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Critical Evaluation of Experimental Data of Solution Enthalpy of Zirconium in Liquid Aluminum

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Abstract

The aim of the present paper is to propose a new interpretation of the zirconium dissolution in liquid aluminum calorimetry experiments performed in the past in order to reconcile some apparently contradictory results and observations. It is supported by the development of a dissolution kinetics model. We show that probably most of the experiments interpreted in terms of dissolution must be considered in terms of (partial or total) transformation of zirconium into zirconium aluminide (Al_3Zr). In addition, on the basis of the developed model, we propose some recommendations in terms of experimental conditions to improve the dissolution process. These recommendations are consistent with some empirical rules derived in the past. It also puts in question past standard enthalpy measurements of some compounds in the Cu-Zr, Ni-Zr, Co-Zr and U-Zr systems.

1. Introduction

In high temperature solution calorimetry, the standard enthalpy of formation of a compound $\text{A}_\alpha\text{B}_\beta$, is determined from the separate experimental determinations of the solution enthalpies of the compound ($\text{A}_\alpha\text{B}_\beta$) and its components A and B in a same solvent bath at the same temperature, according to the equation :

$$\Delta_f H^0(\text{A}_\alpha\text{B}_\beta) = \alpha \Delta_{sol} H^\infty(\text{A}) + \beta \Delta_{sol} H^\infty(\text{B}) - \Delta_{sol} H^\infty(\text{A}_\alpha\text{B}_\beta) \quad (1)$$

where :

- α and β are the stoichiometric coefficients of the $A_\alpha B_\beta$ compound,
- $\Delta_f H^0(A_\alpha B_\beta)$, the standard enthalpy of formation of the $A_\alpha B_\beta$ compound,
- $\Delta_{sol} H^\infty(X)$, the solution enthalpy of $X = A$ (or B or $A_\alpha B_\beta$) at infinite dilution in the solvent.

The solution enthalpy of X is determined by successive drops of X (initially at the standard temperature, 298.15 K) in the solvent and by measuring the associated heat effects which are, once divided by the number of added moles of X , extrapolated at infinite dilution in order to obtain $\Delta_{sol} H^\infty(X)$.

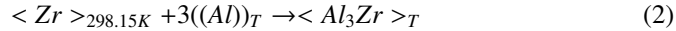
For most transition metals and in particular for Group IV elements such as titanium, hafnium or zirconium, the choice of the solvent is a crucial problem since their dissolution in many ones classically used in high temperature calorimetry is a slow process. Such slow kinetics requires to guarantee the thermal stability of the calorimeter over large times and this is a difficult task at high temperature. However some refractory transition elements were successfully dissolved in metallic solvents, Ti and Hf in liquid tin [1] or in liquid germanium [2]. For zirconium, Yassin *et al.* [1] reported two very different values for solution enthalpies in liquid tin at infinite dilution from Sudavtsova *et al.* [3] and from Bouhajib *et al.* [4] whereas in liquid germanium, no data was available up to now. Preliminary experiments of zirconium dissolution in liquid germanium at 1273 K were performed in our laboratory to check the possibility of using this solvent. The measured solution enthalpies showed a large dispersion (± 20 kJ.mol⁻¹). Moreover there was apparently a non-linear variation of solution enthalpies with zirconium concentration, preventing any reliable extrapolation at infinite dilution.

Molten aluminum was also extensively used by different groups as reported in a review by Colinet [5]. Numerous experimental determinations of solution enthalpies of zirconium in liquid aluminum were performed at temperatures around ≈ 1000 K [6–14] and at higher temperatures, above 1673 K up to 2045 K [15–19]. In the framework of a recent study of the Ag-Zr phase diagram [20] devoted to the determination of the standard enthalpies of formation of AgZr and AgZr₂ compounds, new values of zirconium solution enthalpy in liquid aluminum at 996 K have been obtained by our group. The comparison between our value and the previous ones highlights a rather good agreement (Table 1) even if one can consider the values somewhat dispersed. Regarding these results, to use liquid aluminum for zirconium dissolution at temperatures around ≈ 1000 K seemed to be a promising way.

Colinet [5] mentioned that attempts to dissolve zirconium in liquid aluminum at temperatures around 1000 K usually failed, but without giving any explanation. In fact, the reason is linked to the formation of the intermetallic compound (Al₃Zr) at the liquid/metal interface in the very beginning of the dissolution process. Once a thin layer of zirconium aluminide forms by chemical reaction between zirconium and aluminum, the direct contact between the sample core and liquid is prevented. The kinetics of incorporation of zirconium atoms in the bath is then controlled by the competition between the dissolution of the outer layer of Al₃Zr by the liquid phase and the growth of this intermetallic layer towards the sample core. Solid-state diffusion experiments

between 826 and 913 K by Kidson *et al.* [21] showed that the diffusion of aluminum in Al_3Zr was much higher than the one of zirconium. It was explained in [21] by the similarity of the Al (fcc) and Al_3Zr (D0_{23}) structures where the interatomic distances between aluminum atoms is 2.86 Å in the first one, whereas it is 2.80 Å and 2.85 Å in the second one. It leads to a rapid growth of a Al_3Zr layer (to the apparent exclusion of all other Al-Zr intermetallic compounds) which acts as a barrier for zirconium atoms. In the dissolution calorimetry experiments, such a phenomenon could lead to a complete transformation of the zirconium solid sample into aluminide before its sluggish dissolution.

In the Al-Zr phase diagram, at ≈ 1000 K, the limit of the (Liquid+ Al_3Zr) biphasic domain is reached for a zirconium atomic fraction of 0.0008, according to the recent experimental data of Dezellus *et al.* [22]. Almost all the groups (Table 1) investigated a range of zirconium atomic fractions exceeding the zirconium solubility in liquid aluminum. They surprisingly did not mention any composition dependence of the solution enthalpy of zirconium in liquid aluminum. In our experiments [20], the measured heat flows effectively showed slight or no difference below and above the solubility whereas different thermal effects are expected corresponding to a dissolution process below the solubility and a precipitation of a solid phase (i.e. Al_3Zr) above the solubility. From these observations, it can be assumed that the transformation that occurs in the calorimeter below and above the solubility could correspond to the same chemical process, i.e. :



Whereas they obtained a similar value that ours, Gomozov *et al.* [10, 11], claimed that the examination of their bath after the experiments showed an uniform distribution of zirconium in aluminum without aluminide precipitation. On the contrary Eremenko *et al.* [23] previously showed that, for dissolution tests of a zirconium disc specimen immersed in liquid aluminum at 973 K, zirconium was completely transformed into Al_3Zr .

The occurrence of Reaction (2) likely depends on the experimental conditions. On the basis of experimental observations on different chemical metallic aluminum-based systems, Eremenko *et al.* [24] derived some empirical rules required to prevent the growth of the aluminide layer, i.e. a bath temperature above 1050 K, a sample area-to-volume ratio of 10 m^{-1} and a concentration of dissolved metal below 0.4-0.6 times the solubility limit at the bath temperature.

The aim of the present paper is to propose a new interpretation of the zirconium dissolution in liquid aluminum calorimetry experiments performed in the past in order to reconcile some apparently contradictory results and observations. It is supported by the development of a dissolution kinetics model described in Section 3. As the thermal signal of the calorimeter is continuously recorded during the dissolution process, the return of the signal to the baseline after each zirconium drop provides an estimate of the duration of this process. The model predictions allow to evaluate the reliability of the published values of enthalpy of solution zirconium in aluminum bath around 1000K.

2. Experimental observations in our tests

The experimental procedure and conditions of our tests are detailed in [20]. Some information are summarised here. The measurements were performed under argon gas at a pressure slightly over 1 bar in a Tian-Calvet high temperature calorimeter. The temperatures of the reference and the sample cells were measured by a Pt10%Rh-Pt thermocouple inserted between the cells in the isothermal alumina block. 9.1 g of aluminum was put in a graphite crucible. The crucible was inserted in a vitreous silica tube. As the silica tube was slowly lowered into the calorimeter maintained at the experiment temperature, the metallic load melted and after a transient thermal regime, the whole assembly reached thermal equilibrium and a stable baseline was obtained. Small fragments of zirconium about few mg were then dropped successively until a target final composition was reached. Masses were weighed on a balance of $\pm 10^{-5}$ g accuracy. The differential signal of the calorimeter was continuously recorded during the process. After each drop, a thermal effect was registered before the signal has returned to the baseline.

