

Single-phase $(\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Co}_{0.3})_{100-x}\text{Si}_x$ nanostructured powders ($x=0, 5, 10, 15$ and 20) have been elaborated by mechanical alloying in order to investigate the effect of silicon on the microstructure and magnetic properties of these alloys. A disordered $\text{Fe}(\text{Co}, \text{Si})$ solid solution with body centred cubic (bcc) crystal structure is formed after 72 h of milling for all the compositions. The addition of Si gives rise to a progressive decrease of the lattice parameter, from about 2.865 \AA for the binary $\text{Fe}_{70}\text{Co}_{30}$ compound down to 2.841 \AA for the powder with $x=20$. The sample with the uppermost Si content exhibits the lowest value for the mean grain size ($\approx 10 \text{ nm}$) as well as the largest microstrain (above 1.1%). All the samples are ferromagnetic at room temperature, although the saturation magnetization value reduces almost linearly by adding Si to the composition. A similar trend is observed for the hyperfine magnetic field obtained from the analysis of the room temperature Mössbauer spectra. The hyperfine field distributions show a broad double-peak shape for $x=0$, which can be ascribed to multiple local environments for the Fe atoms inside a disordered solid solution.