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SELECTION OF TERNARY FUSED CHLORIDES FOR THE ELECTROWINNING OF LEAD AND ZINC BASED ON CALCULATED THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES

J.M. SKEAFF, C.W. BALE, A.D. PELTON AND W.T. THOMPSON

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FOREWORD

The growing interest in fused salt systems as electrolytes for electrowinning and electrorefining metals as well as for secondary batteries and reaction media has focused attention on the need for thermodynamic data for multi-component systems. At CANMET, fused chloride salt systems are under investigation as possible electrolytes for the electrowinning of molten lead, as well as possible reaction media for the chlorination of sulphide ores.

Because of their generally lower melting temperatures and vapour pressures, multi-component fused salt systems are more suitable as electrolytes and reaction media than are one- or two-component systems. However, obtaining of sufficient experimental data to adequately characterize the thermodynamic properties of multi-component systems may frequently be tedious and time-consuming because of the need to measure a thermodynamic property over wide ranges of compositions and temperatures.

The lack of existing thermodynamic data for ternary and quaternary fused chloride systems of interest at CANMET was recognized in relation to the CANMET Minerals Research Program, Metal Extraction and Refining Project (Project No. 4.3.3.0.04). Recently, however, methods have been developed which enable the calculation of the thermodynamic properties of multi-component systems to be made from a knowledge of the thermodynamic properties of their constituent binary systems. It was to the developers - A.D. Pelton, C.W. Bale and W.T. Thompson of Thermfact Ltd/ Ltée - of one of the more advanced of these methods [The F*A*C*T (Facility for the Analysis of Chemical Thermodynamics) System] that a contract was awarded at the suggestion of P. Pint and J.M. Skeaff of CANMET. The objective of the contract (D.S.S. No. SQ 23440-8-9076) was to calculate the thermodynamic properties of a number of ternary and quaternary fused chloride systems of interest at CANMET as electrolytes and as reaction media. The final report on this contract, entitled "Calculation of liquidus surfaces, vapour pressures and decomposition potentials in certain ternary and quaternary fused salt systems", is the basis of this CANMET Report. Two further CANMET Reports based on the final contract report have as their subject (1) ternary chloride systems for the electrowinning of aluminum and (2) ternary and quaternary chloride systems produced in the chlorination of sulphide ores.

The data contained in this report have been valuable for the CANMET Minerals Research Program. It is furthermore expected that these data will receive wide attention among those in industry, government and universities involved both in fused salt basic research and in the development of processes which employ fused salt media.

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> W.A. Gow Chief Mineral Sciences Laboratories

AVANT-PROPOS

L'intérêt grandissant pour les sels fondus employés comme électrolytes dans les procédés d'électro-extraction et d'électro-affinage ainsi que dans les piles secondaires et milieux de réaction, a créé un besoin de données thermodynamiques sur ce genre de système à plusieurs composants. Pour CANMET les chlorures fondus sont une solution possible pour l'électro-extraction du plomb liquide, ainsi que pour la chloruration de minerais sulfurés.

Parce que leurs températures de fusion et leurs tensions de vapeur sont généralement plus basses, les systèmes de sels fondus à plusieurs composants conviennent mieux comme électrolytes ou milieu de réaction que ceux à un seul ou deux composants. Cependant, il devient très long et ennuyeux d'obtenir les données expérimentales requises pour caractériser adéquatement les propriétés thermodynamiques des systèmes à plusieurs composants, compte tenu de la grande gamme de compositions et températures pour laquelle il faut déterminer une propriété thermodynamique.

Pour leur programme de recherche sur les minéraux et leur projet d'extraction et d'affinage des métaux (No. 4.3.3.1.03), CANMET a dû se pencher sur le problème du manque de données thermodynamiques des systèmes ternaires et quaternaires des chlorures fondus. Récemment, des méthodes ont été mises au point afin de permettre le calcul des propriétés thermodynamiques des systèmes à plusieurs composants en se basant sur les propriétés des systèmes binaires constituants. Les pionniers de ce genre d'investigations qui ont mis au point l'une des méthodes de calcul les plus avancées (A.D. Pelton, C.W. Bale et W.T. Thompson de Thermfact Ltd./Ltée et responsables du système [F*A*I*T (Formulation Analytique Interactive en Thermodynamique)] se sont vus accorder un contrat de CANMET sur la recommandation de P. Pint et J.M. Skeaff. L'objectif de ce contrat était de calculer les propriétés thermodynamiques de plusieurs systèmes ternaires et quaternaires de chlorures fondus. Le rapport final de cette étude portait le titre suivant: "Calculation of liquidus surfaces, vapour pressures and decomposition potentials in certain ternary and quaternary fused salt systems". Il fait l'objet du présent rapport de CANMET. Deux autres rapports de CANMET, basés sur cette même étude, traitaient (1) des systèmes de chlorures ternaires pour l'électro-extraction de l'aluminium et (2) de systèmes de chlorures ternaires et quaternaires produits par la chloruration des minerais sulfurés.

Pour CANMET les données obtenues du rapport final ont été très utiles pour le programme de recherche sur les minéraux. On prévoit de plus que ces données retiendront l'attention des organismes industriels, gouvernementaux et universitaires qui s'intéressent à la recherche sur les sels fondus et au développement des procédés les employant.

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> W.A. Gow Chef Laboratoires des sciences minérales

SELECTION OF TERNARY FUSED CHLORIDES FOR THE ELECTROWINNING OF LEAD AND ZINC BASED ON CALCULATED THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES

by

J.M. Skeaff*, C.W. Bale**, A.D. Pelton**, and W.T. Thompson***

ABSTRACT

After an extensive literature survey, the available thermodynamic data and phase diagrams of the following binary systems were critically evaluated by a computerized optimization technique: KCl-LiCl, KCl-NaCl, KCl-PbCl₂, KCl-ZnCl₂, LiCl-PbCl₂, LiCl-ZnCl₂, NaCl-PbCl₂ and NaCl-ZnCl₂.

The thermodynamic properties of all known binary phases have been represented by equations, "optimum" binary phase diagrams have been calculated, and error limits have been estimated.

The thermodynamic properties of the following four ternary systems were then estimated from the properties of their binary subsystems by means of interpolation techniques: KCl-LiCl-PbCl₂, KCl-LiCl-ZnCl₂, KCl-NaCl-PbCl₂, KCl-NaCl-ZnCl₂.

From these estimated ternary thermodynamic properties, the phase diagrams of the four ternary systems have been calculated. These are presented as polythermal projections of the liquidus surfaces and also as isothermal sections. Comparison to measured ternary diagrams was made in the two cases where reliable data exist. Error estimates are given in all cases.

The estimated ternary thermodynamic properties were also used to generate iso-activity curves for the components ZnCl₂ and PbCl₂ at several temperatures. From these iso-activity curves, iso-vapour pressure curves and iso-decomposition potentials were calculated from equations given in the text. Tables of standard vapour pressures and standard decomposition potentials have been provided. Error estimates are given in all cases.

Temperatures and compositions of chloride electrolytes suitable for the electrowinning of lead and zinc have been proposed from the isothermal sections of the phase diagrams and from iso-vapour pressure curves.

*Research scientist, Process Metallurgy Section, Extractive Metallurgy Laboratory, Mineral Sciences Laboratories, CANMET, Dept. of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada, K1A OG1; **Départ. de génie métallurgique, Ecole Polytechnique, (Campus de l'Université de Montréal), Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3A7; ***Dept. of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, McGill University, 3480 University St., Montréal, Canada H3A 2A7.

SELECTION DES CHLORURES TERNAIRES FONDUS POUR L'EXTRACTION PAR VOIE ELECTROLYTIQUE DU PLOMB ET DU ZINC EN FONCTION DES PROPRIETES THERMODYNAMIQUES CALCULEES

par

J.M. Skeaff*, C.W. Bale**, A.D. Pelton** et W.T. Thompson***

RESUME

Suite à une étude bibliographique approfondie, les données thermodynamiques et les diagrammes de phase disponibles concernant les systèmes binaires suivants ont été évalués de façon critique par une technique d'optimisation informatisée: KC1-LiC1, KC1-NaC1, KC1-PbCl₂, KC1-ZnCl₂, LiC1-PbCl₂, LiCl₂-ZnCl₂, NaC1-PbCl₂ et NaC1-ZnCl₂.

