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Thermodynamic modelling and assessment of the Au-In-Sn system

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ABSTRACT

As part of COST Action 531, a thermodynamic assessment of the Au–In–Sn has been carried out using experimental phase equilibrium data from the literature, along with more recent and more extensive experimental results from phase equilibrium and thermodynamic studies. As well as reproducing the experimental data very well, the self-consistent thermodynamic description produced for this ternary system is consistent with the COST 531 thermodynamic database for lead-free solders. Assessed thermodynamic parameters for the system are listed, along with crystallographic details of all stable phases.

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1. Introduction

The health aspects of lead in materials have been of concern for a number of years. It has been widely reported that accumulations of lead in the human body can lead to delays in neurological and physical development and disorders in the nervous and reproductive systems. Consequently, there has been a drive to reduce the amount of lead in use, and particular in relation to lead-containing solder materials. Research programmes dedicated to find lead-free alternatives to traditional lead-tin solders have been initiated world-wide, and in particular in Europe through COST Action 531 on 'Lead-free Solder Materials'. It is now widely accepted that there is no single ideal drop-in replacement for lead-tin solder, suggesting that a number of different alloys are necessary to satisfy the numerous and diverse requirements of the electronics industry.

The aims of COST 531 were to study the chemical and physical properties of alloy systems relevant to lead-free solder materials and their interactions with substrates, producing scientific knowledge that can act as the basis of future work on the design of new

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lead-free solder materials. A large part of the research involved studies of phase equilibria and thermodynamic properties of candidate alloy systems leading to the creation of an 11 component thermodynamic database for lead-free solders and substrates [1]. Among the 11 components chosen for the database were Au, In and Sn. Relatively little is known of the ternary Au-In-Sn system (see below) and hence it became of particular interest to COST 531, resulting in a programme of experimental study (phase equilibria and thermodynamics) leading to a self-consistent thermodynamic description that has since been incorporated into the COST 531 database. This paper, reporting the thermodynamic assessment of the Au-In-Sn system is part of a trilogy describing this work.

2. Literature overview

The phases of the Au-In-Sn system are listed in Table 1. In the same table, for each phase, crystal structure data, the temperature and composition ranges of stability reported in the literature are summarised. Thermodynamic models adopted in the present work are also reported: they will be introduced later.

An overview of the binary Au–In, Au–Sn and In–Sn thermodynamic assessments already appearing in the literature will be presented briefly and discussed. A thermodynamic calculation of the Au–In–Sn phase equilibria has also been published quite recently: it will also be presented and discussed in this section.

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Table 1Au-In-Sn solid phases; crystal structure data, temperature and composition ranges of stability, sublattice models used in this work.

