

# Thermodynamic assessment of the Co-Mg binary system

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## 1. Introduction

The RE-Mg-T (RE=rare earth and T=d-transition metals) alloys have attracted extensive attention due to their excellent properties, such as outstanding hydrogen storage capacity, high strength, good corrosion resistance and magnetic properties. As an important subsystem in RE-Mg-T alloys, the Co-Mg alloys can also be used as hydrogen storage materials because of their high theoretical capacity and high hydrogen volume density. To develop the hydrogen storage materials, a reliable knowledge of phase equilibria and thermodynamic properties for the Co-Mg system is of great interest.

The Co-Mg binary system has been experimentally investigated and critically reviewed by Nayeb-Hashemi and Clark. However, only a few experimental studies were reported on the whole Co-Mg binary system. The tentative Co-Mg equilibrium phase diagram reported by Smith and Smith is shown in Fig. 1.

In the present work, the Co-Mg binary system has been investigated by means of CALPHAD (CALCulation of PHase Diagram) approach.

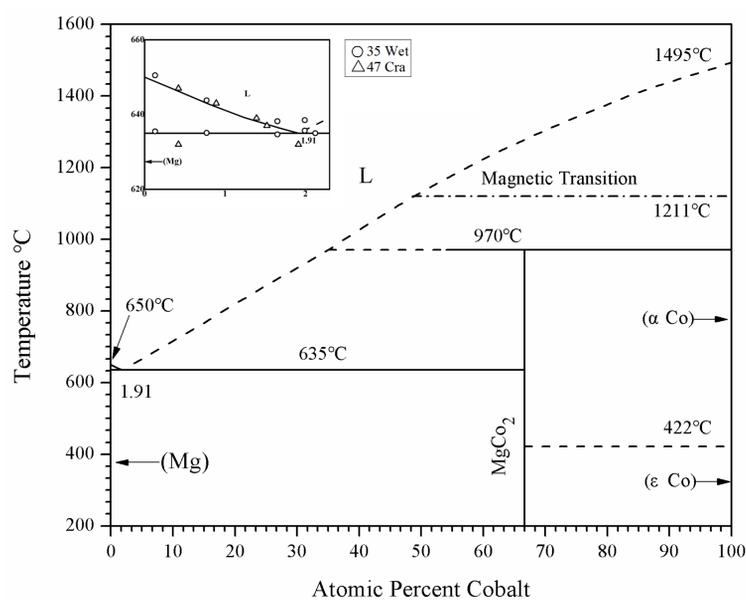


Figure 1. The assessed phase diagram of Co-Mg system reported by Smith and Smith.

## 2. Thermodynamic models

Phases	Thermodynamic models
Liquid phase	$(\text{Co}, \text{Mg})_1$
Stoichiometric compound $\text{MgCo}_2$	$(\text{Mg})_{0.3333}(\text{Co})_{0.6667}$
Solution phase HCP_A3	$(\text{Co}, \text{Mg})_1$

## 3. Thermodynamic calculation

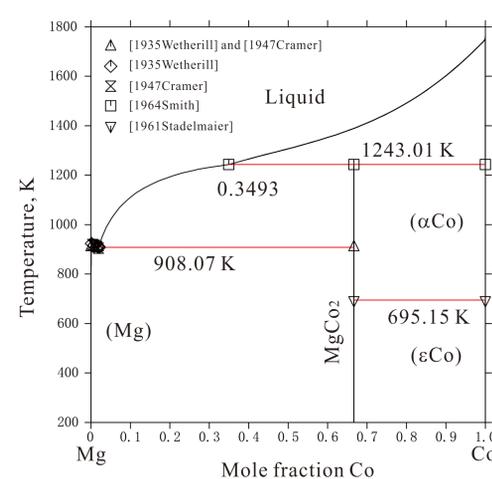


Figure 2. Calculated phase diagram of Co-Mg system compared with the experimental data