Les propriétés thermodynamiques de toutes les phases binaires connues ont été représentées par des équations, les diagrammes binaires optimum de phases ont été calculés et les limites d'erreur ont été évaluées.

Les propriétés thermodynamiques des quatre systèmes ternaires suivants ont ensuite été évaluées à partir des propriétés de leurs sous-systèmes binaires au moyen de techniques d'interpolation: KCl-LiCl-PbCl₂, KCl-LiCl-ZnCl₂, KCl-NaCl-PbCl₂, KCl-NaCl-ZnCl₂.

A partir de ces propriétés thermodynamiques ternaires évaluées, les diagrammes de phases des quatre systèmes ternaires ont été calculés. Ceux-ci sont présentés comme des projections polythermiques des surfaces des liquidus et aussi comme des sections isothermiques. On les a ensuite comparés aux diagrammes ternaires mesurés dans les deux cas pour lesquels des données fiables étaient disponibles. L'évaluation de l'erreur est donnée dans tous les cas.

Les propriétés thermodynamiques ternaires évaluées ont aussi été employées pour engendrer les courbes d'iso-activité pour les composantes ZnCl₂ et PbCl₂ à plusieurs températures. Les courbes d'iso-tension vapeur et d'iso-potentiel de décomposition peuvent ensuite être calculées à partir des équations données dans le texte. Les tables de tensions de vapeur standards et des potentiels de décomposition ont été fournies. L'erreur est donnée dans tous les cas.

Les températures et les compositions des électrolytes de chlorure convenant à l'extraction par voie électrolytique du plomb et du zinc ont été déterminées à partir des sections isothermiques des schémas de phase et des courbes de pression iso-vapeur.

*Chercheur scientifique, section de la métallurgie de procédés, Laboratoire de la métallurgie extractive, Laboratoires des sciences minérales, CANMET, Energie, Mines et Ressources Canada, Ottawa; **Départ. de génie métallurgique, Ecole Polytechnique, (Campus de l'Université de Montréal), Montréal, Qué., Canada H3C 3A7; ***Dept. of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, McGill University, 3480 University St., Montreal, Canada H3A 2A7.

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INTRODUCTION

The problems of SO₂ generation and lead emissions associated with conventional lead smelters as well as poor recoveries from certain complex lead-zinc ores have prompted investigation into new processes for lead extraction which would eliminate these difficulties. Areas of investigation which are directed towards the resolution of these problems and which are presently part of continuing research at CANMET are the dry-way chlorination and hydrometallurgical lead processes for the extraction of lead and zinc from complex Zn-Pb-Cu sulphide concentrates by chloride methods. Both of these extraction processes can yield PbCl₂ and ZnCl₂ which are amenable to fused salt electrolysis for the production of lead and zinc.

Major considerations in the fused salt electrowinning of liquid metals from chloride media are:

- 1. that the electrolyte be a one-phase liquid;
- that the electrolyte losses due to volatilization be minimized;
- 3. that the metal chloride decomposition potential be determined;
- 4. that the difference in density between the electrolyte and the electrowon liquid metal be sufficient to cause their rapid gravity separation;
- 5. that the electrolyte have a low viscosity; and
- that the electrolyte have a high ionic conductivity.

It is thus necessary to have data on phase diagrams, vapour pressures, decomposition potentials, densities, viscosities and electrical conductivities of possible electrolytes in order to determine temperatures and compositions suitable for electrowinning or electrorefining.

In principle, ternary fused salt systems are more suitable as electrolytes than binary systems because in general the former can be expected to exhibit wider regions of complete liquid miscibility, lower melting points and lower vapour pressures of the metal chloride than the latter. However, reliable phase diagram and vapour pressure data for ternary fused chloride systems are frequently lacking because the experimental determination of these quantities is usually tedious and time-consuming due to the need for a large number of measurements. Recently, however, analytical techniques have been developed by three of the authors (C.W.B., A.D.P. and W.T.T.) which enable the calculation of the thermodynamic properties of multi-component systems from the known thermodynamic properties of their constituent binary systems (1).

The objective of the study described in this report was to calculate the phase diagrams, vapour pressures and decomposition potentials in the ternary fused salt systems LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂, NaCl-KCl-PbCl₂, LiCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ and NaCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ from the known thermodynamic properties of their constituent binary systems which are listed in Table 1, and based on the results of these calculations, to select electrolyte temperatures and compositions suitable from the viewpoint of:

- 1. maintaining a one-phase liquid solution for electrowinning of lead and zinc, and
- maintaining vapour presures of the base metal chlorides low enough to suppress their significant volatilization.

Decomposition potentials give an indication of the minimum applied voltage which will produce lead or zinc metal from the electrolyte. Ternary systems with LiCl and NaCl as the alkali chloride pair were excluded from the study because of the tendency of this combination to hydrolyze which makes them impractical for use as electrolytes.

The first step in the study consists in a computer-assisted critical analysis of the available phase diagrams and thermodynamic data for the binary sub-systems in order to obtain mathematical expressions for the thermodynamic properties of all known phases. At the same time, this critical analysis serves to resolve discrepancies in the literature and to set error limits on all data and calculations. The thermodynamic properties of the ternary systems are estimated from these binary data, and the ternary phase diagrams can then be calculated. The authors have already applied these techniques to calculate the phase diagrams of over 100 ternary chloride (1), fluoride (2), bromide, sulphate, chromate (3), and other fused salt systems. For the eight binary systems of interest in this study for which measured phase diagrams were available, the calculated and measured diagrams always agreed within or nearly within the reported limits of experimental error.

PURE CHLORIDES

There are five alkali metal or base metal chlorides in the present study. For the phase diagram calculations, their free energies of fusion are required. Values from the literature (4) are listed in Table 2.

BINARY SYSTEMS - GENERAL THEORY

The binary systems which must be analyzed in order to calculate the phase diagrams of all the ternary systems are listed in Table 1.

A thorough literature search of all available phase diagram and thermodynamic data for these systems was performed by Ray MacDonald, Information Officer of CANMET, Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada, using the computerized data bases Chemical Abstracts, Engineering Index, Inspec, SSIE, Conference Papers, CDI and NTIS.

It is necessary to analyze these data in order to obtain mathematical expressions for the thermodynamic properties of all known phases. This involves, firstly, obtaining expressions for the free energies of fusion of all known intermediate compounds in the form:

$$\Delta G_{fusion}^{O} = a + bT + cT^{2} + dTlnT + eT^{-1} \qquad Eq 1$$

and then expressing the free energies of formation of these solid intermediate compounds from the pure liquid components as follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} x & ACl_{(liq)} + (1-x) & BCl_{(liq)} \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l} \leftrightarrow & (ACl)_{x} & (BCl)_{(1-x)(solid)} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ Eq 2 \end{array}$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{formation}}^{O} = a' + b'T + c'T^{2} + d'TlnT + e'T^{-1}$$
Eq. 3

Table 1 - Systems investigated in the present study

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
One-component chlorides
LiCl
NaCl
KCl
PbCl ₂
ZnCl ₂
Binary systems
KC1-LiC1
KCl-NaCl
KCl-PbCl 2
KC1-ZnCl ₂
LiCl-PbCl ₂
LiCl-ZnCl ₂
NaCl-PbCl ₂
NaCl-ZnCl ₂
<u>Ternary</u> systems
LiCl-KCl-PbCl ₂
NaCl-KCl-PbCl2
LiCl-KCl-ZnCl ₂
NaCl-KCl-ZnCl ₂

