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Thermodynamic Treatment of Undercooled Cu-Mg Liquid and the Limits for Partitionless Crystallization

Shihuai Zhou

Iowa State University, szhou@ameslab.gov

Ralph E. Napolitano

Iowa State University, ren1@iastate.edu

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Abstract

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Keywords

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Comments

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Thermodynamic Treatment of Undercooled Cu-Mg Liquid and the Limits for Partitionless Crystallization

S.H. Zhou and R.E. Napolitano

(Submitted June 14, 2006)

The thermodynamic properties of the binary Cu-Mg system are examined with a focus on equilibria involving the liquid phase, which is described with a four-species association model, incorporating a two-state treatment for the pure component liquids below their respective melting temperatures. The terminal and intermediate crystalline phases are described as substitutional solid solutions, employing two sublattices for the latter. Model parameters are fitted using available experimental data, and the resulting phase diagram is reported over the full range of compositions in the binary system. We also report the associated T_0 curves, indicating the limits of partitionless crystallization and compare these with reports of amorphous solid formation during rapid solidification processing.

Keywords phase equilibria, two-state model, undercooled liquid

1. Introduction

The properties of highly undercooled liquids play an essential role in the various phenomena that occur during rapid solidification processing, including nucleation of stable or crystalline phases, the selection of growth morphologies under high-driving forces, non-equilibrium chemical partitioning at high-growth rates, and the formation of glassy phases. As thermodynamic and kinetic criteria are developed to predict or describe these processes,^[1,2] it is essential to develop thermodynamic models which accurately describe the energetics of undercooled liquids and the associated phase equilibria.

In a previous paper,^[3] we modeled the thermodynamic properties and associated phase equilibria for the Cu-Mg binary system and compared the resulting phase diagram with the prior thermodynamic modeling reported by Coughanowr et al.^[4] and by Zou and Chang.^[5] While those results are consistent with reported experimental data,^[6-29] we point out that the SGTE parameters^[30] are not sufficient for describing the behavior of undercooled liquids. This is clearly indicated in Fig. 1, where the heat capacities of the pure Cu and Mg liquids, calculated using these parameters, show a discontinuity in their first derivative at T_m . This unrealistic behavior is also exhibited by our previous treatment of the alloy liquid, as shown in Fig. 2 for the $\text{Cu}_{14.4}\text{Mg}_{85.5}$ composition. To address this problem here, we

incorporate a two-state model^[31,32] into our prior approach^[3] to describe the thermodynamic properties of the undercooled liquids and to compute the relevant phase equilibria and limits for partitionless crystallization from the melt. We employ a CALPHAD^[33,34] methodology, where the model parameters describing the Gibbs free energies associated with the formation of compounds or solution phases are determined through a systematic semi-empirical optimization, using available experimental data from calorimetry, x-ray diffraction, electron-probe microchemical analysis, and optical micrography.^[6-29]

2. Thermodynamic Models

We adopt our previously reported approach^[3] for the modeling of Gibbs free energies and associated phase equilibria for the Cu-Mg binary system, but we add a two-state treatment^[31,32] of the undercooled elemental liquids. Thermodynamic functions for other pure element states are taken from the SGTE database,^[30] as listed in Table 1. An association model^[35,36] is used for the alloy liquid, and sublattice models^[37] are employed for the solid phases. All thermodynamic models are defined in Table 2, where the total Gibbs free energy for any phase, ϕ , is generally given by the sum of three contributions,

$$G_m^\phi = {}^{\text{ref}}G_m^\phi + {}^{\text{id}}G_m^\phi + {}^{\text{xs}}G_m^\phi, \quad (\text{Eq 1})$$

where the subscript, m , indicates that all terms are molar quantities. The first term in Eq. 1 is the sum of occupancy-weighted sublattice end-member contributions. The second and third terms are the ideal and excess parts of the Gibbs free energy of mixing, respectively. In Table 2, we list the Redlich-Kister formalism for the excess term for the fcc and hcp solid solutions. It should be noted, however, that for this work we use only the first term ($j = 0$) with a constant coefficient (i.e. regular solution). The specific treatment of each phase is discussed briefly here.

