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Gadolinium and Dysprosium Intermetallic Phases. II. Laves Phases and Other Structure Types

BY N. C. BAENZIGER AND J. L. MORIARTY, JR.

Department of Chemistry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, U.S.A.

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Unit-cell dimensions and interatomic distances are given for the following phases: $MgCu₂$ type: Gd X_2 and DyX_2 where $X = Pt$, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni and A1; CsCl type: GdX and DyX where $X = Ag$, Cu, In, Tl and Al; AuCu₃ type: GdIn₃, DyIn₃, DyTl₃, DyPt₃; MoSi₂ type: GdAg₂, DyAg₂, GdAu₂, $DyAu_2$; CuTi₃ type: Dy_3In ; CaZn₅ type: GdNi₅, $DyNi_5$, GdCo₅, $DyCo_5$; AlB₂ type: GdGa₂, DyGa₂; SnNi₃ type: GdAl₃.

Introduction

The rare-earth metals provide an opportunity to test the effect of atomic size in the structures of intermetallic phases. Reasonable quantities of gadolinium and dysprosium metals are now available, so that a fairly extensive investigation of their alloying behavior is possible. As a result the binary alloy systems of gadolinium and dysprosium with twenty-one metallic elements have been studied. For purposes of reporting, the elements have been divided into four groups: group A : Ti, V, Cr, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ta, W; group B : Mn, Fe, Co, Ni; group $C:$ Cu, Ag, Au, Pt; group $D:$ A1, Ga, In, T1, Ge. The readily identified intermetallic phases are reported in this paper. Additional phases have been found, but their structures are yet to be confirmed.

Experimental methods

Alloys were first prepared from pure metals (analyses, Table 1) with stoichiometries corresponding to alloys previously reported in the analogous systems with La, Ce, Pr, or Nd. In addition, alloys were prepared with stoichiometries intermediate between these single phase regions and any other single phase region sub- (5) sequently recognized.

The alloy specimens, 10 to 15 g. in size, were melted under half an atmosphere of argon in a small electric arc furnace consisting of a removable water-cooled hearth and tungsten electrode with power supplied by a 400 amp. d.c. welder. Each specimen was remelted repeatedly to improve homogeneity. If the final weight differed significantly from the initial weight of the alloying metals, a chemical analysis was performed

Table **2.** MgCu2 *structure type(1)*

Interatomic distances: Gd has $12M$ at (D) , $4Gd$ at (E) *M* has $6M$ at (F) , $6Gd$ at (D)

 (2) Compton & Matthias (1959).

(a) Dwight (1961).

(4) Endter & Klemm (1944).

 (5) Wernick & Geller (1960).

using either standard wet chemical procedures or flame spectrophotometry.

X-ray diffraction powder photographs were made of the alloy specimens in either the 'as-melted' or annealed condition. Filings were annealed in vycor capillaries 'gettered' with zirconium wire. The X-ray photographs were made with a 57-3 mm. radius Debye-Scherrer camera with Fe K_{α} radiation. Metallographic examination was carried out on the macro specimens to determine the homogeneity and to identify the phases present. Microhardness measurements (Eberbach) were also used to help identify the phases present in the microstructures.

(1) Strukturbericht, 1 74 (1931).

(2) Not the major constituent of powder photograph and not all other lines of the pattern identified.

Table 4. AuCu₃ *structure type* (1) , (2)

Interatomic distances: Each atom is surrounded by 12 others at (D) . The number and type of neighbors depends on the degree of ordering

(1) Strukturbericht, 1,486 (1931).

(2) Due to the relative values of the scattering factors, the existence of ordering could not be detected.

The diffraction patterns of the alloys of Gd and Dy with the metals of group A showed lines only of the metals and none corresponding to intermediate phases. The back-reflection regions of these X-ray diagrams were compared visually with similar regions of diagrams of the pure metals prepared with the same camera. Significant changes in the line positions occurred only for Gd in the Gd-Zr system and for Dy in the Dy-Zr system. The lines due to the rare-earth metal shifted in a direction indicating a smaller cell dimensions. Since the size of the Zr atom is smaller than that of the rare-earth metals, it appears that solubility is very small in the rare-earth metals except for Zr, and that the rare-earth metals do not dissolve appreciably in the group A metals. However, since extended annealing treatments and precision cell dimension determinations have not yet been performed, definite solubility limits cannot be given.

Table 7. SnNi3 *structure type (hexagonal)(1)*

Interatomic distances: Gd has 6A1 at 3.154, 6A1 at 2.929 A1 has 2Ge at 3.154, 2Gd at 2.929 4A1 at 3.154, 4A1 at 2.929

GdAl₃ $a = 6.308 \pm 0.003$ Å, $c = 4.589 \pm 0.009$ Å, Vol. = 158.1 Å³ *(I) Strukturbericht,* 5, 7 (1940).

The unit-cell dimensions of the intermetallic phases found in groups B, C and D are presented in Tables 2 through 9. The unit cell dimensions were calculated from back-reflection data by a least-squares fitting of $\sin^2 \theta_o = \sin^2 \theta_c + K\varphi \sin \varphi$, where φ is $\varphi = \pi/2 - \theta$, and K is a constant. For each structure type, intensity calculations were made for a representative compound

Table 5. CaZn₅ *structure type (hexagonal)*(¹)

(1) Structure Reports, 11, 59. (2) Wernick & Geller (1959).

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Table 9. CuTi₃ *structure type (tetragonal)*(¹), ⁽²)

 Dy_3 In $a=4.602\pm0.004$ Å, $c=4.945\pm0.004$ Å, Vol. = 104.7 Å³

(1) Pearson, (1958), p. 618.

(2) Due to the relative values of the scattering factors, the existence of ordering could not be detected.

in order to verify the choice of the structure. Powder diagrams of alloys intermediate to the single phase regions gave evidence that if any homogeneity ranges exist, they must be quite narrow.

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The Hydrogen Positions in Portlandite, Ca(OH)₂, as Indicated **by the Electron Distribution**

BY HOWARD E. PETCH

Crystallographic Laboratory, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England, and Department of Metallurgy and Metallurgical Engineering, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

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X-ray diffraction and Fourier synthesis techniques have been used to determine the electron distribution in a crystal of portlandite with sufficient accuracy to establish the hydrogen positions. The atoms have been found to occupy the following positions:

Ca (0, 0, 0)
O
$$
\pm \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, u\right)
$$

H $\pm \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, v\right)$

with $u=0.2330 \pm 0.0004$ and $v=0.395 \pm 0.008$. Independent anisotropic temperature factors were introduced for the calcium and oxygen ions. Also, in the final stages of refinement, systematic differences between the observed and calculated structure factors became apparent and their causes were traced to the Hartree scattering curves for $Ca⁺⁺$ and $O⁻⁺$ which were first used in the determination of the calculated structure factors. Semi-empirical scattering curves were derived and their use leads to an excellent agreement between the observed and calculated structure factors. After this work was completed new theoretical values for the scattering factors Ca^{++} and O^- became available and these have been compared with the derived semi-empirical values.

Introduction

Portlandite, $Ca(OH)_2$, and brucite, $Mg(OH)_2$, are isomorpheus and their structures have been known for many years. They possess a simple layer structure in which each cation is at the centre of an octahedron which is defined by hydroxyl ions, one at each corner.

These octahedra may be thought of as joined together in sheets perpendicular to the three-fold axis of the trigonal crystal by having hydroxyl ions in common. The sheets are stacked vertically one above the other. The brucite structure was determined by Aminoff (1919). Megaw (1933) obtained accurate values for the