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N94-25131

## **A Thermodynamic Approach to Obtain Materials Properties for Engineering Applications**

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With the ever increases in the capabilities of computers for numerical computations, we are on the verge of using these tools to model manufacturing processes for improving the efficiency of these processes as well as the quality of the products. One such process is casting for the production of metals. However, in order to model metal casting processes in a meaningful way it is essential to have the basic properties of these materials in their molten state, solid state as well as in the mixed state of solid and liquid. Some of the properties needed may be considered as intrinsic such as the density, heat capacity or enthalpy of freezing of a pure metal, while others are not. For instance, the enthalpy of solidification of an alloy is not a defined thermodynamic quantity. Its value depends on the micro-segregation of the phases during the course of solidification. The objective of the present study is to present a thermodynamic approach to obtain some of the intrinsic properties and combining thermodynamics with kinetic models to estimate such quantities as the enthalpy of solidification of an alloy.

A schematic diagram illustrating our general approach in obtaining the thermodynamic description of an alloy is shown in Figure 1. The starting point is to have suitable and appropriate thermodynamic models for all the phases involved. All of these models have unknown parameters. The parameter values must be obtained from experimental thermodynamic data. Although most thermodynamic models are empirical or semi-empirical, we attempt to use models with some physical basis and certainly with the least number of parameters to describe such a phase. Once we have the thermodynamic properties of all the phases in a binary described, we can then calculate stable binary phase equilibria and compare them with the measured diagrams. If the thermodynamic data and phase diagram data are correct and the models used are suitable, the calculated diagram should agree with the measured equilibria. Since all experimental measurements have uncertainties, it is often necessary to use thermodynamic and phase equilibrium data simultaneously to optimize the parameter values of the thermodynamic models. Of

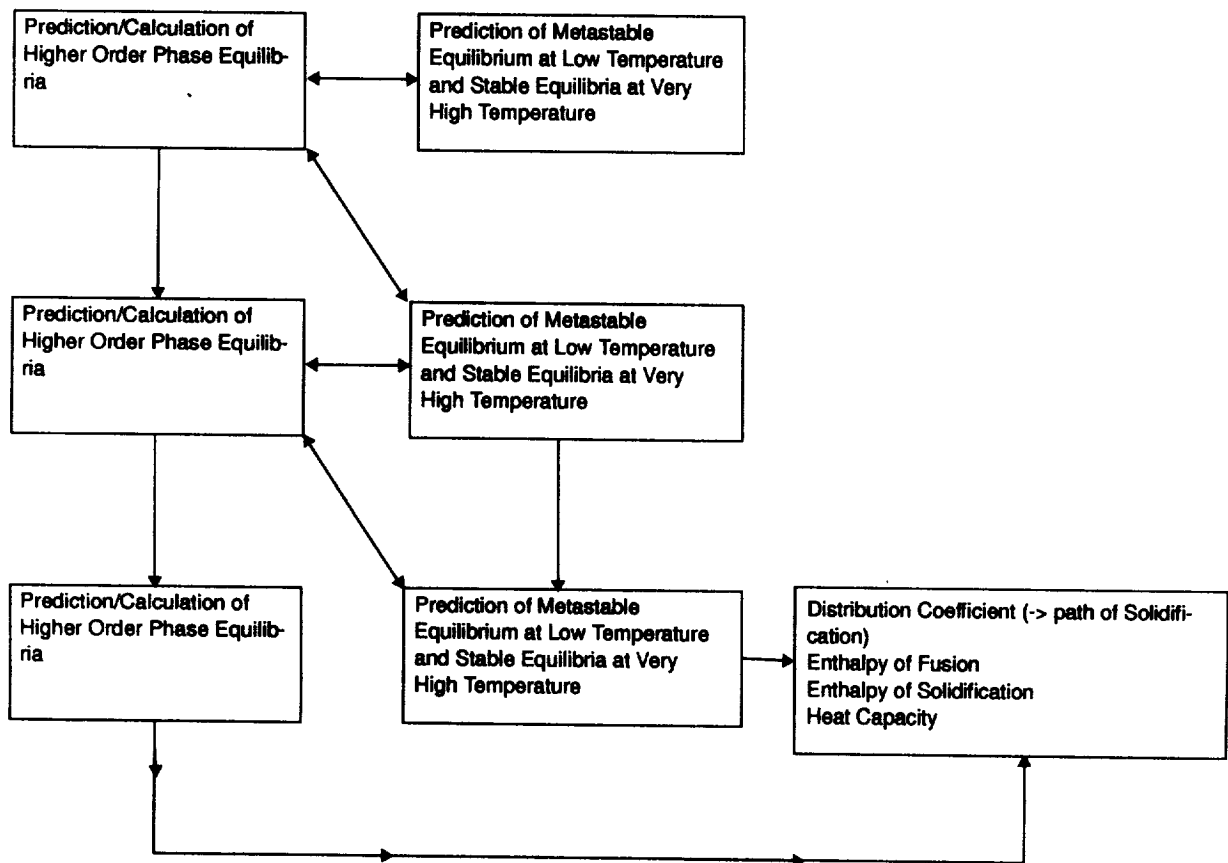


Figure 1

course, we always use the thermodynamic values as the starting point for our optimization. We can also calculate phase equilibria at either very high temperatures where measurements are difficult to carry out experimentally or at very low temperatures where the kinetics of reaction are so slow that achievement of equilibrium is difficult if not impossible. We can also calculate metastable equilibria from the thermodynamic models particularly those involving a supercooled liquid phase. A knowledge of the metastable equilibria is important in controlling the resulting microstructure of alloys during solidification. In several systems, our calculated metastable equilibria are in accord with experimental measurements. In addition, on the basis of the binaries, we may extend the calculations/predictions to ternary and higher order systems. This is particularly important since most commercial alloys are of multi-components.

This type of approach allows us to have the thermodynamic descriptions of the phases involved as well as to obtain the values for the distribution coefficients as a function of composition and temperature. The distribution coefficient is a basic parameter in model-

ing the microsegregation of an alloy. Yet it is usually not available from experimental measurement for a multi-component alloy as a function of temperature. Coupling the thermodynamic descriptions of the phases with a kinetic model, we can compute such important quantities such as the enthalpy of solidification which is needed for macro-modeling of solidification. Moreover, coupling of the thermodynamic descriptions of the phases with semi-theoretical models, we can estimate/calculate the surface tensions of molten alloys provided the values of the component elements are known.

