# PHASE EQUILIBRIA AND OXIDATION MECHANISMS IN THE LA-S-O SYSTEM

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The phase diagram of the La-S-O system at 1073 K was established with the vacuum seal technique. Six phases exist at this temperature: La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (B-type), LaS<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>. The thermodynamic functions for the reaction La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> = La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + SO<sub>2</sub> + 1/2 O<sub>2</sub> were determined by using the emf method at temperatures from 1123 to 1373 K. The mechanisms of the oxidation reactions in the La-S-O system under different partial pressures of oxygen (-4.4 < log  $P_{O_2} < -0.7$ ) were also investigated by means of DTA, TG and powder X-ray diffractometry.

Many phases have been reported to exist in the La – S – O system at high temperatures, e.g. La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, LaS<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> etc. La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has five polymorphs [1–4]: A-type (hexagonal), B-type (monoclinic), C-type (cubic), H-type (hexagonal at high temperature) and X-type (structure unknown). The temperature range of stability for each La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> other than the B-type has been already established [5]. Three polymorphs of La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> [6–8] are known:  $\alpha$ -phase,  $\beta$ -phase and  $\gamma$ -phase. Stable  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> exists at temperatures between 923 and 1623 K. Recently, Besançon *et al.* [9–12] discovered La<sub>10</sub>S<sub>14</sub>O with a tetragonal structure and reported that this compound forms a solid solution with  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>. LaS<sub>2</sub> with a cubic structure has been synthesized by Flahaut *et al.* [13] and orthorhombic LaS<sub>2</sub> has been reported by Dugue *et al.* [14] and Benazeth *et al.* [15].

The thermodynamic data on the formation of  $La_2O_3$  in the range of temperature from 298 to 1200 K and those for  $La_2S_3$  from 298 to 2400 K have been compiled by Barin *et al.* [16, 17], and those for  $La_2O_2S$  have been reported by Laptev *et al.* [18]. Moreover, thermodynamic studies on the  $La_2O_2SO_4 - La_2(SO_4)_3$  and  $La_2O_3 - La_2O_2SO_4$  systems have been carried out by Kellogg [19] and Grizik *et al.* [4], respectively. Wendlandt *et al.* [20, 21] investigated the thermal decomposition of  $La_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 9 H_2O$ .

In the present paper, the phase relations in the La-S-O system at 1073 K were investigated by using the vacuum seal technique, and the thermodynamic functions for the reaction  $La_2O_2SO_4 = La_2O_3 + SO_2 + 1/2 O_2$  were estimated by the emf method using calcia-stabilized zirconia. Further, the mechanisms of the reactions of oxidation for each compound existing in the La-S-O system were studied under different partial pressures of oxygen by means of DTA, TG and powder X-ray diffraction.

## Experimental

## Preparation of starting material

# a) Lanthanum oxide, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Reagent grade  $La_2O_3$  from Wako Pure Chem. Indust. Ltd. was used as starting material. It was heated at 1073 K in air for two days to convert the negligible amount of  $La(OH)_3$  present as impurity into oxide, and we thereby obtained hydrox-ide-free  $La_2O_3$ . The material was characterized by powder X-ray diffraction as A-type  $La_2O_3$ .

# b) Lanthanum oxide sulfide, $La_{10}S_{14+x}O_{1-x}$ ( $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> phase)

The stoichiometric  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> could not be synthesized, but La<sub>10</sub>S<sub>14+x</sub>O<sub>1-x</sub>, a solid solution of tetragonal  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, was prepared by heating La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>S (1 ml/s) at 1073 K for one day. The composition x was determined to be 0.06 by thermogravimetry.

## c) Lanthanum oxide sulfiate, $La_2O_2SO_4$

 $La_2O_2SO_4$  was prepared by heating  $La_2O_3$  in  $SO_2$  (1 ml/s) at 1073 K for one day. It has an orthorhombic structure [22].

