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# The metallic palladium-rhodium solution in interaction with oxygen: The Pd-Rh-O phase diagram and thermodynamics

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C. Laurin, A. Quaini, E. Regnier, A. Laplace, T. Croze, et al.. The metallic palladium-rhodium solution in interaction with oxygen: The Pd-Rh-O phase diagram and thermodynamics. *Journal of Chemical Thermodynamics*, 2022, 172, pp.106831. 10.1016/j.jct.2022.106831 . hal-03858674

**HAL Id: hal-03858674**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03858674>**

Submitted on 22 Jul 2024

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# 1           **The metallic palladium-rhodium solution in interaction with oxygen:**

## 2                           **The Pd-Rh-O phase diagram and thermodynamics**

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### 9   **Abstract**

10   Palladium and rhodium are two metals widely used in the industry because of their high electrical  
11   and thermal conductivity and catalytic activity. In the nuclear field, both elements are also known as  
12   fission products. Due to their sensitivity towards oxygen, the thermodynamic equilibria of the Pd-Rh-  
13   O system have been assessed in this paper thanks to the Calphad method.

14   The linear fit of the Gibbs free energy of PdO is  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T(PdO) = -115.8 + 0.102 \cdot T$  (kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>) and its  
15   calculated heat of formation is  $-58.994$  kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>·at<sup>-1</sup>. The assessed Pd(g) equilibrium pressure under  
16   1 bar of O<sub>2</sub> is:

$$\log_{10} p_{Pd}(\text{bar}) = 6.560 - \frac{19046.9}{T}$$

17   The Pd(g) and PdO(g) equilibrium pressures at PdO decomposition are respectively:

$$\log_{10} p_{Pd}(\text{bar}) = 6.7269 - \frac{19339.0}{T}$$

$$\log_{10} p_{PdO}(\text{bar}) = 8.55 - \frac{23649.7}{T}$$

18   From this new Rh-O assessment, the Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and RhO<sub>2</sub> heat of formation are  $-79698$  kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>·at<sup>-1</sup> and  
19    $-80142$  kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>·at<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The calculated Gibbs energy of formation of RhO<sub>2</sub> and Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> can be  
20   expressed as  $\Delta G_f^{RhO_2} = -234.44 + 0.1751 \cdot T$  and  $\Delta G_f^{Rh_2O_3} = -389.51 + 0.2737 \cdot T$  (in kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>),  
21   respectively.

### 22   **Keywords**

23   Calphad; Oxidation; Palladium; Phase diagram; Vapor pressure; Rhodium

24

25 **1. Introduction**

26 Palladium and rhodium are platinoid elements. These two metals, along with the other platinum  
27 group metals (PGMs) – iridium, osmium, platinum and ruthenium – are found all together in the  
28 earth mantle [1]. They are ones of the rarest metals [2]. Palladium and rhodium behave quite  
29 similarly in magma and usually precipitate within sulfide phases in mafic and ultramafic rocks [3,4].  
30 Their precipitation depends on their environment and, among others, on the oxygen pressure [5].  
31 Palladium and rhodium are highly thermally and electrically conductive [6]. Because of these  
32 interesting properties and their high catalytic activity [7,8], they are widely used in the industry.

33 In the nuclear field, both of these PGMs are formed by fission reactions of the nuclear fuel. During  
34 nuclear reactions, they may alloy with molybdenum, ruthenium and technetium to form metallic  
35 inclusions so-called “white phases” [9] as also observed in the natural Oklo reactor in Gabon [10]. To  
36 predict the interactions between the fuel and the cladding materials, it is important to model the  
37 thermochemistry of the nuclear fuel as a function of temperature and oxygen partial pressure.  
38 Especially in case of a severe nuclear accident with air ingress or during the reprocessing steps of the  
39 spent fuel, palladium and rhodium may behave as semi-volatile fission products. Their volatilization  
40 into Pd(g), PdO(g), Rh(g), RhO(g) and RhO<sub>2</sub>(g) strongly depends on the oxygen partial pressure [11].  
41 These gaseous species phase are responsible for a part of radionuclides emission during a severe  
42 nuclear accident and the conditions of its formation must be known to prevent environmental  
43 release [12-14].

44 In many countries, the spent nuclear fuel is reprocessed and these PGMs are vitrified within a high-  
45 level waste glass with other fission products. Nevertheless, these two transition elements are poorly  
46 soluble in the reference R7/T7 borosilicate matrixes [15-18]. Unlike most fission products, palladium  
47 and rhodium may form oxide or metallic precipitates [15,18,19] in the waste glasses. They strongly  
48 partitionate like in silicate melts and igneous rocks [20]. Palladium and rhodium also show  
49 partitioning between siderophile and chalcophile melts; they both exhibit a strong affinity towards  
50 chalcogen elements (S, Se, Te) [21]. In nuclear waste glasses, palladium exhibits a slightly more  
51 chalcophile behavior than rhodium [22]. Palladium forms intermetallics with tellurium whereas  
52 rhodium is partitioned between these phases and the rutile structure compound (Ru,Rh)O<sub>2</sub>  
53 [12,18,19,23].

54 Therefore, the thermodynamic properties of the Pd-Rh-O system and the related phase diagram  
55 must be assessed in order to meet both the industrial and geological issues. This study complements  
56 the Pd-Rh-Ru and Ru-Rh-O thermodynamic models [12,24] already developed for these PGMs.

57

## 58 2. Thermodynamic modeling

59 The thermodynamic modeling was performed with the Calphad method [25]. This method enables  
60 the determination of the equilibrium states of a chemical system by the minimization of the Gibbs  
61 energy functions of possibly formed phases. The Gibbs energy of the phases is referred to the  
62 enthalpy of the pure elements at 298.15 K and 1 bar, in their stable physical state,  ${}^{\circ}H_i^{SER}(298.15\text{ K})$ .  
63 These elements are qualified as “SER” for “Stable Element Reference”. The expression of Gibbs  
64 energy functions depends on the phase type described.

### 65 2.1. Pure elements Pd, Rh and O

66 The expression of the Gibbs energy of the pure element  $i$  at temperature  $T$  in its state  $\varphi$ ,  ${}^{\circ}G_i^{\varphi}(T)$ , is  
67 expressed according equation 1:

$${}^{\circ}G_i^{\varphi}(T) - {}^{\circ}H_i^{SER}(298.15\text{ K}) = a + bT + c\ln T + \sum_n d_n T^n \quad (1)$$

68 With  $n$  an integer usually 2, 3 or -1 and  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and  $d_n$  adjustable coefficients.

### 69 2.2. Oxide phases

70 All the oxide phases i.e. PdO, RhO<sub>2</sub> and Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are modeled as stoichiometric compounds. The Gibbs  
71 energy of the oxide  $Ox$ , formed of element  $A$  and  $B$ , at temperature  $T$ ,  ${}^{\circ}G^{Ox}(T)$ , is written in equation  
72 2:

$${}^{\circ}G^{Ox}(T) - \sum_{A,B} x_i {}^{\circ}H_i^{SER}(298.15\text{ K}) = a + bT + c\ln T + \sum_n d_n T^n \quad (2)$$

73 With  $x_A$  and  $x_B$  the atomic fraction of components  $A$  and  $B$  in the stoichiometric oxide,  $n$  an integer  
74 and  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and  $d_n$  adjustable coefficients.

