

Formation constant of the double salt CsCl·2NaCl·2H2O(cr)

F. Bok

Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf e. V., Institute of Resource Ecology

Abstract: In the ternary system CsCl – NaCl – H2O, at a temperature of 298.15 K, a double salt with the stoichiometric formula CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) is known to be formed. This double salt and the anhydrous CsCl(cr) are the end-members of a solid solution. For the pure double salt, the solubility constant was determined. The obtained value was applied to calculate the solubility diagram also of the quaternary system CsCl – NaCl – KCl – H₂O and the quaternary-reciprocal system Cs⁺, Na⁺ || Cl⁻, $SO_4{}^{2-}$ – H₂O. The solubility constant together with a solid solution between CsCl·2NaCl·2H₂O(cr) and CsCl(cr) were implemented in THEREDA, which extends the applicability of the existing cesium dataset.

1 Introduction

The knowledge of the solubility of cesium salts is of particular interest for a repository for radioactive waste – especially in the salt host rock – but also for industrial processes *i.e.* the production of refined chemicals (Cs compounds). In the system $CsCl - NaCl - H₂O$, in addition to $CsCl (cr)$ and NaCl(cr) (halite), a double salt with the stoichiometric composition CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) is known, which is also an end-member of a solid solution with CsCl(cr) [\[PLY/TUL1957\],](#page-5-0) [\[CHO/ROM1983\],](#page-4-0) [\[ARK/KAS1984\].](#page-4-1) So far, no solubility constant is known for this double salt.

Due to the very high solubility of the pure cesium salts (*e.g.* CsCl(cr), Cs_2SO_4 (cr)), the Pitzer ion-interaction model is necessary for a description of the solubility behavior [\[PIT1991\].](#page-5-1) Up to now, quite a number of publications are containing a

Pitzer model for systems including cesium chloride and sodium chloride [\[PIT1991](#page-5-1)], de Lima et al. [\[DEL/PIT1983\]](#page-4-2), Rard et al. [\[RAR/MIL1982\],](#page-5-2) Holmes et al. [\[HOL/MES1990\]](#page-4-3), Neck et al. [\[NEC/KOE1998](#page-5-3)], El Guendouzi et al. [\[ELG/BEN2004](#page-4-4)], Scharge et al. [\[SCH/MUN2012\]](#page-5-4), [\[SCH/MUN2013\].](#page-5-5) None of them contain the double salt CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr).

Solubility studies in the ternary system CsCl – $NaCl - H₂O$ have been conducted over the last seven decades. The first work was carried out by Plyushchev et al. [\[PLY/TUL1957\].](#page-5-0) The authors describe a solid solution present in the system, but do not mention any double salt. In addition, their solubility data show the largest scattering. Arkhipov et al. first described the solubility of the pure salts and the invariant point and later of the entire system [\[ARK/KAS1970\],](#page-4-5) [\[ARK/KAS1984\]](#page-4-1). Balarew et al. [\[BAL/KET1975\]](#page-4-6) also investigated the solubility in this ternary system. Again, no double salt was reported in these papers. The

Submitted October 2023 Accepted November 2023

<https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:105-qucosa2-886044>

Corresponding author: F. Bok, Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf e.V., Institute of Resource Ecology, Bautzner Landstraße 400, 01328 Dresden, Germany, email: F.Bok@hzdr.de

double salt, CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O, was first described by Chou et al. [\[CHO/LEE1983\],](#page-4-7) [\[CHO/ROM1983\].](#page-4-0) Its structure was solved in 1984 by Evans et al. [\[EVA/KON1984\].](#page-4-8) The latest work on solubility determinations in this system was performed by Gao et al. [\[GAO/LI2017\].](#page-4-9) Apart from a somewhat wider scatter of solubility data in the solid solution range (≤ 4 mol NaCl per kg H₂O), the solubility data from the various publications are in good agreement (the data of all the authors mentioned are presented in section 3).

