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## Grivel, Jean-Claude; Andersen, Niels Hessel

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# PHASE EQUILIBRIA IN THE SrO – Sc<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> – CuO SYSTEM WITH EMPHASIS ON THE Sr<sub>14</sub>Cu<sub>24</sub>O<sub>41- $\delta$ </sub> PHASE

J.-C. Grivel and N. H. Andersen (Materials Research Department, Risø National Laboratory, Denmark)

The sub-solidus phase relations in the  $Sc_2O_3 - SrO - CuO$  system were determined at 900°C in air (see Fig. 1). Like in the case of  $SRE_2O_3 - SrO - CuO$  systems with SRE = small rare-earth elements, no ternary compound was formed. However, the  $Sc_2O_3 - SrO - CuO$  system is dominated by the  $Sc_2SrO_4$  phase, which is in equilibrium with all other phases. This is not the case in  $SRE_2O_3 - SrO - CuO$  systems, where the  $SRE_2Cu_2O_5$  phase is in equilibrium with  $Sr_{14}Cu_{24}O_{41-\delta}$ .<sup>1</sup> We confirm that the  $Sr_{14}Cu_{24}O_{41-\delta}$  phase is slightly Cu-deficient<sup>2</sup>, its formulation being closer to  $Sr_{14}Cu_{23.5}O_{41-\delta}$ .

While all rare-earth elements substitute on the Sr sites in the  $Sr_{14}Cu_{24}O_{41}$  phase, Sc appears to partially replace Cu instead. This difference can be understood on the basis of ion size considerations. The solubility limit of Sc is low and amounts to about 2 at%. This substitution results in a shrinkage of the c-axis (running along the chains and ladders of the structure) by 0.3%.

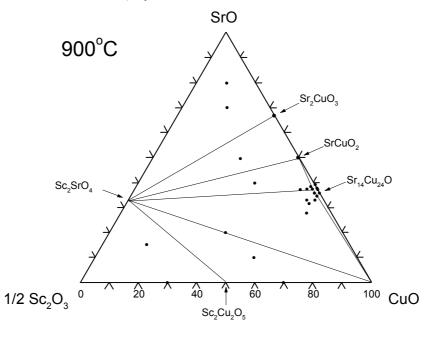


Fig. 1. Phase equilibria in the  $Sc_2O_3 - SrO - CuO$  system at 900°C in air

## REFERENCES

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