Secondly, expressions must be obtained for the activities of the components as functions of composition and temperature in the liquid phases and in any solid solutions. This is most conveniently accomplished by expressing the molar enthalpy of mixing, ΔH^{mix} , and the excess entropy of mixing S^E , as power series in the mole fractions X_A , X_B of the components:

$$\Delta H^{\text{mix}} = \sum_{i,j} h_{ij} X^{i}_{A} X^{j}_{B} \qquad \text{Eq 4}$$
$$S^{E} = \sum_{i,j} s_{ij} X^{i}_{A} X^{j}_{B} \qquad \text{Eq 5}$$

where h_{ij} and s_{ij} are empirical coefficients found by a least squares curve-fitting procedure. The activities of components A and B are then given by the following expressions (5):

$$\ln a_{A} = \ln X_{A} + \frac{1}{RT} \sum_{i,j} (h_{ij} - Ts_{ij})[i + (1-i-j)X_{A}] X_{A}^{i-1} X_{B}^{j}$$
 Eq 6

$$\ln a_{B} = \ln X_{B} + \frac{1}{RT} \sum_{i,j} (h_{ij} - Ts_{ij})[j + i,j]$$
$$(1-i-j)X_{B}] X_{A}^{i} X_{B}^{j-1}$$
Eq 7

For some of the binary systems, ΔH^{mix} has been measured calorimetrically. In other systems, activities in the liquid phases have been measured directly by emf techniques. In each system, measured binary phase diagrams are available. These measured diagrams are of widely varying degrees of accuracy. For some systems, the phase diagrams measured by two or more different authors do not agree with each other. In other systems the measured activities and enthalpies are inconsistent with the measured phase diagram. Hence, a critical analysis must be carried out in which all available data of all kinds (phase diagram, enthalpies, activities, etc.) are considered simultaneously in order to obtain the best optimized set of parameters of Eq 4 and 5 to describe the system. Often, comparisons to other similar systems, the use of structural models, etc. must also be employed in the analysis.

A computer program called *OPTIMISE* has been written to assist in this critical analysis. The different sets of raw data (thermodynamic data, liquidus compositions, etc.) are read directly into the computer interactively along with appropriate weighting factors. The computer program performs a least-squares optimization procedure on all the data. The operator can interact with the program until the thermodynamically most consistent analysis is obtained. This means that in certain cases questionable data may be given a low weighting factor or even rejected.

DETAILS OF ANALYSES OF BINARY SYSTEMS

In this section, the details of the critical analyses are discussed for each binary system. Error limits are given. In Appendix A are found, for each binary system listed alphabetically, the computer-calculated phase diagram and a tabular listing of the coordinates of all calculated phase boundaries on this diagram (the computer-generated diagrams are only given with a resolution of $\pm 2 \mod 2$, but the tables list the exact compositions). Also given in Appendix A are reproductions of the measured binary phase diagram(s) with references for each system, and in Table A1 a summary of the optimized parameters of Eq 1 to 7 describing the thermodynamic properties of all known phases. Most of the measured diagrams in Appendix A are reproduced from the compilations of "Phase Diagrams for Ceramists" (6), and include the figure numbers of the original text.

KC1-LiC1

 ΔH^{mix} was fitted to the accurately measured values of Hersh and Kleppa (7). S^E was determined by fitting the measured phase diagram. Limiting slopes of liquidus curves indicate negli-

Table 2 - Free energies of fusion and melting points of pure chlorides (4) $\Delta G_{fusion}^{O} (cal/mol) = a + bT + cT^{2} + dTlnT + eT^{-1}$

	T _{fusion} (K)	a	b	сх 10 ³	d	e x 10-5
ксі	1044	1136.6	51.481	3.0435	- 8.026	0.436
LiCl	883	1056.5	47.16	3.928	- 7.64	
NaCl	1074	1843.6	48.3	2.85	- 7.606	
PbCl ₂	768	463.5	64.79	4.635	-10.378	
ZnCl ₂	591	-2263.1	63.469	2.75	- 9.6	

gible solid solubility. The two measured diagrams agree with each other within $5C^{\circ}$. The more recent eutectic temperature of $348^{\circ}C$ is more consistent with smooth thermodynamic functions for the liquid phase than is the older value of $354^{\circ}C$.

Probable maximum error of calculated diagram: ± 5C°.

KC1-NaC1

The accurately measured enthalpies of Hersh and Kleppa (7) were used to obtain the expression for $\Delta H_{\text{liquid}}^{\text{mix}}$. It is assumed that $S^{\text{E}} = 0$ for the liquid. The two most recently measured phase diagrams were then analyzed to give ΔH_{solid}^{mix} with the assumption that $S_{\text{solid}}^{E} = 0$. A simple sub-regular (two-parameter) equation for the enthalpy of mixing of the solid then reproduces, with very good accuracy, the liquidus, solidus, and the solid-solid miscibility gap of the measured diagrams. The measured and calculated liquidus and solidus agree within less than 5C° and less than 10C° respectively. The calculated consolute point agrees with the measured within 10C° in temperature, and in composition within the limits of experimental error. The earlier phase diagram, which agrees with the more recently measured liquidus but not at all with the more recently measured solidus, was ignored because it could not be reproduced with reasonable thermodynamic functions for the solid.

Probable maximum error of calculated diagram: \pm 5C° for liquidus

± 10C° for solidus

KC1-PbC12

 ΔH^{mix} has been measured accurately by McCarty and Kleppa (8) up to 50 mol % KCl. These values were extrapolated to pure KCl, and the equation for ΔH^{mix} was obtained by fitting this curve. S^E was then obtained by fitting the diagram of Ugai and Shatillo (6a). This diagram agrees well with the two other reported diagrams. The values of $G^E_{PbCl_2}$ obtained by Hagemark et al (9) by emf measurements at 625°C were also included in the optimized fit. Limiting liquidus slopes indicate negligible solid solubility. Measured and calculated diagrams agree within 5 to 10C°. Probable maximum error of calculated diagram: \pm 5C° to 10C°.

KC1-ZnCl2

 S^E for this system was estimated by the equation in Table A1 which passes through a minimum at $X_{ZnCl_2} = 1/3$, as is consistent with the existence of $ZnCl_4^-$ complexes in the melt. ΔH^{mix} was then obtained by an optimization of the measured phase diagrams and the emf data of Robinson and Kucharski (10) who measured $G^E_{ZnCl_2}$ in the liquid. Other published emf data in this system are questionable and were ignored. Although there are positive deviations in $ZnCl_2$ -rich solutions, it is unlikely that there is any liquid-liquid immiscibility in this system.

The free energies of fusion of the intermediate compound were obtained by the phase diagram analysis.

Probable maximum error of calculated diagram: ± 5 to 10C° below 450°C

± 20C° above 450°C.

LiC1-PbCl2

 ΔH^{mix} for the liquid has been accurately measured by McCarty and Kleppa (8) and their experimental values are well-fitted by the given The measured phase diagram was then equation. used to obtain the expression for s^{E} . The measured and calculated diagrams agree within 10C°, but in view of the fact that accurate ΔH^{mix} values were used in the calculations, there is reason to believe that the calculated diagram is accurate. Limiting slopes of the liquidus lines indicate that solid solubility is negligible. There have been several electrochemical studies of the liquid phase in which activities of PbCl2 have been measured. These results agree with the present analysis within experimental error limits.

Probable maximum error of calculated diagram: ± 10C°.

LiCl-ZnCl2

The accurately measured calorimetric data of Papatheodorou and Kleppa (11) were fitted to the given equation. For the phase diagram, only the compositions and temperatures of the peritectic and eutectic points are available (12). The equations for S and the free energy of fusion of the intermediate compound were then obtained by exactly fitting these two points. The composition of the compound was assumed to be 2LiCl.ZnCl2 since the analogue of this compound exists in other alkali chloride-ZnCl2 systems. Solid solubility was assumed negligible as seems reasonable in view of the quite different chemical properties of LiCl and ZnCl2. The calculated ZnCl2-liquidus is probably somewhat too low. There is a good possibility of a liquid-liquid miscibility gap in this system centred on the ZnCl2-liquidus at high ZnCl₂ concentrations (say from 2% LiCl to 25% LiCl). If any of the alkali chloride-ZnCl₂ systems exhibits such a miscibility gap, the LiC1-ZnCl₂ system is the most likely candidate.