In the CsCl – $KCl - H₂O$ system, for which a very limited solid solution formation was also described [ARK/KAS1984], the existing solubility data can be described with the pure phases CsCl(cr) and KCl(cr) (sylvite), see [Figure 1.](#page-1-0) In contrast, the implementation of a solid solution series is necessary for a correct description of the solubility data in the CsCl – NaCl – H_2O system, see [Figure 2.](#page-2-0)

2 Adjustment of formation constant for CsCl·2NaCl·2H2O(cr)

In the available literature, the solubility data are given as mass percentages. All datasets were recalculated to molal scale (moles salt per $kg H₂O$). For the solubility constant fitting of the double salt, the solution compositions of the invariant point CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr)+NaCl(cr) available in the literature were used, see [Table 1.](#page-1-1)

Figure 1 Solubility diagram of the ternary system CsCl – KCl – H2O, Symbols: experimental solubility data from literature, Lines: calculated using the THEREDA dataset (Release 2021).

Table 1 Solution composition of the invariant point CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H₂O(cr)+NaCl(cr).

* Calculated using obtained CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) solubility product and an ideal solid solution with the end members CsCl(cr) and CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr)

The solubility constant $(\log K_S^0)$ was determined using the geochemical software PHREEQC (version 3.7) [\[PAR/APE2013\]](#page-5-6) coupled with the parameter estimation software UCODE_2014 [\[POE/HIL2014\]](#page-5-7) which uses a minimization of sum of squared residuals approach. The experimentally determined solution compositions of the invariant point CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) + NaCl(cr) available in the literature [\(Table 1\)](#page-1-1) were used for this fit. In the fit, an ideal solid solution between CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) and CsCl(cr) was included in the calculation. To meet the THEREDA requirements, the formation reaction of the double salt according [\(2.1](#page-2-1)) and the corresponding formation constant was calculated from the solubility constant.

$$
Cs^{+} + 2Na^{+} + 3Cl^{-} + 2H_{2}O(l)
$$

\n
$$
\Rightarrow CsCl·2NaCl·2H_{2}O(cr)
$$
\n(2.1)

From the obtained reaction constant, the free molar Gibbs energy of the reaction $(\Delta_r G^0)$ was calculated using equation [\(2.2](#page-2-2)), followed by the molar Gibbs free energy of formation $(\Delta_f G^0)$ using equation [\(2.3](#page-2-3)) as well as the formation data $(\Delta_f H^0 \& S^0)$ for Na⁺ [\[GUI/FAN2003\],](#page-4-10) Cs⁺ [\[GRE/FUG1992\],](#page-4-11) Cl[−] [\[GUI/FAN2003\]](#page-4-10) and H2O(l) [\[LEM/BER2013\].](#page-5-8)

$$
\Delta_r G^0 = -RT \ln K^0 \tag{2.2}
$$

$$
\Delta_f G_i^0 = \Delta_r G_i^0 - \sum v_i \Delta_f G_j^0 \tag{2.3}
$$

The results are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Formation constants for CsCl∙2NaCl∙ $2H₂O(cr)$.

Data Type	Value
$\log K^{0}(2.1)$	-4.288 ± 0.014 [*]
$\Delta_r G_m^0$	24 476 \pm 79 ^{**} J/mol
$\Delta_f G_m^0$	$-1658820 \pm 1416^{**}$ J/mol

* The stated uncertainty refers to the standard deviation (2σ).

Uncertainty calculated from log_K's uncertainty and the elements formation data uncertainty.

3 Results and Discussion

The implementation of the double salt CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) with its determined formation constant together with a solid solution between CsCl(cr) and CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) significantly improves the modeling of the ternary system $CsCl - NaCl - H₂O$ compared to the experimental data as can be seen in [Figure 2.](#page-2-0)

Only in the region of the solid solution, there is a slight deviation between the experimental data and the calculated results.

Figure 2 Solubility diagram of the ternary system $CsCl - NaCl - H₂O$. Symbols: experimental solubility data from literature, Lines: calculation results using the THEREDA dataset (Release 2021) without (blue) and with double salt and an ideal solid solution from this work (red).

3.1 The quaternary system CsCl – NaCl – KCl – H2O

In order to test the effects of the implementation of the double salt and the ideal solid solution, the experimentally determined solubility data from [\[ARK/KAS1984\]](#page-4-1) for the quaternary system CsCl $-$ NaCl – KCl – H₂O were recalculated. The results are shown in [Figure 3.](#page-3-0)

Figure 3 Solubility diagram of the quaternary system CsCl – NaCl – KCl – H2O. Symbols: experimental solubility data from literature, Lines: Calculations using the THEREDA dataset (Release 2021) without (blue) and with double salt and an ideal solid solution from this work (red).