The duration of the dissolution process can be estimated as the time interval between the sample drop and the return to the baseline. This return can be in some cases difficult to assess. It is considered that our measurements of thermal effects are accurate within $\pm 5\%$. According to the fact that the thermal effect is proportional to the sample mass, approximately 95% of the sample is dissolved during the dissolution process duration. After the final zirconium addition, the atomic fraction of Zr in the bath was about 0.000667 (i.e. about 89% of the solubility limit at 996 K, i.e. 0.00075 [22]). The silica tube assembly containing the sample was then extracted from the calorimeter and the sample cooled down to room temperature under inert atmosphere for further analyses which are discussed in Part 4.

3. Description of the model

3.1. Introduction

As explained in detail by Yatsenko *et al.* [25], when there is no formation of inter-metallic layer, the dissolution of zirconium in liquid aluminum consists in breakdown of metallic bonds holding atoms on the surface of solid zirconium and their replacement by bonds between atoms in the liquid phase. The second stage is the removal of the reaction products from the solid/liquid interface into the bulk of the liquid aluminum bath. Diffusion through the solid/liquid boundary layer often acts as a limiting process. The dissolution rate in this case is directly proportional to the zirconium concentration difference between the solid/liquid interface and the bulk of the liquid. According to this description, the dissolution process of solid in liquid aluminum can be described by the Nernst-Shchukarev equation (commonly used, see e.g. [23], [25]) :

$$\frac{dC(t)}{dt} = K \frac{S}{V} [C_s - C(t)] \quad (3)$$

where $C(t)$ is the concentration of the dissolved metal in the liquid bulk at time t , C_s , the metal concentration in the liquid at saturation (as given by the Al-Zr phase diagram),

$t(s)$ the dissolution time, $S (m^2)$ the sample surface area, $V (m^3)$ the melt volume, and $K (m.s^{-1})$, the mass transfer coefficient.

With this equation, it is assumed that there is no concentration gradient in the liquid bulk. K takes into account the diffusion and convection mass transfer in the boundary layer. To solve the previous equation, the key point is the determination of K . This is the aim of the next section.

3.2. Determination of the mass transfer coefficient around a sphere

In our calorimetric experiments, we assume that the zirconium sample to be dissolved can be considered as a sphere in isothermal conditions. The spherical geometry is kept during the dissolution process but the dimensions of the sphere are continuously reduced as a function of the dissolved mass.

For *heat* transfer with natural convection around a sphere of diameter d , Bejan [26] recommends to use the Churchill's relation [27] between the Nusselt (Nu), the Prandtl (Pr) and the Rayleigh (Ra) dimensionless numbers (with the validity ranges $Pr \geq 0.7$ and $Ra_d \leq 10^{11}$):

$$Nu_d = 2 + \frac{0.589 Ra_d^{1/4}}{[1 + (0.469/Pr)^{9/16}]^{4/9}} \quad (4)$$

The mass transfer coefficient K of Equation (3) is then estimated using the classical analogy between heat and mass transfers. For *mass* transfer with natural convection around a sphere, we then use the following expression linking the Grashof (Gr_m), the Sherwood (Sh) and the Schmidt (Sc) dimensionless numbers :

$$Sh = 2 + \frac{0.589 Gr_m^{1/4} Sc^{1/4}}{[1 + (0.469/Sc)^{9/16}]^{4/9}} \quad (5)$$

where Gr_m , Sc and Sh are given by :

$$\begin{cases} Gr_m = g \frac{\Delta\rho d^3}{\rho_l \nu^2} \\ Sc = \frac{\nu}{D_0} \\ Sh = \frac{Kd}{D_0} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where $g (m.s^{-2})$ is acceleration due to gravity, $d (m)$ the diameter of the sphere, $\rho_l (kg.m^{-3})$ the liquid density, $\nu (m^2.s^{-1})$, the kinematic viscosity, $D_0 (m^2.s^{-1})$ the diffusion coefficient of solute in liquid, $\Delta\rho = \rho_{ls} - \rho_l$, the difference of density between the liquid at saturation and the bulk liquid. If $\Delta\rho = 0$, Equation (5) is reduced to $Sh = 2$ which provides the limiting value of the Sherwood number for mass transfer from a sphere in a fluid in absence of convection.

Assuming a zero excess volume between Al and Zr in liquid for the calculation

of the density of liquid phase¹

$$\frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho_l} = \frac{\rho_{ls} - \rho_l}{\rho_l} \approx \frac{(\rho_{l,Al} - \rho_{l,Zr})(C - C_s)}{\rho_{l,Al}C_s + \rho_{l,Zr}(1 - C_s)} = A_1(C_s - C) \quad (7)$$

with :

$$A_1 = \frac{\rho_{l,Zr} - \rho_{l,Al}}{\rho_{l,Al}C_s + \rho_{l,Zr}(1 - C_s)} \quad (8)$$

The expression for K becomes :

$$K = B_0 + \frac{B_1(C_s - C)^{1/4}}{B_2} \quad (9)$$

with :

$$\begin{cases} B_0 = \frac{2D_0}{d} \\ B_1 = 0.589 \frac{D_0}{d} \left(\frac{A_1 g d^3}{D_0 \nu} \right)^{1/4} \\ B_2 = \left[1 + (0.469 D_0 / \nu)^{9/16} \right]^{4/9} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Equation (3) of the evolution of the zirconium concentration in the liquid becomes :

$$\frac{dC(t)}{dt} = \frac{S}{V} B_0 [C_s - C(t)] + \frac{S}{V} \frac{B_1}{B_2} [C_s - C(t)]^{5/4} \quad (11)$$

As previously mentioned, to establish Equation (11), samples of spherical shape are assumed. The previous expression can be derived similarly for any shape of sample if a $Nu - Ra$ relation has been determined. For immersed body of "not simple" volumes, Bejan [26] recommends to use the Yovanovich's relation [32] (with the validity ranges $Sc \geq 0.7$ and $Ra_l \leq 10^8$) for heat transfer. This relation becomes for mass transfer :

$$Sh_l = 3.47 + 0.51 Gr_m^{1/4} Sc_m^{1/4} \quad (12)$$

where l , is the square root of the entire area, S , of the immersed body.

In Equations (10), d is simply replaced by an equivalent length equal to $S^{1/2}$. Equation (11) has then to be solved for :

¹As the authors are aware, there is no density measurements of Al-Zr liquids around 1000 K. In liquid aluminum binary alloys, it is reported in [28–30], from measurements on different Al-M binary systems (M=Ni, Cr, Co, Fe, Ti, ...), that the molar volume of liquid alloy of composition (x_{Al}, x_M) at temperature T can be fitted, from the molar volumes of pure elements, $V_{Al}(T)$ and $V_M(T)$ at T , by a Redlich-Kister polynomial [31] :

$$V(T) = x_{Al}V_{Al}(T) + x_M V_M(T) + x_{Al}x_M \sum_{\nu=0}^{\nu} V(T)(x_{Al} - x_M)^{\nu}$$

In very dilute solutions (in our case, x_{Zr} does not exceed 0.0008), we can reasonably assume that the excess volume can be neglected.

$$\begin{cases} B_0 = \frac{3.47D_0}{S^{1/2}} \\ B_1 = 0.51 \frac{D_0}{S^{1/2}} \left(\frac{A_1 g S^{3/2}}{D_0 \nu} \right)^{1/4} \\ B_2 = 1 \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

3.3. Concentration evolution equation

Equation (11) is a differential equation of Bernoulli-type [33] with an exact known solution :

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + ay(t) = by^m(t) \quad (14)$$

with $y(t) = C_s - C(t)$, $a = SB_0/V$, $b = -SB_1/(VB_2)$ et $m = 5/4$.

As a and b vary with time because of the geometric modifications of the sample (S) and the bath (increase of V) due to dissolution, we have to numerically integrate Equation (14) step by step.