S.H. Zhou, and R.E. Napolitano, Materials & Engineering Physics Program, Ames Laboratory, USDOE, Iowa State University, 116 Wilhelm Hall, Ames, IA 50011, USA; R.E. Napolitano, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, 116 Wilhelm Hall, Ames, IA 50011, USA; Contact e-mail: ralphn@iastate.edu

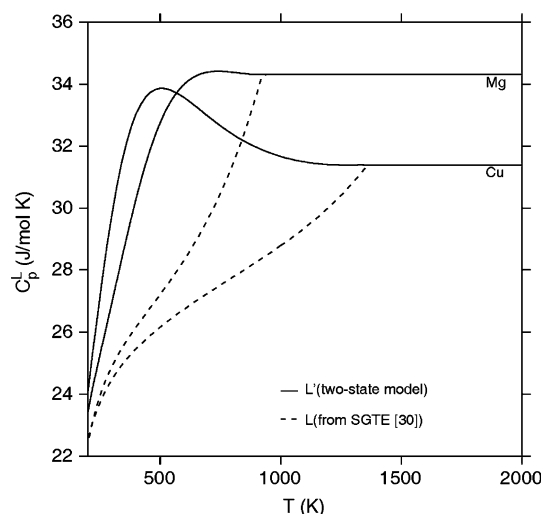


Fig. 1 Heat capacities for the pure component liquids

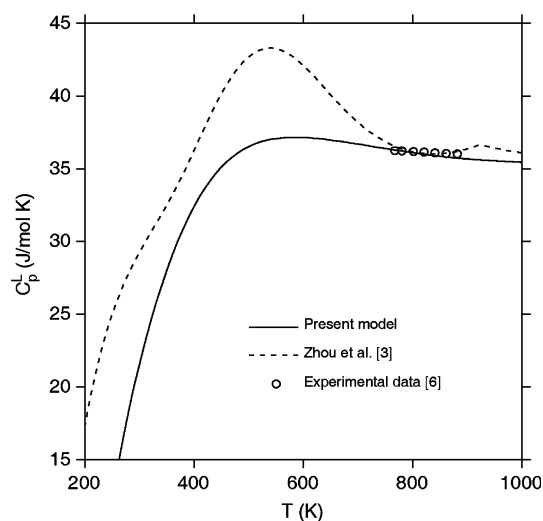


Fig. 2 The heat capacity for the liquid $\text{Cu}_{1.4.5}\text{Mg}_{85.5}$

We employ a four-species association model,^[35,36] for the binary liquid solution (L) where Cu_2Mg and CuMg_2 are chosen as the relevant intermediate chemical associates according to previously reported experimental data,^[38] as we have discussed elsewhere.^[3] The Gibbs free energy of an intermediate chemical associate, Cu_mMg_n , is given as

$${}^0G_{\text{Cu}_m\text{Mg}_n}^{\text{L}} = m{}^0G_{\text{Cu}}^{\text{L}} + n{}^0G_{\text{Mg}}^{\text{L}} + \Delta G_{\text{Cu}_m\text{Mg}_n}^{\text{L}}, \quad (\text{Eq } 2)$$

where the Gibbs free energy of formation, $\Delta G_{\text{Cu}_m\text{Mg}_n}^{\text{L}}$, for the indicated species is assumed to have temperature dependence of the general form,

$$a_0 + a_1T + a_2T \ln T + a_3T^2 + a_4T^3 + a_5T^4 + a_6T^{-1} + a_7T^{-9}. \quad (\text{Eq } 3)$$