### 75 2.3. FCC solid solution and metallic liquid phase

76 A solid solution  $\varphi$  of two elements  $A$  and  $B$  is described by a two sublattice model [26], as for metallic  
77 liquid defined according to the two-sublattice ionic model [27]. The expression of the Gibbs energy of  
78 these phases are the sum of the reference Gibbs energy  $G_{ref}^{\varphi}$ , the Gibbs energy of the ideal mixture  
79  $G_{id}^{\varphi}$ , and the excess Gibbs energy  $G_{ex}^{\varphi}$  (equation 3):

$$G^{\varphi}(T) - \sum_{A,B} x_i {}^{\circ}H_i^{SER}(298.15\text{ K}) = G_{ref}^{\varphi} + G_{id}^{\varphi} + G_{ex}^{\varphi} \quad (3)$$

80 The expression of each contribution to the Gibbs energy function is developed in equation 4, 5 and 6:

$$G_{ref}^{\varphi} = \sum_{A,B} x_i \left( {}^{\circ}G_i^{\varphi}(T) - {}^{\circ}H_i^{SER}(298.15\text{ K}) \right) \quad (4)$$

$$G_{id}^{\varphi} = RT \sum_{A,B} x_i \ln x_i \quad (5)$$

81 With  $R$  the ideal gas constant.

$$G_{ex}^{\varphi} = x_A x_B \sum_n {}^n L_{A,B} (x_A - x_B)^n \quad (6)$$

82 With  $n = 0, 1, 2$  and  ${}^n L_{A,B}$  Redlich & Kister polynomial formula for the mixture between  $A$  and  $B$  [28],  
83 described by the equation 7:

$${}^n L_{A,B} = a + bT \quad (7)$$

84 2.4. Gas phase

85 The gas phase is considered as an ideal mixture of gaseous species (O, O<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, Rh, RhO, RhO<sub>2</sub>, Pd,  
86 PdO). The Gibbs energy of the gas phase is given in equation 8:

$$G^{\varphi} = \sum_i x_i {}^{\circ}G_i + RT \sum_i x_i \ln x_i + RT \ln \frac{p}{p_0} \quad (8)$$

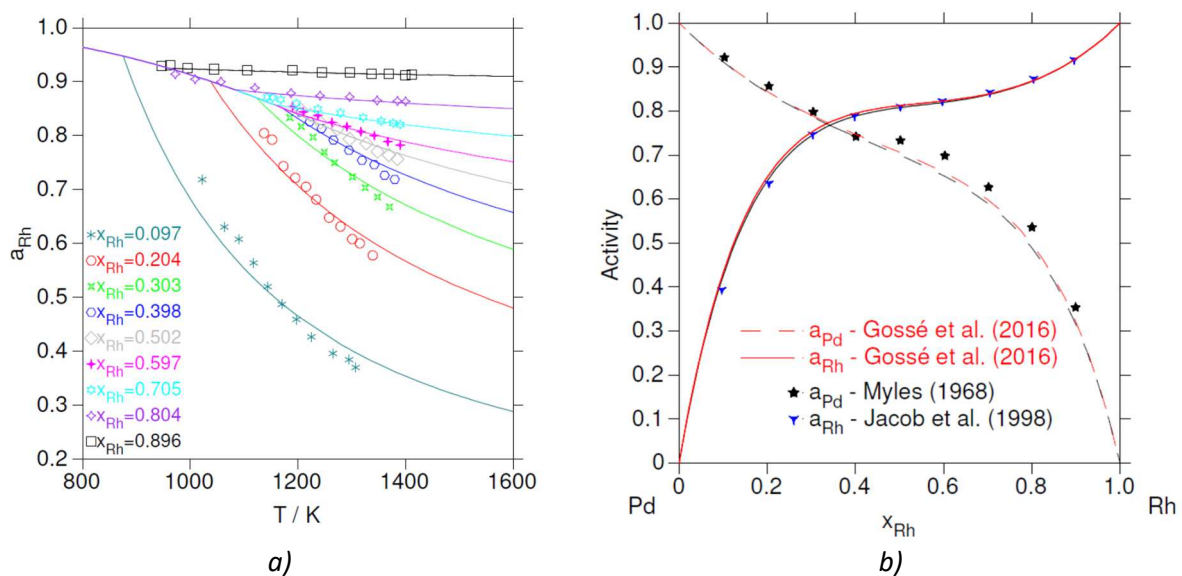
87 With  $p$  the pressure of the gas phase and  $p_0$  the reference pressure.

88

### 89 3. Thermodynamics and phase diagrams of binary systems

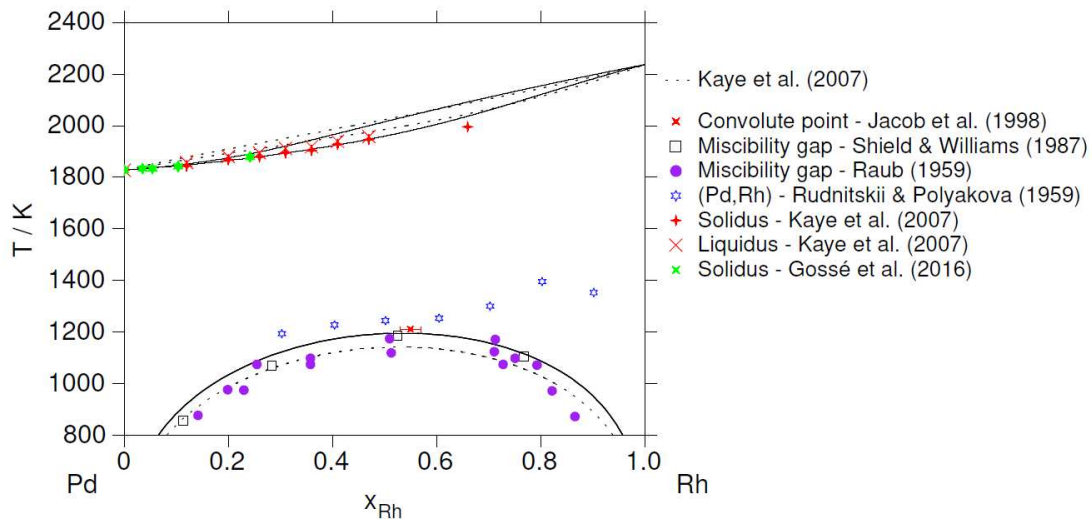
#### 90 3.1. The Pd-Rh system

91 The Pd-Rh system was previously reviewed by Gossé et al. [24]. Nevertheless, this assessment did not  
92 consider all the EMF (electromotive force) measurements from Jacob et al. [29]. In this new version,  
93 some minor corrections were applied to better assess the full range of their EMF results in the binary  
94 alloys. The results from Table 1 and Eq. 2 in [29] were used to reassess the interaction parameters in  
95 the fcc solid solution; the calculated Rh activity are compared with those obtained from EMF results  
96 (Figure 1a). Using this new modeling, the Pd and Rh chemical activities were recalculated and  
97 compared with the activities from torsion-effusion vapor pressures measurements at 1575 K from  
98 Myles [30], the EMF data at 1273 K from Jacob et al. [29] and the former assessment by Gossé et al.  
99 [24] (Figure 1b).



100 Figure 1: a) Calculated Rh chemical activity for  $x_{Rh} = 0.097, 0.204, 0.303, 0.398, 0.502, 0.597, 0.705, 0.804,$   
101  $0.896$ , comparison with Jacob et al. [29], b) Calculated Pd chemical activity at 1575 K and Rh chemical activity  
102 at 1273 K, comparison with literature data [24,29,30]

103 Liquid parameters were reassessed because of the new thermodynamic description of the fcc  
104 solution. No changes were made to the metastable hcp solution in Pd-Rh. The new Pd-Rh parameters  
105 are listed in Appendix 1. Using these new optimized values, the Pd-Rh phase diagram is calculated  
106 (Figure 2). No significant feature appears between this diagram and the previous assessment by  
107 Gossé et al. [24].



108

109 *Figure 2: Calculated Pd-Rh phase diagram, comparison with experimental literature data [29,31-34] and*  
 110 *previous thermodynamic assessments [24,34]*

### 111 3.2. The Rh-O system

112 The Rh-O system was previously reviewed by Gossé et al. [12]. The stable solid oxides in this system  
 113 are RhO<sub>2</sub> and Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. RhO<sub>2</sub> has a rutile structure [35] whereas Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has a corundum structure [36].  
 114 Above approximately 1200 K, Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> exhibits an allotropic transition towards an orthorhombic  
 115 structure [37].

