## Interactive experimentation and thermodynamic modeling

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## **1. Introduction**

- 2. Structural behavior and thermodynamic properties of SrZrO<sub>3</sub>
- 3. Thermodynamic modeling and experimentation of KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> system
- 4. Summaries

## Introduction

- Phase diagram's functions: blueprints or roadmap for materials design, development, processing and basic understanding
  - visual representations of the state of a material: T, P, C

# The correlation between thermodynamics and phase equilibrium J. W. Gibbs

- Modern development: modeling and computer technology
  - $\rightarrow$  phase equilibrium computer calculation possibility
- Crucial thermodynamic modeling in binary system
- can be extrapolated to multi-component systems
- Question: Can we believe the results of modeling?

#### Two method to check the results of modeling

- Comparison between the calculated and measured data in literature is the most usually employed test (example one on SrZrO<sub>3</sub>)
- the best way is to couple interactive experimentation and modeling (example two on KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub>)

#### • Two example were used to illustrate theses two methods

- Structure behavior and thermodynamic properties of SrZrO<sub>3</sub>
- ♦ KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> Phase diagram and the decomposition of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub>

# Example 1: structural behavior and thermodynamic properties of SrZrO<sub>3</sub>

# Two different reviews about the structure behavior of SrZrO<sub>3</sub> existed in literature

- One review: the room temperature structure of SrZrO<sub>3</sub> was pseudo-cubic, and this pseudo-cubic structure did not undergo any phase transformation upon heating
- Second review: the room temperature structure of SrZrO<sub>3</sub> was orthorhombic, and the orthorhombic perovskite SrZrO<sub>3</sub> will transform through higher symmetries during heating, eventually to ideal cubic

# A series of thermodynamic data available in literature but great difference existed

- Different structure?
- Effect of impurities, minor departures from nominal stoichiometry, or changes in synthesis temperatures?

## How to identify and resolve the inconsistency between various kinds of experimental data?

- Basic tool: thermodynamic modeling
- complementary experimentation

## Thermodynamic modeling on SrZrO<sub>3</sub>

## Experimental data evaluation and thermodynamic modeling

- Thermodynamic data and structural information evaluation, thus two optimization procedure were adopted
  - > One optimization procedure: don't consider structure transformation Thermodynamic modeling of SrZrO<sub>3</sub>:

 $G_{SrZrO3} = a_1 + b_1 \cdot T + c_1 \cdot T \cdot \ln T + d_1 \cdot T^2 + e_1 \cdot T^{-1}$ (1)

Second optimization procedure: consider structure transformation, Thermodynamic modeling of SrZrO<sub>3</sub>:

similar equation as (1) to describe orthorhombic SrZrO<sub>3</sub>

$${}^{p}G_{SrZrO3} = {}^{o}G_{SrZrO3} + \Delta H_{1} - T \cdot \Delta S_{1}$$
(2)  
$${}^{t}G_{SrZrO3} = {}^{p}G_{SrZrO3} + \Delta H_{2} - T \cdot \Delta S_{2}$$
(3)  
$${}^{c}G_{SrZrO3} = {}^{t}G_{SrZrO3} + \Delta H_{3} - T \cdot \Delta S_{3}$$
(4)

 $\Delta H_1$ ,  $\Delta S_1$ ,  $\Delta H_2$ ,  $\Delta S_2$ ,  $\Delta H_3$ ,  $\Delta S_3$  are the corresponding enthalpies and entropies of the transformations

#### Comparison between Experimental data and Thermodynamic calculation



Structure transformation and the corresponding enthalpy were detected by thermodynamic modeling

## **Experimentation on SrZrO<sub>3</sub>**

#### Prepare the samples

- ♦ Solid reaction to prepare SrZrO<sub>3</sub>: SrCO<sub>3</sub> + ZrO<sub>2</sub>
- ✤ Heat-treated at 1150, 1000, 850 °C
- Air quenched or furnace-cooled

### XRD determination

XRD curve: sample quenched from 1150 °C and furnace-cooled to room temperature show the cubic and orthorhombic structure, respectively.



he observed patterns from SrZrO<sub>3</sub>, showing the fundamental perovskite reflections. The

