Effect of thermobaric treatment and severe plastic deformation on the structural and electronic properties of X-Y-Z Heusler alloys (X = Co, Ni, Fe; Y = Cr, Mn; Z = Ga, Al, Sn, In)

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Heusler and Heusler-like alloys are of great interest due to their unique functional properties, such as the magneto- and temperature operated shape memory, the half-metallic state, the giant magnetocaloric effect etc. The structural, optical, electrical, magnetic and galvanomagnetic properties of Heusler and Heusler-like alloys based on X-Y-Z (X = Co, Ni, Fe; Y = Cr, Mn; Z = Ga, Al, Sn, In) were studied in the temperature interval from 4.2 to 350 K and at magnetic fields of up to 15 T. We demonstrate that a thermobaric treatment and severe plastic deformation significantly change the structure and the electronic properties of these alloys. The results are discussed in the framework of modern concepts. This work was partly supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and by the Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No 10911120055/A0402).