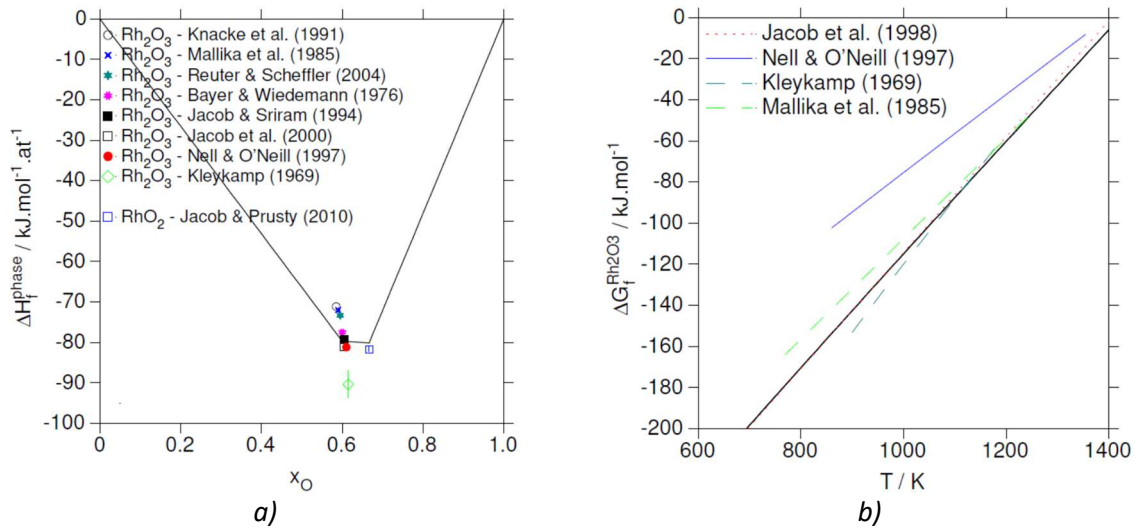
116 With increasing temperature and decreasing oxygen pressure, RhO<sub>2</sub> decomposes into Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, then  
 117 Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> decomposes into metallic fcc-Rh. Several authors experimentally assessed the decomposition  
 118 of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> into fcc-Rh [35,38-43]. Nell & O'Neill [42] and Jacob et al. [29,43] performed EMF  
 119 measurements to determine the enthalpy of formation and/or the Gibbs free energy of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Jacob  
 120 & Prusty [44] implemented the same experimental method for RhO<sub>2</sub>. Both these accurate results are  
 121 used for this updated assessment. Figure 3a compares these literature data with the calculated  
 122 Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and RhO<sub>2</sub> heat of formation. The calculated Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> heat of formation is -79.698 kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>·at<sup>-1</sup> in  
 123 very good agreement with Nell & O'Neill [42], Jacob & Sriram [45] and Bayer & Wiedemann [46]. The  
 124 calculated RhO<sub>2</sub> heat of formation is -80.142 kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>·at<sup>-1</sup>; this result is very close to -  
 125 81.647 ± 0.060 kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>·at<sup>-1</sup> after Jacob & Prusty [44] (Figure 3a).

126 In the present modeling, further attention was paid to the formation enthalpies of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and RhO<sub>2</sub>,  
 127 but some inconsistencies remained due to the scattered formation enthalpy of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Part of the lack  
 128 of consistency comes from many third law analyses based on only estimated Cp data. The Gibbs  
 129 energy of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is also scattered; the calculated functions were compared to Jacob et al. [43], Mallika  
 130 et al. [39], Nell & O'Neill [42] and Kleykamp [38]; the assessed Gibbs free energy of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is very  
 131 close to Mallika et al. [39] results (Figure 3b). In the temperature range 400-1400 K, the new linear  
 132 fits of the Gibbs energy of formation of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and RhO<sub>2</sub> (kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>) vary as follow (Equations 9 & 10):

$$\Delta G_f^{Rh_2O_3} = -389.5 + 0.2737 \times T \text{ (kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\text{)} \quad (9)$$

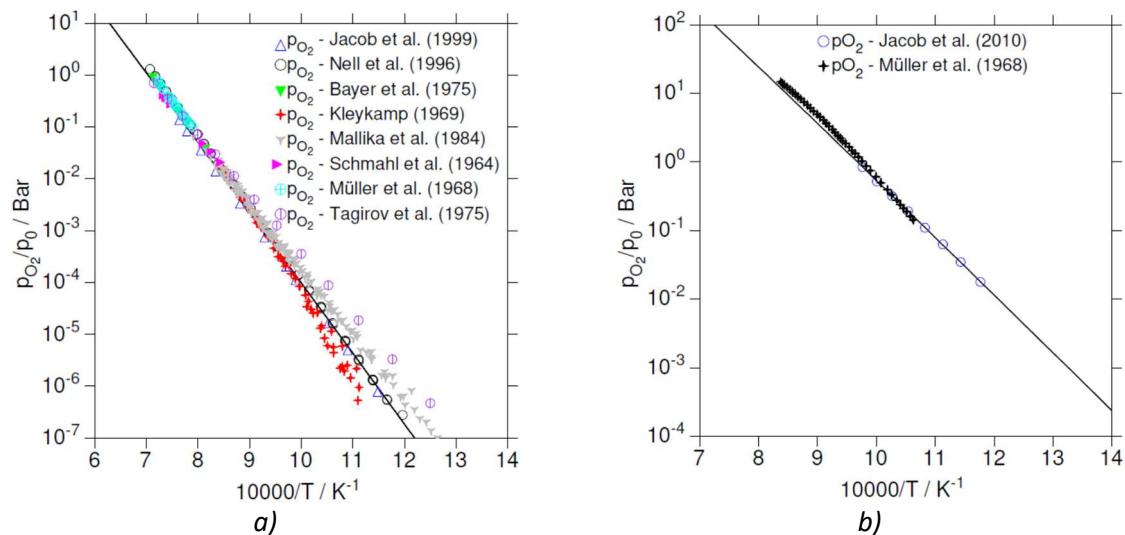
$$\Delta G_f^{RhO_2} = -234.44 + 0.1751 \cdot T \text{ (kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\text{)} \quad (10)$$

133



134 Figure 3: a) Calculated  $Rh_2O_3$  and  $RhO_2$  heat of formation in  $kJ \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot at^{-1}$ , comparison with literature data  
 135 [38,39,42-45,47-49], b) Calculated  $Rh_2O_3$  Gibbs free energy in  $kJ \cdot mol^{-1}$ , comparison with literature data  
 136 [29,38,39,42]

137 Still this new assessment is consistent with the oxygen pressure data [35,38-44,47]; these oxygen  
 138 equilibrium pressures were recalculated for  $Rh_2O_3$  (Figure 4a) and for  $RhO_2$  (Figure 4b).



139 Figure 4: a) Calculated equilibrium oxygen pressure (referenced to  $p_0 = 1$  bar) at  $Rh_2O_3$  decomposition as a  
 140 function of  $10000/T$  (in  $K^{-1}$ ), comparison with literature data [35,38-43,47], b) Calculated equilibrium oxygen  
 141 pressure (referenced to  $p_0 = 1$  bar) at  $RhO_2$  decomposition as a function of  $10000/T$  (in  $K^{-1}$ ), comparison with  
 142 literature data [35,44]

143 According to this new modeling of the Rh-O system, the calculated decomposition temperatures of  
 144 rhodium oxides at  $p = 1$  bar are 1399 K and 1035 K for  $Rh_2O_3$  and  $RhO_2$ , respectively.

### 145 3.3. The Pd-O system

146 The Pd-O system was not assessed yet and no binary Pd-O phase diagram has been drawn ever.  
 147 However, some thermodynamic properties of the Pd-O binary system were determined in literature.  
 148 Several authors [50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55] studied PdO heat capacity and enthalpic increment. Among  
 149 them, the values after Kubaschewski et al. [54] and Rao [55] are inconsistent with the other ones.  
 150 From these results, the heat capacity and the enthalpic increment of PdO is modeled; the  
 151 thermodynamic data from Kubaschewski et al. [54] and Rao [55] were not used.