Between $t = n\delta t$ et $t = (n+1)\delta t$, the solution of Equation (11) can be written under the general following form [33] :

$$C(t) = C_s - [C_s - C(t_n)] e^{-a_n(t-t_n)} \left[1 - C_s^{0.25} \frac{b_n}{a_n} + C_s^{0.25} \frac{b_n}{a_n} e^{-0.25a_n(t-t_n)} \right]^{-4} \quad (15)$$

where a_n and b_n are the values of a and b (respectively) calculated at the beginning of the time step, $t = n\delta t$, and assumed to be constant during δt .

3.4. Numerical implementation of the model

We have reported in Table 2 the parameter values required to re-interpret the past dissolution experiments with our model. The experiments performed by Ansara *et al.* [6], Nagarajan *et al.* [7], and by Turchanin *et al.* [12, 14] are unfortunately not enough documented to be taken into account in this work.

For Turchanin *et al.* [8, 9, 13] and Gomozov *et al.* [10, 11], the sample geometries are not specified. For both studies, the initial S/V ratios provide estimates of the initial sample areas, S , from the bath volume. According to Equations (11) and (13), the dissolution rate is an increasing function of S . By keeping during the calculation, the sample area, S , constant, equal to its initial value, the rate of concentration variation, $dC(t)/dt$, is maximised. Within this approximation, the calculation will provide a lower bound for the dissolution time for the tests for which the sample geometry is not known.

The viscosity and the density of liquid aluminum are taken from the Assael's assessment [34]. They are assumed to be constant during the dissolution process, according to the fact that small zirconium additions do not drastically modify the bath properties. The density of solid zirconium is taken from Lu *et al.*[35]. The density of liquid zirconium is equal to 6210 kg.m^{-3} at the zirconium melting temperature as recently determined by Ishikawa *et al.* [36]. The diffusion coefficient of zirconium in

liquid aluminum was determined by Eremenko *et al.* [37]. For the zirconium solubility in liquid aluminum, around 1000 K, the different available experimental values from Fink *et al.* [38], Chiotti *et al.* [39], Eremenko *et al.* [23] and Yatsenko *et al.* [25] are in agreement and have been recently confirmed by Dezellus *et al.* [22].

Some numerical tests have been performed to test the time-step convergence for the integration of Equations (11). Retained time-step of 1 s is accurate enough to obtain the convergence.

4. Discussion

4.1. Our experiments at 996 K

4.1.1. Simulation of the dissolution process

According to our experimental conditions at 996 K, we have simulated (Figure 1) the dissolution of the first sample dropped (3.5 mg), assumed to be spherical, in the aluminum bath (9.1 g). The calculation shows that the sample should be dissolved in ≈ 6 hours. It is much longer than the duration of the thermal effect (less than one hour) measured in our calorimetry experiments. The dissolution kinetics is not largely modified by taking into account the Yovanovich's correlation (Figure 1).

In our calculation, a questionable approximation is to consider our sample as spherical. According to the isoperimetric inequality [40], for a given mass (so for a given volume), such a geometry leads to minimise the surface of the sample and then to increase the dissolution time, according to Equations (11) and (13). As our sample is not perfectly spherical, the calculated dissolution time is probably overestimated. Nevertheless, if we would like to obtain a calculated dissolution time comparable to the experimental one, a $S/V \approx 5\text{-}10 \text{ m}^{-1}$ should be considered. Such a ratio would correspond to a very thin zirconium sheet clearly not representative of the geometry of our samples. So the calculated duration for the dissolution process gives an order of magnitude which is not compatible with the observation.

During the main part of the dissolution process, the Sherwood number (Figure 2) is largely higher than 2, this value corresponding to the diffusive limit. It demonstrates that kinetics of dissolution which takes place at the solid-liquid interface is mainly governed by natural convection driven by the density difference between zirconium and aluminum in the melt.

4.1.2. Interpretation of the measured thermal effect

The numerical simulation puts in evidence that the measured thermal effect in our calorimetric experiments at 996 K does not correspond to a dissolution process. According to our interpretation, the heat measured in the calorimetric experiments should correspond to the enthalpy of formation of Al_3Zr from solid zirconium at 298.15 K and liquid aluminum at the bath temperature, $T=996 \text{ K}$ (reaction 2). Then we assume that, once the aluminide formed in the calorimeter, it is not dissolved in the aluminum bath. In this framework, the heat involved in the aluminide formation can be estimated from the heats involved in the following reactions :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
\langle \text{Zr} \rangle_{298.15\text{K}} + 3(\text{Al})_T \rightarrow \langle \text{Al}_3\text{Zr} \rangle_T & \Delta H_2(T) \\
\langle \text{Zr} \rangle_{298.15\text{K}} + 3 \langle \text{Al} \rangle_{298.15\text{K}} \rightarrow \langle \text{Al}_3\text{Zr} \rangle_{298.15\text{K}} & \Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K}) \\
\langle \text{Al}_3\text{Zr} \rangle_{298.15} \rightarrow \langle \text{Al}_3\text{Zr} \rangle_T & \Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(T) \\
\langle \text{Al} \rangle_{298.15\text{K}} \rightarrow (\text{Al})_T & \Delta H^{\text{Al}}(T)
\end{array} \right. \quad (16)$$

The heat involved in Reaction (2) can be written :

$$\Delta H_2(T) = -3\Delta H^{\text{Al}}(T) + \Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K}) + \Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(T) \quad (17)$$

Considering a propagation law of the uncertainties, an uncertainty on ΔH_2 can be estimated by the square root of the sum of squares of the different terms of (17) [41] :

$$\delta [\Delta H_2(T)] = \sqrt{9\delta_{\Delta H^{\text{Al}}(T)}^2 + \delta_{\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K})}^2 + \delta_{\Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(T)}^2} \quad (18)$$

The uncertainty on pure Al heat content is much lower than the uncertainty on $\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15)$, so the previous equation is reduced to :

$$\delta [\Delta H_2(T)] \approx \sqrt{\delta_{\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K})}^2 + \delta_{\Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(T)}^2} \quad (19)$$

To calculate $\Delta H_2(T)$, different values, reported in Table 3, can be considered for the standard enthalpy of formation of Al_3Zr , $\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K})$, and for its enthalpic increment.

For $\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K})$, the first value determined by dissolution calorimetry was reported by Alcock *et al.* [42] who mentioned that the aluminide sample was *not quite homogeneous*. Kematick *et al.* [43] determined $\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(298.15\text{K})$ by measuring the Al vapour pressure over the different aluminides of the Al-Zr system from pure Zr to 75 at.% Al in the temperature interval 1298-1673 K by means of Knudsen cell mass spectrometry. Using the Neumann-Kopp rule and assuming the absence of composition ranges for the aluminides, they derived the standard enthalpy values for the different alloys by means of the second- and third-law methods. Since they did not consider the difference between the Gibbs energies of liquid and solid Al above the Al melting temperature, Murray *et al.* [44] corrected these data with -196 ± 4 kJ. mol⁻¹. Esin *et al.* [45] measured by adiabatic calorimetry, the heat increments of Al_3Zr in the temperature range 298-2000 K from monophasic samples previously controlled by metallography and X-ray analyses. Using an Hess's cycle, experimental data for the enthalpy of formation of *liquid* Al_3Zr at 1970 K [18], and heat increments for Al and Zr [46], they gave -170.4 kJ.mol⁻¹ for the standard enthalpy of formation of Al_3Zr . Applying the same methodology with the data of Witusiewicz *et al.* [19], we obtained -193.5 kJ.mol⁻¹. Meschel *et al.* [47] used direct calorimetry at 1473 K and confirmed by X-ray the crystallographic structure of the formed aluminide as well as the absence of unreacted

metals. In a second step, they recovered the aluminide sample from the boron nitride crucible to measure the heat increment from room temperature to 1473 K for which they obtained a value in agreement with the data of Esin *et al.* [45, 48]. Finally they reported for $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K)$, $-193.6 \pm 5.2 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$, supporting the Murray's assessed value. More recently, very different $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K)$ values obtained by using a technique coupling thick multilayer foils and differential scanning calorimetry were reported by Weihs *et al.* [49] and Fischer *et al.* [50]. Finally, different assessments of the Al-Zr phase diagrams have been published [44, 51–53], in particular the two most recent and complete ones, from Wang *et al.* [52], Fischer *et al.* [53], and Tamim *et al.* [54], reflecting the absence of consensus on the $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K)$ value. Wang *et al.* selected the value of $-194.2 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$ in agreement with the experimental data of Meschel *et al.* [47], whereas Fischer *et al.* preferred to consider a value in a consistent set of ab-initio calculated enthalpies of formation at 0K for the different compounds in the Al-Zr system.