To address the problem discussed earlier regarding the discontinuity in the heat capacity of the liquid phase,^[3] we

employ a two-state approach,^[31,32] describing the liquid phase (L) as an ideal mixture of low-free energy “solid-like” particles and high-free energy “liquid-like” particles. Accordingly, for a single component, the molar Gibbs free energy of the mixture is written as

$$G_m^{\text{L}} = (1-f){}^0G_m^{\text{sol}} + f{}^0G_m^{\text{liq}} + RT[(1-f) \ln(1-f) + f \ln f], \quad (\text{Eq } 4)$$

where f is the mole fraction of atoms associated with the liquid-like particles. ${}^0G_m^{\text{sol}}$ and ${}^0G_m^{\text{liq}}$ are the molar Gibbs free energies of “solid-like” and “liquid-like” particles, respectively. An equilibrium population of states is assumed, such that the fraction of atoms in the activated or “liquid-like” state is simply found by minimizing G_m^{L} , yielding

$$f_{\text{eq}} = \frac{e^{-\varepsilon/RT}}{1 + e^{-\varepsilon/RT}}, \quad (\text{Eq } 5)$$

where the activation energy is given by $\varepsilon = {}^0G_m^{\text{liq}} - {}^0G_m^{\text{sol}}$. Substituting Eq 5 into Eq 4 gives the Gibbs free energy of the mixture, referenced to the low-energy solid-like phase,

$$G_m^{\text{L}} = {}^0G_m^{\text{sol}} - RT \ln(1 + e^{-\varepsilon/RT}). \quad (\text{Eq } 6)$$

The task of modeling G_m^{L} for any component, therefore, entails only the selection of appropriate “liquid-like” and “solid-like” Gibbs free energy states, ${}^0G_m^{\text{sol}}$ and ${}^0G_m^{\text{liq}}$, each as a function of temperature. We allow for the general temperature dependence in a definition of the “solid-like” state with respect to a perfectly crystalline reference,

$${}^0G_m^{\text{sol}} = {}^0G_i^{\text{S}} + \Delta G_m^{\text{sol}}, \quad (\text{Eq } 7)$$

where ${}^0G_i^{\text{S}}$ is the Gibbs free energy of either Cu(fcc) or Mg(hcp), and where we assume that ΔG_m^{sol} takes the general form given in Eq 3, with only the first four coefficients being nonzero. Finally, we adopt Agren’s^[31,32] simplification of the temperature dependence of ε , defining the activation energy simply as

$$\varepsilon_i = {}^0L_i^{\text{liq}} - RT, \quad (i = \text{Cu or Mg}), \quad (\text{Eq } 8)$$

where we assume that ${}^0L_i^{\text{liq}}$ is a constant. Thus, with the stated assumptions, the two-state model is completely described by Eq 6-8, along with Eq 3, where the parameters left for evaluation are a_0 , a_1 , a_2 , a_3 and ${}^0L_i^{\text{liq}}$ for each component. This parameter set was evaluated for Cu, by Agren et al.,^[32] while those for Mg are determined in the current work, as indicated in Table 1.

All crystalline phases are treated as substitutional solid solutions. The fcc and hcp phases are treated with a single lattice, using the models given in Table 2. The intermetallic phases, $\text{Cu}_2\text{Mg-C}_{15}$ and $\text{Mg}_2\text{Cu-C}_b$, are described as two-sublattice solid solutions of the form $(\text{Cu}, \text{Mg})_2(\text{Cu}, \text{Mg})_1$. The associated Gibbs free energies are modeled as shown in Table 2. Given this sublattice formulation, each of the two structures (C_{15} and C_b) can assume four different stoichiometries (Cu_2Cu , Mg_2Cu , Cu_2Mg , and Mg_2Mg), with only one being that of the stable compound (i.e. $\text{Cu}_2\text{Mg-C}_{15}$ and $\text{Mg}_2\text{Cu-C}_b$). For these compounds, we express ${}^0G_{\text{Cu}_m\text{Mg}_n}^{\text{C}_{15}}$ and ${}^0G_{\text{Mg}_m\text{Cu}_n}^{\text{C}_b}$ using the temperature dependent form given in Eq 3

Section I: Basic and Applied Research

Table 1 Thermodynamic parameters for the pure components (J/mol)

