



# Development of a Thermodynamic Database for Corrosion in Chloride MSRs

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*Changing the World's Energy Future*

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**October 2022**

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# Development of a Thermodynamic Database for Corrosion in Chloride MSRs

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# Overview

- Molten Salt Thermal Properties Database -Thermochemical (MSTDB-TC), a free resource for molten salt thermodynamic properties
- Well-specified CALPHAD modeling
- Thermodynamic assessment of NaCl-KCl-MgCl<sub>2</sub> with UCl<sub>3</sub>-UCl<sub>4</sub> and CrCl<sub>2</sub>
- Temperature and composition dependent formation of CrCl<sub>2</sub>



# Chloride corrosion systems of MSTDB-TC version 2.0

|                        | KCl | MgCl <sub>2</sub> | UCl <sub>3</sub> | UCl <sub>4</sub> | CrCl <sub>2</sub> | FeCl <sub>2</sub> | NiCl <sub>2</sub> |
|------------------------|-----|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| NaCl                   | ✓   | ✓                 | ●                | ●                | ●                 | ✓                 | ✓                 |
| KCl                    | --  | ✓                 | ●                | ●                | ●                 | ✓                 | ✓                 |
| MgCl <sub>2</sub>      | --  | --                | □                | □                | □                 | ✓                 | ✓                 |
| UCl <sub>3</sub>       | --  | --                | --               | □                | □                 | □                 | □                 |
| NaCl-KCl               | --  | --                | □                | □                | □                 | ✓                 | ✓                 |
| NaCl-MgCl <sub>2</sub> | ✓   | --                | □                | □                | □                 | ✓                 | ●                 |
| KCl-MgCl <sub>2</sub>  | --  | --                | □                | □                | □                 | □                 | ✓                 |