**Nothing is better  
than  
good experimental data**

**But We Have To Be  
Realistic**

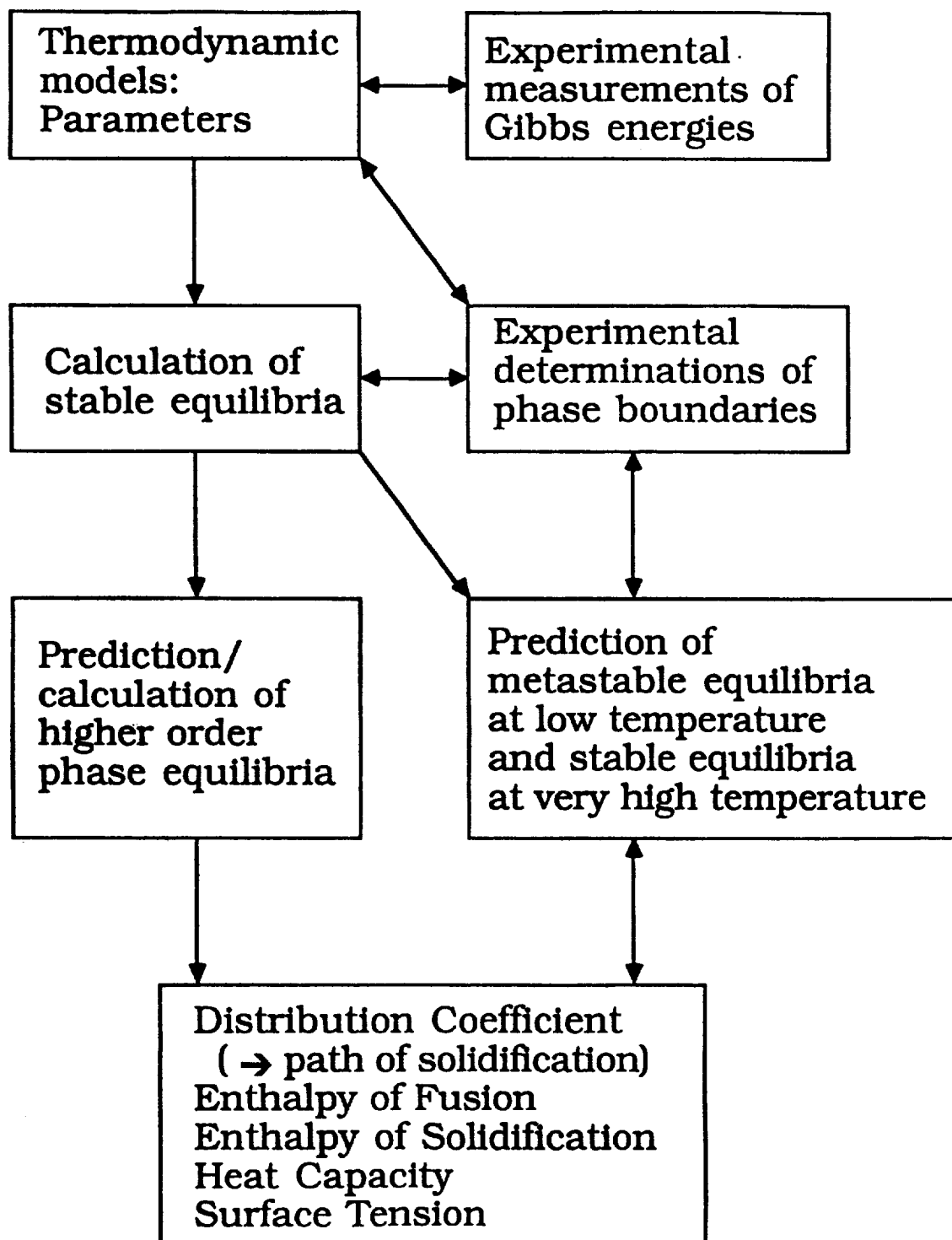
We don't have either the time or  
the resource to measure all the  
needed materials properties.

**We must develop  
methodologies  
to estimate these  
materials properties**

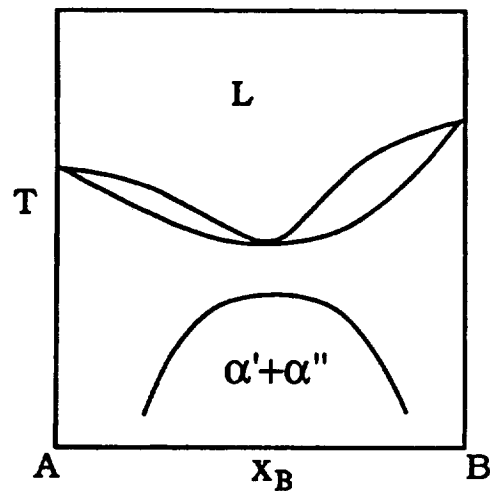
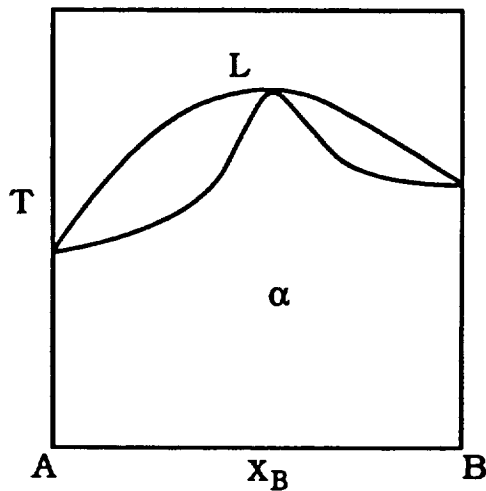
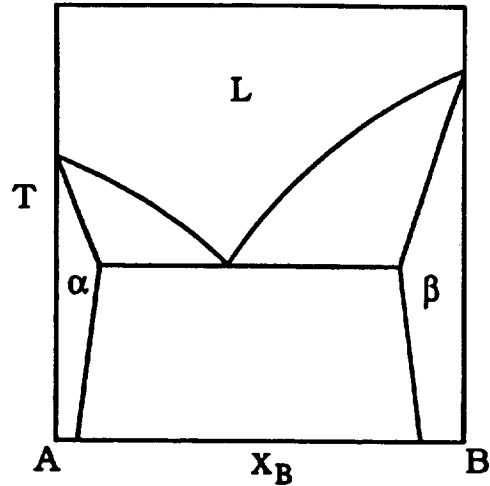
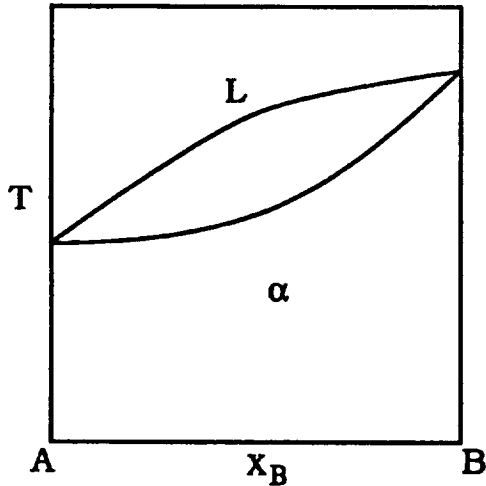
**In fact, a combined thermodynamic modeling/experimental approach is the only sensible way to build up a material data base for engineering applications!**

**Solid-liquid equilibria  
(distribution coefficient)  
Enthalpy of fusion  
Enthalpy of Solidification  
Heat capacity  
Surface tension**

**Thermodynamic Approach  
to Obtain Phase  
Equilibrium Data**



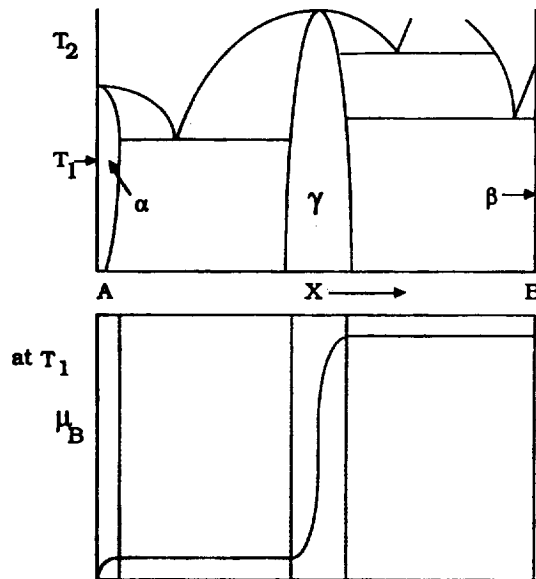
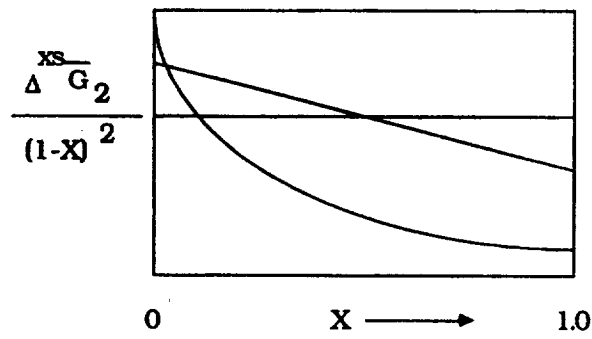
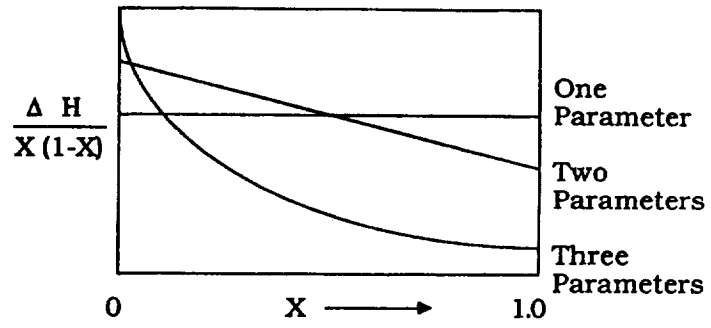
# Thermodynamic Models