With the Quantum Espresso code [55], we have performed DFT simulations within the GGA-PBE approximation to calculate $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(0K)$ for the stable $D0_{23}$ structure of Al_3Zr , the zero-point energies, and the enthalpic terms described within the framework of the harmonic approximation, in order to evaluate the order of magnitude of the vibrational contributions. Theoretically, the enthalpy of formation at 0K resulting from an ab initio calculation corresponds to only electronic contributions. It should be corrected in order to obtain $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K)$:

$$\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K) = \Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(0K) + \Delta H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K) - 3\Delta H^{Al(fcc)}(298.15K) \quad (20)$$

$$- \Delta H^{Zr(hcp)}(298.15K) + \Delta E_{zpe}^{Al_3Zr} \quad (21)$$

where $\Delta E_{zpe}^{Al_3Zr}$ is the difference of zero-point energies :

$$\Delta E_{zpe}^{Al_3Zr} = E_{zpe}^{Al_3Zr} - 3E_{zpe}^{Al} - E_{zpe}^{Zr} \quad (22)$$

We have obtained $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(0K) = -184.4 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$, in agreement with [53, 56–59] (Table 4), and $-183.5 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$ for $\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(298.15K)$. Even if there is a need for an additional experimental determination, our calculations tend to validate the experimental values by [19, 47, 49] only overestimated by 5% whereas they seem to invalidate the lowest values by [43, 45] as well as the highest one by [50].

For $\Delta H^{Al_3Zr}(T)$ (Table 3), Wang *et al.* [52] and Fischer *et al.* [53] selected the values of Esin *et al.* [45, 48] who determined heat contents of Al_3Zr from adiabatic calorimetry measurements between 300 and 2000 K. Esin's data are not very well documented. In addition the heat capacity values recently reported in [60] are significantly different from Esin's data. On this basis, we decided to redetermine the heat increment of Al_3Zr at 996.15 K and at 1176.15 K. The measurements were performed in the Tian-Calvet high temperature calorimeter described in Part 2. In each run (2 runs for each temperature), 4 small fragments of Al_3Zr (Alfa Aesar, 99%) were dropped successively in the initially-empty graphite crucible. The calorimeter was heat calibrated at the beginning of the experiment by dropping several pieces of different masses of synthetic sapphire ($\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$) alumina provided by the U.S. National Bureau of Standards [61].

from room temperature into the calorimeter. The process was repeated at least three times and the linearity of the response of the calorimeter was checked. The enthalpy values of Al_2O_3 are accurate to $\pm 0.1\%$ for temperatures lower than 1173 K. The measured increments of Al_3Zr at 996 and 1176 K are in agreement with the data reported by Esin [45] and Kleppa and Meschel [47] (Figure 3). They are also well-reproduced below 1500 K by calculations performed within the harmonic approximation.

According to the Wang's and Fischer's assessments [53] or this work (Table 5), the enthalpy of Reaction (2), corresponding to the Al_3Zr formation in the calorimeter, is equal to -216.1, -209.1, $-214.5 \pm 5.2 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$ respectively, in agreement with the measured thermal effect in our tests, equal to $-219.1 \pm 5 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$.

4.1.3. Micrographic examinations

After cooling of the crucible containing the bath, the solidified ingot was longitudinally cut, embedded in resin, and polished. The scanning electron micrographs (SEM) in the back scattered imaging mode showed two different populations of Al_3Zr (in white on Figure 4) in the lower part of the ingots of characteristic lengths about $50 \mu\text{m}$ and $5 \mu\text{m}$, whereas in the upper part, no such precipitates could be detected. The absence of chemical contrast through the precipitates suggests that they are homogeneous. Zirconium content in the aluminum-rich phase (i.e. in-between precipitates) could not be quantified regarding its very low value. For the same reason, in the upper part of the bath, the mean zirconium composition could not be measured.

Today there is not a complete understanding of the scenario of the formation of the two populations of precipitates :

- *for large precipitates* : once the zirconium sample is dropped in liquid, it likely settles down to the bottom of the crucible because of a significant difference in density between solid Zr, Al_3Zr and liquid Al ². According to our interpretation, we could expect a complete transformation of the sample into aluminide even it cannot be excluded that zirconium is, even very partially, dissolved, before completely transforming into aluminide. On the SEM images (Figure 4), the largest pieces of aluminide are of typical length of $50 \mu\text{m}$, i.e. much less than that of the original sample ($1000 \mu\text{m}$). Fracturation of Al_3Zr layer in course of its formation on zirconium substrate was observed by Natanzon *et al.* [62]. In the Al-Ti system, Sujata *et al.* [63] explain the mechanism of fracturation of the aluminide by the fact that the Ti and Al_3Ti molar volumes, differ significantly. Thus the Al_3Ti layer formed and grown over solid titanium tries to expand, getting subjected to a state of stress, the degree of which increases with its thickness and the rate of its growth. However, since Al_3Ti has only a limited ductility, after reaching a critical thickness, this layer can undergo cracking and fissuring under the state of stresses developed due to its tendency to expand. Considering the similarities of Al_3Ti and Al_3Zr in terms of crystallographic structures (D_{022} and D_{023} resp.), in terms of difference of molar volume with the refractory element

²Zr: $\approx 6410 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$, Al_3Zr : $\approx 4130 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$ and liquid Al : $\approx 2350 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$.

(73% and 64%, resp.), and in terms of ductility (bulk modulus to shear modulus ratios, 1.25 and 1.20, [64] and Poisson's ratios, 0.18 and 0.17, [64] resp.), an analogous mechanism as described by Sujata for Al-Ti can be assumed for Al-Zr.

- *for small precipitates* : the tabular form of these precipitates is typical of Al₃Zr growth mainly driven by the preferential migration of some interfaces of high roughness, i.e. (111) and (101), in comparison with more perfect ones, (001). It results for precipitate in a highly anisotropic observed tabular shape [65]. As an overall calorimetry experiment approximately lasts ≈ 24 hours (6-8 drops and between each drop, about 3 hours), we can assume a re-dissolution of the fractured pieces of Al₃Zr (coming from the first drops) and then a progressive zirconium enrichment of liquid phase in the bottom part of the ingot until reaching the solubility limit. According to observations performed by Clyne *et al.* [66] in experimental conditions rather similar to ours (in terms of crucible geometry and aluminum mass), re-dissolution of these Al₃Zr fragments is a slow process which becomes even slower as the melt composition approaches the zirconium solubility³. As the composition of liquid in the bottom part of the ingot is saturated or near saturation, there is possibility of precipitation of dissolved zirconium into aluminide. Another possibility is that these precipitates may have been also produced during the cooling of the sample outside the calorimeter after the end of the experiment. Fan [67] experimentally showed that the area fraction of primary Al₃Zr precipitating from a liquid phase containing 0.6 wt.% Zr at 1023 K is nearly zero only at a cooling rate of 95 K.s⁻¹ (such a high cooling rate is not reached in our procedure). At lower cooling rates, a non-negligible amount of primary Al₃Zr is always detected on the micrographs as illustrated by [68].

4.2. Other experiments at ≈ 1000 K

4.2.1. Simulation of the dissolution process

The simulations of the dissolution processes in the experimental works of Gomozov *et al.* [10, 11] and Turchanin *et al.* [8, 9, 13] reported on Figure 5 show that in both cases, complete dissolution of zirconium samples takes place only after several hours, which is an untypical duration in high temperature calorimetry. In addition, it must be noticed that if these calculated durations are only indicative (due to the fact that the shapes of zirconium samples are not known in these studies), our calculations tend to minimise them since the initial sample area is conserved during the simulations. This is in contradiction with the observed experimental durations of the heat effects reported at least by Turchanin *et al.*.