Probable maximum error in calculated diagram: ± 25C°.

NaC1-PbC12

 ΔH^{mix} of the liquid has been accurately measured by McCarty and Kleppa (8). The two measured phase diagrams agree with each other within 10C°, but the earlier diagram of Treis (6a) is preferred because it can be represented by simple one-coefficient power series for ΔH^{mix} and S^{E} , whereas the later diagram cannot. The transformation in PbCl₂ at 422°C reported in the later diagram is not given anywhere else in the literature. ΔH^{mix} of McCarty and Kleppa is very well represented by the given one-parameter equation. S^{E} was then found by fitting the measured diagram of Treis. Limiting slopes of the measured liquidus lines indicate no solid solubility. The thermodynamic properties given by the equations also agree within experimental error limits with the recent emf measurements of Hagemark et al (9) for the liquid at 625°C.

Probable maximum error of calculated diagram: ± 10C°.

NaCl-ZnCl2

 S^{E} for this system was estimated by the equation in Table A1 which passes through a minimum at $X_{ZnCl_{2}} = 1/3$, as is consistent with the existence of $ZnCl_{4}^{2-}$ complexes in the melt. ΔH^{mix} and the free energy of fusion of the intermediate compound were then obtained from the measured diagram. There are strong negative deviations from ideality in NaCl-rich solutions and strong positive deviations in $ZnCl_2$ -rich solutions. It is possible that a miscibility gap centred on the $ZnCl_2$ -liquidus may exist. There are no measured thermodynamic data for this system except for the values of $G_{ZnCl_2}^E$ measured by emf techniques by a number of authors in $ZnCl_2$ -rich solutions, but these results are of questionable accuracy.

Probable error of calculated diagram: ± 10C° below 400°C ± 20C° above 400°C.

CALCULATION OF TERNARY SYSTEMS FROM BINARY SYSTEMS

Once all the binary systems have been analyzed, the thermodynamic properties of the ternary systems can be estimated by means of standard interpolation procedures.

The excess Gibbs free energy of a ternary solution can be estimated by either the Kohler equation or the Toop equation:

KOHLER EQUATION:

$$g_{(p)}^{E} = (1-x_{3})^{2} g_{(a)}^{E} + (1-x_{1})^{2} g_{(b)}^{E} + (1-x_{2})^{2} g_{(c)}^{E}$$
$$+ \Sigma \phi_{nmk} x_{1}^{n} x_{2}^{m} x_{3}^{k} \qquad Eq 8$$

TOOP EQUATION:

$$g_{(p)}^{E} = \frac{x_{1}}{x_{1} + x_{3}} g_{(a')}^{E} + \frac{x_{3}}{x_{1} + x_{3}} g_{(b')}^{E}$$
$$+ (1 - x_{2})^{2} g_{(c')}^{E} + \Sigma \phi_{nmk} x_{1}^{n} x_{2}^{m} x_{3}^{k} \qquad Eq 9$$

where, in the 1-2-3 ternary system of Fig. 1, $g_{(p)}^{E}$ is the integral excess molar free energy at point p in the ternary system, and $g_{(a)}^{E}$, $g_{(a')}^{E}$, are the excess free energies in the binary systems at the points indicated. X_1 , X_2 and X_3 are the mole fractions. The first three terms on the right hand sides of Eq 8 and 9 are "binary terms" and the last terms, $\Sigma \phi_{nmk} X_1^n X_2^m X_3^k$ (n,m,k $\neq 0$),



TOOP





are "ternary terms" which can be calculated only if data for the ternary system are available. In the present study, the ternary terms are set equal to zero so that Eq 8 and 9 become interpolation formulae for estimating ternary thermodynamic properties from properties of the binary systems.

Both Eq 8 and 9 with ternary terms set equal to zero are exact if the binary and ternary solutions are regular. The equations, with ternary terms set to zero, have been shown by the authors to give a good approximation to the properties of a large number of measured ternary salt systems (1-3).

The Kohler equation has the advantage of being symmetrical with respect to the three components and is thus preferred for charge symmetrical ternary systems such as AC1-BC1-CC1 or AC1₂-BC1₂-CC1₂.

For the ternary charge asymmetrical fused salt systems of the type AC1-BC1-MC1₂ under consideration in this study, the Toop equation with ternary terms set equal to zero has been employed. With the asymmetrical component as component 2 in Fig. 1b, the first two terms on the right hand side in Eq 9 represent a linear interpolation between the two asymmetrical binary systems 2-1 and 2-3 at the same mole fraction X_2 , while the third term, which is the same as the third term in Eq 8, represents the contribution from the charge-symmetrical 1-3 system.

The use of the Toop equation can also be justified for charge asymmetrical systems on the basis of complex ion models. That is, if it is assumed that the complex anions, MCl_4^{2-} , are formed, Eq 9 with ternary terms neglected can be shown to provide a first approximation for the excess free energy of the ternary solution (1). In this report, only the Toop equation was used, as all the systems are charge asymmetric.

CALCULATION OF TERNARY PHASE DIAGRAMS

Computer-generated polythermal projections of the liquidus surfaces of all calculated ternary phase diagrams are shown in Fig. 2-5. All compositions are given in mole percentages. In Fig. 6 and 7 are shown comparisons between the calculated and measured ternary phase diagram for the systems LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂ and NaCl-KCl-PbCl₂ which are the only two systems for which reliable measured ternary phase diagrams exist. The agreements between the measured and calculated diagrams are within the limits of experimental error (Note that the calculated diagram for the system LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂, Fig. 2 and 6b, is presented with the alkali components as Li₂Cl₂ and K₂Cl₂, in order to facilitate comparison with the measured diagram of Fig. 6a). For the system LiCl-KCl-PbCl2, the two ternary invariant temperatures in the measured diagram are approximately 8C° above those calculated (Fig. 6a and 6b). However, it may be noted that the binary eutectic temperatures reported in the measured diagram are also 6C° above those in the calculated diagram, whereas the calculated diagram agrees with the most recently measured binary diagrams. It should also be noted that the measured phase diagram of the LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂ system indicates the existence of a ternary compound. The technique of estimating ternary phase diagrams which is used here cannot, of course, predict the existence of ternary compounds. The compound, however, is weak (the liquidus isotherms are hardly displaced at all when they enter the phase field of the compound). In general it is observed that ternary compounds among chlorides are rare, and where observed they are weak and have little effect on the liquidus surface.

Recently, Shanks et al (13) have measured phase diagrams for the $ZnCl_2-LiCl-KCl$ and $ZnCl_2-$ NaCl-KCl systems. The measurement technique consisted in the visual observation of the formation of the first crystals in solutions cooled in air in a Pyrex container. The reported binary eutectic and peritectic temperatures differ by about 20C° from those reported by other authors, and the authors themselves (13) give their precision as only ± 17C°, stating that they prefer the binary phase diagrams reported elsewhere. Hence, it is considered that the calculated ternary diagrams reported here for these two systems are probably more accurate than the measured diagrams reported in (13).

As a general rule, to obtain the probable maximum error of a calculated phase diagram







Fig. 3 - Calculated ternary phase diagram of NaCl-KCl-PbCl2



Fig. 4 - Calculated ternary phase diagram of LiCl-KCl-ZnCl2



Fig. 5 - Calculated ternary phase diagram of NaCl-KCl-ZnCl2

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FIG. 3254.--System KCI-LiCl PbCl₂. X represents an in-congruently melting ternary compound of undetermined composition.

A. G. Bergman, Yu. I. Andryushchenko, and R. K. Bineeva, Zh. Neorgan. Khim., 8 [7] 1693 (1963); Russ. J. Inorg. Chem. (English Transl.), 881 (1963).