● New

□ Updated

□ Unavailable

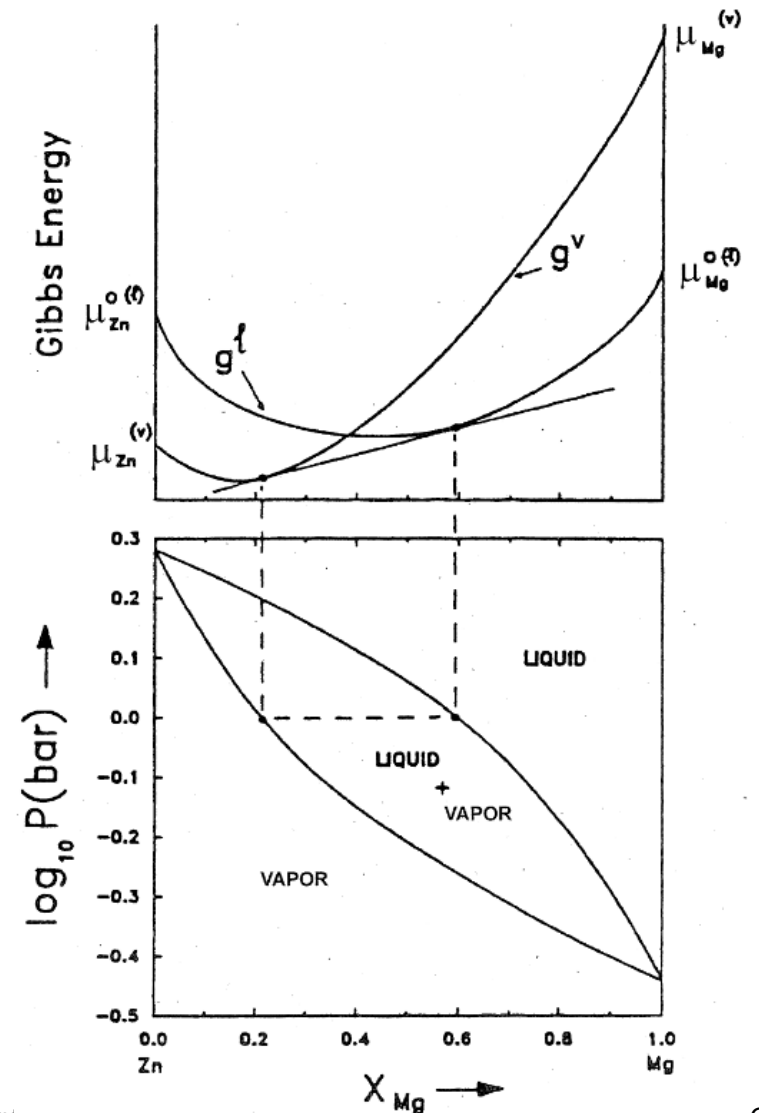


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# Producing well-specified thermodynamic assessments

- Gibbs energy descriptions can be underdefined
  - Phase equilibria
- The modified quasi-chemical model in quadruplet approximation (MQMQA) describes ionic species ordering
- With well-defined endmembers depends only on  $\mu$  and the cation-coordination numbers ( $\mu$ )
- In a simple eutectic, and satisfied by  $\mu$  and  $\mu$

Connection between phase equilibria, chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), and



Adapted from: [Centre de Recherche en Calcul Thermodynamique](#), Centre de Recherche en Calcul Thermodynamique: Montréal, Canada, 2011.

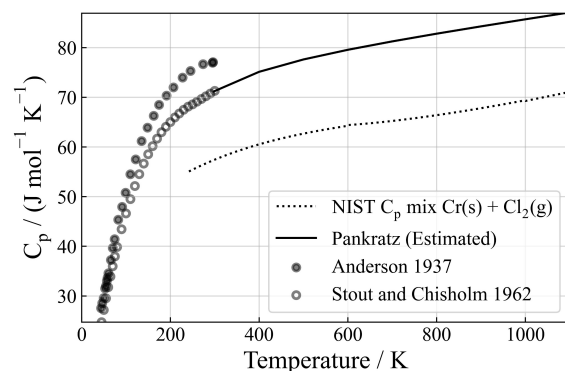


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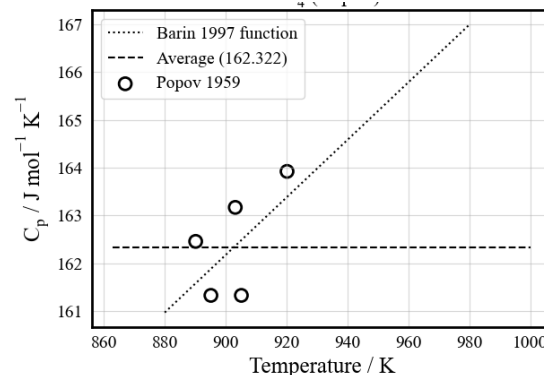
# Endmember characterization

- , , and from primary sources.

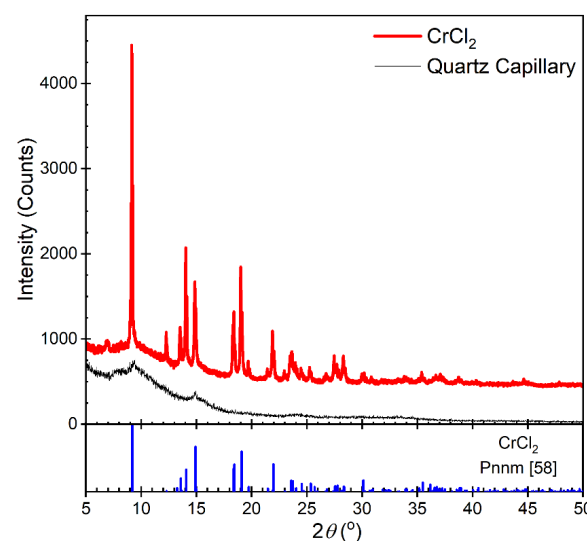
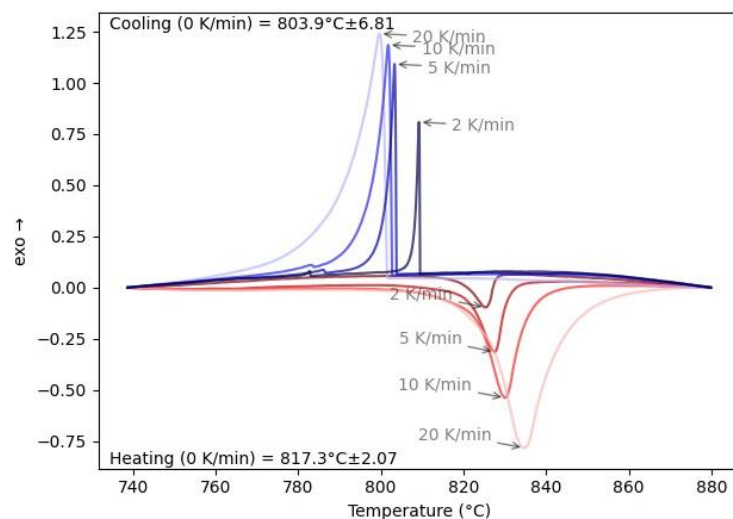
**CrCl<sub>2</sub>**