	${}^0G_{Cu}^L$	${}^0G_{Cu}^L$	${}^0G_{Cu}^{fcc}$	${}^0G_{Cu}^{hcp}$
Ref	[32]	[30]		
T_{min}	298	1357.77	298	1357.77
T_{max}	1357.77	3200	1357.77	3200
${}^0G^{ref}$	${}^0G_{Cu}^{fcc}$	...	...	${}^0G_{Cu}^{fcc}$
a_0	7985	-46.545	-7770.458	-13542.026
a_1	...	173.881484	130.485235	183.803828
a_2	...	-31.38	-24.112392	-31.38
a_3	1.0135×10^{-4}	...	-2.65684×10^{-3}	...
a_4	...	...	1.29223×10^{-7}	...
a_5	...	...	...	...
a_6	...	...	52478	...
a_7	...	...	...	3.64167×10^{29}
ϵ	10609.70325-RT	...	...	...
Ref	This work	[30]		
T_{min}	298	923	298	298
T_{max}	923	3000	3000	923
${}^0G^{ref}$	${}^0G_{Mg}^{hcp}$	...	${}^0G_{Mg}^{hcp}$	...
a_0	5341.2729	-5439.869	2600	-8367.34
a_1	8.7659	195.324057	-0.9	143.675547
a_2	-2.2124526	-34.3088	...	-26.1849782
a_3	3.5278263×10^{-3}	...	...	4.858×10^{-4}
a_4	...	...	...	-1.393669×10^{-6}
a_5	...	...	...	...
a_6	...	...	...	78950
a_7	...	...	...	...
ϵ	15014.169-RT	...	...	1.038192×10^{28}

Table 2 Summary of the thermodynamic models used for the Cu-Mg binary system

Phase	Method	Formulation	Model
Liquid	Association model	(Cu, Cu ₂ Mg, CuMg ₂ ,Mg)	${}^{ref}G_m^L = \sum_i x_i {}^0G_i^L$ ${}^{id}G_m^L = RT \sum_i x_i \ln x_i$ ${}^{xs}G_m^L = \sum_i \sum_{j>i} x_i x_j {}^0L_{ij}^L$ (i,j = Cu,Cu ₂ Mg, CuMg ₂ , Mg)
Cu(fcc) Mg(hcp)	One-sublattice model	(Cu,Mg) ₁	${}^{ref}G_m^\phi = \sum_{i=Cu,Mg} x_i {}^0G_i^\phi$ ${}^{id}G_m^\phi = RT \sum_{i=Cu,Mg} x_i \ln x_i$ ${}^{xs}G_m^\phi = x_{Cu} x_{Mg} \sum_{j=0}^n {}^jL_{Cu,Mg}^\phi (x_{Cu} - x_{Mg})^j$
Cu ₂ Mg(-C ₁₅) CuMg ₂ (-C _b)	Two-sublattice model	(Cu,Mg) ₂ (Cu,Mg) ₁	${}^{ref}G_m^\phi = \sum_{i=Cu,Mg} y_i^I \sum_{j=Cu,Mg} y_j^{II} {}^0G_{ij}^\phi$ ${}^{id}G_m^\phi = RT \sum_{i=Cu,Mg} (2y_i^I \ln y_i^I + y_i^{II} \ln y_i^{II})$ ${}^{xs}G_m^\phi = y_{Cu}^I y_{Mg}^I \sum_{i=Cu,Mg} y_i^{II} \sum_{k=0}^k {}^kL_{Cu,Mg;i}^\phi (y_{Cu}^I - y_{Mg}^I)^k$ $+ y_{Cu}^{II} y_{Mg}^{II} \sum_{i=Cu,Mg} y_i^I \sum_{k=0}^k {}^kL_{i;Cu,Mg}^\phi (y_{Cu}^{II} - y_{Mg}^{II})^k$

and leave the indicated coefficients for evaluation (see Table 3) based on available enthalpy of formation, melting temperature, and heat capacity data, as we have previously

discussed.^[3] For the unstable compounds (i.e. Cu₂Cu-C15, Mg₂Cu-C₁₅, Mg₂Mg-C₁₅, Cu₂Cu-C_b, Cu₂Mg-C_b, and Mg₂Mg-C_b), there are no available heat capacity data with