#### d) Lanthanum disulfide, LaS<sub>2</sub>

LaS<sub>2</sub> with a cubic structure was prepared by heating La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>S (1 ml/s) at 873 K for three days. The exact composition was LaS<sub>1.92</sub>.

#### e) Lanthanum oxide sulfide, $La_2O_2S$

 $La_2O_2S$  with a hexagonal structure was prepared by heating reagent grade  $La_2(SO_4) \cdot 9 H_2O$  in  $H_2$  (1 ml/s) at 1173 K for one day.

## f) Lanthanum oxide sulfide, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

 $La_2O_2S_2$  was prepared by heating  $LaS_2$  in air at 873 K for two days. The single phase  $La_2O_2S_2$  could not be obtained, but instead a mixed phase with  $La_2O_2SO_4$ . Accordingly, the mixed phase sample was used for DTA and TG measurements.

#### Determination of phase diagram

The above materials and crystalline sulfur were mixed in the desired proportion. 50 vacuum-sealed ampoules containing about 200 mg of sample mixture of various composition were prepared. They were heated at 1073 K for two weeks, followed by quenching to ice temperature. The phase of the quenched sample was identified by powder X-ray diffraction. No evidence of the reaction of any of the samples with the silica tube was found after the experimental runs.

#### Thermodynamic study

In order to determine the standard Gibbs energy change of the thermal decomposition of  $La_2O_2SO_4$ 

$$La_2O_2SO_4 = La_2O_3 + SO_2 + 1/2O_2$$
(1)

the equilibrium partial pressure of oxygen  $(P_{O_s})$  was measured by the usual emf method, using one end closed calcia-stabilized zirconia (c. s. z. with 15% CaO) as a solid electrolyte in the temperature range from 1123 to 1373 K. As a reference material a mixture of nickel and nickel oxide was put inside the c.s.z. tube. The c.s.z. tube was inserted into the mixture of  $La_2O_3$  and  $La_2O_2SO_4$  contained in a silica crucible. In order to prevent the oxidation of the sample, oxygen-free nitrogen gas (purified with an oxygen pump made of c.s.z.) was passed onto the surface of the mixture. The emf at each temperature was measured with a high-impedance microvoltmeter. When the emf remained constant for three hours, it was considered that the equilibrium state in the system had been attained. The equilibrium partial pressure of oxygen for the mixture of nickel and nickel oxide as a function of temperature is obtained from the JANAF Thermodynamic Tables [23] as follows:

$$\log P_{\rm O}(\rm Ni + NiO) = -24507/T(\rm K) + 8.829.$$
 (2)

The  $P_{O_{\bullet}}$  for reaction (1) is calculated via the following equation:

$$\log P_{O_{o}}(\text{sample}) = \log P_{O_{o}}(\text{Ni} + \text{NiO}) - 20.157/T(\text{K}) \times E(\text{mv})$$
(3)

where E and T are the emf and absolute temperature, respectively. At the end of the experiment, both the initial phases of the sample were reidentified. The sample reacted neither with the c.s.z. tube nor with the silica tube.

#### Mechanisms of oxidation reactions in the La - S - O system

The mechanisms of the reactions of oxidation in the La – S – O system on heating under a  $P_{O_2}$  ( $P_{O_2}$  range from  $10^{-0.7}$  to  $10^{-4.4}$  atm) were investigated by means of DTA, TG and powder X-ray diffraction. The materials studied were La<sub>10</sub>S<sub>14+x</sub>O<sub>1-x</sub>, LaS<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> · 9 H<sub>2</sub>O and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. DTA and TG were simultaneously measured with a Thermoflex R · TG–DTA, Rigaku Co. Ltd. The oxygen pressures were controlled by passing N<sub>2</sub>, air and a mixture of O<sub>2</sub> an N<sub>2</sub>. Oxygen present as impurity in a commercial N<sub>2</sub> cylinder was determined by means of the emf method to have log  $P_{O_2} = -4.4$ , while that in air had log  $P_{O_2} = -0.7$ . The experimental conditions for DTA were as follows; reference material:  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, flow rate: 1.6 ml/s, heating rate: 10°/min, sample weight: 15–30 mg. Samples were quenched to slightly above or below the temperature at which the DTA peak appeared, and the coexisting phases were identified by powder X-ray diffraction.