The modelling result shows a very good agreement with the experimental data of the dominant solid phases. No further adjustment of the Pitzer coefficients or other solubility constants of the solid phases occurring in this system were necessary.

Since the diagram in [Figure 3](#page-3-0) only represents phase areas as a function of the relative ion concentrations, but not the single ion concentrations, the values of the invariant point NaCl(cr)- KCl(cr)-CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) are additionally listed in [Table 3.](#page-3-1)

Table 3 Comparison between experimental [\[ARK/KAS1984\]](#page-4-1) and calculated concentrations at the invariant point NaCl(cr)-KCl(cr)- CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr).

3.2 The quaternary-reciprocal system Cs⁺ , Na⁺ || Cl[−] , SO⁴ 2− – H2O

Also in the quaternary-reciprocal system Cs^+ , Na^+ | | Cl[−], SO₄^{2−} – H₂O the modeling improves by including the double salt and the ideal solid solution. In particular, the chloride-rich part of the diagram is reproduced better, see Figure 4. However, the few experimental datasets for the quaternary-reciprocal system from Poletaev et al.

[\[POL/PLY1974\]](#page-5-9) and Shi et al. [\[SHI/CHE2020\]](#page-5-10) are not consistent and highly scattered.

Figure 4 Solubility diagram of the quaternary-reciprocal system Cs^+ , Na⁺ | | Cl[−], SO₄^{2−} – H₂O, Symbols: experimental solubility data from literature, Lines: calculated using THEREDA dataset (Release 2021) without (blue) and with double salt and an ideal solid solution from this work (red).

A more perfect description of the quaternary-reciprocal system *e.g.*, for the phase boundary between Na2SO4∙10H2O(cr) (mirabilite) and $Na₂SO₄(cr)$ (thenardite) could be achieved with a new optimization of the mixing parameters including the quaternary solubility data. However, this is not intended in the present stage of the development of the database.

4 Summary

The presented extension of the available cesium Pitzer data set by the CsCl∙2NaCl∙2H2O(cr) double salt and an ideal solid solution of it with $CsCl (cr)$ in the system $CsCl - NaCl - H₂O$ significantly improves the results of solubility calculations according the experimental data from literature.

It could be demonstrated that the extension is also an improvement for the modeling for higher systems – the quaternary system CsCl – NaCl – $KCl - H₂O$ as well as the quaternary-reciprocal system Cs^+ , Na⁺ || Cl⁻, SO₄²⁻ – H₂O – with respect to the occurring solid phases and their solubilities.

It must be emphasized that the determined solubility constant of the double salt as well as the Gibbs enthalpies calculated from it are valid only as long as the calculation is performed with an ideal solid solution between CsCl(cr) and CsCl∙ 2NaCl∙2H2O(cr).

References

[ARK/KAS1970] Arkhipov, S. M., Kashina, N. I., Kuzina, V. A., О фазах переменного состава в системе NaCl-CsCl-H2O (About phases of variable composition in the system NaCl-CsCl-H2O), *Zh. Neorg. Khim.*, **15**(4), (1970), 1086–1089.

[ARK/KAS1984] Arkhipov, S. M., Kashina, N. I., Система NaCl-KCl-CsCl-H2O при 25 °C (The NaCl-KCl-CsCl-H2O System at 25 °C), *Zh. Neorg. Khim.*, **29**(10), (1984), 2704–2705.

[BAL/KET1975] Balarew, C., Ketenev, D. N., Study of the systems NaCl-RbCl-H2O and NaCl-CsCl-H2O at 25.0°C, *C. R. Acad. Bulg. Sci.*, **28**(2), (1975), 221–223.