Fig. 6 - (a) Measured (6b) and (b) calculated (this work) phase diagrams of the LiCl-KCl-PbCl2 system



Fig. 7 - (a) Measured (6a) and (b) calculated (this work) phase diagrams of the NaCl-KCl-PbCl₂ sytstem . 1 11 - 1 - E

(which will tend to occur at the lowest temperatures within the ternary regions) in Fig. 2-5, find the probable maximum error of each of the three binary sub-systems as listed in the previous section, take the largest of these, and multiply by 2.

For the four ternary systems, isothermal sections at several temperatures were calculated. These are given in Appendix B. (For identification of the phases, refer to the polythermal projections of Fig. 2-5). All compositions are in mole percentages.

ISO-ACTIVITY, ISO-VAPOUR PRESSURE AND ISO-DECOMPOSITION POTENTIALS

Computer generated iso-activity curves (with respect to the liquid standard state) of the components PbCl₂ and ZnCl₂ in the ternary systems are given in Appendix C at the temperatures specified. Compositions of all these diagrams are given in mole percentages. Note that some of the low temperature iso-activity lines represent activities in a metastable liquid below the liquidus surface.

Probable maximum error in the reported activities is about \pm 20% in log a. Hence, if the activity is reported as a = 0.5, then log a is -0.30 \pm 20% (of -0.30), which corresponds to a = 0.50^X (multiplied or divided by) 0.87.

Each iso-activity curve is also an isovapour pressure line, in which P_i , the vapour pressure of component i, is related to a_i , the activity of component i, by the equation

$$P_i = a_i \cdot P_i^0$$
 Eq 10

where P_1^O is the vapour pressure of pure i at the temperature in question. Equation 10 is valid, however, only if i exists in the gas phase as molecules of i, and not as dimers, etc. That is, for ZnCl₂, we can write $P_{ZnCl_2} = a_{ZnCl_2} \cdot P_{ZnCl_2}^O$ only if ZnCl₂ molecules exist in the gas phase. If there are Zn₂Cl₄ dimerized gas molecules, for instance, or if there is a reaction with other components so as to give gaseous molecules such as LiZnCl₃, for example, then Eq 10 no longer holds.

For the components ZnCl₂ and PbCl₂, experimental evidence (14,15) indicates that only ZnCl₂ and PbCl₂ gas molecules exist in appreciable quantities at the temperatures and pressures of interest here.

Vapour pressures of the pure chlorides, P_i^o , calculated from data in the literature (4) are listed in Table 3. Errors in log P_i^o are expected to be of the order of ± 5% or less. Thus if P_i^o = 10^{-3} atm, then log P_i^o = - 3.00 ± 0.15, and if log $a_i = -0.30 \pm 0.06$ (as above), then log P_i = -3.30 ± 0.21 or P_i = 5.01 x 10^{-4} atm ($\frac{x}{\div}$ 1.62).

The iso-activity lines are also lines of iso-decomposition potential, ε_i . For PbCl₂ and ZnCl₂, ε_i is given in mV as:

$$\varepsilon_{\text{ZnCl}_2} = \varepsilon_{\text{ZnCl}_2}^{\text{o}} - 0.04308 \text{Tlna}_{\text{ZnCl}_2} (mV)$$
 Eq 12

where $\varepsilon_{PbCl_2}^{O}$ and $\varepsilon_{ZnCl_2}^{O}$ are the standard decomposition potentials of liquid PbCl₂ and ZnCl₂ at T,K. Values calculated from tabulated thermodynamic data (4) are listed for the required temperatures in Table 4. Errors in $\varepsilon_{PbCl_2}^{O}$ and $\varepsilon_{ZnCl_2}^{O}$ are estimated as ± 5% or less.

SELECTION OF SUITABLE ELECTROLYTE TEMPERATURES AND COMPOSITIONS FOR LEAD AND ZINC ELECTROWINNING

In the following discussion of ternary systems of the type $ACl-BCl-MCl_2$ (where A and B are alkali metal cations and M = Pb or Zn), the fraction of the total amount of alkali chloride which is ACl is given by:

$$t = \frac{\text{mol } \# \text{ACl}}{\text{mol } \# \text{ACl} + \text{mol } \# \text{BCl}} \qquad \text{Eq } 13$$

The concentration of MCl_2 is simply expressed in mole per cent. The concentrations of the alkali chlorides are then given by:

mol
$$\%$$
 ACl = t(100-mol $\%$ MCl₂) Eq 14
mol $\%$ BCl = (1-t)(100-mol $\%$ MCl₂) Eq 15

Table 3 - Vapour pressures of pure chlorides P^O (atm) (4)

€(°C)	PbCl ₂	ZnCl ₂
300	0.84×10^{-7}	
325	0.33 x 10 ⁻⁶	
350	0.12 x 10 ⁻⁵	
375	0.37×10^{-5}	
400	0.11×10^{-4}	0.563×10^{-3}
425	0.28×10^{-4}	0.131×10^{-2}
450	0.68×10^{-4}	0.286×10^{-2}
475	0.157 x 10 ⁻³	0.589×10^{-2}
500	0.340×10^{-3}	0.0115
525	0.697 x 10 ⁻³	0.0215
550	0.136×10^{-2}	0.0385
575	0.254×10^{-2}	0.0662
600	0.456 x 10 ⁻²	0.110
625	0.788×10^{-2}	0.177
650	0.0132	0.277
675	0.0213	0.421
700	0.0335	0.624
750		1.29

Table 4 - Standard decomposition potentials of PbCl₂ and ZnCl₂ liquid (4)

r(°C)	ε <mark>ο</mark> PbCl ₂ (mV)	$\epsilon^{o}_{ZnCl_{2}}(mV)$
300	1140	······································
325	1380	
350	1370	
375	1350	
400	1330	1630
425	1320	1610
450	1300	1590
475	1290	1580
500	1280	1560
525	1260	1540
550	1250	1520
575	1230	1510
600	1220	1490
625	1200	1470
650	1190	1460
675	1180	1440
700	1160	1420
750		1390

Thus in the LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂ system, if ACl = LiCl and BCl = KCl, then t = 1.0 for the LiCl-PbCl₂ binary system and t = 0.0 for the KCl-PbCl₂ system. In Fig. 8, for example, the value of t at point A is 0.32 (as seen from the projection to point B) while the concentration of PbCl₂ is 36 mol % (point C). Hence the concentrations of LiCl and KCl are 43.5 and 20.5 mol % respectively. This method of describing compositions in these systems is more appropriate than that which gives the concentrations of each of the three components individually, since the concentration of MCl₂ will vary to a greater or lesser extent along lines of constant values of t during electrolysis, while the amounts of ACl and BCl will remain constant.

To establish temperatures and compositions suitable from a thermodynamic viewpoint for electrowinning of lead and zinc, selected isothermal phase equilibria sections and ternary iso-activity sections from Appendices II and III were combined to produce Fig. 8 to 25. The lines which define the irregularly shaped areas within the composition triangles of Fig. 8 to 25 represent compositions of solid-liquid equilibria. Within these areas, which represent compositions of onephase liquid solutions, are shown iso-vapour pressure lines of MCl₂ calculated by the method described in the previous section. Vapour pressures are given in units of torr throughout this report as these units are used more extensively than the pascal (Pa), which is the SI unit for pressure (see, for example, reference 4). (The conversion factor is 1 torr = 1 mm Hg = 1.333224×10^2 Pa).

Although the volatility of a component of a fused salt solution depends on its vapour pressure, the geometry of the enclosure and the turbulence of the surrounding or imposed atmosphere, volatilization of the base metal chlorides is not expected to lead to significant electrolyte losses if their vapour pressures are less than 0.1 torr.

The concentrations of MCl₂ suitable for electrowinning at various temperatures have been determined within these areas of one-phase liquid solution to ensure that no solid phases precipitate in the electrolytes, and by taking into account the maximum probable errors associated with each calculated system. These concentrations are based on thermodynamic considerations only and may in fact be unsuitable with respect to electrolyte viscosity, conductivity, stability in the presence of air and kinetic considerations.

The discussions which follow apply to the systems at constant temperature. Temperature gradients within the molten salts could cause the formation of solid phases and interfere with electrolysis.