#### **Results and discussion**

#### Phase diagram

Table 1 shows the compositions and phases of the quenched samples. From these values the phase diagram for the La -S - O system at 1073 K was determined; this is shown in Fig. 1. The following seven phases existed stably under the present experimental conditions:  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, LaS<sub>2</sub> (cubic), LaS<sub>2</sub> (orthorhombic), La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (B-type) and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> · La<sub>2</sub>OS<sub>2</sub>, reported by Verkhovets *et el.* [24], was not found in the present experiment. Only the  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> and LaS<sub>2</sub> phases formed solid solutions with oxygen. Besonçon *et al.* [9–12] have reported that oxygen atoms could substitute sulfur atoms in  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> up to 4 mol%. The exact composition of LaS<sub>2</sub> in the

#### Table 1

Results of firing samples in vacuum-sealed tubes at 1073 K for 2 weeks

Component	Phases	Component	Phases
$La_{0,10}S_{0.65}O_{0,25}$	B + C	La <sub>0.17</sub> S <sub>0.40</sub> O <sub>0 43</sub>	B + C
La <sub>0,10</sub> S <sub>0,70</sub> O <sub>0,20</sub>	B + C	La <sub>0.17</sub> S <sub>0.45</sub> O <sub>0.38</sub>	B + C
La <sub>0,10</sub> S <sub>0,80</sub> O <sub>0-10</sub>	A + A' + B	La0.17S0.50O0.33	B + C
$La_{0.10}S_{0.85}O_{0.05}$	A' + B + C	La0.17S0.55O0.28	B + C
		La0.17S0.60O0.23	B + C
La <sub>0.22</sub> S <sub>0.30</sub> O <sub>0.48</sub>	B + C	$La_{0.17}S_{0.65}O_{0.18}$	B + C
La <sub>0-22</sub> S <sub>0.35</sub> O <sub>0.43</sub>	B + C	La00.17S0.80O0.03	A + B
La <sub>0-22</sub> S <sub>0.40</sub> O <sub>0.38</sub>	B + C		
La <sub>0-22</sub> S <sub>0.45</sub> O <sub>0.33</sub>	B + C	La <sub>0.29</sub> S <sub>0.20</sub> O <sub>0.51</sub>	B + C + D
La <sub>0,22</sub> S <sub>0-50</sub> O <sub>0.28</sub>	B + C	La0.29S0.45O0.26	A + B
La <sub>0.22</sub> S <sub>0.60</sub> O <sub>0.18</sub>	A + B	La <sub>0.29</sub> S <sub>0-50</sub> O <sub>0.21</sub>	A + B
La <sub>0.22</sub> S <sub>0.65</sub> O <sub>0.13</sub>	A + B	$La_{0.29}S_{0.55}O_{0.16}$	A + B
La <sub>0.22</sub> S <sub>0.70</sub> O <sub>0.08</sub>	A + B	La <sub>0.29</sub> S <sub>0.60</sub> O <sub>0.11</sub>	A + B
$La_{0.22}S_{0.75}O_{0.03}$	A + B	$La_{0.29}S_{0.65}O_{0.06}$	A + B
La <sub>0.23</sub> S <sub>0.75</sub> O <sub>0.02</sub>	Α	La <sub>0.30</sub> S <sub>0.21</sub> O <sub>0.49</sub>	B + C + D
La <sub>0.23</sub> S <sub>0.65</sub> O <sub>0.12</sub>	A' + B	$La_{0.30}S_{0.17}O_{0.53}$	C + D
La <sub>0.23</sub> S <sub>0.47</sub> O <sub>0.29</sub>	B + C	La <sub>0 30</sub> S <sub>0.10</sub> O <sub>0.60</sub>	C + D + F
La0.23S0.37O0.40	B + C		
La <sub>0.23</sub> S <sub>0.26</sub> O <sub>0.51</sub>	B + C	$La_{0.37}S_{0.61}O_{0.02}$	A + E
La <sub>0.23</sub> S <sub>0.13</sub> O <sub>0.64</sub>	С	$La_{0.37}S_{0.56}O_{0.07}$	A + D + E
La <sub>0.23</sub> S <sub>0 11</sub> O <sub>0-66</sub>	C + F	$La_{0.37}S_{0.50}O_{0.13}$	A + D + E
		$La_{0.37}S_{0.36}O_{0.27}$	A + D
La <sub>0.30</sub> S <sub>0.68</sub> O <sub>0.02</sub>	Α	$La_{0.37}S_{0.22}O_{0.41}$	C + D
$La_{0.30}S_{0.55}O_{0.15}$	A + B	$La_{0.37}S_{0.19}O_{0.44}$	C + D
$La_{0.30}S_{0.41}O_{0.29}$	A' + B	La <sub>0.37</sub> S <sub>0.14</sub> O <sub>0.49</sub>	C + D + F
La <sub>0.30</sub> S <sub>0.36</sub> O <sub>0.34</sub>	В	$La_{0.37}S_{0.05}O_{0.58}$	C + D + F
$La_{0.30}S_{0.27}O_{0.43}$	B + C + D		