[CHO/LEE1983] Chou, I-M. Lee, R. D., Solubility Relations in the Ternary System NaCl-CsCl-H2O at 1 atm. 1. Solubilities of Halite from 20 to 100 °C, *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **28**(4), (1983), 390−393, DOI: [10.1021/je00034a012.](https://doi.org/10.1021/je00034a012)

[CHO/ROM1983] Chou, I-M., Romankiw, L. A., Evans, H. T., Konnert, J. A., Solubility relations in the ternary system sodium chloride-cesium chloride-water at 1 atm. 2. Solubility relations at 25 °C, *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **28**(4), (1983), 393−396, DOI: [10.1021/je00034a013.](https://doi.org/10.1021/je00034a013)

[DEL/PIT1983] de Lima, M. C. P., Pitzer, K. S., Thermodynamics of saturated aqueous solutions including mixtures of NaCl, KCl, and CsCl, *J. Solution Chem.*, **12**, (1983) 171–185, DOI: [10.1007/BF00648055.](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00648055)

[ELG/BEN2004] El Guendouzi, M., Benbiyi, A., Azougen, R., Dinane, A., Thermodynamic properties of two ternary systems {yCsCl + $(1-y)LiCl$ }(aq) and $\{yCsCl + (1-y) NaCl\}$ (aq) at temperature 298.15 K, *CALPHAD*, **28**(4), (2004) , 435–444, DOI: $\frac{10.1016}{i\text{-cal}}$ [phad.2004.12.001.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.calphad.2004.12.001)

[EVA/KON1984] Evans Jr., H. T., Konnert, J. A., Choi, I-M., Romankiw, L. A., A Crystal Chemical Study of the System CsCl-NaCl-H₂O; Structures of the CsCl Derivative Compounds Cs1−x(Na∙H2O)xCl, CsNa2Cl3∙2H2O, and Cs2CaCl4∙2H2O, *Acta Cryst. B*, **40**(2), (1984), 86– 92, DOI: [10.1107/S0108768184001798.](https://doi.org/10.1107/S0108768184001798)

[GAO/LI2017] Gao, Y., Li, S., Zhai, Q, Hiang, Y., Hu, M., Phase Diagrams and Physicochemical Properties for the Ternary System (CsCl + NaCl $+$ H₂O) at *T* = (298.15, 308.15, and 318.15) K, *J*. *Chem. Eng. Data*, **62**, (2017), 2533−2540, DOI: [10.1021/acs.jced.7b00023.](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jced.7b00023)

[GRE/FUG1992] Grenthe, I., Fuger, J., Konings, R. J. M., Lemire, R. J., Muller, A. B., Nguyen-Trung, C., Wanner, H., *Chemical Thermodynamics of Uranium*, Elsevier Science Publ., North-Holland, Amsterdam, (1992).

[GUI/FAN2003] Guillaumont, R.; Fanghänel, T.; Fuger, J.; Grenthe, I.; Neck, V.; Palmer, D. A.; Rand, M. H.; Mompean, F. J.; Illemassene, M.; Domenech-Orti, C.; Ben-Said, K., *Update on the Chemical Thermodynamics of Uranium, Neptunium, Plutonium, Americium and Technetium*, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, Issy-les-Moulineaux (France), (2003).

[HOL/MES1990] Holmes, H. F., Mesmer, R. E., Isopiestic studies of aqueous solutions at elevated temperatures. 10. Sodium chloride+ cesium chloride {(1−y) NaCl + y CsCl}(aq), *J. Phys. Chem.*, **94**(20), (1990), 7800−7805, DOI: [10.1021/j100383a012.](https://doi.org/10.1021/j100383a012)

Short Communication

[HU/JIN2006] Hu, M., Jin, L. Li, S., Jiang, Y., Quaternary liquid–liquid equilibrium for water + 1-propanol + cesium sulfate + cesium chloride at 25 °C, *Fluid Phase Equilib.*, **242**, (2006), 136−140, DOI: [10.1016/j.fluid.2006.01.020.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fluid.2006.01.020)

[LEM/BER2013] Lemire, R. J., Berner, U., Musikas, C., Palmer, D. A., Taylor, P., Tochiyama, O., *Chemical Thermodynamics of Iron, Part 1*, Vol. 13a, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, Issy-les-Moulineaux (France), (2013).

[NEC/KOE1998] Neck, V., Könnecke, T., Fanghänel, T., Kim, J. I., Activity Coefficients and Pitzer Parameters for the Fission Product $Ions$ Cs^+ and $\text{TCO}_4^$ the System $Cs^{+}/Na^{+}/K^{+}/Mg^{2+}/Cl^{-}/SO_{4}^{2-}/TcO_{4}^{-}/H_{2}O$ at 25° C, *Radiochim. Acta*, **83**(2), (1998), 75−80, DOI: [10.1524/ract.1998.83.2.75.](https://doi.org/10.1524/ract.1998.83.2.75)

[PAR/APE2013] Parkhurst, D. L., and Appelo, C. A. J., *Description of input and examples for PHREEQC version 3—a computer program for speciation, batch-reaction, onedimensional transport, and inverse geochemical calculations*. U.S. Geological Survey, Book 6, Chapter 43, Section A of Techniques and Methods, (2013).