Table 3 Ground state standard Gibbs free energy parameters (see Table 2) for the intermetallic phases

${}^0G_{ij}^0$	${}^0G_{Cu:Mg}^{C_{15}}$, J/mol		${}^0G_{Mg:Cu}^{C_b}$, J/mol	
T_{min} , K	298	1070	298	850
T_{max} , K	1070	6000	850	6000
a_0	-58201	-65262.18413	-53491	-57610.6334
a_1	409.542	490.8219613	425.468	480.2433846
a_2	-76.1	-87.17102875	-77.9913484	-85.33353573
a_3	-9.9×10^{-4}	...	2.31×10^{-3}	...
a_4	183906	...	190378	...
a_5	-1.35×10^{-6}	...	-2.72115×10^{-6}	...
a_6	...	...	...	...
a_7	...	...	...	...

which to evaluate the temperature dependence. Therefore, we express the Gibbs free energy as

$${}^0G_{A_2B}^\phi = 2{}^0G_A^\phi + {}^0G_B^\phi + \Delta G_{A_2B}^\phi, \quad (A, B = Cu, Mg) \quad (\text{Eq 9})$$

where ${}^0G_A^\phi$ and ${}^0G_B^\phi$ are the molar Gibbs free energies of either fcc-Cu or hcp-Mg, and $\Delta G_{A_2B}^\phi$ is the Gibbs free energy of formation of the indicated end-member.

In total, in addition to the standard SGTE parameters for the pure elements, our treatment employs five (5) parameters for the two-state model for each undercooled elemental liquid (Table 1), one (1) temperature dependent standard Gibbs free energy for each of the two-stable intermetallic end members (Table 3), ten (10) binary interaction parameters (Table 4), and eight (8) Gibbs free energy of formation parameters (Table 4), two of which are temperature dependent. The evaluation of these parameters is discussed in the following section.

Table 4 Thermodynamic model parameters (see Table 2) determined for the Cu-Mg system (per mole of formula unit)

Phase (model)	Parameters	Value, J/mol	Ref
Liquid (Cu,Cu ₂ Mg, CuMg ₂ , Mg)	$\Delta G_{Cu_2Mg_1}^L$	$-28312 + 9.595T$	This work
	$\Delta G_{Cu_1Mg_2}^L$	$-80122 + 435.088T$	
		$-56.1847 \ln(T)$	
		$+ 0.010087T^2$	
		$+ 469990T^{-1}$	
	${}^0L_{Cu,Mg}^L$	-22611	
	${}^0L_{Cu,Cu_2Mg}^L$	-20012	
	${}^0L_{Cu_2Mg,Mg}^L$	-25845	
	${}^0L_{Cu,CuMg_2}^L$	-24230	
	${}^0L_{CuMg_2,Cu_2Mg}^L$	0	
Hcp (Cu,Mg)	${}^0L_{CuMg_2,Mg}^{hcp}$	0	[3]
	${}^0L_{Cu,Mg:Va}^{hcp}$	39230	
Fcc (Cu,Mg)	${}^0L_{Cu,Mg:Va}^{fcc}$	-19345	
Cu ₂ Mg-C ₁₅ (Cu, Mg) ₂ (Cu,Mg)	$\Delta G_{Cu:Cu}^{C_{15}}$	46500	This work
	$\Delta G_{Mg:Cu}^{C_{15}}$	104160	
	$\Delta G_{Mg:Mg}^{C_{15}}$	21000	
	${}^0L_{Cu:Cu,Mg}^{C_{15}}$	-27868	
	${}^0L_{Cu,Mg:Mg}^{C_{15}}$	3521	
CuMg ₂ -C _b (Cu, Mg) ₂ (Cu, Mg)	$\Delta G_{Cu:Cu}^{C_b}$	61170	[3]
	$\Delta G_{CuMg_2}^{C_b}$	116820	
	$\Delta G_{Mg:Mg}^{C_b}$	38760	

3. Modeling Results

Expressions for the standard Gibbs free energy (${}^0G_i^\phi$) of each pure component in the relevant phases are listed in Table 1. Based on the model described in the preceding section and summarized in Table 2, we evaluate the parameters for the undercooled elemental liquid Mg and adopt those developed by Agren et al.^[32] for pure Cu, as listed in Table 1. To include the influence of our two-state treatment of the undercooled elemental liquids, we re-evaluate the parameters for the liquid solution phase and those for the compounds Cu₂Mg-C₁₅ and Mg₂Cu-C_b. This is discussed in the remainder of the present section. The other relevant thermodynamic parameters are taken from our earlier work^[3] as indicated in Table 3 and 4.