ELECTROWINNING OF LEAD

LiCl-KCl-PbCl2

With this system as an electrolyte, the minimum temperature suitable for lead electrowinning is approximately 375°C, as seen from Fig. 8 to 12. At 350°C, Fig. 8, the composition range of one-phase liquid solution is likely too small to be suitable for electrowinning. At 375°C, however, for concentrations of PbCl₂ between 15 and 40 mol \$, a corridor of miscibility exists centred around t ~ 0.55 as shown in Fig. 9. Electrolyte depletion of PbCl2 within these limits will not cause the formation of a solid phase. At 40 mol \$ PbCl2, t could be varied between 0.30 and 0.56 to obtain desired electrolyte properties. The maximum PbCl2 concentrations in this and in the NaCl-KCl-PbCl₂ systems are given in Table 5 along with the corresponding vapour pressures, decomposition potentials and ranges of t.

At 40 mol % PbCl₂ concentration and 375°C, the minimum partial pressure of PbCl₂ is calculated to be 0.0006 torr ($\frac{x}{2}$ 2.57). While this is probably not enough to volatilize significant quantities of PbCl₂, collection systems would most likely be required to maintain the airborne quantities of PbCl₂, which are calculated to be \simeq 30 mg/m³, within health standard limits, which will be reduced in the United States from the present 200 µg/m³ to 100 µG/m³ in 1983.

An increase in temperature to 400° C increases the maximum concentration of PbCl₂ to 60 mol \$, as shown in Fig. 10, and also increases P_{PbCl_2} to 0.004 torr $(\frac{x}{2} 2.0)$. At 450°C, Fig. 11, the maximum concentration of PbCl₂ is 75 mol \$ for $0.00 \le t \le 1.00$, and P_{PbCl_2} increases to 0.036 torr $(\frac{x}{2} 1.74)$. At higher temperatures, say 500°C (Fig. 12), the maximum concentration of PbCl₂ can be expected to be set by electrolyte properties, rather than phase boundary limitations, since PbCl₂ melts at 495°C.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that both the temperature and composition of the system LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂ may be varied widely to determine suitable properties of density, conductivity and viscosity for electrolysis.

NaCl-KCl-PbCl2

Reference to Fig. 13 to 17 indicates that the minimum temperature at which a significant field of one-phase liquid solution exists in this

System	T(°C)	Maximum PbCl ₂ concentration, mol %	Range of t* at maximum PbCl ₂ concentration	PpbCl ₂ , torr	ε ^ο PbCl ₂ , mV	€PbCl ₂ , mV
LiCl-KCl-PbCl ₂	375	40	0.30 - 0.56	0.0008 (* 2.38) to	1350	1385
(A=Li, B=K)				0.0006 (<mark>*</mark> 2.57)		
	400	60	0.20 - 0.50	0.004 (<u>*</u> 2.03)	1330	1350
	425	70	0.00 - 0.70	0.13 (<u>*</u> 1.87)	1320	1330
	450	75	0.00 - 1.00	0.36 (x 1.74)	1300	1305
NaCl-KCl-PbCl ₂	425	70	0.32 - 1.00	0,013 (^x 1.87)	1320	1335
(A=Na, B=K)	450	75	0.00 - 1.00	0.04 (× 1.74)	1300	1310
	mol % ACI			· _		

Table 5 - Maximum concentrations of PbCl₂ in possible fused ternary chloride electrolytes

* t = $\frac{\text{mol } \% \text{ Rol}}{\text{mol } \% \text{ ACl } + \text{mol } \% \text{ BCl}}$





Fig. 10







Fig. 11

Fig. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 - Iso-vapour pressure lines of PbCl₂ and the composition region of onephase liquid solution in the system LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂ at temperatures from 350-500°C. The units of the iso-vapour pressure lines are torr (mm Hg).

14

Fig. 12







Mo1 % PbC12

Fig. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 - Iso-vapour pressure lines of PbCl₂ and the composition region of one-phase liquid solution in the system NaC1-KC1-PbCl₂ at temperatures from 400-600°C. The units of the iso-vapour pressure lines are torr (mm Hg).

PbCl2

0.013

0.0110

0,008

0.0064 0043

T = 425 °C

Mol % PbCl₂

NaČľ

Mol % PbCl2

NaCi



system is 425°C. At this temperature, as seen in Fig. 14, the maximum concentration of PbCl2 is 70 mol %, for which t can vary between 0.32 and 1.00 with little effect on vapour pressure which remains at \simeq 0.013 torr ($\frac{x}{2}$ 1.87). At 450°C, Fig. 15, the maximum suitable concentration of PbCl₂ increases to 75 mol %, accompanied by an increase in P_{PbCl_2} to \simeq 0.04 torr ($\stackrel{x}{:}$ 1.74), at which pressure significant volatilization of PbCl2 would not occur. As with LiCl-KCl-PbCl2, the maximum concentration of PbCl2 at temperatures higher than 450°C will be set by electrolyte properties rather than phase limitations. However, unlike LiCl-KCl-PbCl2, this system does not have a wide range of temperatures below 495°C over which significant regions of liquid miscibility exist.

The decomposition potentials, $\varepsilon_{\rm PbCl_2}$, for PbCl_2 in both fused salt systems are only 10-40 mv greater than the standard decomposition potentials of PbCl_2, $\varepsilon^{o}_{\rm PbCl_2}$, at each temperature. This is because no significant reduction in $a_{\rm PbCl_2}$ below ideality occurs in the concentration ranges under consideration.

ELECTROWINNING OF ZINC

For the LiCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ and the NaCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ fused salt systems, the lower temperature limit for electrolysis is set by the melting point of zinc, 420°C, rather than the melting point of the electrolyte as with PbCl₂ systems. As ZnCl₂ is molten at 318°C and high concentrations of ZnCl₂ cause low current efficiencies as well as high decomposition potentials during electrolysis (13), it is more appropriate in this case to determine the minimum rather than the maximum concentration of ZnCl₂ for which one-phase liquid solutions exist.

LiCl-KCl-ZnCl2

In this system there are ranges of minimum concentrations of ZnCl₂ which correspond to compositions along various iso-vapour pressure lines as seen in Fig. 18 to 20. The minimum ZnCl₂ concentrations in this and in the NaCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ systems are given in Table 6 along with the corresponding vapour pressures and decomposition potentials. As seen in Fig. 18, the concentra $P_{ZnCl_2} = 0.0011$ torr $(\frac{x}{2} 6.13)$. However, once t exceeds 0.35, it would be necessary to maintain the concentration of $ZnCl_2$ within $\pm 5 \mod \%$ to prevent the formation of a solid phase. At 500°C, Fig. 19, the minimum $ZnCl_2$ composition range is similar to that of 450°C while P_{ZnCl_2} has increased to 0.004 torr $(\frac{x}{2} 5.72)$. However, maintaining the concentration of $ZnCl_2$ within narrow limits is not necessary at this temperature because of the wider range of one-phase liquid solution than at 450°C.

At 550°C, Fig. 20, the region of onephase liquid solution encompasses most of this isothermal section of the phase diagram. The minimum concentration range of ZnCl₂ is similar to those at lower temperatures but t can vary between 0.00 and 0.80. The corresponding values of P_{ZnCl_2} are 0.015 torr ($\frac{x}{\div}$ 5.38) and 0.15 torr ($\frac{x}{\div}$ 3.40). Of the pressures at which the concentration of ZnCl₂ is a minimum in this system, the latter is the only one at which significant volatilization of ZnCl₂ could occur. Increasing the concentration of ZnCl₂ at a constant value of t will of course increase P_{ZnCl_2} .