152

### Heat capacity and enthalpic increment of PdO

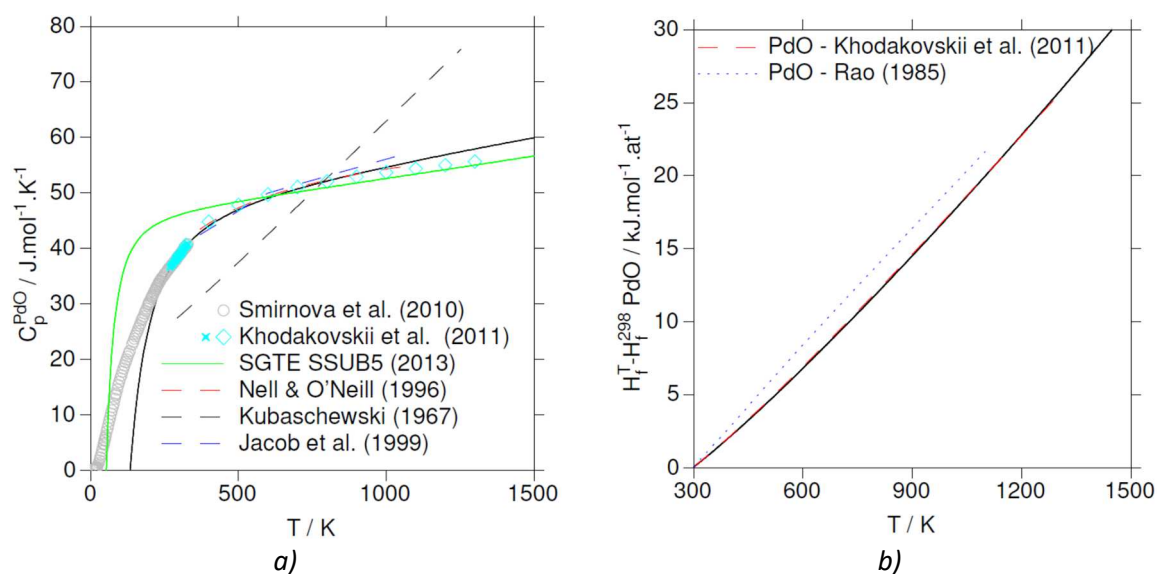
153 The heat capacity ( $C_p$ ) of PdO was determined by DSC measurements by Nell & O'Neill [52] and Jacob  
 154 et al. [53] from 370 K to 1050 K. Khodakovskii et al. [50] used an adiabatic vacuum calorimeter within  
 155 a temperature range of 268.33-328.86 K; the higher temperature values (*i.e.* from 400 to 1300 K)  
 156 were not measured but calculated.

157 All sets of data are coherent with each other, except for a slight deviation after Jacob et al. [53] at  
 158 high temperature. Smirnova et al. [51] are the only ones who measured the  $C_p$  for temperatures  
 159 lower than 350 K. Their low temperature results overlap properly with  $C_p$  at higher temperature. Nell  
 160 & O'Neill [52] proposed a heat capacity relation of PdO in the 370 K-1065 K range expressed by the  
 161 equation 11:

$$C_p = 71.08 - 531.6T^{-0.5} \text{ (J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}) \quad (11)$$

162 The comparison between the retained literature data and the assessed  $C_p$  of PdO is displayed on  
 163 Figure 5a. The modeling fits well with the data from Smirnova et al. [51] above 200 K and Nell &  
 164 O'Neill [52] at higher temperature; it is also fairly consistent with Khodakovskii et al. [50] and Jacob  
 165 et al. [53].

166 From their  $C_p$  measurements, Khodakovskii et al. [50] deduced the enthalpic increment of PdO in the  
 167 temperature range of 298.15-1300 K. As for  $C_p$  of PdO, data after Rao [55] were discarded. The  
 168 enthalpic increment of PdO is therefore fitted after Khodakovskii et al. [50] in Figure 5b.



169 *Figure 5: a) Calculated PdO heat capacity in  $\text{J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  (black full line), comparison with [50-54,56], b)*  
 170 *Calculated PdO enthalpic increment in  $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{at}^{-1}$ , comparison with literature data [50,55]*

171

### Formation enthalpy and Gibbs energy

172 Numerous standard enthalpies of formation and Gibbs energies of PdO are available in literature.  
 173 Nell & O'Neill [52] and Mallika et al. [57] provided an almost complete review of these  
 174 thermodynamic values. They are summarized in Table 1.

175

Authors	Method	Standard formation enthalpy $\Delta_f H^\circ_{298}$ (kJ·mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Gibbs free energy (J·mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Temperature (K)
Mallika et al. [57]	EMF	- 116.25 ± 0.41	- 112790 + 0.0998·T ± 274	699-1060
Nell & O'Neil [52]	EMF	- 117.42 ± 0.3	- 119421 + 158.06·T - 7.6·T·lnT ± 40 T > 800 K and ± 200 T < 800K	730-1200
Kleykamp [58]	EMF	- 118.1 ± 2.1	- 114970 + 100.1·T ± 1172	1000-1140
Pawlas-Foryst & Zabdyr [59]	EMF	- 115.45 ± 1.1	- (111000±1.1) + (88 ± 1.1) T	843-1100
Jacob et al. [29]	EMF		- 110040 + 95.81·T ± 120	950-1350
Jacob et al. [53]	EMF	- 115.51 ± 0.13	- 111920 + 97.87·T ± 120	
Fouletier et al. [60]	EMF		- 111250 + 97.2·T	725-1000
Levitskii et al. [61]	EMF		- 109500 + 96·T	800-1040
De Bruin & Badwal [62]	Impedance	- 121.01 ± 0.8	- (113900 ± 750) + (99.9 ± 1.5) T	935-1140
Bayer & Wiedemann [46]	Thermal dissociation	- 114.6 (dissociation)	- 114520 + 100.4·T	962-1150
Tagirov et al. [41]	Thermal dissociation		- 126930 + 143·T	720-800
Bell et al. [63]	Transpiration, static p(O <sub>2</sub> )	- 112.2	- 107950 + 94.1·T	950-1150
Warner [64]	Static p(O <sub>2</sub> )	- 118.595 ± 1.67	- 11300 + 60·T·logT - 26·T <sup>2</sup> - 41840·T <sup>-1</sup> - 50·T	910-1145
Schmahl & Minzl [40]	p(O <sub>2</sub> )		- 106740 + 93·T	1025-1115
Khodakovskii et al. [50]	DSC	- 115.8±4.5		

177 *Table 1: Summary of the experimental standard enthalpy of formation and Gibbs free energy of PdO from*  
 178 *literature*

179 Nell & O'Neill [52] measured the Pt, Pd + PdO | Calcia-Stabilized Zirconia electrolyte | air, Pt cell EMF  
 180 between 730 K and 1200 K to determine the Gibbs free energy of formation of PdO. Mallika [57] used  
 181 a similar method with an Ytria-Stabilized Zirconia electrolyte.

182 Jacob et al. [53], Pawlas-Foryst & Zabdyr [59] and Fouletier et al. [60] also used a galvanic cell in their  
 183 study for narrower temperature range. Kleykamp [58] used Fe+FeO reference electrode, while Jacob  
 184 et al. [29] used Rh + Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Bell et al. [63] and Warner [64] applied the method of static oxygen  
 185 pressure and deduced the relation between p(O<sub>2</sub>) and temperature. The relation obtained by Nell &  
 186 O'Neill [52] is defined in equation 12:

$$\log f_{O_2} = 16.510 - 12473.4 \cdot T^{-1} - 1.826 \cdot \log T + p [0.0627 \cdot T^{-1} - 5.22 \cdot 10^{-7} (1 - 298 \cdot T^{-1}) + 10^{-8} \cdot p \cdot T^{-1}] \quad (12)$$

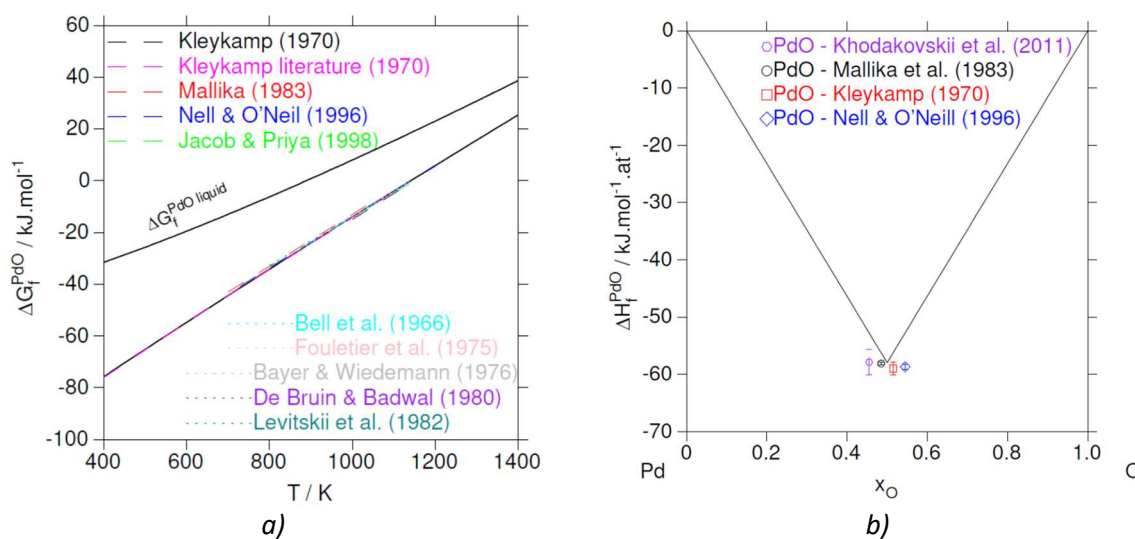
187 With  $f_{O_2}$  the oxygen fugacity referenced to a standard state of 1 bar,  $T$  the temperature in K and  $p$   
 188 the total pressure in bar. All these authors gave the Gibbs energy of formation of PdO ( $\Delta_f G^\circ$ ). Results  
 189 are given for the reaction Pd(s) + ½ O<sub>2</sub>(g) → PdO(s)