### XRD curve results illustrate:

negative the pseudo-cubic SrZrO<sub>3</sub> in room temperature, confirm the structure transformation it's quite difficult to obtain the tetragonal SrZrO<sub>3</sub> due to the impurity, minor departures from nominal stoichiometry

- Thermodynamic modeling and experimentation benefit the structure behavior and thermodynamic properties investigation
- Thermodynamic modeling is based on the experimental information and can be used to identify and resolve the inconsistency between various kinds of experimental

## Example 2: KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> system

### Measured KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> phase diagram by L. Rycerz *et al*

- Two eutectic reactions
- Three compounds
  - >  $K_3$ TbBr<sub>3</sub>: a solid phase transition at 691 K, melt congruently at 983 K
  - >  $K_2$ TbBr<sub>5</sub>: a solid phase transition at 658 K, melt incongruently at 725 K





#### Measured thermodynamic data by L. Rycerz and M. Gaune-Escard

- Heat capacity of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub>:thermal effect at about 691 and 983K
- Enthalpy of mixing of liquid at 1113 K: the minimum located at about 0.3 KBr suggested the existence of TbBr<sub>6</sub>-3



## **Thermodynamic modeling of KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> system**

### thermodynamic modeling of each phase

- Phase without composition range: G(7) function
  - Compounds without thermodynamic data: Neumann-Kopp rule

 $K_2 \text{TbBr}_5: A_1 + B_1 \cdot T + 2/3 \cdot G_{KBr}(s) + 1/3 \cdot G_{TbBr3}(s)$ 

 $\mathsf{KTb}_{2}\mathsf{Br}_{7}: \mathsf{A}_{2} + \mathsf{B}_{2} \cdot \mathcal{T} + 1/3 \cdot \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{KBr}}(\mathsf{s}) + 2/3 \cdot \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{TbBr3}}(\mathsf{s})$ 

- > K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub> with thermodynamic data and structural information two equations were used to describe two forms of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub>
  <sup>I</sup>G<sub>K3TbBr6</sub> = a<sub>1</sub>+b<sub>1</sub>· T +c<sub>1</sub>· T · ln T+d<sub>1</sub>· T<sup>2</sup>+e<sub>1</sub>· T<sup>-1</sup>
  <sup>h</sup>G<sub>K3TbBr6</sub> = a<sub>2</sub>+b<sub>2</sub>· T +c<sub>2</sub>· T · ln T+d<sub>2</sub>· T<sup>2</sup>+e<sub>2</sub>· T<sup>-1</sup>
- Thermodynamic description of liquid phase:
  - > associated solution (K<sup>+</sup>)<sub>P</sub> (Br-, TbBr<sub>6</sub><sup>-3</sup>, TbBr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>Q</sub> was introduced to describe short-range order around K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub> composition

# Thermodynamic calculation and comparison (Thermo-Calc software)

- Calculated phase diagram
  - Good agreement
  - > Exception:

decomposition of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub> at 593 K

- The detected thermo effect in the heat capacity curve of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub> at low temperature
  - Assessed to be structure change
  - Key experiments were conducted to check the existence temperature range of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub>



## Key experiments to check the existence

temperature of K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub>

- Prepare the samples
- DSC measurements between room temperature and 650
   K with a rate of 1 K/min
  - DSC heating and cooling curve:

thermal effect at about 593K



DSC heating and cooling traces on K<sub>3</sub>TbBr<sub>6</sub> compound



- Based on the measured data, each phase in KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> system was thermodynamically modeling, KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> phase diagram and thermodynamic properties were preliminarily calculated.
- Guided by the calculated phase diagram and thermodynamic properties, key experiments were carried out, then model of the relate phases were modified to explain the literature and the present measured experimental data.
- The finally obtained thermodynamic properties and phase diagram were more reasonable

## **Summaries**

- Two examples, i.e. structure behavior of SrZrO<sub>3</sub> and the phase diagram of KBr-TbBr<sub>3</sub> system were provided to illustrate the interactive experimentation and thermodynamic modeling
- Thermodynamic calculation is based on the experimental data and can provide important information for materials experiments, thus guide materials design, development, processing and materials understanding.