Thermodynamic Model (Equation) for Solutions (both Solid and Liquid) with Small Deviations from Regular Solution Behavior.

$$\Delta^{XS} G^{\alpha} = x(1-x) [u + vx + wx^2]$$

with  $u, v, w = A + BT + CT \ln T$ , where A, B, C are constants.



Intermediate Phases: Variation of the  
Wagner-Schottky  
(Bragg-Williams) Model.

The Liquid Phase: Associated Solution  
Model,  
Sublattice Model.



# An Example

Al-Cu  
Al-Mg  
Mg-Cu  
Al-Mg-Cu

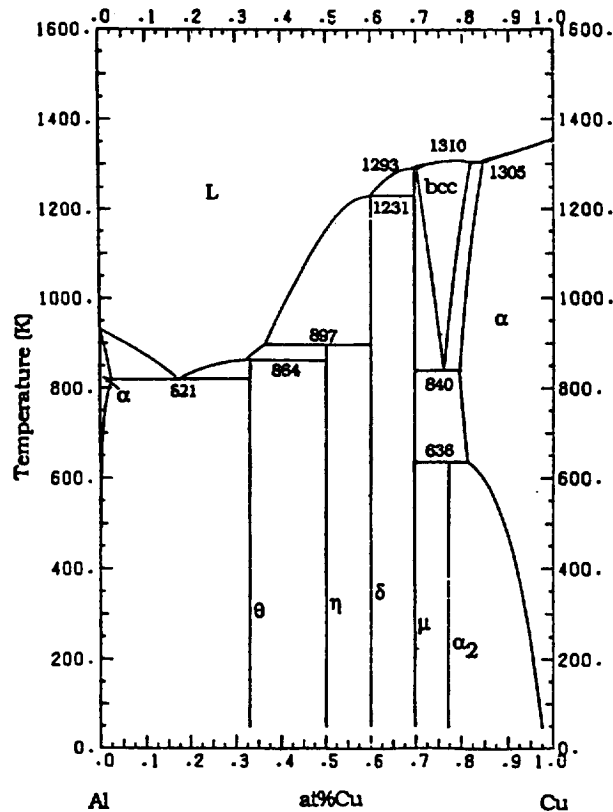
## Al-Cu

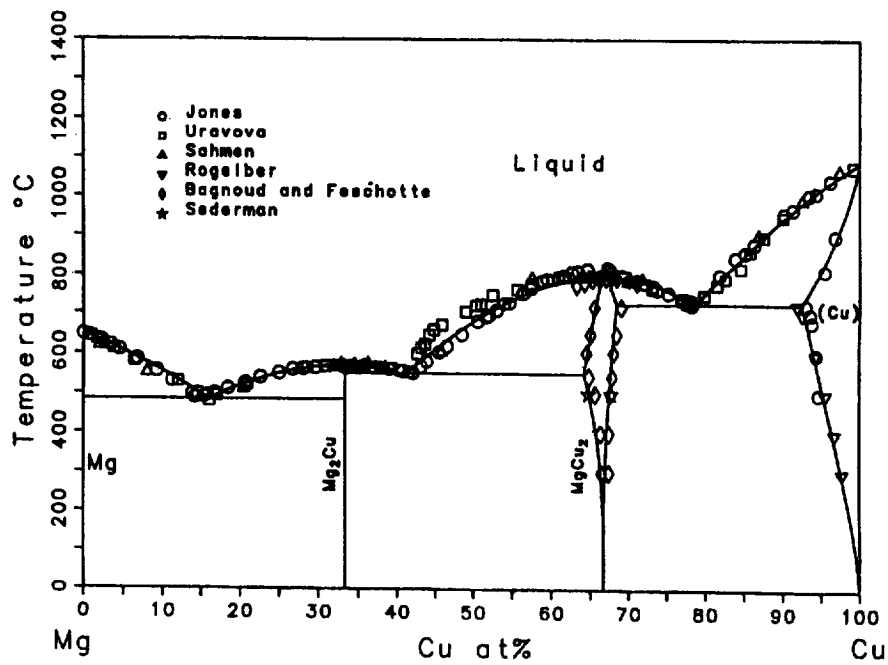
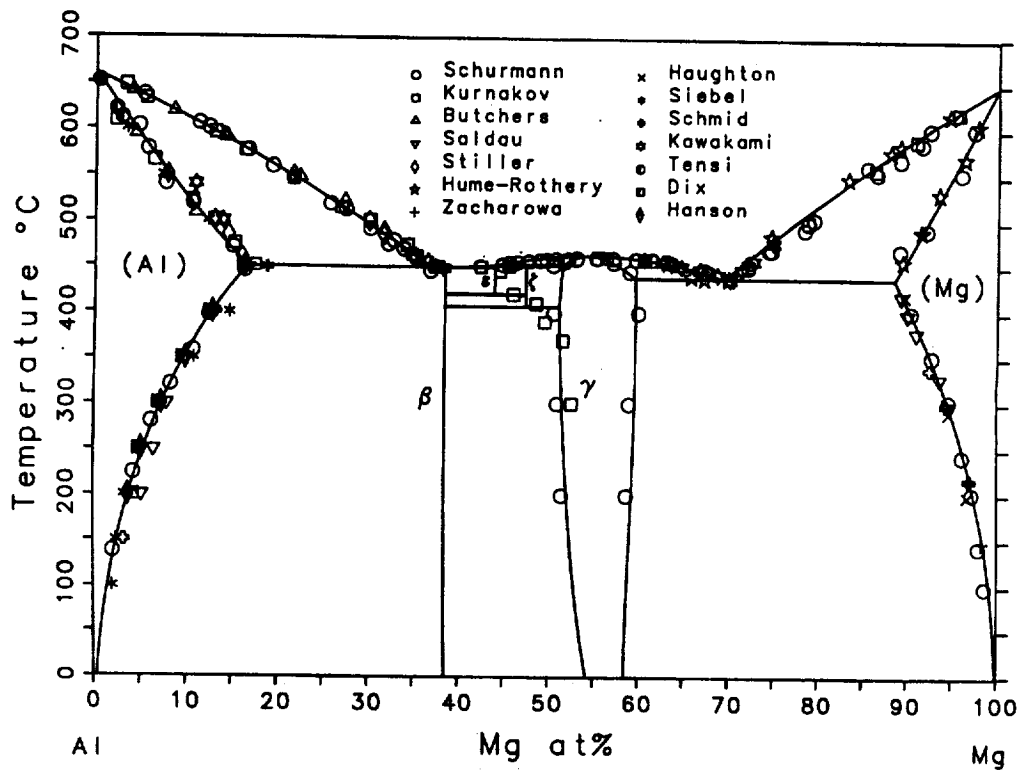
Kaufman and Nesor, 1978