191 All the data are consistent, and they are displayed on Figure 6a. In the temperature range 400-  
 192 1200 K, the expression of the calculated Gibbs energy of formation of PdO from the present Calphad  
 193 assessment is (Equation 13):

$$\Delta_f G^\circ_T(\text{PdO}) = -115.8 + 0.102 \cdot T \text{ (kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}) \quad (13)$$

194 The standard enthalpy of formation of PdO ( $\Delta_f H^\circ_{298K}$ ) in the PtS structure is calculated in some of  
 195 these papers [50; 52; 53; 57; 58; 59; 62; 63; 64]. The higher value is  $-112.2 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  and the lower  
 196 one is  $-121.01 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ . The value after Khodakovskii et al. [50] is discarded due to the relatively high  
 197 uncertainty of  $\Delta_f H^\circ_{298}$ . Moreover,  $\Delta_f H^\circ_{298K}$  results after De Bruin & Badwal [62], Bayer &  
 198 Wiedemann [46] and Bell et al. [63] display slight discrepancies and are not retained for database  
 199 optimization. The thermodynamic study of Nell & O'Neill [52] is complete and their results are  
 200 acquired by direct measurements and applicable on a wide range of temperature. For these reasons,  
 201 these data are thoroughly used thereafter. Enthalpy of formation of PdO is compared with literature  
 202 data (in  $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ): Mallika et al. [57]  $-116.248 \pm 0.41$ , Kleykamp [58]  $-117.989 \pm 2.094$  and Nell &  
 203 O'Neill [52]  $-117.420 \pm 1.000$  (estimated error by the authors). All these data are very coherent, and  
 204 the assessed result displays a very good consistency with them:  $-115.944 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  (Figure 6b).

205 Persson run DFT simulations of the PdO halite structure ( $Fm\bar{3}m$ , NaCl prototype) using GGA  
 206 approximation with 520 eV cutoff energy [65]. The calculated PdO enthalpy of formation was  $-$   
 207  $0.348 \text{ eV}\cdot\text{at}^{-1}$  (i.e.  $-33.577 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{at}^{-1}$ ). The difference between this value and the assessed PdO  
 208 enthalpy of formation within the PtS structure was used to establish the Gibbs energy of the  $(\text{Pd})_1(\text{O})_1$   
 209 end-member in the fcc structure.



210 Figure 6: a) Calculated PdO Gibbs free energy (solid & liquid), comparison with literature data  
 211 [29,46,52,57,58,60-63], b) Calculated PdO heat of formation in  $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{at}^{-1}$  (slightly shifted for a better  
 212 lecture), comparison with literature data [52,57,58]

213 Norman et al. [13] and Olivei [66] are the only authors reviewed who calculates thermodynamic  
 214 parameters of  $\text{PdO}_{(\text{g})}$ . They studied the reaction  $\text{Pd}_{(\text{s})} + \frac{1}{2} \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{PdO}_{(\text{g})}$  thanks to a Knudsen cell and a  
 215 Langmuir cell, respectively. Norman et al. [13] gave  $\Delta H^\circ_{298K}(\text{PdO}_{(\text{g})}) = 349.2 \pm 12.6 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  and  
 216  $\Delta S^\circ_{298K}(\text{PdO}_{(\text{g})}) = 78.7 \pm 10.5 \text{ J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ . Olivei [66] calculated  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  between 900 and 1700 K, from  
 217  $273 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  at 900 K to  $214 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  at 1700 K.

218 Using third-law of thermodynamics, some authors also calculated the standard entropy of PdO,  
 219  $S^\circ_{298K}$ . These results are shown in Table 2. The standard entropy given by De Bruin & Badwal [62]  
 220 and Nell & O'Neill [52] is lower than most of the calculations. According to [46; 50; 59; 63], the

221 standard entropy of formation or dissociation of PdO  $\Delta S^{\circ}_{298K}$  is around 100 J·mol<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>. The entropy  
 222 calculated by Jacob et al. [53], which has been determined thanks to EMF measurements (direct  
 223 method), is the target for our optimization.

Authors	Standard entropy J·mol <sup>-1</sup> ·K <sup>-1</sup>
Nell & O'Neill [52]	33.74 ± 0.3
Kleykamp [58]	36.8 ± 2.1
Warner [64]	36.0 ± 1.3
De Bruin & Badwal [62]	33.5 ± 1.5
Khodakovskii et al. [50]	36.5 ± 4.0
Pawlas-Foryst & Zabdyr [59]	39.83 ± 1.1
Jacob et al. [53]	37.25 ± 0.4

224 *Table 2: Summary of the standard entropies of PdO calculated in the literature*

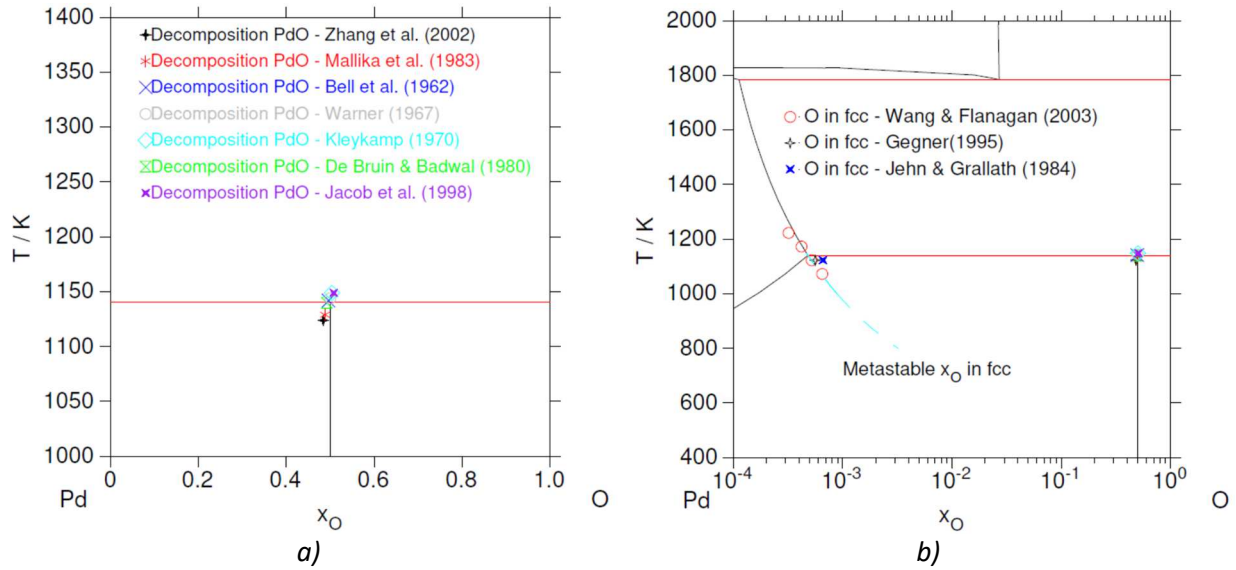
225 *PdO decomposition temperature*

226 PdO is the only existing binary palladium oxide; several authors studied the structural properties of  
 227 this so-called Cooperite mineral [67].