NaCl-KCl-ZnCl2

In this system, the minimum concentration of ZnCl2 at 450°C, as shown in Fig. 21, is 40 mol % for which $0.00 \le t \le 0.08$ and $P_{ZnCl_2} = 0.022$ torr (* 3.37). At 40 mol % ZnCl2, an increase in the concentration of NaCl such that t becomes greater than 0.08 would, to avoid the formation of a solid phase, necessitate increasing the concentration of ZnCl2 to approximately 47 mol % at which $P_{ZnCl_2} = 0.33$ torr ($\frac{x}{2}$ 1.95) for t = 0.50. At 500°C, as seen in Fig. 22, the minimum concentration of ZnCl₂ is reduced to 30 mol % for which $0.00 \leq t \leq 0.10$ and $P_{ZnCl_2} \simeq 0.005$ torr ($\frac{x}{2}$ 3.6). An increase in NaCl concentration at this temperature increases the minimum concentration of ZnCl2 to \simeq 43 mol % at which P_{ZnCl2} \simeq 1.1 torr ($\frac{x}{2}$ 1.9) for t = 0.50. At this pressure ZnCl₂ vapour losses would be significant.

The more extensive regions of one-phase liquid solution obtained on increasing temperature enable the reduction of the minimum concentration of $ZnCl_2$ to such an extent that, for low values of



Fig. 18





Fig. 18, 19, 20 - Iso-vapour pressure lines of $ZnCl_2$ and the composition region of one-phase liquid solution in the system LiCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ at temperatures from 450-550°C. The units of the iso-vapour pressure lines are torr (mm Hg).



Fig. 20

t, the reduced activity of ZnCl2 compensates for the two order of magnitude increase in $P^{O}_{\mbox{ZnCl}_{2}}$ between 450°C and 650°C (0.286 x 10^{-2} to 0.277 atm), so that the minimum P_{ZnCl_2} remains below 0.05 torr, at which pressure significant volatilization of ZnCl₂ would not be possible up to 650°C. However, for t = 0.50, P_{ZnCl_2} increases from 0.33 torr at 450°C to 2.0 torr at 650°C, and at these pressures one could expect some volatilization of ZnCl2. These data are shown in Fig. 21 to 25 and are given in Table 6.

Because the concentrations of ZnCl₂ under consideration are lower than the concentrations of PbCl₂ previously discussed, but more importantly because of the reduced activity of ZnCl2 due to complex anion formation (9), the decomposition potentials, ε_{ZnCl_2} , for ZnCl₂ in both ternary fused chloride systems are between 140 and 365 mv greater than the standard decomposition potentials, $\varepsilon^{o}_{ZnCl_{2}}$. This is indicated in Table 6.

The data of Fig. 18-25 in general indicate that, to the extent permitted by phase limitations, KC1-rich regions of the ZnCl2 systems can be enriched in LiCl or NaCl to enhance electrolyte properties (such as conductivity and viscosity) without increasing P_{ZnCl2}.

CONCLUSIONS

Phase diagrams and base metal chloride iso-activity curves in the ternary fused salt systems LiCl-KCl-PbCl2, NaCl-KCl-PbCl2, LiCl-KCl-ZnCl2 and NaCl-KCl-ZnCl2 have been calculated by means of analytical techniques from the known thermodynamic properties of the appropriate binary systems. For the two ternary systems involving PbCl2, the calculated and experimentally measured phase diagrams were in agreement within experimental error. For the two ternary systems involving ZnCl2, it is believed that the measured phase diagrams are in such serious error that the calculated phase diagrams are to be preferred.

Isothermal phase sections of the calculated phase diagrams were then combined with base metal chloride iso-vapour pressure curves (calculated in turn from the iso-activity curves) to determine ranges of temperature and composition in which a one-phase liquid electrolyte would be

System	T(°C)	Minimum ZnCl_2 concentration,	Range of t * at minimum ZnCl ₂	^P ZnCl ₂ ,	$\varepsilon_{ZnCl_2}^{o}$,	[€] ZnCl ₂ ,
		Mol %	concentration	torr	mV ·	mV
LiCl-KCl-ZnCl ₂	450	30-0	0.00 - 0.60	0.001 (<u>*</u> 6.13)	1590	1830
(A=Li, B=K)	500	30-0	0.00 - 0.60	0.004 (× 5.72)	1560	1810
	550	30-0	0.00 - 0.75	0.015 (* 5.38) to	1520	1780
				0.15 (X 3.40)	·	
NaCl-KCl-ZnCl ₂	450	35	0.00 - 0.08	0.022 (x 3.37)	1590	1730
(A=Na, B=K)		47	0.50	0.33 (<u>x</u> 1.95)		.155
	500	30	0.00 - 0.10	0.005 (¥ 3.61)	1560	1740
		43	0.50	1.1 (<u>x</u> 1.9)		
	550	26	0.00 - 0.15	0.029 (<u>*</u> 5.38)	1520	1700
		38	0.50	1.5 (<u>x</u> 2.1)	1920	1790
	600		0.00 - 0.33	0.042 (<u>x</u> 5.11)	1490	1780
				2.0 (<u>*</u> 2.35)		.,
	650	22-0	0.00 - 0.50	0.021 (<mark>x</mark> 6.73)	1460	1830

Table 6 - Minimum concentrations of ZnCl, in possible ternary fused chloride electrolytes

* t = $\frac{\text{mol } \% \text{ ACl}}{\text{mol } \% \text{ ACl} + \text{mol } \% \text{ BCl}}$











Fig. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 - Iso-vapour pressure lines of ZnCl₂ and the composition region of one-phase liquid solution in the system NaCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ at temperatures from 450-650°C. The units of the iso-vapour pressure lines are torr (mm Hg).

maintained and in which the vapour pressure of the base metal chloride would be less than 0.1 torr, i.e. low enough to prevent its significant volatilization. Each of the four systems has wide ranges of temperature and composition exhibiting a one-phase liquid solution over which the vapour pressure of the metal chloride is less than 0.1 torr.

Within each region of one-phase liquid solution, extensive variations of density, viscosity and electrical conductivity can be expected to occur. The experimental measurement of these intensive properties, combined with the thermodynamic properties given in this report, will enable a determination of the optimum temperature and composition for each of the four ternary systems. Hence, future investigation into these systems could involve the measurement of the density, viscosity and conductivity of their regions of onephase liquid solution as well as the experimental verification of some of the calculated vapour pressures in the PbCl₂ and ZnCl₂ systems and of the ZnCl₂ ternary phase diagrams.

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APPENDIX A - BINARY SYSTEMS*

*Figure numbers on the diagrams in this section refer to the original diagrams from the three volumes of "Phase Diagrams for Ceramists".

Binary	System			Liquid Pha	se	Sol	id S	Solu	tion Phase		St	oichiometri	c Soli	<u>Phases</u> A_B.	- x
A	В			enthalpy	excess entropy				enthalpy	∆G ^O Ω	uston = a +	bT(<u>cal</u>)	۵G) Cormation fro	
		i	j	coeff., h _{ij}	coeff., s _{ij}	i	i j		coeff.,h			mol	pure liquide		
			_	(cal)	(cal/K)				(cal)	x	a	b	x	a'	<u> </u>
KC1	LiCl	1	1	-4290	-0.6211										
		2	1	90	0.6047										
KCl	NaC1	1	1	-490		1	1	,	2520						
		1	2	-65		1	2		800						
KCl	PbCl ₂	1	1	-4130.6	-0.1832								2/3	-4202.0	2.6154
		2	1	75.1	0.7419								1/3	-5231.1	4.6067
		3	1	-4160.3	4.7726										
		4	1		-10.3336										
KCl	ZnCl ₂	1	1	-8213.4	3.9419					2/3	2182.8	-3.0378	2/3	-7111.8	2.839
		1	2	-83715.4	-43.0026					3/5	12214.9	-23.1127	3/5	-17545.5	23.0239
		1	3	143627.5	50.3580					1/3	4481.3	-8.2563	1/3	-8115.6	7.5127
		1	4	-54557.4											
LiCl	FbCl 2	1	1	850	2.2870										
		2	1	700	-3.4416										
		3	1		2.4032										
LiCl	ZnCl ₂	1	1	-760.4	-0.7524					2/3	3149.1	-4.9183	2/3	-3279.1	3.3166
		1	2	-5464.0	6.8056										
		1	3	21725.9											
		1	4	-11265.3											
NaC1	FbCl ₂	1	1	-450	1.2855										
NaCl	ZnCl ₂	1	1	-6881.0	3.9419					2/3	1820.2	-2.6399	2/3	-3734.6	2.4412
		1	2	-14981.5	-43.0026										
		1	3	29860.2	50.3580										
		1	ц	-1556.2											

Table A-1 Summary of optimized thermodynamic parameters



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51, 1572 (1932).