**UCl<sub>4</sub>**

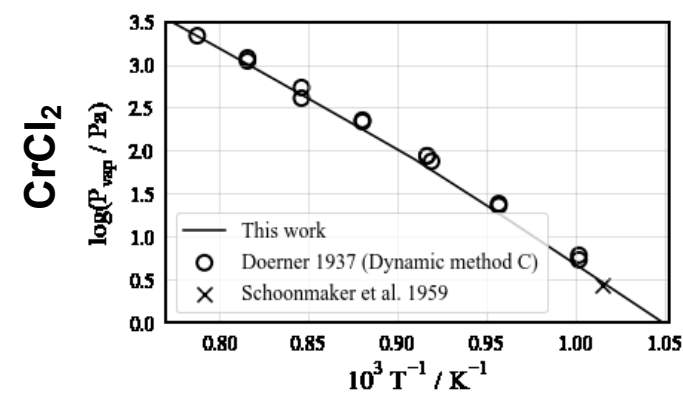
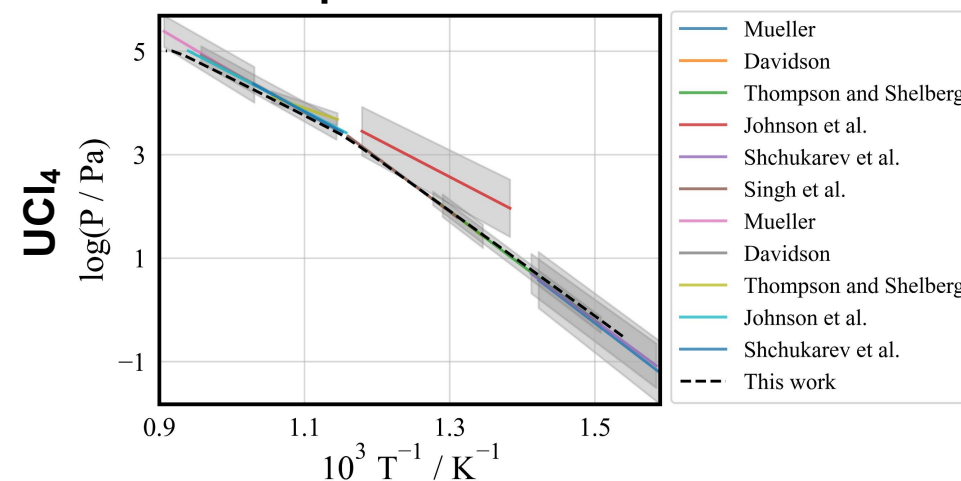


- Purity benchmarking of obtained salts.