³This re-dissolution process is likely weakly energetic since no thermal effect associated to this process can be discriminated from the thermograms.

4.2.2. Micrographic examinations

After their tests, Gomofov et al. [10, 11] performed an X-ray analysis of the bath that did not indicate the presence of aluminide, suggesting a complete dissolution of zirconium in the bath. One possibility is that Gomofov et al. was not able to detect precipitates.

Considering the low concentration of zirconium at the end of the experiment, attention has to be paid regarding the absence of precipitates which may depend of the cutting plan of the ingot for SEM examinations.

Following the simplified approach developed by Clyne et al. [66], we are going to try to estimate the probability of no detection of precipitate in the Gomofov's test. In the limiting situation where all zirconium is transformed into Al_3Zr precipitates, the number of such precipitates, N , in the ingot can be estimated by :

$$N \approx \frac{V_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}}{d_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}^3} = \frac{m_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}}{\rho_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}} d_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}^3} \quad (23)$$

where $V_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}$, $m_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}$, $\rho_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}$ and $d_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}$ are, respectively, the total volume occupied by the precipitates, the corresponding mass, the Al_3Zr density, and the typical dimension of one precipitate (assumed to be cubic).

Assuming that all the precipitates are oriented parallel to the cutting plan, the probability p of any given precipitate to be in a longitudinal section of the ingot (to simplify the problem, instead of a cylinder of length L and radius R , we will consider a parallelepipedic ingot of lengths L and $\sqrt{\pi}R$) can be estimated by :

$$p \approx \frac{\sqrt{\pi}RLd_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}}{\pi R^2 L} = \frac{d_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}}{\sqrt{\pi}R} \quad (24)$$

The probability of not observing a given precipitate is $1 - p$ and the probability of not observing any of the N precipitates is $(1 - p)^N$.

If it is assumed that zirconium was completely transformed into aluminide, the volume fraction of these at the end of the Gomofov's test was $\approx 2 \times 10^{-3}$. The probabilities of not observing any of the N precipitates of dimensions $d_{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}} = 50$ and $5 \mu\text{m}$ (assumed to be of similar sizes that ours observed at 996 K), as a function of the precipitate volume fraction are reported on Figure 6. This qualitative analysis shows that for a precipitate volume fraction of 2.0×10^{-3} , whatever the longitudinal cut, *if they existed*, precipitates should have been detected by SEM.

This analysis suggests that the absence of precipitates as claimed by Gomofov was likely representative of the overall ingot⁴. Consequently, there is a contradiction with the conclusion drawn from the simulation of the dissolution process. A possibility is a typographic error in the Gomofov's original publication regarding the S/V value ($=1 \text{ m}^{-1}$ in [10, 11]) since the authors, aware of the possibility of formation of zirconium aluminide, explicitly wrote to take into account the empirical rules provided by

⁴Nevertheless Gomofov et al. [10, 11] should have observed aluminides located in the lower part of the ingot, resulting of the cooling process.

Eremenko *et al.* [24], i.e. $S/V=10 \text{ m}^{-1}$. With this corrected value, the dissolution time is reduced to ≈ 1 hour (Figure 5), which is a typical duration for high temperature calorimetry experiments.

4.3. Enhancing the dissolution process

By examining Equation (11), different experimental parameters can be modified in order to enhance the kinetics of the dissolution process. A typical dissolution time of ≈ 1 hour for each drop is usually required to perform a complete run within one day. The first parameter is obviously temperature in order to increase the $C_s - C$ term. Figure 7 where the different solubility measurements are reported shows that significant temperature increase is required to enhance the dissolution process through this term. Liquid properties (ν , D_0) are also modified with increasing temperature but it is of second order in comparison with $C_s - C$. For our experimental conditions in terms of aluminum and zirconium masses, the effect of increasing temperature in the simulations (Figure 8) show that temperatures higher than 1100 K would be necessary.

We can also notice that as more zirconium samples are dropped into the liquid, C increases and consequently the $C_s - C$ term and the dissolution kinetics decrease. We have reported (Figure 9) the effect of the initial zirconium concentration of the bath at 1173 K. The initial concentration must not exceed $0.4 C_s$ to have the required duration.

At least, it is possible to optimize the geometrical parameters of the sample in order to increase the S/V ratio. At 996 K, Figure 10 shows that a significant increase of this parameter is required to reach reasonable dissolution times.

Finally, the model allows to derive some recommendations in terms of experimental conditions to improve the dissolution process. These recommendations are consistent with the empirical rules derived by Eremenko *et al.* [24].

4.4. Other solutes

The previous analysis shows that when the solubility of the solute in the solvent is low at the calorimeter temperature, the dissolution kinetics is strongly reduced. Our dissolution model allows "to test" liquid aluminum as solvent for different metals and to produce some recommendations. The solubilities of some transition elements in liquid aluminum as well as some properties are reported in Table 6.

Finally, according to our experimental conditions at 996 K in terms of sample and bath masses (with $S/V=0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$), we have simulated (Figure 11) the dissolution, at 1023 K, of a sample for different transition metals. We observe that liquid aluminum could be an adequate solvent for chromium, iron, cobalt and nickel whereas for titanium and vanadium, it appears to be marginally suitable. These conclusions are fully in agreement with experimental observations performed by Darby *et al.* [69] about the use of aluminum as solvent in high temperature calorimetry.

5. Conclusion

A critical analysis of the experimental data on the zirconium dissolution in liquid aluminum at temperatures around 1000 K obtained by different authors in the framework of calorimetry experiments is performed. It is supported by the development of

the dissolution kinetics model which is presented in this paper. We show that probably most of the experiments interpreted in terms of dissolution must be considered in terms of (partial or total) transformation of zirconium into zirconium aluminide (Al_3Zr).

Considering this point, we confirm as already indicated in [20] that the experimental values for standard enthalpies of formation in the Co-Zr [10, 11], Cu-Zr [12, 14], Ni-Zr [6, 9, 14] and U-Zr [7] systems using solution calorimetry in an aluminum bath at ≈ 1000 K should be taken with caution.

Klein *et al.* [70] showed that it is possible to dissolve zirconium at room temperature in an acid mixture containing hydrofluoric acid. In parallel silver may be dissolved in nitric acid. The acid bath calorimetric measurements of Ag, Zr, and AgZr recently performed in our laboratory will be presented in a future paper. From the solution enthalpy of AgZr in aluminum at 1000 K, we will be able to propose an estimate of the solution enthalpy of zirconium in liquid aluminum at this temperature.

Table 1: Solution enthalpies ($\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$) of zirconium in liquid aluminum at infinite dilution near 1000 K-The references states are solid zirconium at 298.15 K and liquid aluminum at temperature. (*) The more recent values of Turchanin *et al.*, according to the authors [14], are considered to be a refinement of the previously published ones.

Authors	Temperature (K)	x_{Zr}	$\Delta_{sol}H^\infty(Zr)$
Ansara <i>et al.</i> [6]	984	≤ 0.0014	-212.4
Nagarajan <i>et al.</i> [7]	991	≤ 0.0267	-220.3 \pm 9.5
Turchanin <i>et al.</i> [8, 9, 13]	1026	≤ 0.0044	-217.4 \pm 8.5
Gomozov <i>et al.</i> [10, 11]	1030	≤ 0.0006	-203.3 \pm 4.9
Turchanin <i>et al.</i> [12, 14]	1022	≤ 0.0055	-235.0 \pm 4.3*
Decreton <i>et al.</i> [20]	996	≤ 0.0022	-221.5 \pm 5.8

Table 2: Aluminum and zirconium masses involved in the dissolution experiments, initial geometries of the samples and typical dissolution time by drop. ⁽¹⁾ See text of 4.1. ⁽²⁾ Information unknown.