228 PdO has a  $P4_2/mmc$  tetragonal structure [46; 68] and the lattice parameters of this PtS prototype are  
 229  $a = 0.3043 \pm 0.0004$  nm,  $c = 0.5337 \pm 0.0004$  nm [68]. Many studies determined the decomposition  
 230 temperature of this oxide by direct experiments or by indirect methods [29; 40; 46; 57; 63; 69]. The  
 231 predicted PdO decomposition temperature at  $p(O_2) = 1$  bar is between 1124 K and 1150 K. To avoid  
 232 any propagation of uncertainties, direct measurements of the decomposition temperature is  
 233 preferred to fitting of Gibbs free energy functions. Therefore, results after Mallika et al. [57] and  
 234 Jacob et al. are not considered [29; 57]. The 1150 K decomposition temperature determined by Bayer  
 235 and Wiedemann [46] is ruled out since they use only one heating rate for DTA. Zhang et al. [69]  
 236 measured a decomposition temperature of PdO of 1124 K thanks to DTA too. This value was  
 237 dismissed because of the lack of tracking of oxygen pressure and the lack of linearity of the curve  
 238  $p(O_2)=f(1/T)$ . The most accurate value seems to be acquired by Bell [63] with a reaction cell. The  
 239 decomposition temperature of PdO is thus appraised to be around 1143 K. This value is moreover in  
 240 good agreement with temperatures given by Jacob et al. [29] and Mallika et al. [57]. Experimental  
 241 results along with calculated Pd-O phase diagram are display on Figure 7a.

242 *Oxygen solubility*

243 The oxygen solubility in metallic Pd was studied by Gegner et al. [70], Wang & Flanagan [71], Park &  
 244 Altstetter [72] and Raub & Plate [73]. Gegner et al. [70] used an oxygen desorption method in an  
 245 ultra-high vacuum vessel. They quantified the oxygen solubility thanks to pressure measurements.  
 246 Wang & Flanagan [71] determined the solubility by titrating dissolved O with gaseous H. Park &  
 247 Altstetter [72] used an electrochemical cell and Raub & Plate [32], weight difference measurements.  
 248 Because Gegner et al. [70] measured oxygen solubility at low oxygen partial pressure  
 249 ( $0.027 \text{ bar} < p(O_2) < 0.4 \text{ bar}$ ), the value of 0.056 at% given at 1123 K and 1 bar is only an  
 250 extrapolation. However, this value is in good agreement with Wang & Flanagan's [71] results:  
 251  $0.065 \pm 0.001$  at% at 1073 K, 0.052 at% at 1123 K, 0.042 at% at 1173 K and 0.032 at% at 1223 K. Jehn  
 252 & Grallath's results mentioned in [71] gives a solubility slightly higher but in the same order of  
 253 magnitude [74]. The solubility given by Raub & Plate [32; 72] and by Park & Altstetter [32; 72] are  
 254 excluded because they are significantly higher and lower than the previous ones, respectively. The  
 255 optimization is thus mainly performed on the results after Wang & Flanagan [71] and Jehn & Grallath  
 256 [74]. Figure 7b shows the solubility of oxygen in fcc-Pd fitted on experimental data.



257 Figure 7: a) Calculated Pd-O phase diagram, comparison with experimental PdO decomposition temperature  
 258 [29,57,58,62-64,69] b) Zoom on the calculated O solubility in the Pd(O) fcc solid solution, comparison with  
 259 experimental results from [70,71,74]

#### 260 Equilibrium vapor pressure

261 Under an oxidative atmosphere, PdO can be vaporized. Norman et al. [13] and Matsui & Naito [75]  
 262 studied Pd<sub>(g)</sub> and PdO<sub>(g)</sub> volatilization from pure Pd<sub>(s)</sub> and from Mo-Ru-Pd alloys using Knudsen  
 263 Effusion Mass Spectrometry (KEMS) and thermodynamic calculations, respectively. Matsui & Naito  
 264 [75] expounded that, unlike many metals, the vapor pressure of the gaseous metal Pd(g), over solid  
 265 oxide PdO(s), is higher than that of PdO(g). At 1 bar of O<sub>2</sub> and 1000 K, Norman et al. [13] stated that  
 266 the palladium vapor pressure in the temperature range of 1485-1710 K is governed by equation (14):

$$\log_{10} p_{Pd}(atm) = 6.120 - \frac{19370}{T} \quad (14)$$

267 Previously, Alcock & Hooper [14] gave a similar equation in equation (15) but established only from  
 268 two measurements (1673 K and 1773 K):

$$\log_{10} p_{Pd}(atm) = 8.62 - \frac{23450}{T} \quad (15)$$

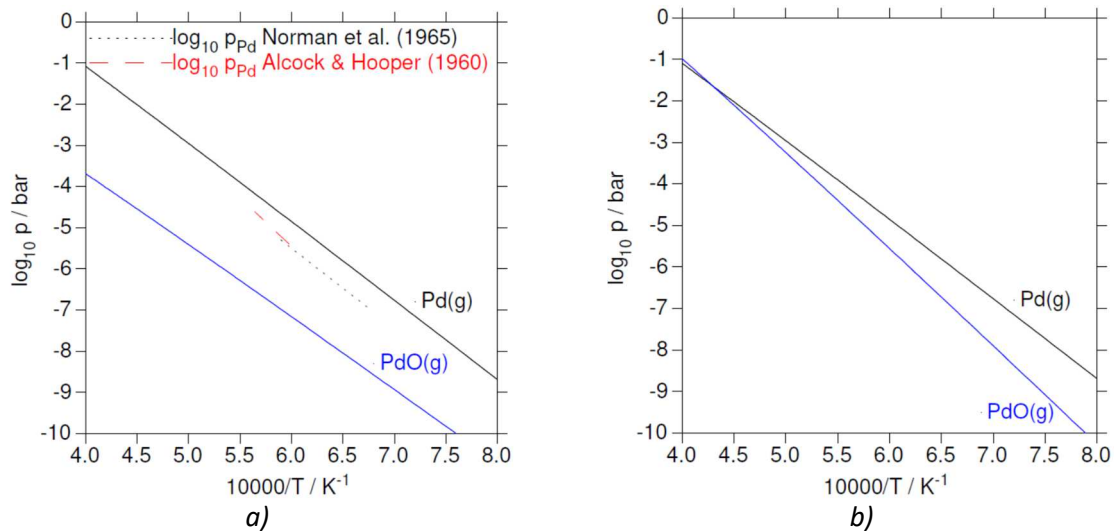
269 Both equations are in good agreement. Nevertheless, the equation after Norman et al. [13] was  
 270 considered to be more accurate. Even if they were not used for the assessment, these results were  
 271 compared to the calculated vapor pressure in Figure 8a. The assessed Pd(g) pressure under 1 bar of  
 272 O<sub>2</sub> is given in equation (16):

$$\log_{10} p_{Pd}(atm) = 6.560 - \frac{19046.9}{T} \quad (16)$$

273 The equilibrium vapor pressures of Pd(g) and PdO(g) during PdO decomposition is also represented  
 274 between 1250 and 2500 K on Figure 8b. The assessed vapor pressures of Pd(g) and PdO(g) at PdO  
 275 decomposition are listed in equations (17) and (18), respectively:

$$\log_{10} p_{Pd}(bar) = 6.727 - \frac{19339.0}{T} \quad (17)$$

$$\log_{10} p_{PdO}(bar) = 8.550 - \frac{23649.7}{T} \quad (18)$$



276 *Figure 8: a) Calculated equilibrium vapor pressure of Pd(g) and PdO(g) under 1 bar of O<sub>2</sub>, comparison with*  
 277 *literature data [13,14], b) Calculated equilibrium oxygen pressure at PdO decomposition; in both cases, Pd(g)*  
 278 *is more volatile than PdO(g) in a large temperature range.*

#### 279 4. Thermodynamics and phase diagrams of Pd-Rh-O ternary system

##### 280 4.1. Review of the Pd-Rh-O system

281 Only Jacob et al. [29] studied this ternary phase diagram using a working electrode Pd<sub>1-x</sub>Rh<sub>x</sub> + Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
 282 to perform EMF measurements and to acquire reliable thermodynamic parameters of the Pd-Rh-O  
 283 system. To check for the formation of ternary oxides in pseudobinary system PdO-Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Jacob et al.  
 284 performed some high temperature heat treatments at 1123 K for 6 days using PdO + Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> pellets  
 285 sealed under evacuated quartz ampoules. The XRD analyses of quenched samples exhibited no  
 286 evidence of solid solution or ternary phase.