- Comparison of calculated values against experimental

**Vapor Pressure**





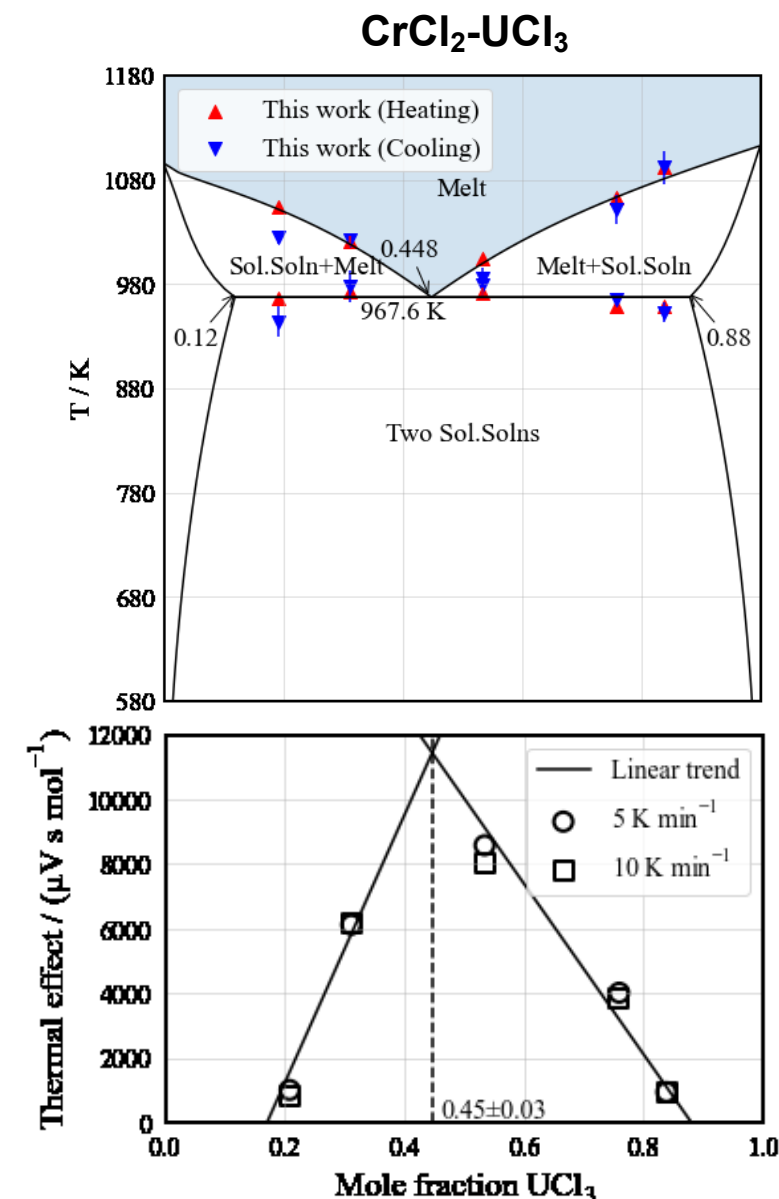
# Experiments compliment similar system correlations

- Cationic potential ( trends can predict broad equilibria patterns
- Few DSC measurements needed as confirmation

| Cation (A) |      | # of Compounds |
|------------|------|----------------|
| Cs(+)      | 0.24 | 2              |
| Rb(+)      | 0.26 | 2              |
| K(+)       | 0.29 | 2              |
| Na(+)      | 0.39 | 1              |
| Li(+)      | 0.53 | 1+ Sol. Soln.  |
| Mn(2+)     | 0.96 | Two Sol. Soln. |
| Fe(2+)     | 1.03 | Two Sol. Soln. |
| Mg(2+)     | 1.11 | Two Sol. Soln. |