[PIT1991] Pitzer, K. S., Ion interaction approach: theory and data correlation, *Activity coefficients in electrolyte solutions*, Pitzer, K. S., Ed., pp. 75−153, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, (1991).

[PLY/TUL1957] Plyushchev, V. E., Tulinova, V. B., Kuznetsova, G. P., Korovin, S. S., Shipetina, N. S., Исследование тройной системы хлорид натрия - хлорид цезия - вода, *Zh. Neorg. Khim.*, **2**(11), (1957), 2655−2660.

[POE/HIL2014] Poeter, E. P., Hill, M. C., Lu, D., Tiedeman, C. R., and Mehl, S., *UCODE_2014, with new capabilities to define parameters unique to predictions, calculate weights using simulated values, estimate parameters with SVD, evaluate uncertainty with MCMC, and More*. Report Number: GWMI 2014-02. Indianapolis, Indiana, USA: Integrated Groundwater Modeling Center, (2014).

[POL/PLY1974] Poletaev, P. F., Plyushchev, V. E., Ludomirskaya, A. P., Система Na⁺, Cs⁺ | | Cl[−], SO₄^{2−} – H₂O при 25 и 75°C (System Na⁺, Cs⁺ || Cl[−] , SO⁴ 2− – H2O at 25 and 75°C), *Zh. Neorg. Khim.*, **19**(5), (1974), 1701−1701.

[RAR/MIL1982] Rard, J. A., Miller, D. G., Isopiestic determination of the osmotic and activity coefficients of aqueous cesium chloride, strontium chloride, and mixtures of sodium chloride and cesium chloride at 25 °C, *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **27**(2), (1982), 169−173, DOI: [10.1021/je00028a021.](https://doi.org/10.1021/je00028a021)

[SCH/MUN2012] Scharge, T., Munoz, A. G., Moog, H. C., Activity Coefficients of Fission Products in Highly Salinary Solutions of $\mathrm{Na^+}, \mathrm{K^+},$ Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Cl^- , and SO_4^{2-} : Cs^+ , *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **57**(6), (2012), 1637−1647, DOI: 10.1021 /je200970v.

[SCH/MUN2013] Scharge, T., Munoz, A. G., Moog, H. C., Addition to "Activity Coefficients of Fission Products in Highly Salinary Solutions of Na⁺, K⁺, Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, Cl⁻, and SO₄²⁻: Cs⁺", *J*. *Chem. Eng. Data*, **58**(1), (2013), 187−188, DOI: [10.1021/je301289a.](https://doi.org/10.1021/je301289a)

[SHI/CHE2020] Shi, M., Chen, S., Hu, J., Guo, Y., Deng, T., Solid−Liquid Phase Equilibrium for the Reciprocal Quaternary System (Na⁺, $Cs^{+}//Cl^{-}$, $SO_4^{2-}-H_2O$) at T = 298.15 K and 0.1 MPa, *J. Chem. Eng. Dat*a, **65**, (2020), 1396− 1401, DOI: [10.1021/acs.jced.9b00783.](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jced.9b00783)

[VAI/SHE1967] Vaisfel'd, M. I., Shevchuk, V. G., Равновесия в системах CsCl-MgCl₂-H₂O и CsCl-Cs₂SO₄-H₂O при 25^oC (Equilibrium in the $CsCl-MgCl₂-H₂O$ and $CsCl-Cs₂SO₄-H₂O$ system at 25°C), *Zh. Neorg. Khim.*, **12**(9), (1967), 2497− 2499.

[WU/ZEN2019] Wu, L., Zeng, Y., Chen, Y., Yu, X., Chen, P., Huang, P., Sun, J., The Stable Phase Equilibria of the Ternary Systems $Na₂SO₄ +$ Rb2SO⁴ (Cs2SO4) + H2O at 298.2 K, *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **64**(2), (2019), 529–535, DOI: [10.1021/acs.jced.8b00693.](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jced.8b00693)