287 Jacob states that oxygen solubility in Pd-Rh alloy is negligible. Only the fcc solid solutions Pd<sub>1-x</sub>Rh<sub>x</sub> &  
 288 Rh<sub>1-x</sub>Pd<sub>x</sub>, the oxides PdO & Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> gas are considered. As already mentioned in the Pd-Rh  
 289 section, Pd and Rh exist both in fcc structure and alloy easily with, yet, a miscibility gap (critical point  
 290 at 1210 ± 5 K and x<sub>Rh</sub> = 0.55 ± 0.02). However, in presence of oxygen, Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> formation is favored (at  
 291 x<sub>Rh</sub>=x<sub>Pd</sub>=0.5 in air, Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> disappears at T > 1300 K). From their results, they proposed two isothermal  
 292 sections of the ternary diagram at 1000 K and 1250 K (Figures 13 & 14 in [29]).

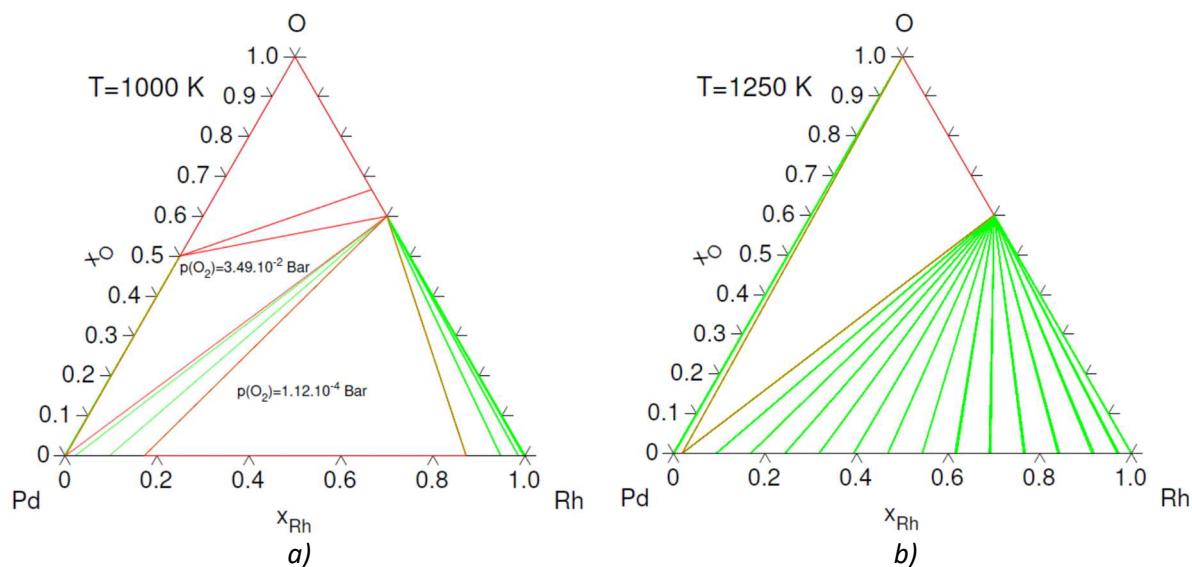
##### 293 4.2. Thermodynamic modeling of the Pd-Rh-O system

294 The ternary Pd-Rh-O system was modeled from the present Pd-O modeling and from this updated  
 295 version of the Pd-Rh assessment slightly modified from Gossé et al. [24]. The Rh-O modeling was also  
 296 slightly upgraded from Gossé et al. [12] to better consider the formation enthalpy of RhO<sub>2</sub> and Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.  
 297 Furthermore, some estimated interaction parameters were introduced in the two sublattice ionic  
 298 liquid model between metallic and oxide binary compositions: Pd (Pd<sup>+2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(Va<sup>-2</sup>)<sub>2</sub> & PdO (Pd<sup>+2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(O<sup>-2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>  
 299 and Rh (Rh<sup>+4</sup>)<sub>4</sub>(Va<sup>-4</sup>)<sub>4</sub> & Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Rh<sup>+3</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(O<sup>-2</sup>)<sub>3</sub>. These variables avoid an ideal behavior between both Pd-  
 300 PdO and Rh-Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> metallic and oxide (metastable) liquids, respectively.

301 The calculated ternary diagrams at 1000 K and 1250 K are displayed in Figure 9a and Figure 9b,  
 302 respectively. These isothermal sections are compared with the ternaries after Jacob et al. [29]. Both  
 303 sets of diagrams at 1000 K and 1250 K are in very good agreements despite the oversight by Jacob et  
 304 al. to represent RhO<sub>2</sub> still stable at 1000 K. Furthermore, the oxygen pressures calculated at 1000 K in  
 305 both three-phase equilibria: fcc-Pd + PdO + Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and fcc<sub>1</sub>-(Pd,Rh) + fcc<sub>2</sub>-(Pd,Rh) + Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> show  
 306 excellent agreements with the experimental results by Jacob et al. [29] (Figure 9a). The RhO<sub>2</sub>



307 decomposition temperature – formerly estimated around 1023 K [35; 47] and calculated at 1033 K  
 308 [12] – is now predicted at 1031 K.



309 *Figure 9: Calculated Pd-Rh-O isothermal sections at a) 1000 K, b) 1250 K. The calculated pressures in a) are*  
 310 *very similar to the experimental ones in the phase diagrams by Jacob et al. [29] at 1000 K*

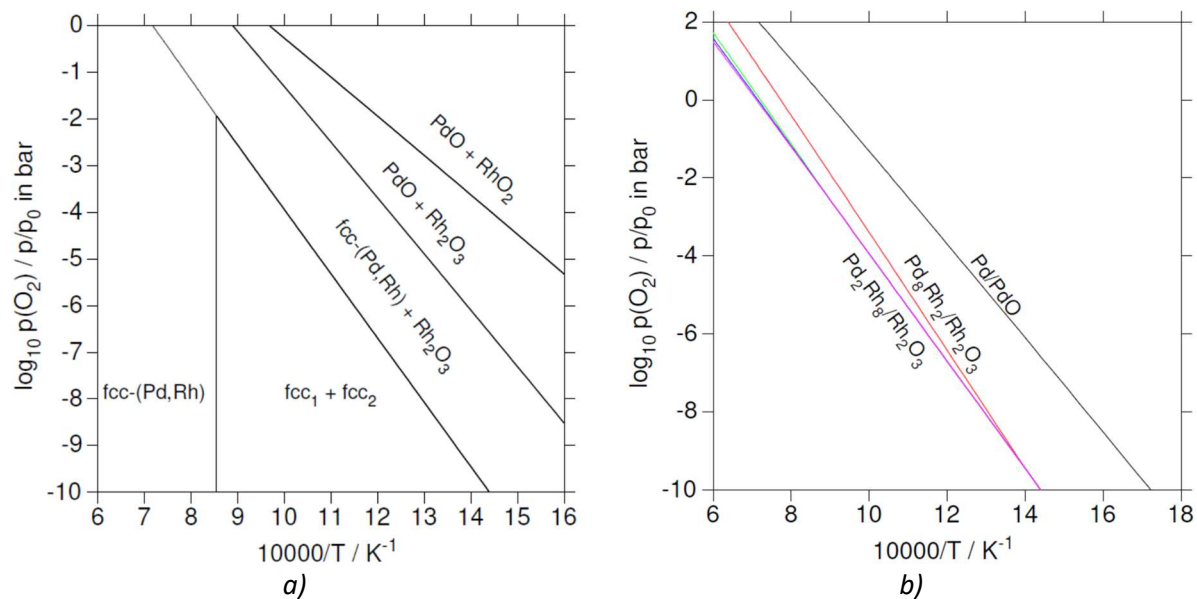
### 311 3. Application and discussion

312 This modeling of the ternary system Pd-Rh-O allows to better predict the high temperature  
 313 thermochemistry of these PGMs under oxidizing environments. To highlight the application of such  
 314 thermodynamic assessment, Figure 10a exhibits the equilibrium phases as a function of temperature  
 315 and oxygen pressure for a Pd<sub>60</sub>Rh<sub>40</sub> alloy corresponding to a Pd/Rh = 1.5 molar ratio. Because of the  
 316 miscibility gap between Rh and Pd depicted in Figure 2, Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> may be in equilibrium with two fcc  
 317 solid solutions (*i.e.* fcc<sub>1</sub> + fcc<sub>2</sub>) at low temperature and low oxygen pressure; one composition set is  
 318 rich in Pd and the other one is rich in Rh with nearly reciprocal compositions due to the very  
 319 symmetric fcc miscibility gap.