To evaluate the parameters of G_m^L , for the two-state model used for the undercooled liquid Mg, we take the approach described previously^[2] and apply the conditions

$$\frac{\partial^n G_m^L}{\partial T^n} = \frac{\partial^n G_m^{L'}}{\partial T^n} \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, 3) \quad (\text{Eq 10})$$

at $T = T_m$, noting that these conditions simply equate the values of G , S , C_p , and $\partial C_p / \partial T$, respectively, for L and L' . Given that we have four equations and five model parameters, we cannot solve for the parameters explicitly. We temporarily assign $a_2 = 0$ and use Eq. 10 with $n = 2$ and $n = 3$, where a_0 and a_1 play no role, and solve for the parameter a_3 as a function of ${}^0L_{Mg}^{liq}$. Under this constraint, we compute $C_p^L(T_m)$ vs. ${}^0L_{Mg}^{liq}$, as plotted (solid curve) in Fig. 3 and compare with the value of $C_p^L(T_m)$. We note that there is no solution for this case (i.e. $a_2 = 0$). Choosing the value of $C_p^L(T_m)$ associated with the closest approach to $C_p^L(T_m)$, we fix both a_3 and ${}^0L_{Mg}^{liq}$ to the corresponding values. We then relax our constraint on the parameter a_2 and solve for the only single-valued solution to the Eq 10 for $n = 2$. The C_p^L vs. ${}^0L_{Mg}^{liq}$ curve associated with this non-zero value of a_2 is plotted (broken curve) in Fig. 3. Subsequently, we use Eq 10 with $n = 1$ and $n = 0$ to evaluate a_1 and a_0 , respectively. The five parameters for the pure Mg liquid ($T < T_m$), determined in this way, are listed in Table 1. The final modeled heat capacity functions for the pure component liquids, above and below T_m , are plotted in Fig. 1.

The two-state modeling results for the single-component undercooled liquids are incorporated into the association model described in a previous section. The parameters for the liquid phase are evaluated using reported values of activity,^[21] chemical potential,^[18-23] enthalpy of mixing,^[17,18] and heat capacity^[6] and are listed in Table 4. The heat capacity of the alloy liquid, as modeled with the two-state approach, exhibits a more realistic behavior than our prior treatment, as shown in Fig. 2. For the solid phases, the model parameters reported by Zhou et al.^[3] are considered. Due to the modified treatment of the Gibbs free energy for the liquid phase, the 0G and 0L parameters for both stoichiometries Cu₂Mg-C₁₅ and Mg₂Cu-C_b are re-evaluated using reported experimental data,^[9,10,12] while the remaining parameters are adopted from Zhou et al.,^[3] as listed in Table 3 and 4. The calculated enthalpy of mixing and

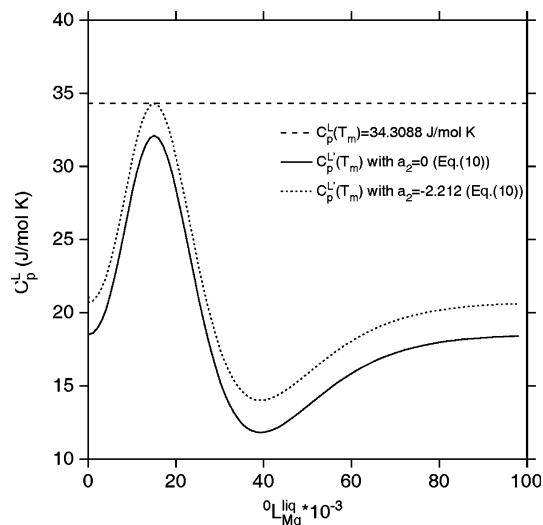


Fig. 3 The calculated heat capacity for the Mg liquid as a function of the parameter ${}^0L_{Mg}^{liq}$, constrained by Eq 10 for $n = 2, 3$