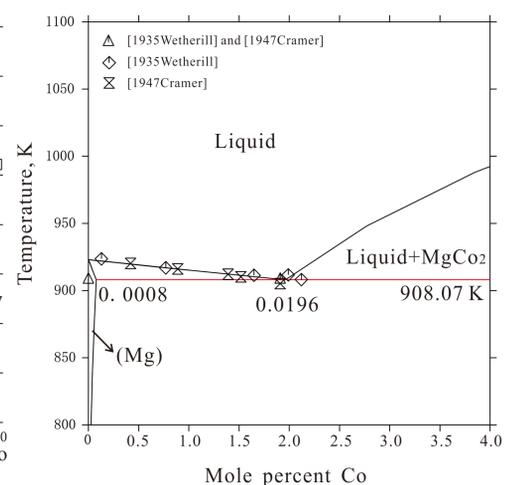


Figure 3. Calculated phase diagram of Co-Mg system: enlarged Mg-rich side

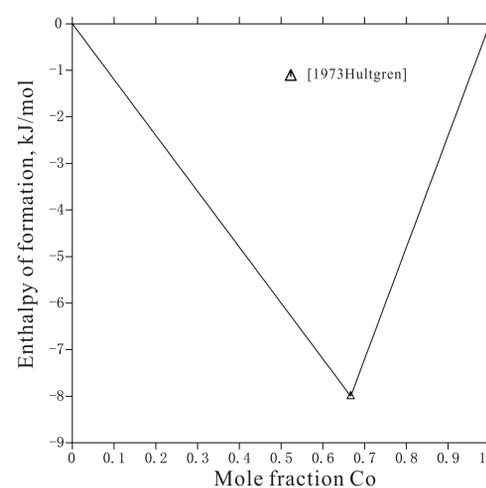


Figure 4. Enthalpy of formation of the solid phases at 800 K referred to hexagonal Co and Mg

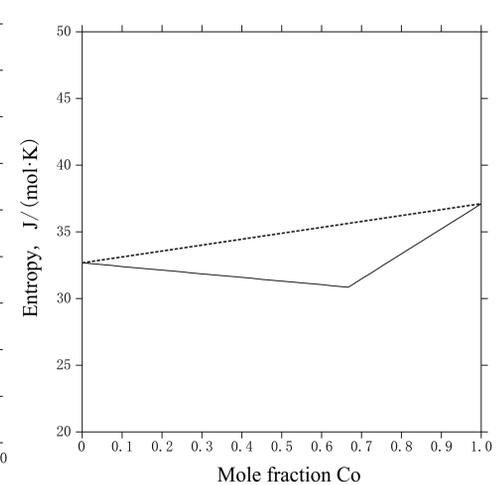


Figure 5. Calculated entropy at 298.15 K in the Co-Mg system

The step-by-step optimization procedure was utilized in the present work. Reliable experimental data for the Co-Mg system was employed in the optimization and each piece of experimental information was given a certain weight, which can be changed in view of the experimental errors. The thermodynamic optimization began with the  $\text{MgCo}_2$  compound. Afterwards, the thermodynamic parameters of liquid phase were evaluated. Next, the parameters for the HCP\_A3 phase was introduced to describe the HCP\_A3 phase and fit the invariant equilibrium among liquid,  $(\alpha\text{Co})$  and  $\text{MgCo}_2$ . Finally, the thermodynamic parameters for all phases were adjusted simultaneously by considering all the phase diagram and thermodynamic data used in the optimization.

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the reliable literature data, the Co-Mg binary system has been thermodynamically assessed with the aid of CALPHAD method and the following conclusions were drawn:

- A new set of self-consistent thermodynamic parameters has been obtained by critically evaluating literature data.
- The calculated phase diagram and the thermodynamic properties are in good agreement with the experimental values.

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Your questions and suggestions are welcomed: [Yanglf@csu.edu.cn](mailto:Yanglf@csu.edu.cn)

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