the last digit.

Sample	Ni EXAFS			Mn EXAFS		
	Bond length (\AA)					
$\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}$	Ni-Mn/Fe	Ni-In	Ni-Ni	Mn-Ni	Mn-In	Mn-Mn
	2.557(4)	2.600(3)	3.00(1)	2.574(4)	3.03(1)	2.950(1)
σ^2 :	0.012(1)	0.010(1)	0.037(7)	0.012(1)	0.029(1)	0.021(2)
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.6}$	2.522(4)	2.628(4)	3.02(2)	2.55(1)	2.937(6)	2.925(6)
	σ^2 :	0.014(1)	0.004(1)	0.023(2)	0.012(1)	0.008(1)
$\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}$	2.534(4)	2.622(2)	3.04(1)	2.550(3)	2.931(4)	2.91(1)
	σ^2 :	0.019(1)	0.004(1)	0.022(1)	0.012(1)	0.013(1)

Ni-In bond distances is quite evident from the table. These values of bond distances for the Fe doped alloys compare well with those obtained for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4}$. Though the observed difference in Ni-Mn/Fe and Ni-In bond distances cannot merely be accounted for by the observed tetragonality in the structure, the increase in the amount of tetragonal phase with increasing Fe content indicates that the local structural disorder evident in EXAFS studies of $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys could be the cause for formation of tetragonal phase.

IV. DISCUSSION

The studies on structural, magnetic, and transport properties of Fe doped Ni-Mn-In alloys of the type $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$, $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$, and $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1+x}\text{Fe}_{1-x}$ indicate that Fe doping, irrespective of Mn content induces ferromagnetic correlations that lead to alloys either ordering ferromagnetically or display an increase in their T_C . Further, Fe doping also leads to increased structural disorder, which could be a result of site occupancy disorder. Such a disorder severely affects martensitic transformation temperature. This is clear from the fact that at low Fe doping concentration in martensitic Ni-Mn-In alloys, T_M increases slightly and appears to scale on the same lines as the increase in T_M with Mn doping in Ni_2MnIn . However, beyond a certain critical concentration which depends on Mn content, T_M significantly reduces, but at a rate that is dependent on Mn content in the starting composition.

In the case of $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$, increasing the Fe substitution for In up to 5%, causes the martensitic transformation temperature to increase. Such a situation is also observed for $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ ($y \leq 0.03$) alloys. Further increase in Fe content leads to a sharp drop in martensitic transformation temperature. While in case of $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$, T_M reduces from 440 K ($y = 0.05$) to 120 K ($y = 0.1$), in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$, T_M decreases only to 410 K ($y = 0.1$) from 540 K ($y = 0.03$). This clearly brings out the fact that rate of decrease of T_M depends on the total Mn content.

EXAFS studies on $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{In}_{1-x}$ have shown the importance of local structure distortions in inducing martensitic transformation.³³ Such local structural distortions lead to a hybridization of Ni $3d$ and Mn $3d$ orbitals and which plays a role in antiferromagnetic interactions in the martensitic state.¹⁵ Since Fe is of similar size as that of Mn, substitution of Fe should also cause structural distortions and increase of T_M . Such a behaviour is indeed observed for lower Fe concentrations. Increase Fe doping content perhaps also leads to site occupancy disorder which beyond a certain critical concentration of Fe leads to formation of tetragonal phase. This fact can be clearly seen in case of $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$. Such a disorder could result in formation of Fe-Fe ferromagnetic interactions thereby increasing T_C or inducing ferromagnetic order. This structural disorder associated with Fe substitution also affects the antiferromagnetic Ni-Mn exchange occurring due to Ni $3d$ -Mn $3d$ hybridization.³⁴ This explains the different rates of decrease in T_M for the two series of compounds. Higher the Mn concentration, more are Ni-Mn hybridized pairs and hence slower the decrease in T_M . This compares well with our observations as well as those reported in

Ref. 17. The complete suppression of martensitic behaviour in $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys is also due to crystallographic phase separation of cubic phase to tetragonal phase with increasing Fe content. This phase separation is a result of structural disorder caused by Fe doping and leads to Fe-Fe ferromagnetic exchange interactions. Therefore, in spite of having e/a ratio similar to Mn rich $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1+x}\text{In}_{1-x}$ alloys, the $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys do not undergo martensitic transformation. In other words, along with presence of local structural distortions, the hybridization of the type [Ni $3d$ -Mn $3d$] at E_F which gives rise to antiferromagnetic exchange interaction could be the important factors that are responsible for martensitic transformation in such Mn rich Ni-Mn based Heusler alloys.

V. CONCLUSION

A systematic study of the martensitic and magnetic interactions in Fe doped $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$, $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ Heusler alloys has been carried out. While $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ ($0.35 \leq x \leq 0.6$) are non martensitic, $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{In}_{0.5-y}\text{Fe}_y$ and $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{In}_{0.4-y}\text{Fe}_y$ are martensitic and follow an interesting pattern. For Fe concentrations $\leq 5\%$, the martensitic transformation temperature increases in the same manner as Mn rich Ni-Mn-In alloys and then drops for higher Fe concentrations. This can be attributed to a structural disorder that affects Ni $3d$ -Mn $3d$ hybridization pairs resulting in suppression of martensitic transformation. Larger the affected number of such hybridized pairs, sharper decrease in T_M . The same hypothesis can also explain the non martensitic nature of $\text{Ni}_2\text{MnIn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ alloys. Here, the structural disorder results in the formation of tetragonal phase which supports direct Fe-Fe ferromagnetic interactions. Therefore, in spite of having similar e/a ratio, these Fe doped alloys are not martensitic. Our results suggest that the local structure disorder and the Ni $3d$ -Mn $3d$ hybridization at the Fermi level may be responsible factors for martensitic transformation of such Mn rich Ni-Mn based Heusler alloys.

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