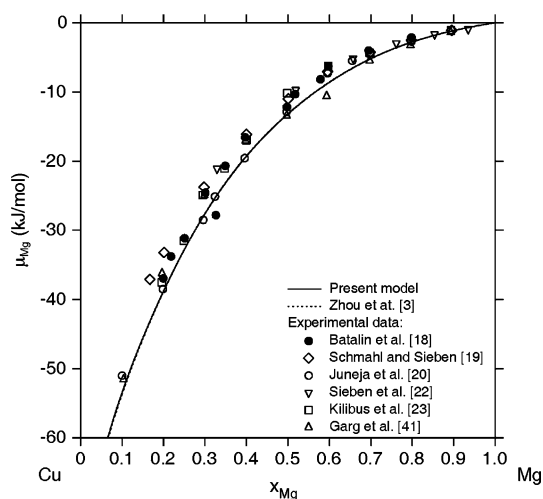


Fig. 5 The chemical potential of Mg in the binary liquid at 1100 K, computed from the current model as function of composition and compared with experimental data

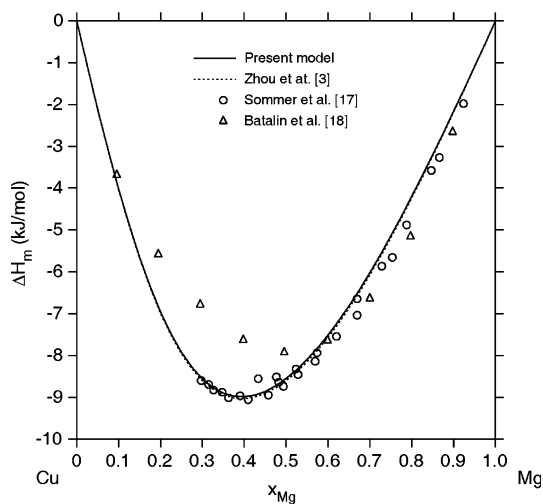


Fig. 4 The computed enthalpy of mixing for the binary liquid at 1120 K, compared with experimental data

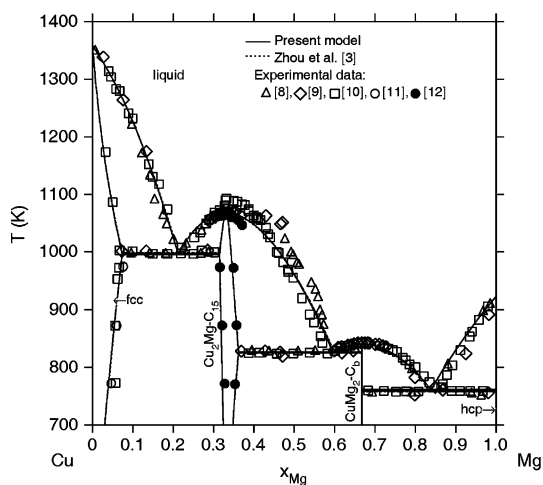


Fig. 6 The equilibrium Cu-Mg phase diagram, as computed using the present model. Reported experimental data and model are shown for comparison

chemical potential of Mg as a function of composition for the Cu-Mg liquid phase are plotted in Fig. 4 and 5, respectively. The resulting equilibrium phase diagram is plotted in Fig. 6 along with reported experimental data.^[8-12] The computed invariant reactions are compared with available experimental data in Table 5. In Fig. 7, we plot the liquidus ($\mu_i^L = \mu_i^\phi$) and $T_0(G_i^L = G_i^\phi)$ curves, showing the relevant criteria for crystallization from the melt with equilibrium chemical partitioning and zero chemical partitioning, respectively. Also shown in this figure are experimental observations of glass formation in this binary system,^[6] indicating, as previously suggested,^[2] that T_0 may be a practical limit for partitionless crystallization.