Authors	Zr (mg)	Al (g)	(S/V) _{init} (m ⁻¹)	Time(s)
Ansara <i>et al.</i> [6]	- ⁽²⁾	- ⁽²⁾	- ⁽²⁾	- ⁽²⁾
Nagarajan <i>et al.</i> [7]	11-13	0.66	- ⁽²⁾	- ⁽²⁾
Turchanin <i>et al.</i> [8, 9, 13]	45-70	30-40	10	3600
Gomozov <i>et al.</i> [10, 11]	30-50	54	1 (ou 10 ⁽¹⁾)	- ⁽²⁾
Turchanin <i>et al.</i> [12, 14]	30-40	60-80	- ⁽²⁾	1500-2400
Decreton <i>et al.</i> [20]	3-4	9.1	0.83	1400

Table 3: Thermodynamic properties of Al_3Zr .⁽¹⁾ Published value, $-170.4 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, corrected with the SGTE data [71]

Author		Method	Comment
	$\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(\mathbf{0K})$		
[53, 56–59, 72, 73]	[-196.4-187.9]	DFT	Values at 0K, zpe not included
This work	-184.4	DFT	Values at 0K, zpe not included
	$\Delta_f H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(\mathbf{298.15K})$		
Alcock <i>et al.</i> [42]	-177.6±6.7	calorimetry	inhomogeneous sample
Kematack <i>et al.</i> [43]	-163	Knudsen cell spect.	1300-1673 K
Esin <i>et al.</i> [45]	-167.9 ⁽¹⁾	adiabatic calo.	1970 K, Hess' cycle
Meschel <i>et al.</i> [47]	-193.6±5.2	direct calo.	1473 K, complete reaction
Weihs <i>et al.</i> [49]	-186±14	DSC	multilayer foil sample
Fisher <i>et al.</i> [50]	-212 ±8	DSC	multilayer foil sample
Saunders <i>et al.</i> [51]	-162.5	ass.	based on [43]
Murray <i>et al.</i> [44]	-196±4	ass.	ass. of [43], 2 nd & 3 rd laws
Witusiewicz <i>et al.</i> [19]	-193.5	disso. calo.	2045 K, Hess' cycle
Wang <i>et al.</i> [52]	-194.2	ass.	based on [47]
Fischer <i>et al.</i> [53]	-187.2	ass.	based on DFT value at 0 K [59]
Tamim <i>et al.</i> [54]	-186.5/-177.3	ass.	2 models
This work	-183.5	calc.	DFT value at 0K+phonon calc.
	$\Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(\mathbf{T})$		
Esin <i>et al.</i> [45]	see Fig. 3	adiabatic calo.	300-2000 K
Serebrennikov <i>et al.</i> [48]	see Fig. 3	adiabatic calo.	300-2000 K
Meschel <i>et al.</i> [47]	see Fig. 3	calo.	1473 K
This work	see Fig. 3	drop calo.	996, 1176 K
	see Fig. 3	calc.	Phonon calc.
	$C_p^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(\mathbf{T})$		
Esin <i>et al.</i> [45]			Derivative of $\Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(T)$
Serebrennikov <i>et al.</i> [48]			Derivative of $\Delta H^{\text{Al}_3\text{Zr}}(T)$
Kemsies <i>et al.</i> [60]		DSC	300-825 K

Table 4: Enthalpy of formation of Al_3Zr ($\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$) at 0 K calculated by DFT in different studies

Author	Code	Functional	Value
Ghosh <i>et al.</i> [72]	VASP	GGA-PW	-196.4
Zhang <i>et al.</i> [73]	ABINIT	-	-158.4
Wang <i>et al.</i> [56]	VASP	GGA-PBE	-187.1
Mihakovic <i>et al.</i> [57]	VASP	GGA-PW91	-188.7
Saal <i>et al.</i> [58]	VASP	GGA-PBE	-188.4
Duan <i>et al.</i> [59]	CASTEP	GGA-PBE	-187.1
Colinet <i>et al.</i> [53]	VASP	GGA-PBE	-187.9
This work	Quantum Espresso	GGA-PBE	-184.4

Table 5: Numerical values for the calculation of $\Delta H_2(T)$ for T=996.15 K involved in reaction (2), according to the Wang's [52], the Fischer's [53] assessments and this work.¹[47],²[71],³ This work. All values are given in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

Quantities	T(K)	Wang et al. [52]	Fischer et al. [53]	This work
$\Delta_f H^{Al_3Zr}(T)$	298.15	-194.2	-187.2	-193.2 ± 5.2^1
$\Delta H^{Al}(T)$	996.15	30.8	30.8	30.8^2
$\Delta H^{Al_3Zr}(T)$	996.15	70.5	70.5	71.1 ± 0.4^3
$\Delta H_2(T)$	996.15	-216.1	-209.1	-214.5 ± 5.2

Table 6: Solubilities (C_s in wt.%) in liquid aluminum, diffusion coefficients in liquid aluminum (D_0 in $\text{m}^2\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) for different transition metals at 1023 K from Eremenko et al. [37] and densities at the melting temperature from different authors.⁽¹⁾ [74]. ⁽²⁾ [75]. ⁽³⁾ [76]. ⁽⁴⁾ [77]. ⁽⁵⁾ [78]. ⁽⁶⁾ [79].

Metal	C_s	D_0	$\rho_{l,M}$
Titanium	0.33	$2.95 \cdot 10^{-9}$	4100 ⁽¹⁾
Vanadium	0.46	$1.08 \cdot 10^{-9}$	5460 ⁽²⁾
Chromium	1.29	$2.67 \cdot 10^{-9}$	6160 ⁽³⁾
Iron	3.40	$3.90 \cdot 10^{-9}$	6994 ⁽⁴⁾
Cobalt	2.40	$3.02 \cdot 10^{-9}$	7989 ⁽⁵⁾
Nickel	13.5	$4.30 \cdot 10^{-9}$	7850 ⁽⁶⁾

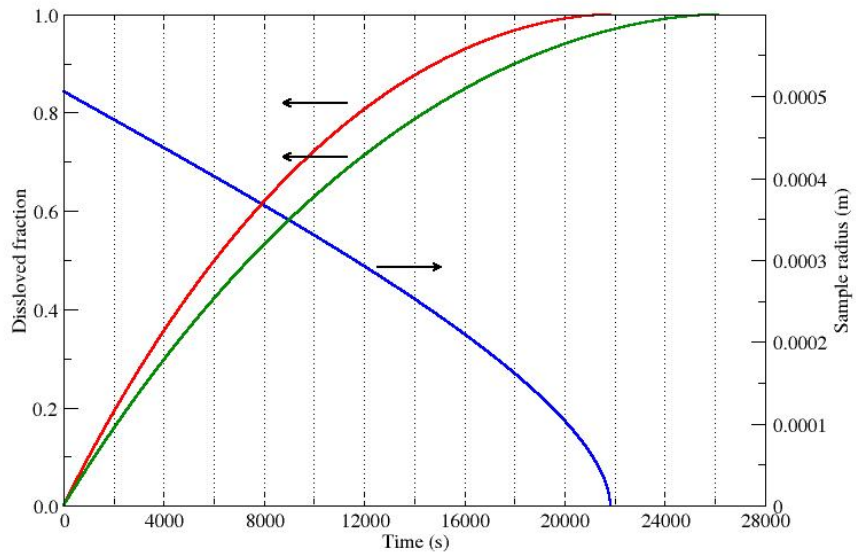


Figure 1: Calculated evolutions of the dissolved fraction and the zirconium sample radius in our experimental conditions at 996 K (red line : Churchill's correlation, green line : Yovanovich's correlation)($S/V = 0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $m_{\text{sample}}=3.5 \text{ mg}$, $m_{\text{bath}}=9.1 \text{ g}$).