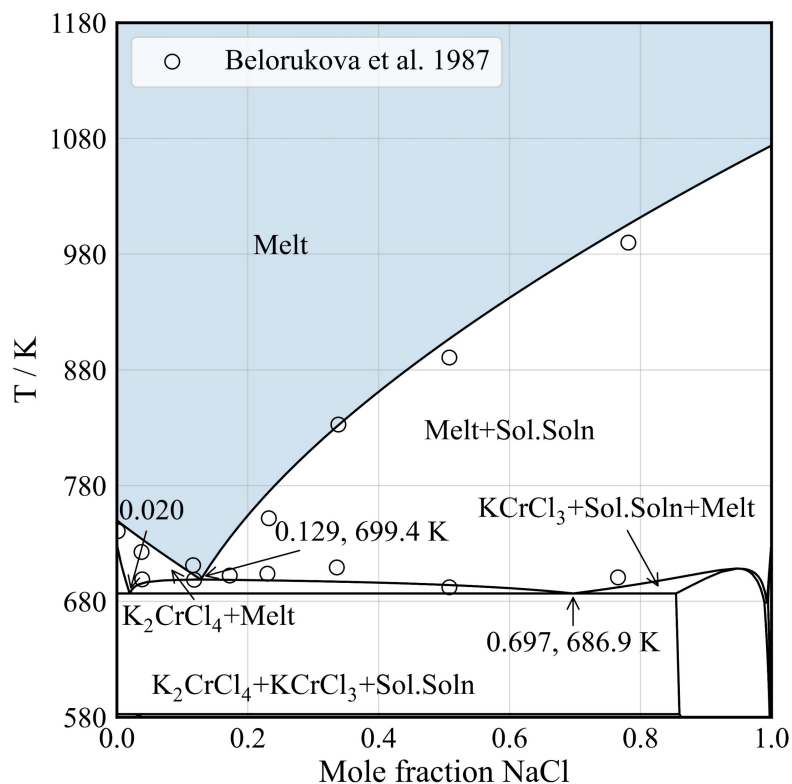


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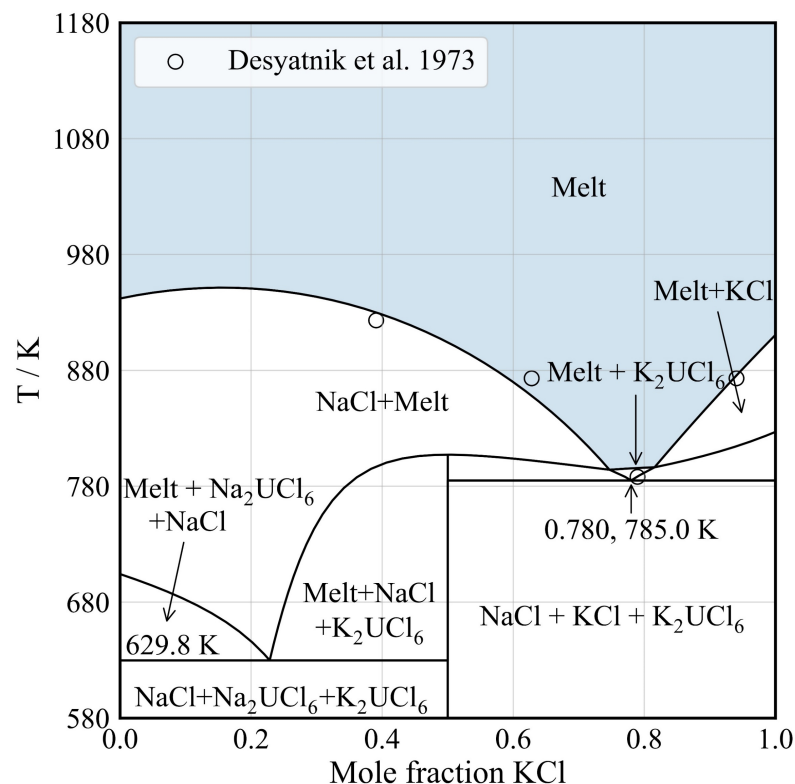