A: LaS<sub>2</sub>(cubic), A': LaS<sub>2</sub> (orthorhombic),

B:  $La_2O_2S_2$ , C:  $La_2O_2SO_4$ , D:  $La_2O_2S$ , E:  $La_{10}S_{14+x}O_{1-x}$ , F:  $La_2O_3$ 



Fig. 1. Phase diagram on the La-S-O system at 1073 K

present study was found to be  $LaS_{1.92}$ . However, here we could not determine the amount of substituting oxygen atoms in the  $LaS_2$ . Consequently, the  $LaS_2$  region is indicated by the broken line in the phase diagram.  $LaS_2$  usually forms a cubic structure, but in a sulfur-rich composition it is transformed to an orthorhombic structure. However, the sulfur pressure could not be determined in the present experiment. According to the literature [5], the A-type  $La_2O_3$  is stable at temperatures from 873 to 2373 K, but under the present experimental conditions the  $La_2O_3$  was of B-type.

## Thermodynamic considerations

Figure 2 shows the relation between the logarithm of the equilibrium partial pressure of oxygen and  $10^4/T$ , measured by the emf method for the following reaction:

$$La_2O_2SO_4 = La_2O_3 + SO_2 + 1/2O_2.$$
(4)

The equilibrium partial pressures of sulfur dioxide were calculated by using Eq. (5), derived from the mass balance and the equilibrium constant  $K_6$  of reaction (6):

$$6 P_{SO_2}^2 + K_6^2 P_{O_2}^2 P_{SO_2} - 2 K_6^2 P_{O_2}^3 = 0$$
(5)

$$1/2 S_2 + O_2 = SO_2 \tag{6}$$

The mass balance of each element in the gas phase could be expressed as follows:

S; 
$$P_{SO_a}^i = P_{SO_a} + P_{SO_a} + 2P_{S_a}$$
 (7)

O; 
$$3P_{SO_s}^i = 3P_{SO_s} + 2P_{SO_s} + 2P_{O_s}$$
 (8)

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Fig. 2. Equilibrium partial pressure of oxygen vs. 1/T for the La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>-La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> system. Open, solid and shaded symbols correspond to a consecutive increase, decrease and again increase of temperature, respectively

where *i* is the initial value.  $K_6$  is then obtained as

$$K_6 = P_{SO_s} / (P_{S_s}^{1/_2} P_{O_s}) .$$
(9)