320 A higher oxygen pressure induces the oxidation of palladium, and Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and PdO coexist. These  
 321 calculated phases are consistent with the ternary phase diagrams at 1000 K, calculated and displayed  
 322 by Jacob (Figure 9a). At temperature above 1193 K, the fcc miscibility gap no longer exists, and Pd  
 323 and Rh are mixed within a single solid solution. Rhodium and palladium are partly soluble in each  
 324 other fcc phase. For instance, at 1000 K, Pd and Rh are miscible for a Pd/Rh molar ratio lower than  
 325 0.15 or higher than 4.88 (Figure 2).

326 As shown on Figure 9a, RhO<sub>2</sub> is in equilibrium with Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and PdO at 1000 K. At higher oxygen  
 327 content, it is in equilibrium with PdO and O<sub>2</sub>(g). This occurrence of RhO<sub>2</sub> at high oxygen content is  
 328 exhibited in Figure 10a.

329 To highlight the low sensitivity of these binary alloys towards redox behavior, the oxygen pressure of  
 330 several alloys are calculated as a function of the inverse temperature: Pd<sub>80</sub>Rh<sub>20</sub>, Pd<sub>60</sub>Rh<sub>40</sub>, Pd<sub>40</sub>Rh<sub>60</sub>  
 331 and Pd<sub>20</sub>Rh<sub>80</sub>. These compositions are compared to pure Pd in equilibrium with its oxide PdO in  
 332 Figure 10b.



333 *Figure 10: a) Calculated redox equilibria as a function of oxygen pressure and 10000/T (in K<sup>-1</sup>) for a Pd<sub>60</sub>Rh<sub>40</sub>*  
 334 *alloy (in mol.%), b) Calculated redox equilibria for pure Pd and for Pd-Rh alloys: Pd<sub>80</sub>Rh<sub>20</sub> (red) Pd<sub>60</sub>Rh<sub>40</sub>*  
 335 *(green) Pd<sub>40</sub>Rh<sub>60</sub> (blue) Pd<sub>20</sub>Rh<sub>80</sub> (pink) as a function of oxygen pressure and 10000/T (in K<sup>-1</sup>) for a Pd/Rh molar*  
 336 *ratio of 9 (90 mol.% of Pd)*

#### 337 4. Conclusion

338 The aim of this work is to predict the thermodynamics of Pd-Rh alloys under oxidative conditions in  
 339 the framework of catalysis (oxidation), geochemistry and nuclear fuel applications (source term  
 340 release during severe accident, fuel chemistry). This assessment is based on a thorough analysis of  
 341 the literature about the Pd-Rh, Rh-O and Pd-O binaries and on the Pd-Rh-O ternary system. The  
 342 resulting Calphad modeling is consistent with numerous available thermodynamic and phase diagram  
 343 data.

344 The binary system Pd-Rh was previously assessed [24; 76]. However, the present model is largely  
 345 improved by considering EMF experimental data after Jacob et al. [29]. This slight change of the  
 346 interaction parameters of the fcc and liquid phases barely impact the Pd-Rh phase diagram. The  
 347 miscibility gap between in the fcc-(Pd,Rh) phase and the solidus and liquidus temperature are still the  
 348 same. In the Pd-Rh system, both fcc end-members are immiscible at T < 1193 K and the solidus and  
 349 liquidus temperatures are 1957 and 2011 K, respectively.

350 The binary system Rh-O was previously studied too. As well, further optimization is implemented in  
 351 this paper, by further studying the Gibbs energy and enthalpy of formation of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. This new  
 352 modeling slightly changes the Rh-O phase diagram. The decompositions of Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and RhO<sub>2</sub> are  
 353 calculated at 1417 K and 1031 K, respectively. These temperatures are closer to the experimental  
 354 values – 1403 K and 1033 K [35; 46] – than in the previous assessment.

355 After a thorough analysis of the available thermodynamic data, the first assessment of the Pd-O  
 356 system was performed. Using an accurate review of the literature, this modeling predicts the PdO  
 357 decomposition at 1140 K at p = 1 bar and the oxygen solubility in fcc-Pd at PdO decomposition  
 358 around 4.10<sup>-2</sup> at.% maximum.

359 The calculated phase diagrams of the ternary system Pd-Rh-O display a very good consistency with  
 360 the published results. Furthermore, the calculated isotherm at 1000 K considers the stability of RhO<sub>2</sub>.  
 361 This modeling is then a useful calculation tool to predict palladium and rhodium equilibrium phases  
 362 under any temperature and oxygen pressure conditions.



363 **5. Acknowledgements**

364 The authors acknowledge the funding of the Direction des Programmes Energies of CEA.

365 The authors thank Nathalie Dupin at Calcul Thermo (<http://cthermo.fr/indexen.html>) for her valuable  
366 comments and fruitful help to develop this Calphad database.

367 **3. CRediT**

368 C. Laurin: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Writing-Original draft preparation

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## Thermodynamic models and list of the optimized parameters

Phase	Sublattice model <i>Prototype</i>	Thermodynamic Parameters / J.mol <sup>-1</sup>	Reference
Pd, Rh fcc	(Pd,Rh) <sub>1</sub> (O,Va) <sub>1</sub> <b>Cu</b>	${}^0L_{Pd,Rh:Va}^{fcc} = 24746 - 4.17 \cdot T$ ${}^1L_{Pd,Rh:Va}^{fcc} = -2025 + 0.92 \cdot T$ ${}^0L_{Pd:O}^{fcc} = G^{\circ,PdO} + 50835$ ${}^0L_{Pd:O,Va}^{fcc} = +21600$	Present work
Pd, Rh hcp	(Pd,Rh) <sub>1</sub> (Va) <sub>0.5</sub>	${}^0L_{Pd,Rh:Va}^{hcp} = +26701$ ${}^0L_{Pd,Rh:Va}^{hcp} = +7969$	Gossé et al. [24]
Liquid	(Pd <sup>+2</sup> , Rh <sup>+3</sup> ) <sub>p</sub> (O <sup>-2</sup> , Va <sup>-Q</sup> ) <sub>Q</sub>	${}^0L_{Pd,Rh}^{Liq} = +13418.5$ $G_{Pd^{+2}:O^{-2}}^{\circ,liquid} - 2 \cdot H_{Pd}^{\circ,SER} - 2 \cdot H_O^{\circ,SER} = -120000 + 120 \cdot T - 44.45 \cdot T \cdot \ln(T) - 0.0057 \cdot T^2 + 1.12295 \cdot 10^{-7} \cdot T^3 + 333220 \cdot T^{-1}$ ${}^0L_{Pd^{+2}:O^{-2}}^{liquid} = +500000$ ${}^0L_{Rh^{+3}:O^{-2}}^{liquid} = +500000$	Present work
Rh <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Orthorombic	(Rh <sup>+3</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> (O <sup>-2</sup> ) <sub>3</sub> <b>Rh<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	$G_{Rh^{+3}:O^{-2}}^{\circ,Rh_2O_3} - 2 \cdot H_{Rh}^{\circ,SER} - 3 \cdot H_O^{\circ,SER} = -442986 + 708.357 \cdot T - 115 \cdot T \cdot \ln(T) - 0.00921 \cdot T^2 + 1399816 \cdot T^{-1}$	Present work
RhO <sub>2</sub> (Rutile)	(Rh <sup>+4</sup> ) <sub>1</sub> (O <sup>-2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> <b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	$G_{Rh^{+4}:O^{-2}}^{\circ,Rutile} - H_{Rh}^{\circ,SER} - 2 \cdot H_O^{\circ,SER} = -270089 + 464.880 \cdot T + \frac{2}{3} G C_p^{Rh_2O_3} - \frac{1}{3} G H_{Rh}^{SER}$ With: $G C_p^{Rh_2O_3} = -115 \cdot T \cdot \ln(T) - 0.00921 \cdot T^2 + 1399816 \cdot T^{-1}$	Present work
PdO (PtS)	(Pd <sup>+2</sup> ) <sub>1</sub> (O <sup>-2</sup> ) <sub>1</sub> <b>PtS</b>	$G_{Pd^{+2}:O^{-2}}^{\circ,PdO} - H_{Pd}^{\circ,SER} - H_O^{\circ,SER} = -134604.26 + 273.218 \cdot T - 44.748 \cdot T \cdot \ln(T) - 0.00569 \cdot T^2 + 1.12295 \cdot 10^{-7} \cdot T^3 + 413571 \cdot T^{-1}$	Present work