Phase name	Pearson symbol-prototype space group	Lattice parameters (nm)	Temperature range (°C)	Composition range and comments	Sublattice model
Au	cF4-Cu Fm-3m	Au: <i>a</i> = 0.4072 Au-10 at.% In:	Au: <1064.33	Au-In:0-13.3 at.% In Au-Sn: 0-6.6 at.% Sn	(<u>Au</u> , In, Sn)
	riii-siit	a = 0.41060 Au-6 at.% Sn: a = 0.4103		Au-311. U-0.0 at./s 511	
In	tI2-In I4/mmm	In: $a = 0.3248$ c = 0.4948	In: <156.75	In-Sn: 0-12 at.% Sn	(In, Sn)
β-Sn	t/4-β-Sn I41/ amd	Sn: $a = 0.58308$ c = 0.31810 In-95 at.% Sn: a = 0.5828 c = 0.3183	Sn: 232.08–13	Au-Sn: 99.8-100 at.% Sn In-Sn: 90(?)-100 at.% Sn	(In, Sn)
α-Sn	cF8-diamond Fd-3 m	Sn: $a = 0.64892$	Sn: <13	Au-Sn: 99.994-100 at.% Sn In-Sn: 98(?)-100 at.% Sn	(Sn)
dhcp	hP4-α-La P6 ₃ /mmc (also identified as hP16-Ni ₃ Ti)	-	Au-In: 641.8-180 Au-Sn: <532	Au–In: 9.6–14.5 at.% In; also denoted as α_1 Au–Sn: 8.2–9.1 at.% Sn; also denoted as β Au–In–Sn: complete substitution between In and Sn	(<u>Au</u> , In, Sn)
hcp	hP2-Mg P6 ₃ /mmc	Au-20 at.% In: $a = 0.29157$	Au-In: <∼640	Au–In: 12.2–22.4 at.% In; also denoted as ζ	(<u>Au</u> , In, Sn)
		c = 0.47930 Au-11at.% Sn: $a = 0.29081$ $c = 0.47859$	Au-Sn: <521	Au–Sn: 9.1–17.6 at.% Sn; also denoted as ζ Au–In–Sn: complete substitution between In and Sn	
Au ₄ In HT	hP*/o**	_	Au-In: 337-275	Au-In: 21.5-22.2 at.% In; also denoted as β	(Au) _{0.785} (In) _{0.215}
Au ₄ In LT	hP26-Cu ₁₀ Sb ₃ P-3	a = 1.0545 c = 0.4769	Au-In: <∼280	Au-In: 21.7–22.2 at.% In; also denoted as β_1 or Au ₇ In ₂	(Au) _{0.778} (In) _{0.222}
Au ₃ In HT	0 **	-	Au-In: 487-339.5	Au-In: 24.5-25 at.% In; also denoted as $arepsilon$	Not modelled
Au ₃ In LT	oP8-?-TiCu₃ Pmmn	a = 0.58572 b = 0.47352 c = 0.51504	Au-In: <339.5	Au-In: 24.5–25 at.% In; also denoted as ε'	(Au) _{0.75} (In) _{0.25}
Au ₉ In ₄	cP52-Al ₄ Cu ₉ P-43 m	a = 0.984	Au-In: 482-364.5	Au–In: 28.8–31.4 at.% In; also denoted as γ or Au ₇ In ₃ HT	(Au) _{.69231} (Au, In) _{.23077} (In) _{.07692}
Au ₇ In ₃	hP60-Au ₇ In ₃ P-3	a = 1.2215 c = 0.8509	Au-In: <374.6	Au–In: 29.8–30.6 at.% In; also denoted as γ'	(Au) _{.7} (In) _{.3}
Au ₃ In ₂	hP5-Al ₃ Ni ₂ P-3 m 1	a = 0.4537 c = 0.5659	Au-In: 457.2-224.3	Au-In: 35.3-39.5 at.% In; also denoted as ψ	(Au) _{.5} (Au, In) _{.33333} (In) _{.16667}
AuIn	aP *	$a = 0.430 \alpha = 90.54$ $b = 1.059 \beta = 90.00$ $c = 0.356 \gamma = 90.17$	Au-In: <509.6	Au-In: 50-50.1 at.% In Au-In-Sn: solution of about 15 at.% Sn	(Au) _{.5} (In, Sn) _{.5}
AuIn ₂	cF 12-CaF ₂ Fm-3 m	a = 0.65075	Au-In: <540.7	Au-In: 66.7 at.% In Au-In-Sn: solution of about 20 at.% Sn	(Au) _{.33333} (In, Sn) _{.66667}
Au ₅ Sn	hR6-Au ₅ Sn R3	a = 0.5092 c = 1.4333	Au-Sn: <190	Au–Sn: 16.7 at.% Sn; also denoted as ζ'	(Au) _{.84} (Sn) _{.16}
AuSn	hP4-NiAs P63/mmc	a = 0.43218 c = 0.55230	Au-Sn: <419.3	Au–Sn: 50–50.5 at.% Sn; also denoted as δ Au–In–Sn: solution of about 15 at.% In	(Au) _{.5} (In, Sn) _{.5}
AuSn ₂	oP 24-AuSn ₂ Pbca	a = 0.6909 b = 0.7037 c = 1.1789	Au-Sn: <309	Au–Sn: 66.7 at.% Sn; also denoted as $arepsilon$	(Au) _{.33333} (Sn) _{.66667}
AuSn ₄	oC20-PtSn ₄ Aba 2	a = 0.65124 b = 0.65162 c = 1.17065	Au-Sn: 252-50(?)	Au-Sn: 80 at.% Sn; also denoted as η Au-In-Sn: solution of about 10 at.% In	(Au) _{.2} (In, Sn) _{.8}
β -(In, Sn)	tI2-In I4/mmm	In-25 at.% Sn: a = 0.3459 c = 0.4397	In−Sn: <~150	In-Sn: 12-44 at.% Sn	(In, Sn)
γ-(In, Sn)	hP5 P6/mmm	-	In-Sn: <224	In-Sn: 71-97 at.% Sn	(In, Sn)
Au ₄ In ₃ Sn ₃	hP10-Pt ₂ Sn ₃ P6 ₃ /mmc	a = 0.500 c = 1.305	Au-In-Sn: <∼380	Au-In-Sn: at ~40 at.% Au, 30-35 at.% Sn	$(Au)_{.4}$ $(In, Sn)_{.3}$ $(In, Sn)_{.3}$

2.1. Au-In

The first thermodynamic assessment of the Au–In system was carried out by Ansara and Nabot [2] and subsequently revised by the same authors [3]. More recently, the system has been reassessed by Liu et al. [4]. In this work, the solid phase equilibria have been improved while keeping, for the liquid, the parameters evaluated by Ansara and Nabot [3], which well reproduce the

temperature dependence of the enthalpy of mixing that has been determined experimentally. Au₄In HT and Au₉In₄ phases have been modelled only by Liu et al. [4], whereas for Au₃In₂, described as stoichiometric by Ansara and Nabot [3], Liu et al. [4] adopted a three-sublattice model, in agreement with the model used by Ansara et al. [5] for the iso-structural phase Al₃Ni₂. Moreover, low temperature phase equilibria in the Au-rich part of the diagram (among the fcc, dhcp and hcp phases) calculated according to Liu et al. [4] seems to be more realistic than presented in the

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