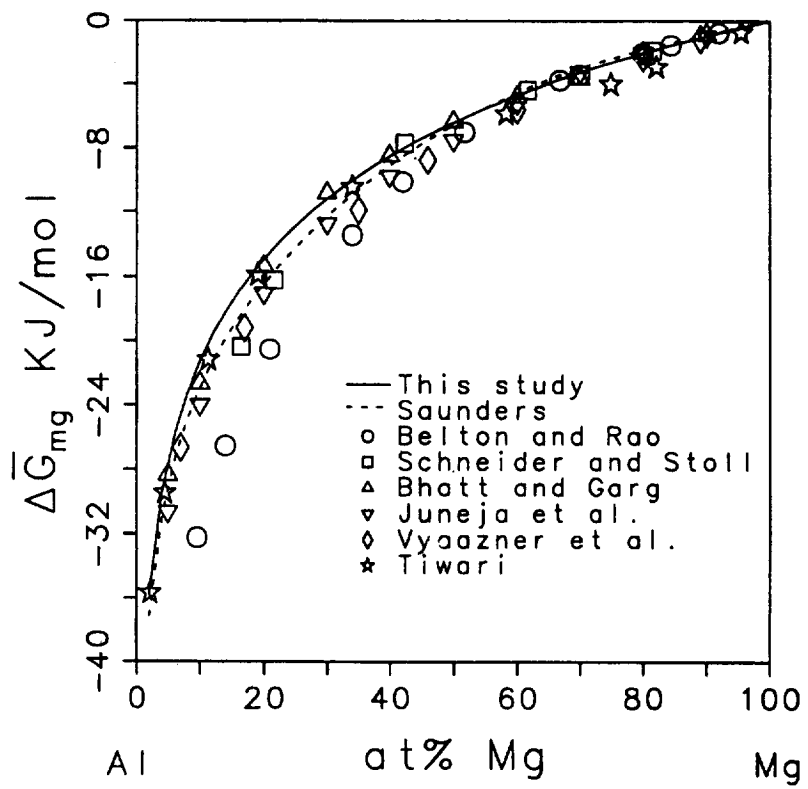
Murray, 1985

Chuang, 1984

Chen, Chuang, Chang and Chu, 1991

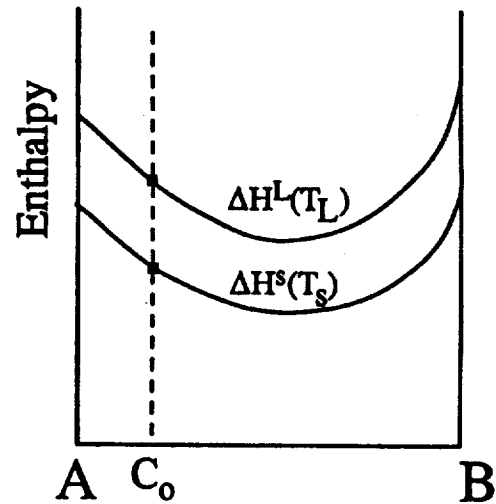
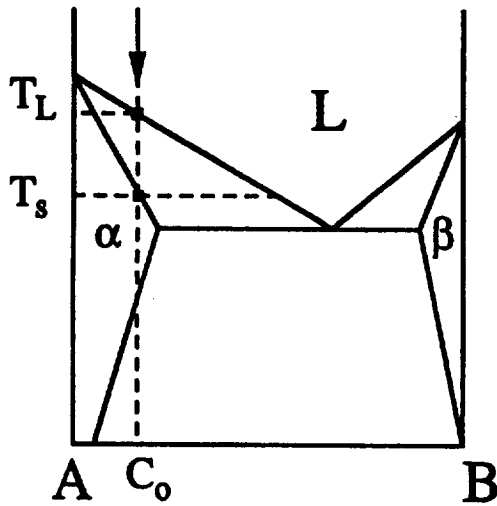




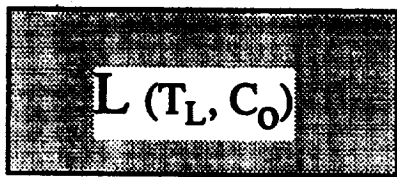


# Enthalpy of Solidification

Case I: Equilibrium Solidification

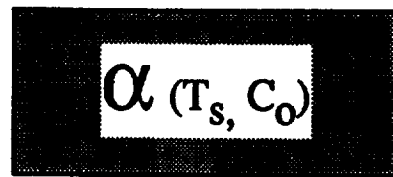


Before Solidification:



$$\Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

After Solidification:

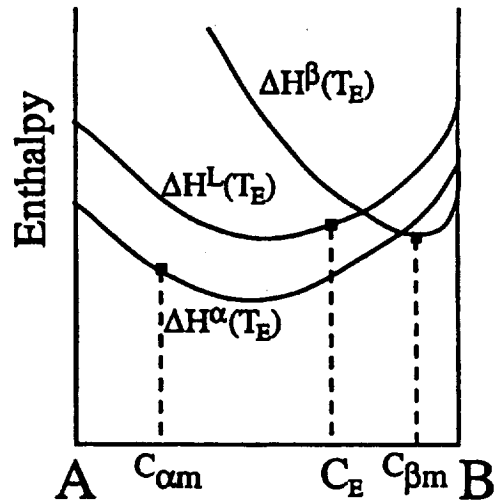
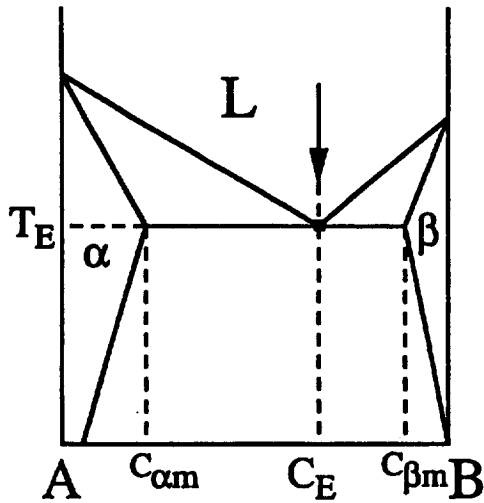


$$\Delta H^S(T_s, C_0)$$

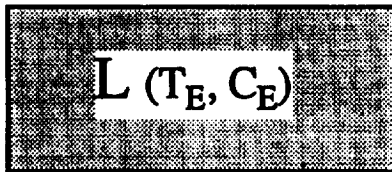
Enthalpy of Solidification:

$$\Delta H = \Delta H^S(T_s, C_0) - \Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

## Case II: Eutectic Solidification

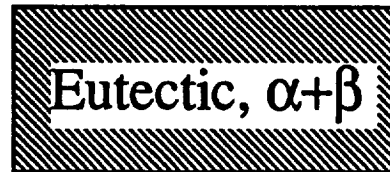


Before Solidification:



$$\Delta H^L(T_E, C_E)$$

After Solidification:



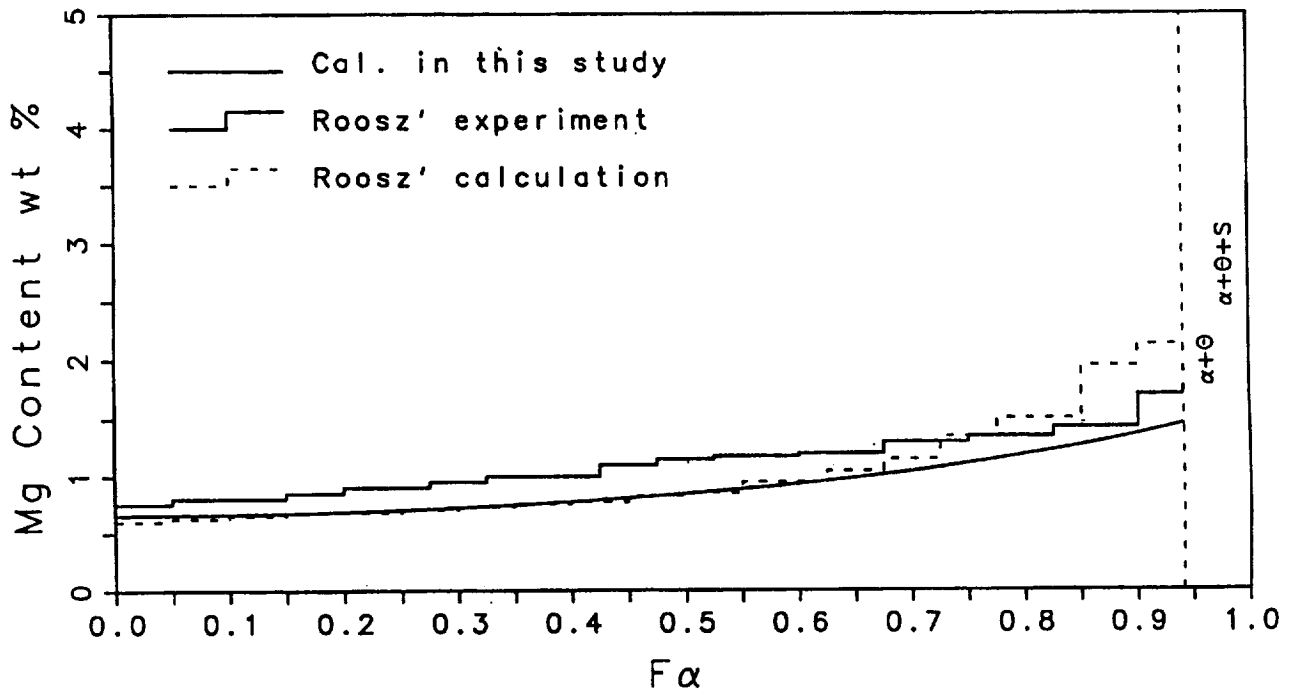
$$\Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_{\alpha m})$$

$$\Delta H^\beta(T_E, C_{\beta m})$$

Enthalpy of Solidification:

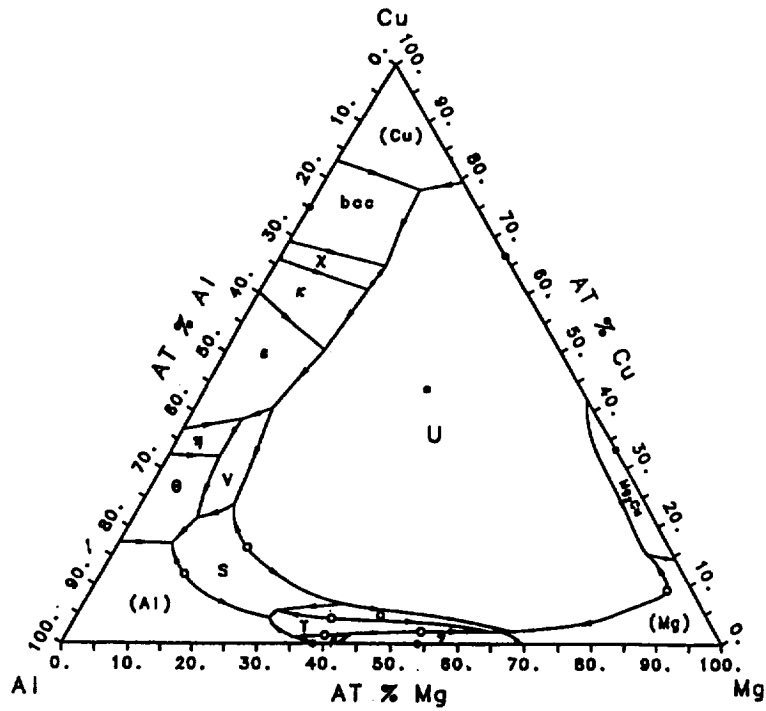
$$\Delta H = [a \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_{\alpha m}) + b \Delta H^\beta(T_E, C_{\beta m})] - \Delta H^L(T_E, C_E)$$

Alloy 1 (1.35Mg, 3.98Cu wt%, 1.41 C/sec)

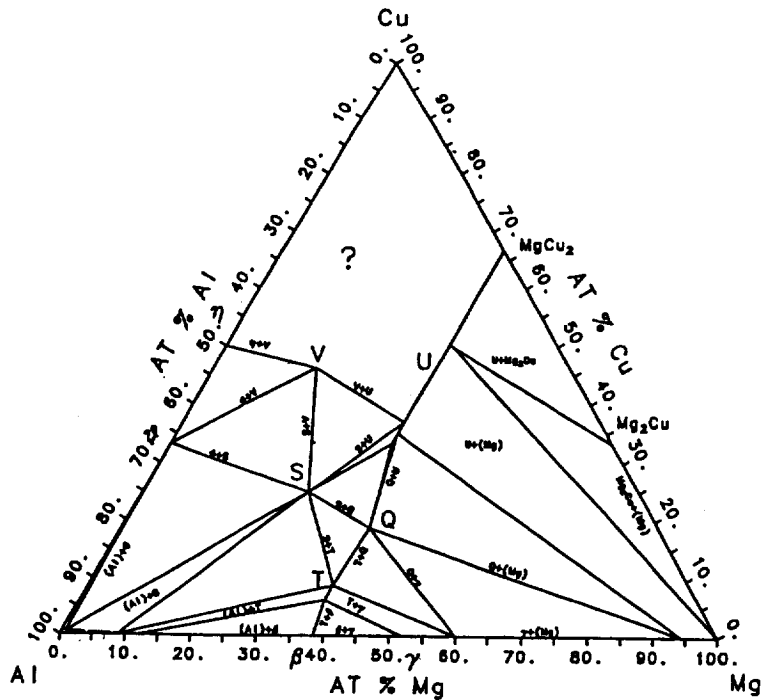


## Enthalpy of Solidification

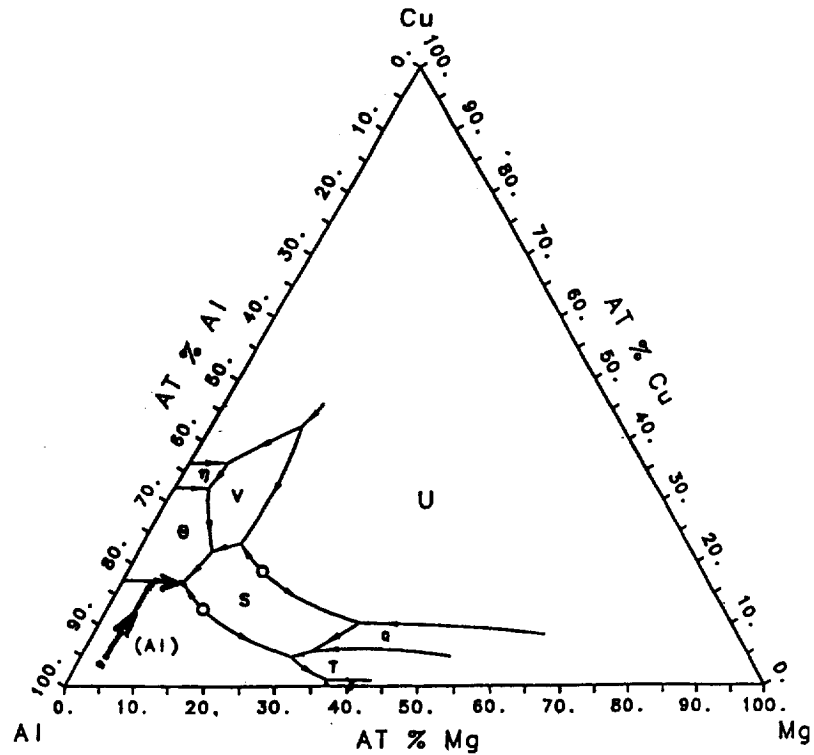
## Experimental Liquidus Projection of Al-Mg-Cu