# NaCl-KCl-CrCl<sub>2</sub> and NaCl-KCl-UCl<sub>4</sub>

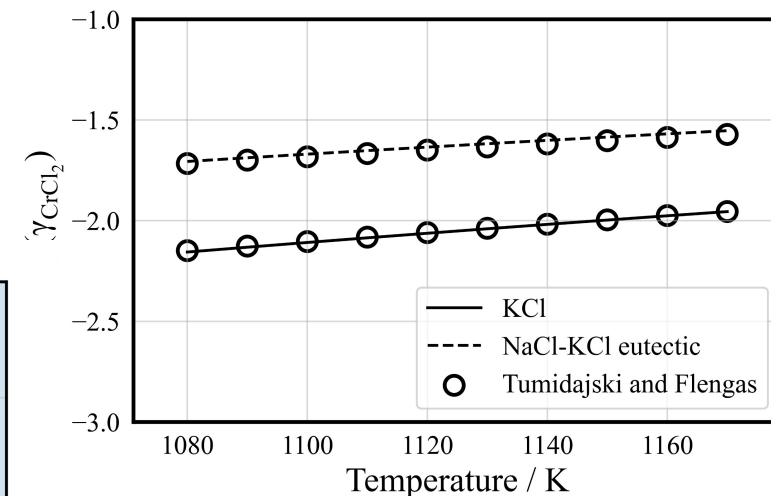
K<sub>2</sub>CrCl<sub>4</sub>-NaCl



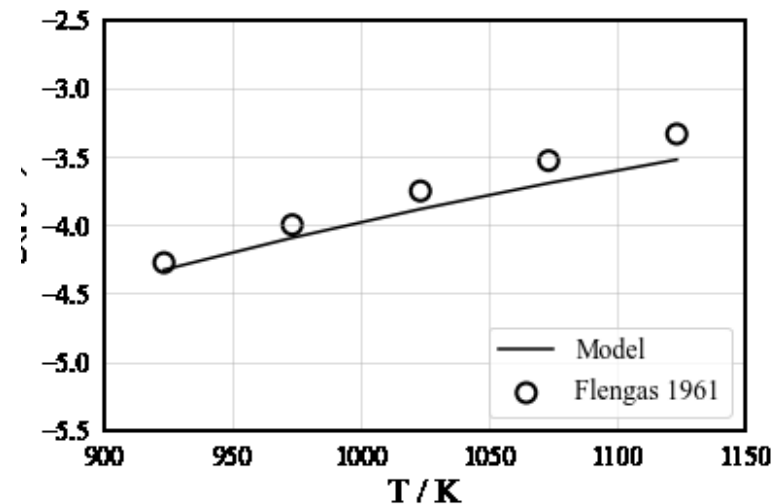
NaCl-KCl Section  
20mol% UCl<sub>4</sub>



Dilute CrCl<sub>2</sub> activity coefficient



Dilute UCl<sub>4</sub> activity coefficient

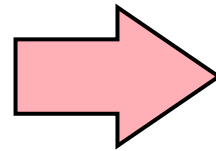
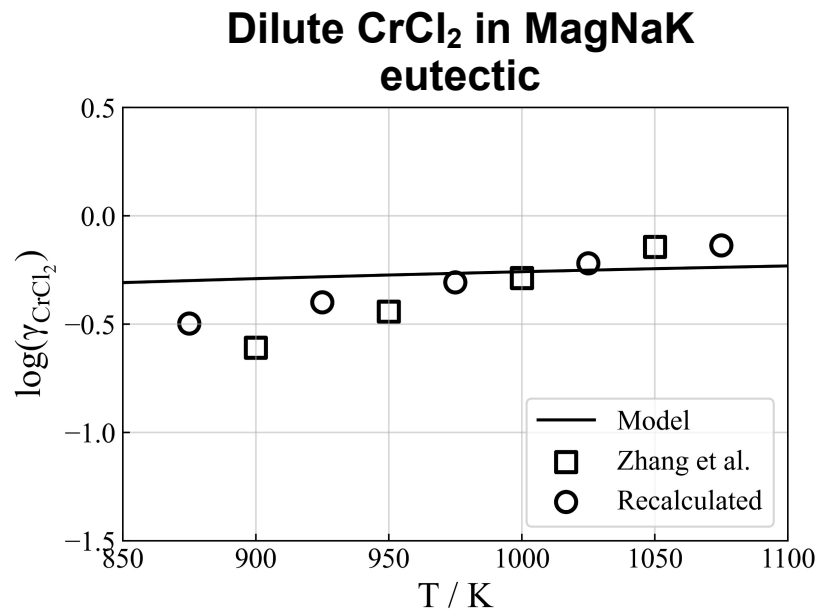