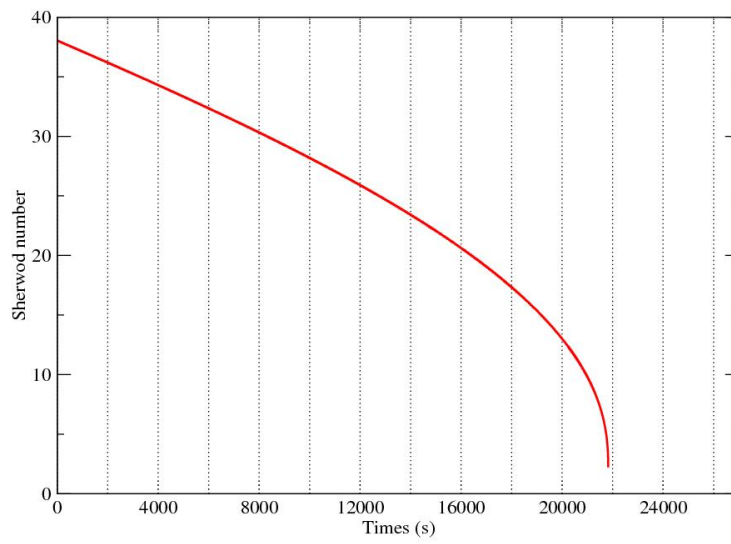


Figure 2: Calculated evolution of Sherwood number in our experimental conditions at 996 K ($S/V = 0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $m_{\text{sample}}=3.5 \text{ mg}$, $m_{\text{bath}}=9.1 \text{ g}$, Churchill's correlation).

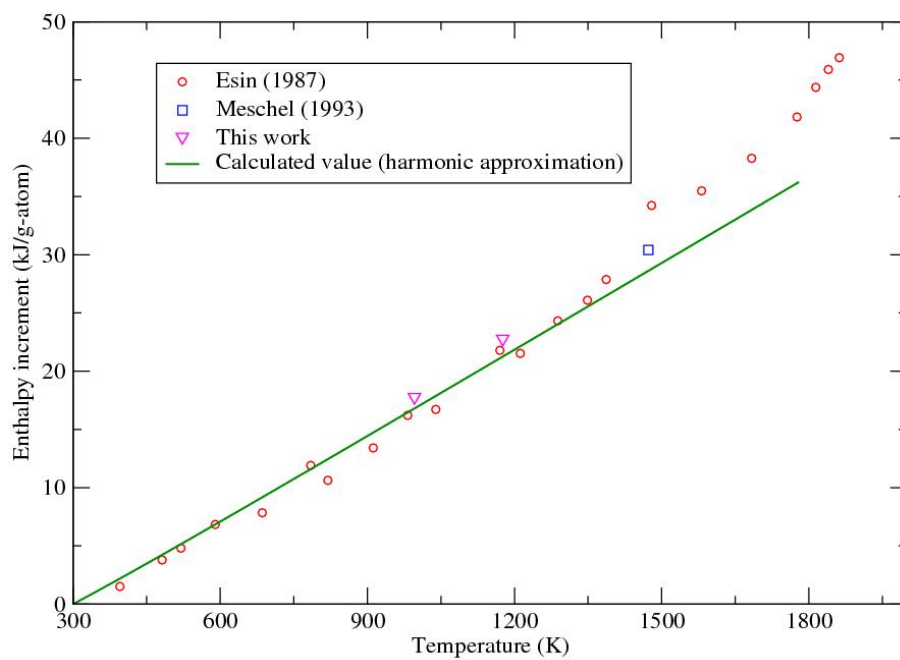


Figure 3: Enthalpic increments of Al_3Zr measured in this study and comparison with other past data and calculations performed within the harmonic approximation

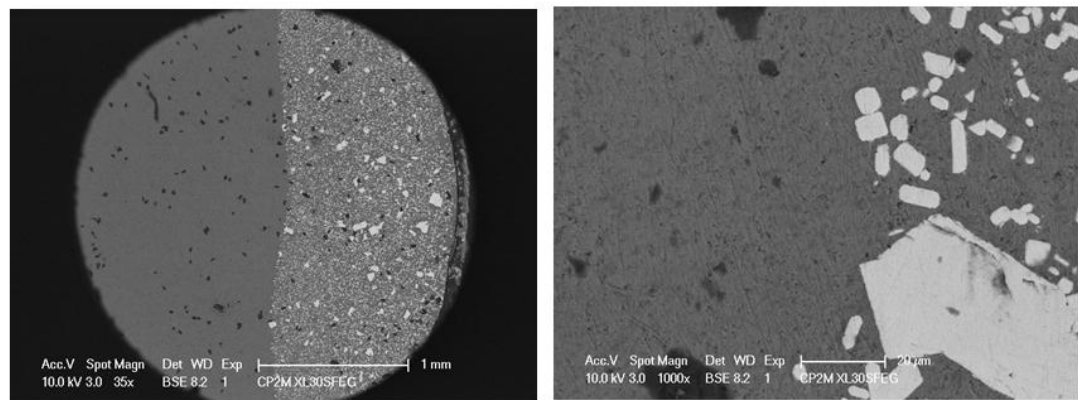


Figure 4: Experiment at 996 K, SEM backscattered electron image of (left) the bath and (right) the lower part of the bath after cooling.

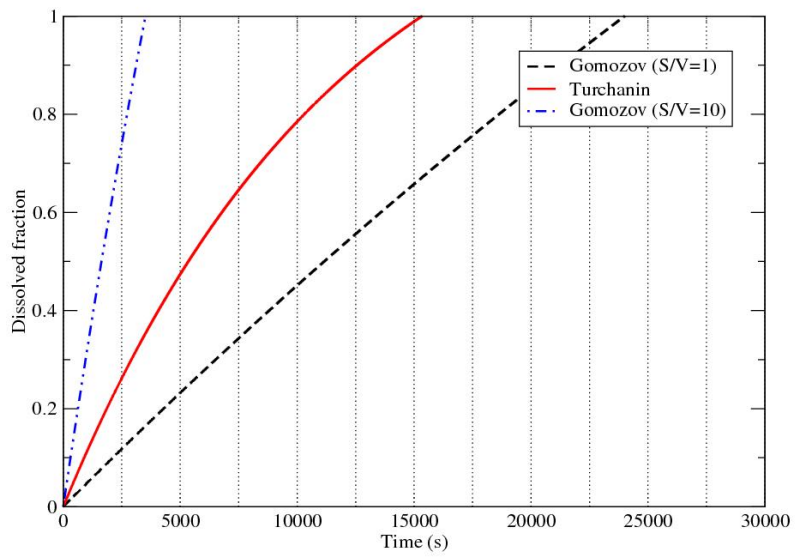


Figure 5: Calculated evolutions of the dissolved fractions in the Turchanin's [8, 9, 13] and Gomozov's conditions [10, 11].

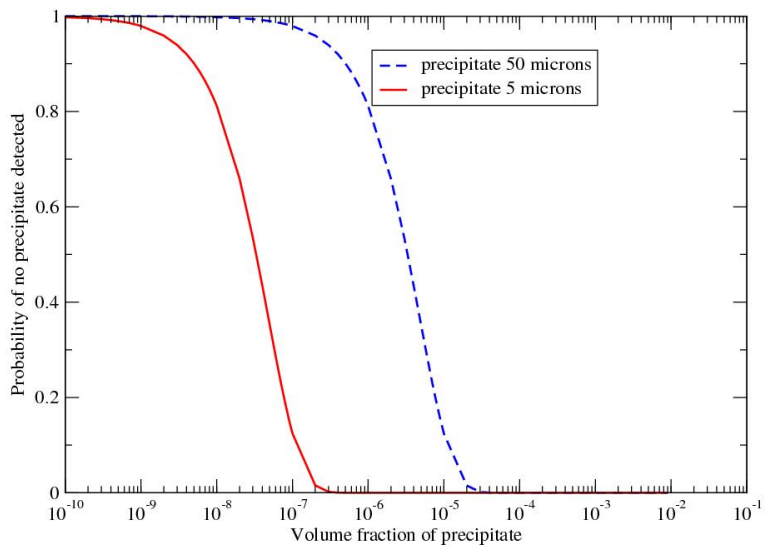


Figure 6: Evolution of probability of no precipitate detected for two precipitate sizes, as a function of the volume fraction of precipitate.