## Calculated Isotherm of Al-Mg-Cu at 400 °C



Calculated Liquidus Projection for the  
Al-rich corner of Al-Mg-Cu



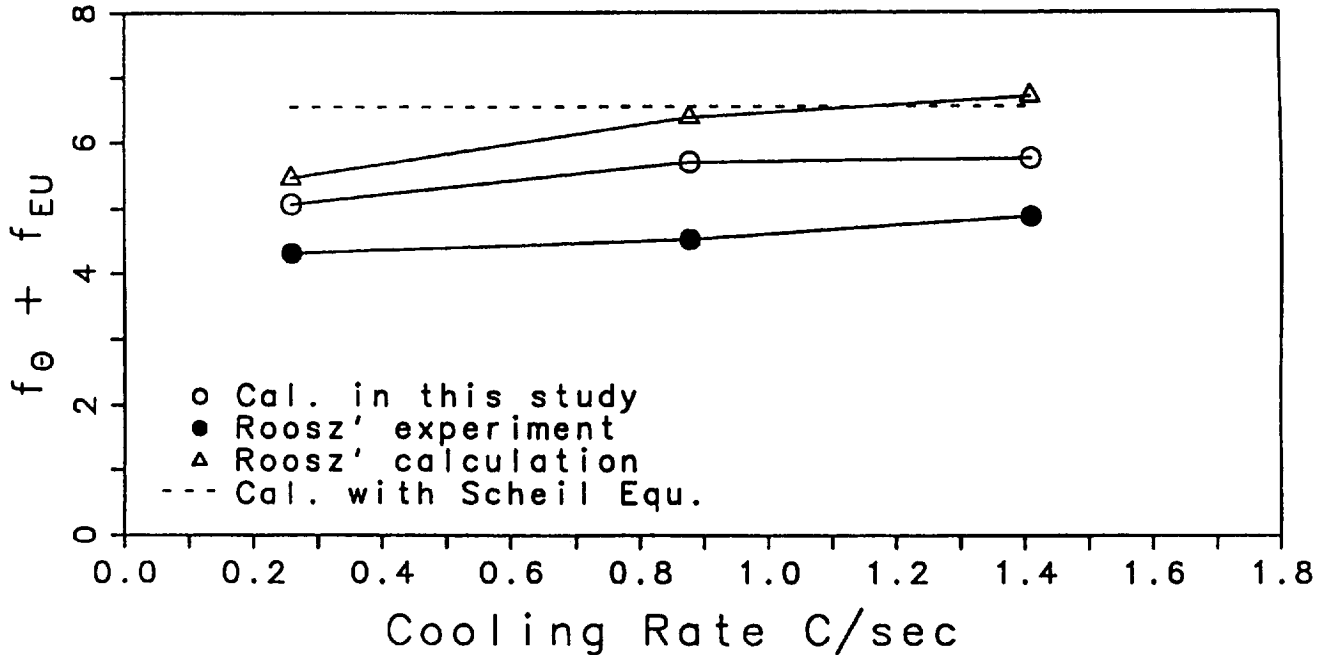
**Demonstrate the Importance  
of Using Correct  
Distribution Coefficient,  $k$**

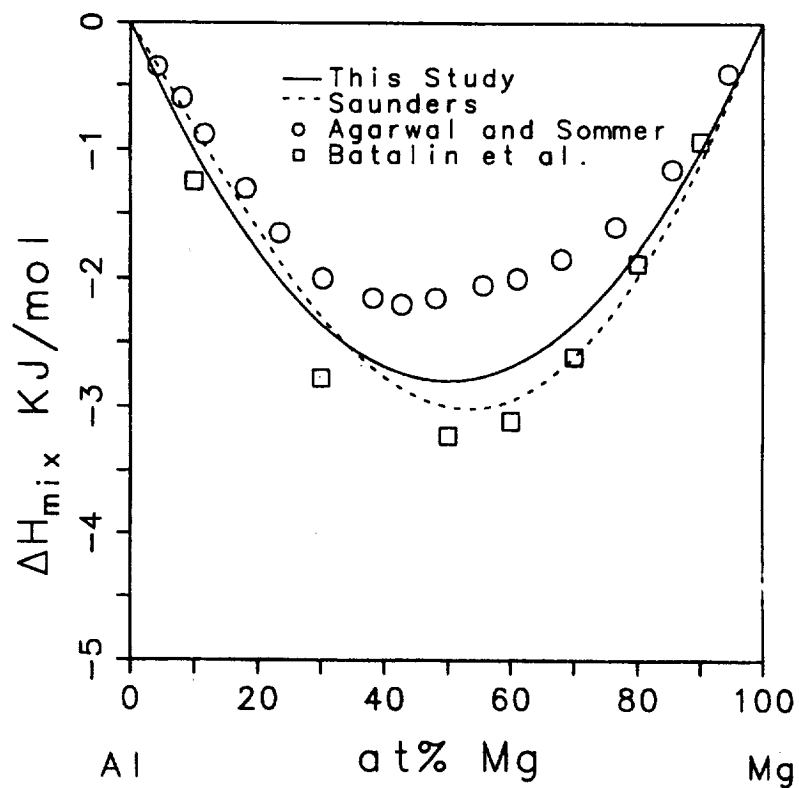
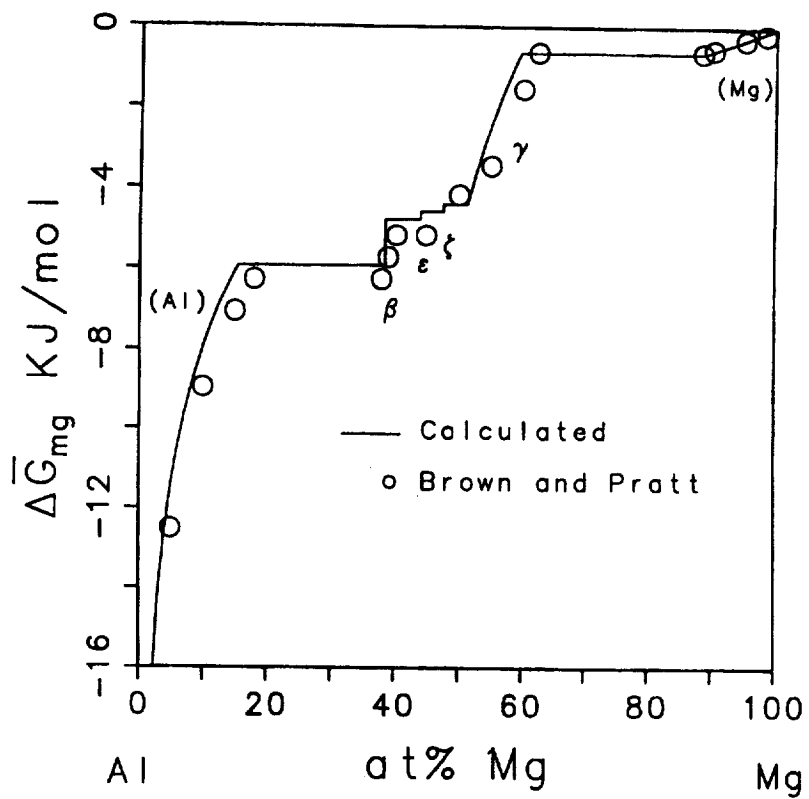


Comparison between the model proposed in  
this study and that by Roosz and Exner