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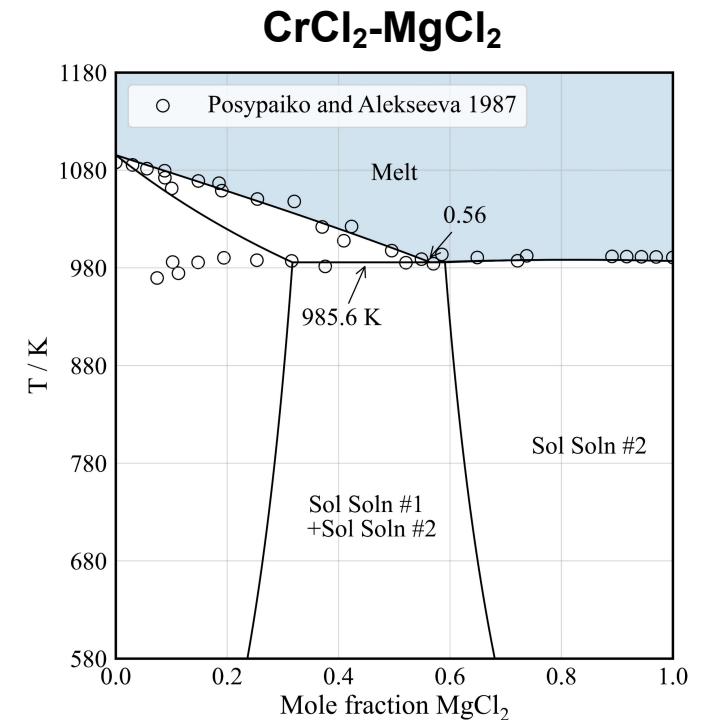
No pseudo-ternary liquid  
interaction parameters needed

# NaCl-KCl-MgCl<sub>2</sub>-CrCl<sub>2</sub>

- Sparse data for the CrCl<sub>2</sub>-MgCl<sub>2</sub> system, only a single set of phase equilibria available
- Higher order data may be used to better inform the lower order system assessment



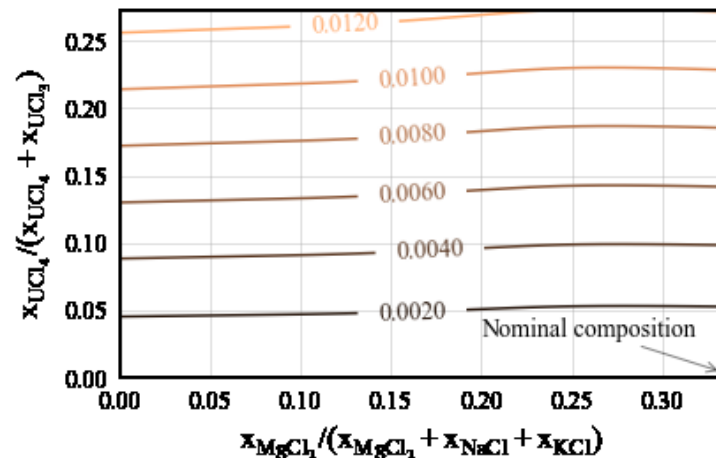
High-order data used in lower order system assessment.