4. Conclusions

Employing a two-state treatment and empirical methods for evaluation of coefficients, the Gibbs free energy vs. composition curves for all relevant phases in the Cu-Mg binary system are modeled, and the associated binary phase diagram is computed. While the reassessed phase diagram does not differ significantly from our previous report, the computed alloy liquid heat capacity, as modeled with the two-state approach, exhibits a more realistic behavior. Combining a two-state model for the pure component liquid reference states in the sub-melting temperature regime and a four-species association model for the liquid solution,

Table 5 Invariant reactions in the Cu-Mg system

Reaction	Variable	Calculated results				Experimental data
		This work	[3]	[4]	[5]	
Liq → Cu ₂ Mg-C ₁₅	T, K	1067.5	1066.3	1073.0	1066.2	1063 ^[8] 1070 ^[9] 1092 ^[10] 1066 ^[12]
	x _(liquid,Mg)	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333 ^[12]
Liq → CuMg ₂ -C _b	x _(C₁₅,Mg)	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333 ^[12]
	T, K	840.5	840.5	841.0	843.1	841.0 ^[10,12] 0.667 ^[12]
Liq → fcc + Cu ₂ Mg-C ₁₅	x _(liquid,Mg)	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667 ^[12]
	x _(C_b,Mg)	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667 ^[12]
Liq → fcc + Cu ₂ Mg-C ₁₅	T, K	996.5	998.8	998.8	998.3	995 ^[10] 998 ^[8,12]
	x _(liquid,Mg)	0.212	0.213	0.209	0.214	0.230 ^[8]
	x _(fcc,Mg)	0.073	0.074	0.069	0.075	0.069 ^[12]
	x _(C₁₅,Mg)	0.315	0.314	0.313	0.316	0.310 ^[12]
Liq → CuMg ₂ -C _b + Cu ₂ Mg-C ₁₅	T, K	825.6	826.5	825.5	825.2	828 ^[8,9] 825 ^[10,12]
	x _(liquid,Mg)	0.595	0.594	0.595	0.588	0.585 ^[8]
	x _(C_b,Mg)	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667 ^[8]
	x _(C₁₅,Mg)	0.361	0.361	0.356	0.359	0.353 ^[8]
Liq → hcp + CuMg ₂ -C _b	T, K	760.1	757.3	759.0	758.0	753 ^[8] 758 ^[9,10]
	x _(liquid,Mg)	0.839	0.838	0.839	0.841	0.855 ^[9,10]
	x _(hcp,Mg)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1 ^[10]
	x _(C_b,Mg)	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667 ^[10]

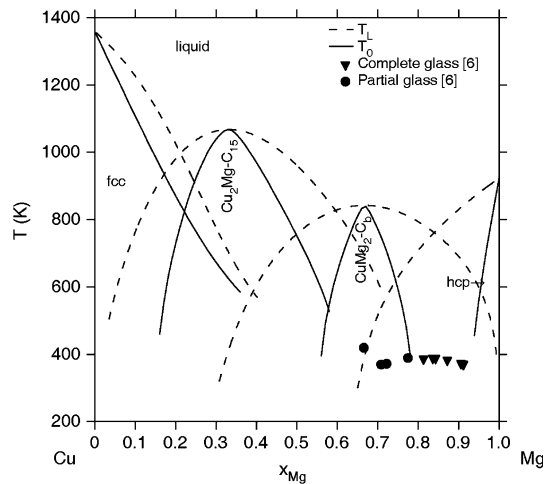


Fig. 7 The T_L and T_0 curves calculated using the parameters in Table 1, 3 and 4. Experimental reports of complete and partial glass formation are also shown^[6]

we compute the values of T_L and T_0 . Comparison with experimental observations of glass formation in this binary system supports prior claims^[2,39,40] that, as an upper bound to completely partitionless crystallization from the melt, the T_0 temperature provides a practical limit for the glass formation range.

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