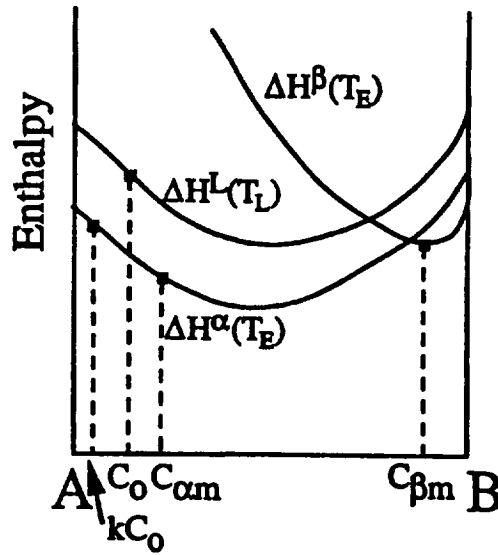
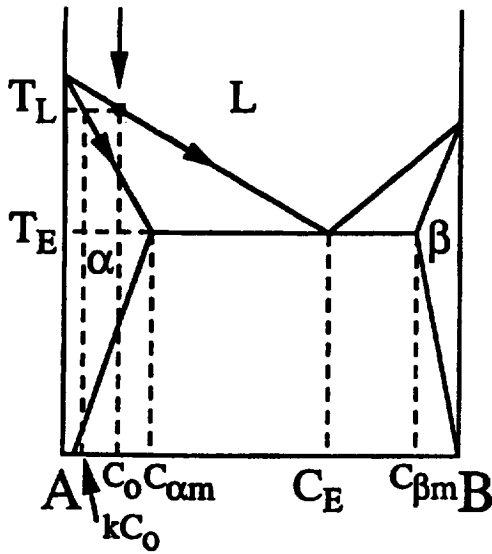
	Model of Roosz & Exner	Present model
Mass balance: Scheil equation with solid state diffusion	yes	yes
Distribution coefficient	Taken from binaries directly as constant	Computed from thermodynamic model
Heat balance	yes	Assumed constant cooling rate
Dendritic coarsening	Described by semi- empirical equation	no

Alloy 1 (1.35Mg, 3.98Cu wt%)





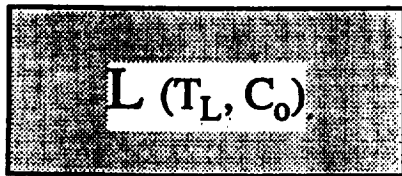
Case III: Scheil Equation



Scheil Equation:

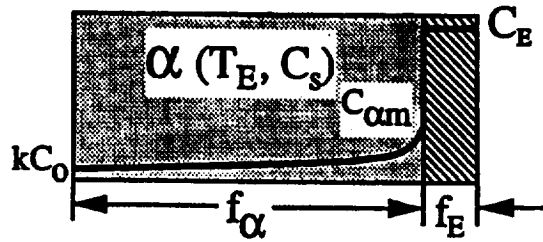
$$C_S^* = kC_0(1-f_s)^{(k-1)}$$

Before Solidification:



$$\Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

After Solidification:



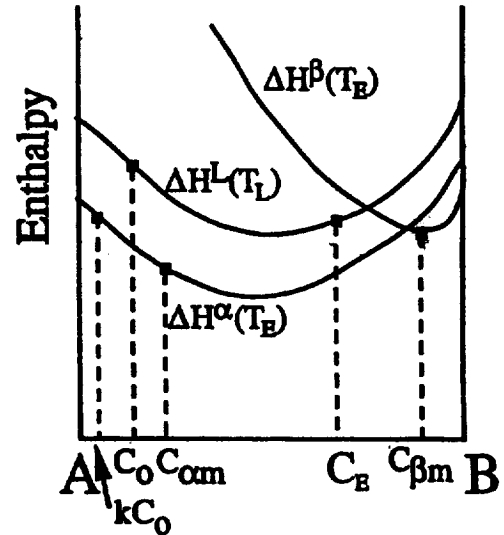
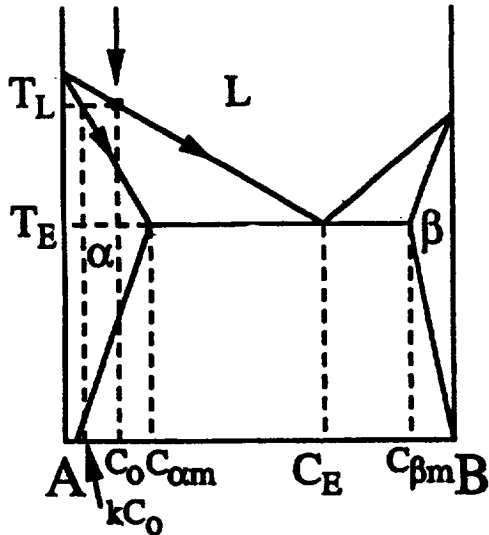
$$\Delta H^E = a \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_{\alpha m}) + b \Delta H^\beta(T_E, C_{\beta m})$$

$$\Delta \bar{H}^\alpha = \left[ \int_0^{f_\alpha} \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_s) df_\alpha \right] / f_\alpha$$

Enthalpy of Solidification:

$$\Delta H = (\Delta \bar{H}^\alpha f_\alpha + \Delta H^E f_E) - \Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

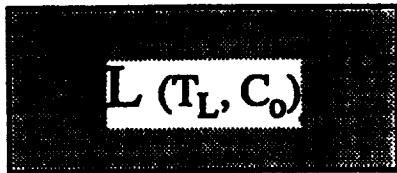
Case III: Scheil Equation



Scheil Equation:

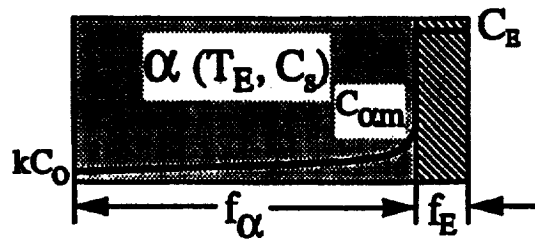
$$C_S^* = kC_0(1-f_S)^{(k-1)}$$

Before Solidification:



$$\Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

After Solidification:



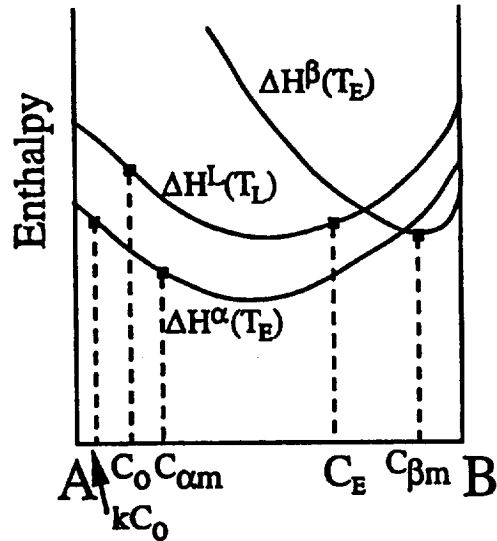
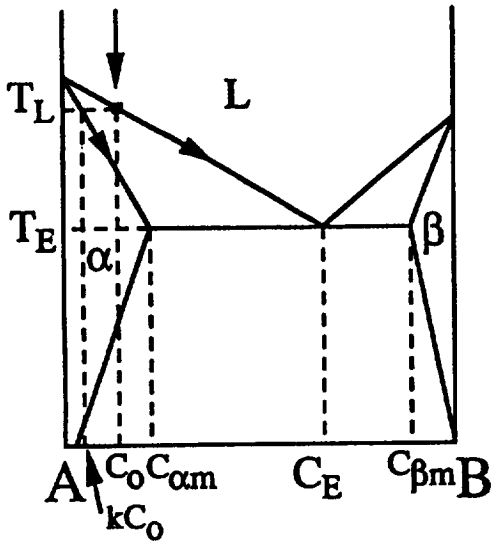
$$\Delta H^E = a \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_{\alpha m}) + b \Delta H^\beta(T_E, C_{\beta m})$$

$$\Delta \bar{H}^\alpha = \left[ \int_0^{f_\alpha} \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_\alpha) df_\alpha \right] / f_\alpha$$

Enthalpy of Solidification:

$$\Delta H = (\Delta \bar{H}^\alpha f_\alpha + \Delta H^E f_\beta) - \Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