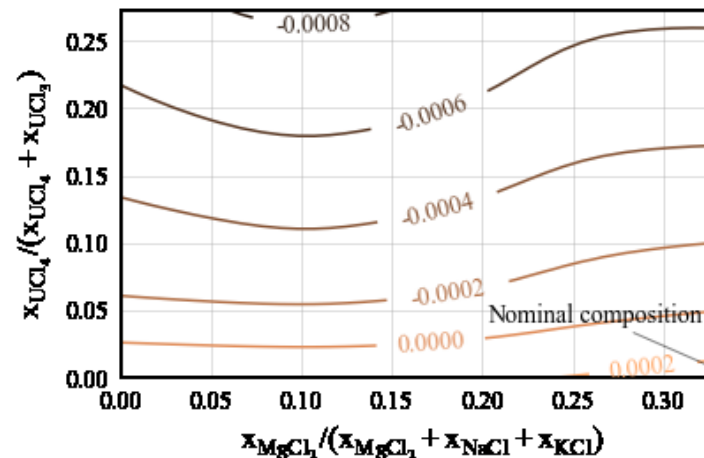
# Hastelloy-N Cr corrosion

- Equilibrium  $\text{CrCl}_2$  formation from Ni-5.7Cr-24.0Mo-4.4mol%Fe alloy
- Nominal salt composition of 10 $\text{UCl}_3$ -30NaCl-30KCl-30 $\text{MgCl}_2$ .
- Composition variations have constant total molar content and a 1:1 NaCl:KCl ratio.
- Very small additions of Mg can greatly reduce corrosion product formation.

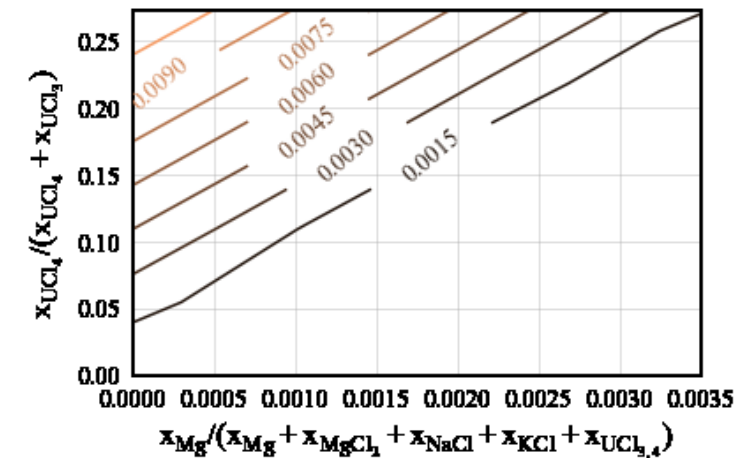
Equilibrium at 1000K



Difference at 1300K



Nominal composition at 1000K with added Mg



# Summary and conclusions

- This work added 18 chloride systems (7 pseudo-ternary) to MSTDB-TC
- Correlational approaches, DSC measurements, and constrained equilibria optimizations yield accurate high-order molten salt system assessments
- Chloride corrosion calculations can be performed for
  - NaCl-KCl-MgCl<sub>2</sub>-UCl<sub>3</sub>-UCl<sub>4</sub>-CrCl<sub>2</sub>
  - NaCl-KCl-MgCl<sub>2</sub>-(FeCl<sub>2</sub>,NiCl<sub>2</sub>)
- Driving forces for CrCl<sub>2</sub> formation marginally decrease with increasing temperature
- More complete understanding will require phase equilibria of NaCl-MgCl<sub>2</sub>-UCl<sub>3</sub>, NiCl<sub>2</sub>-UCl<sub>3</sub>, and FeCl<sub>2</sub>-UCl<sub>3</sub>



# Training/Workshop on Molten Salt Thermal Properties Databases

## University of South Carolina

### November 9, 2022

### *Thermochemical, MSTDB-TC, and thermophysical, MSTDB-TP*

- Details on the development and the current and projected future content
- Use of software for accessing the database content
  - FactSage (commercial) and Thermochemica (open access) for MSTDB-TC
  - Saline (open access) for MSTDTB-TP
  - Examples of coupling to multiphysics codes
- Presenters from UofSC, ORNL, Ontario Tech, and others
- Contributed posters on applications

***Registration deadline Oct. 28!!!***

***For registration details and to be added to the mailing list contact: [besmann@sc.edu](mailto:besmann@sc.edu)***



**Organizers:**

- Ted Besmann, UofSC
- Dianne Ezell, ORNL