Chem., 65, 406 (1910).

See also S. Zhemchuzhnui and F. Rambach, Z. anorg

-24

A-24



Fig. A-2 - Calculated and measured phase diagrams for NaCl-KCl

TEMP (C)	Compositi	ons, in mol	e fractions	of phase	boundaries
800.000	0,00049	0,00342			
780.000	0,01123	0.06982			
760,000	0,02490	0.13330	0.95850	0.98877	
740,000	0.04053	0,19287	0,88525	0,96631	
720,000	0,06006	0.25146	0.81299	0,93701	
700.000	0,08545	0,30811	0.74365	0,90186	
680,000	0.12158	0.36377	0,67334	0.85303	
660,000	0,18604	0.42139	0.60010	0,77490	
640.000					



FIG. 1259 .--- System KCl-NaCl; solubility gap.

80

No Cl

0.89149 Solid line = experimental data; dashed line = spinodal curve; dotted curve = spinodal curve according to 0,90591 Erich Scheil and Hans Stadelmaier, Z. Metallk., 43, 227 0.91872 (1952). The limits of metastable equilibrium are defined 0.93068 by the solubility curve and the spinodal. 0,94135

A. J. H. Bunk and G. W. Tichelaar, Koninkl. Ned. Akad. 0.95171 Wetenschap. Proc. Ser. B, 56, 378 (1953). 0,96011



620,000 600.000

580.000

560.000

540,000

520,000

500.000

480.000

460.000

440.000

420,000

400.000

380.000

360,000

340,000

320.000

300.000

280.000

260,000

240,000

220,000

200.000

180,000

160.000

140.000

120,000

100.000

0,21891

0,18891

0.16393

0.14314

0.12479

0.10880

0.09480

0.08218

0,05205

0.04403

0.03700

0,03067

0.02508

0.02023

0.01620

0.01251



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Fig. 4749 .--- System NaCl-KCl. D. S. Coleman and P. D. A. Lacy, Mater. Res. Bull., 2 [10] 936 (1967).



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Russ. J. Inorg. Chem. (English Transl.), 697 (1965).



TEMP (C)	Composi	tions, in mole	e fractions	, of phase	boundaries		KCl-ZnCl2			
800,000							eoo L			·····
780.000										
760.000	0.0	0.04736					500			
740.000	0.0	0,10889					000			7
720,000	0.0	0.13818							446*	[
700,000	0.0	0.15967					400		43	°°
680,000	0.0	0,17725							/	1
660,000	0.0	0.19189							/	
640,000	0.0	0.20557					300	<u> </u>		_
620,000	0.0	0,21729						274		
600,000	0.0	0.22803						262°	V ^{eg} T	
580,000	0.0	0,23877					200-	[230*	
560,000	0.0	0,24756					200			
540,000	0.0	0,25635					0	20	40 60	80 100
520,000	0.0	0,26416					z	nCl ₂	Mol. %	KCI
500,000	0.0	0.27197						Frc 1273 -9	System VCL.7	C1.
480,000	0.0	0,27979					Vo A Ho	ai and V A Sh	otilo J Dhan	Chan HCCD
460,000	0.0	0,28662					23 [6] 745 (1949). See also	\mathbf{F} , R. Duke and	d R. A. Fleming
440,000	0.0	0.29295	0.31054	0.33333	0.33333	0,35612	J. Électroch	em. Šoc., 104, 2	53 (1957.)	
420,000	0.0	0,33333	0.33333	0,38086						
400,000	0,0	0,33333	0,33333	0,39648						
380,000	0.0	0,33333	0.33333	0,40950						
360,000	0.0	0.33333	0.33333	0.42122						
340,000	0.0	0,33333	0.33333	0,43034						
320,000	0.0	0,33333	0,33333	0,43945						
300,000	0.0	0.33333	0,33333	0.44736	0.93213	1.00000				
280,000	0.0	0.33333	0.33333	0.45507	0,74072	1,00000				
260,000	0.0	0,33333	0.33333	0,46116	0,59831	0.66667	0.66667	1.00000		
240,000	0.0	0,33333	0,33333	0,40000	0,40000	0,50586	0.55664	0,66667	0.66667	1.00000
220,000	0.0	0.33333	0.33333	0.40000	0,40000	0.66667	0.66667	1,00000		
200,000	0.0	0,40000	0,40000	0.66667	0.66667	1,00000				

Fig. A-4 - Calculated and measured phase diagrams for KCl-ZnCl₂



Fig. A-5 - Calculated and measured phase diagrams for LiC1-PbCl₂

Ρ--28

S. P. Gromakov and L. M. Gromakova, Zh. Fiz. Khim., 29 [4] 747 (1955). See also G. A. Bukhalova and N. N. Aleshkina, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 88, 819 (1953).



Fig. A-6 - Calculated and measured phase diagrams for LiCl-ZnCl₂

A-29



FIG. 3104.-System NaCl-PbCl .

T. N. Sumarokova and T. P. Modestova, Zh. Neorgan. Khim., 6 [3] 679 (1961); Russ. J. Inorg. Chem. (English Transl.), 346 (1961).

FIG. 1310.-System NaCl-PbCl₂

Kurt Treis, Neues Jahrb. Mineral., Geol., 37, 772 (1914)

A-30



A-31

Analiza, Inst. Obshch. Neorgan. Khim., Akad. Nauk SSSR, 21,

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APPENDIX B - ISOTHERMAL SECTIONS OF TERNARY PHASE DIAGRAMS*

*The phases in the isothermal sections of this appendix may be identified by referring to the appropriate polythermal projections of Fig. 2-5. The edges of the composition triangles in this appendix are graduated in mole percentages.

Li₂Cl₂

т=325с

РЬСЦ





LizClz

Li,Cl,

K2Cl2

K2Cl2

т=450°С

РЬСі₂

РЬСІ,

т=525°С



K_Cl2

K2Cl2



Li,Cl,













Fig. B-1 - Isothermal sections of ternary phase diagrams for LiCl-KCl-PbCl₂ (300°C, 325°C, 350°C 600°C)



Fig. B-2 - Isothermal sections of ternary phase diagrams for NaCl-KCl-PbCl₂ (375°C, 400°C, 425°C, ... 650°C)



Fig. B-3 - Isothermal sections of ternary phase diagrams for LiCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ (400°C, 425°C, ... 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, 750°C)

ZnCl2



NaCL







ксι

NaCl



NaCl

KCL

NaCl







ZnCl₂

T=450°C

KCL





Fig. B-4 - Isothermal sections of ternary phase diagrams for NaCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ (400°C, 425°C, ... 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, 750°C)

APPENDIX C - TERNARY ISO-ACTIVITY CURVES*

*Some of the low temperature iso-activity lines represent activities of the base metal chloride in a metastable liquid at temperatures below the liquidus surface. The edges of the composition triangles in this appendix are graduated in mole percentages.











LizCl2

T=350°C









,

Ì

1





Fig.C-1 - Ternary iso-activity curves a_{PbCl2} (300°C, 325°C ... 600°C) LiCl-KCl-PbCl2

for







C-42



















Fig. C-2 - Ternary iso-activity curves for a_{PbCl2} (375°C, 400°C ... 650°C)

NaCl-KCl-PbCl2

























Fig. C-3 - Ternary iso-activity curves for LiCl-KCl-ZnCl₂ a_{ZnCl_2} (400°C, 425°C ... 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, 750°C)

























Fig. C-4 - Ternary iso-activity curves for N a_{ZnCl_2} (400°C, 425°C ... 600°C, 650°C, 700°C, 750°C)

NaCl-KCl-ZnCl2

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