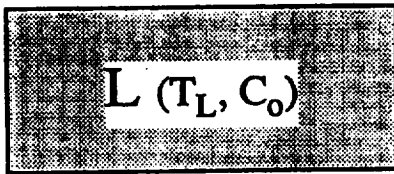
Case III: Scheil Equation



Scheil Equation:

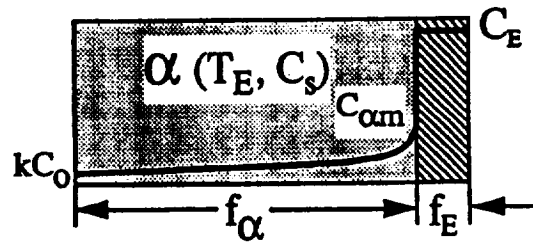
$$C_S^* = kC_0(1-f_S)^{(k-1)}$$

Before Solidification:



$$\Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

After Solidification:



$$\Delta H^E = a \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_{\alpha m}) + b \Delta H^\beta(T_E, C_{\beta m})$$

$$\Delta \bar{H}^\alpha = \left[ \int_0^{f_\alpha} \Delta H^\alpha(T_E, C_\alpha) df_\alpha \right] / f_\alpha$$

Enthalpy of Solidification:

$$\Delta H = (\Delta \bar{H}^\alpha f^\alpha + \Delta H^E f^E) - \Delta H^L(T_L, C_0)$$

# Estimation of $C_p$

**Yeum, Speiser & Poirier (1989)**

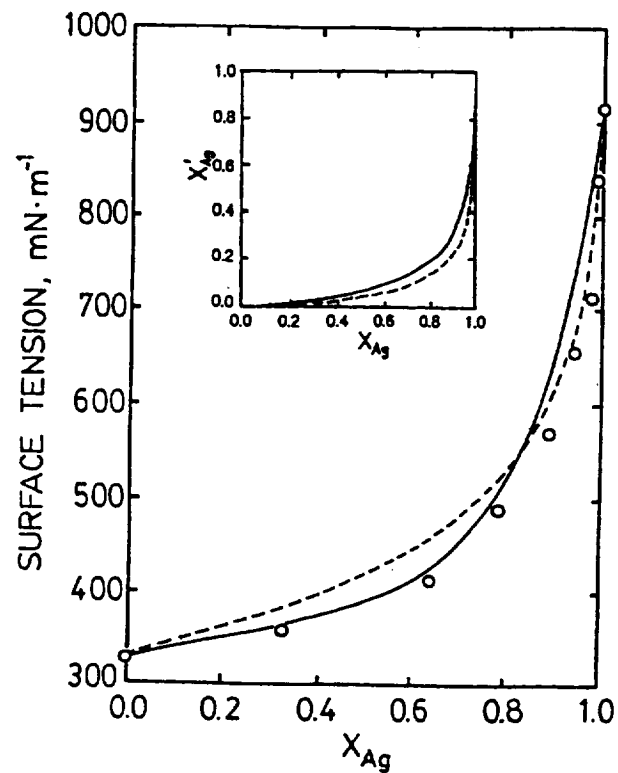
Data Needed to Estimate Surface  
Tension ( $\sigma$ ) of Binary Liquid Alloys

- $\sigma_A$ : Surface tension of the pure component A
- $\sigma_B$ : Surface tension of the pure component B
- $\rho_A$ : Density of the pure component A
- $\rho_B$ : Density of the pure component B
- $\Delta^{XS}G$ : Excess Gibbs energy of the liquid alloy

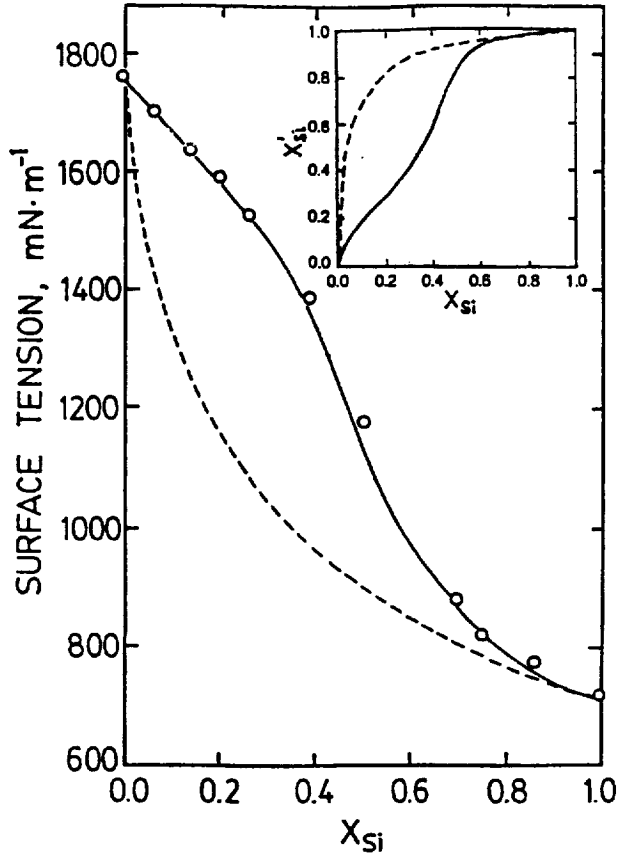
## **Surface Tension**

## 10 Binary Liquid Alloy Systems were Evaluated

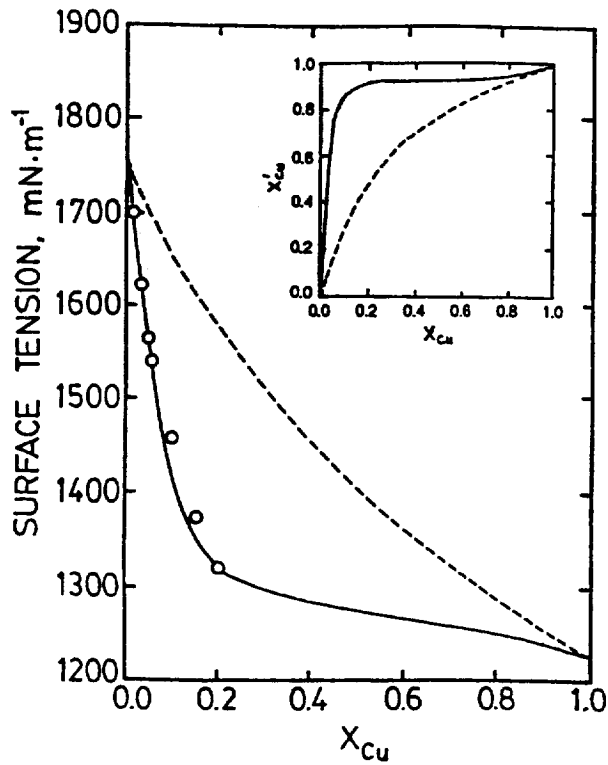
- + deviations from ideal behavior
- deviations from ideal behavior
- +,- deviations from ideal behavior



Surface tensions of Bi-Ag alloys at 1233 K: o = Metzger;  
--- = ideal solution; and — = calculated.



Surface tensions of Ni-Si alloys at 1823 K: ○ = Popel *et al.*; --- = ideal solution; and — = calculated.



Surface tensions of Fe-Cu alloys at 1823 K: ○ = Dyson; --- = ideal solution; and — = calculated.



## **Conclusions**

1. A careful assessment of the thermodynamic and phase equilibrium data of binary and higher order systems is essential for developing a data base for engineering applications.

Distribution Coefficients →  
Paths of Solidification  
Enthalpy of Fusion  
Enthalpy of Solidification  
Heat Capacity  
Surface Tension

2. A combined modelling / experimental approach is the best (perhaps the only realistic) approach to obtain a thermodynamic description of multi-component alloy systems.