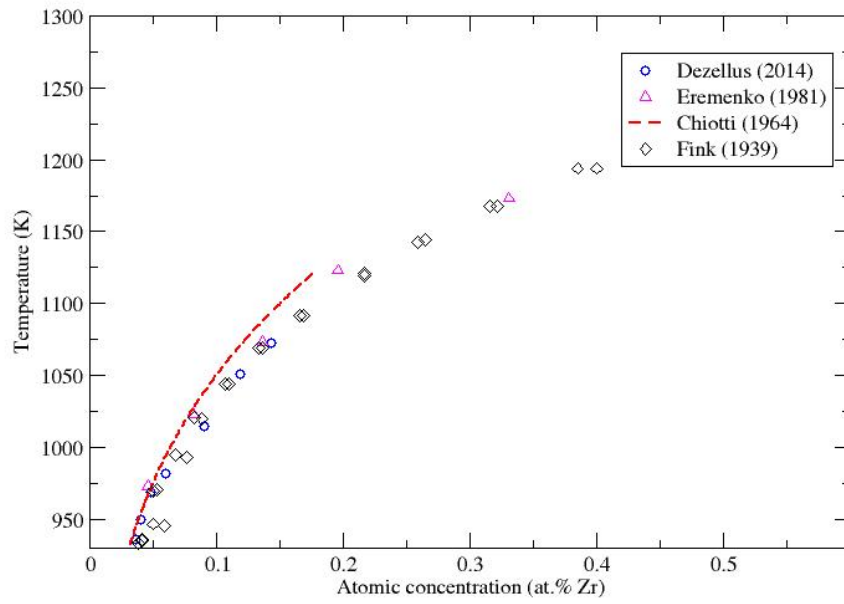


Figure 7: Solubility limit of Zr in liquid Al measured by different authors [22, 23, 38, 39].

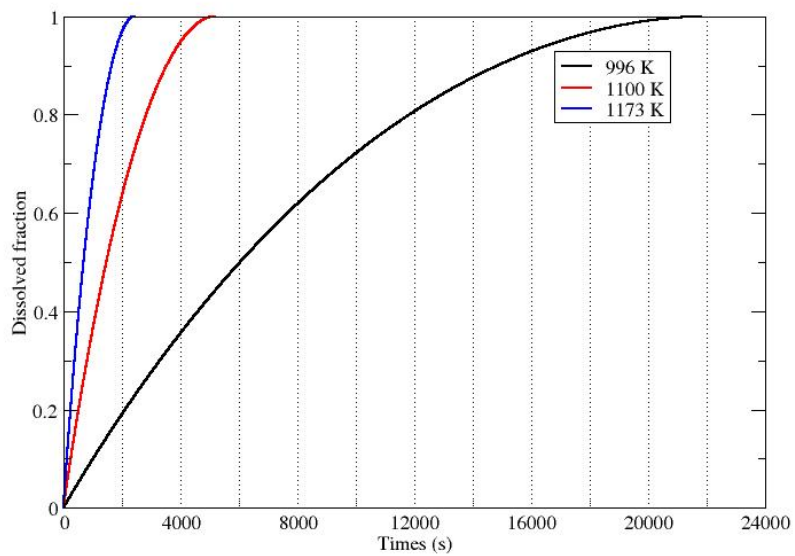


Figure 8: Calculated evolutions of the dissolved fraction at different temperatures ($S/V = 0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $m_{\text{sample}}=3.5 \text{ mg}$, $m_{\text{bath}}=9.1 \text{ g}$).

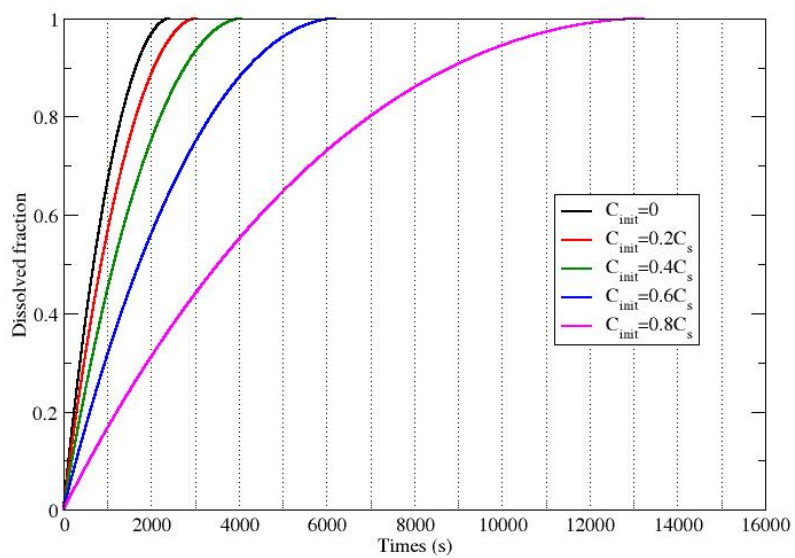


Figure 9: Calculated evolutions of the dissolved fractions at 1173 K for different initial zirconium compositions in the bath ($S/V = 0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $m_{sample}=3.5 \text{ mg}$, $m_{bath}=9.1 \text{ g}$).

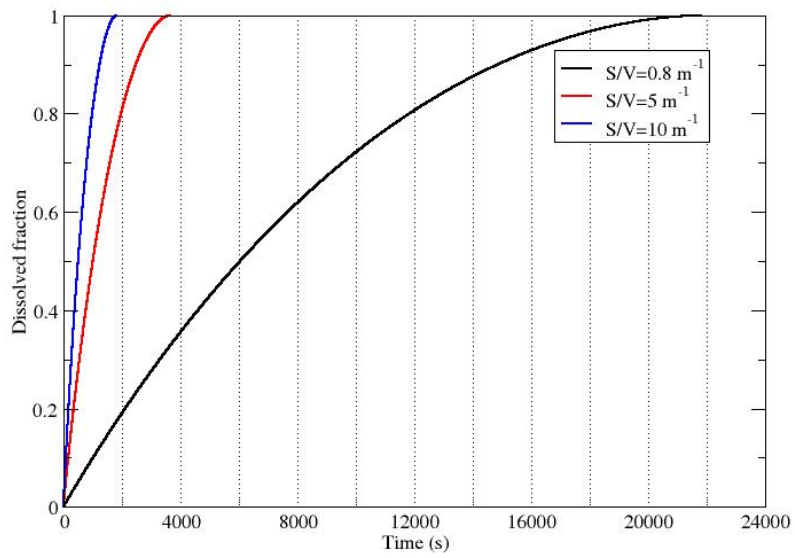


Figure 10: Calculated evolutions of the dissolved fraction for different S/V at 996 K and comparison with the simulation of our test for $S/V = 0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$.

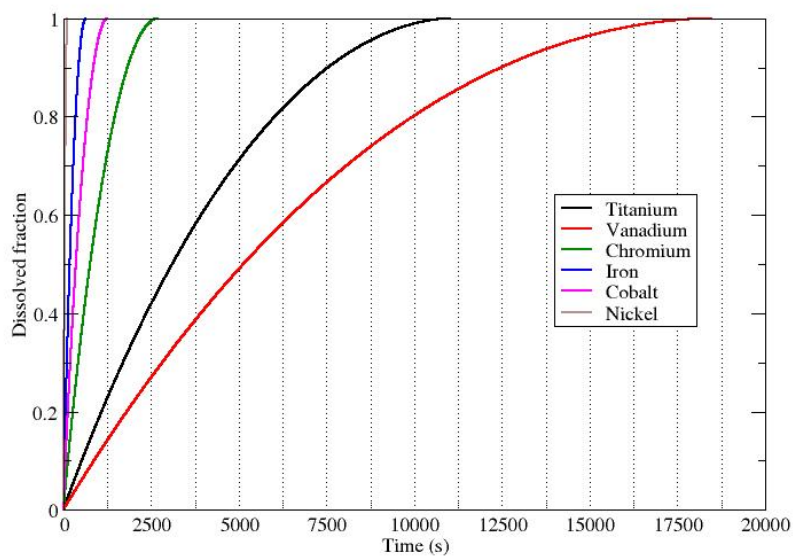


Figure 11: Calculated evolution of the dissolved fraction at 1023 K for different transition metals ($S/V = 0.8 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $m_{\text{sample}}=3.5 \text{ mg}$, $m_{\text{bath}}=9.1 \text{ g}$).

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