Equation (5) was solved by the elimination of  $P_{SO_3}$ ,  $P_{SO_3}$  and  $P_{S_2}$  from Eq. (8) by using Eqs (7) and (8). The general expression for  $K_6$  was calculated from literature data [23] by the least squares method as

$$\log K_6 = -4.4739 + 19001/T + 0.1894 \times \log T .$$
 (10)

The expression for the equilibrium constant of reaction (4) was determined via the  $P_{O_{*}}$  measured and  $P_{SO_{*}}$  calculated from Eq. (5) as

$$\log K_1 = 50.93 - 7.6524/T \qquad (1123 \text{ K} < T < 1373 \text{ K}). \tag{11}$$

From the above equations, the thermodynamic functions of the reaction studied were calculated as follows:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = 1.465 \times 10^{6} - 7.6524 \times T \quad \text{(J/mol)} \ (1123 \text{ K} < T < 1373 \text{ K}) \tag{12}$$

$$\Delta H^{\circ} = 1465 \qquad \text{(kJ/mol)} \tag{13}$$

$$\Delta S^{\circ} = 975.2$$
 (J/deg. mol). (14)

A thermodynamic study of the thermal decomposition of  $La_2S_2 - SO_4$  has also been carried out by Grizik *et al.* [4], but their experimental procedure was different from ours. They studied reaction (15)

$$2 \operatorname{La}_2 \operatorname{O}_3 + 3 \operatorname{SO}_2 = 2 \operatorname{La}_2 \operatorname{O}_2 \operatorname{SO}_4 + 1/2 \operatorname{S}_2$$
(15)

The standard Gibbs energy change and other functions of reaction (4) were calculated by converting their results for reaction (15) in the following way:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = 1.643 \times 10^{5} - 30.09 \times T \text{ (J/mol) (973 K} < T < 1473 \text{ K})$$
(16)

$$\Delta H^{\circ} = 164.3$$
 (kJ/mol) (17)

$$\Delta S^{\circ} = 30.09 \qquad (J/deg. mol) \tag{18}$$

There is a large disagreement between our results and those of Grizik *et al.* [4]. Grizik *et al.* [4] reacted La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with SO<sub>2</sub> at various temperatures. They calculated the  $P_{S_2}$  by weighing the solid sulfur trapped during the first five minutes. The  $P_{SO_2}$  was estimated by subtracting both the weight gain of the starting material and the weight of the trapped sulfur from the quantity of sulfur dioxide passed during the five-minute period. This procedure is based on the assumption that the mixed gas composition stayed in the equilibrium state on passing from higher temperature to lower temperature. This seems to be unreliable. Furthermore, the sulfur deposited during a five-minute period may not be enough to weigh accurately.

In the emf measurement used in the present study, good reproducibility was obtained. According to the literature [20, 21],  $La_2O_2SO_4$  decomposes to  $La_2O_3$  in air at temperatures between 1523 and 1573 K. From the present experiment, the decomposition temperature was estimated to be 1481 K and this value is close to that cited in the literature. These facts suggested that our results may be much more reliable.

# Mechanisms of oxidation reactions in the La-S-O system

The oxidation reactions of all compounds in the La-S-O system were investigated by changing  $P_{O_2}$ . However, here we will discuss only the oxidation mechanism of LaS<sub>2</sub> in detail as a typical example, and processes for all other compounds will be summarized in Table 2 on the basis of  $P_{O_2}$ .

# a) Reactions under the condition $\log P_{O_0} > -1.3$

Figure 3 shows the DTA and TG curves for five compounds in the  $\log P_{O_2}$  range higher than -1.3. LaS<sub>2</sub> corresponds to the curve shown in Fig. 3(b). In the DTA curve two sharp exothermic peaks were detected between 740 and 780°. The TG curve shows an abrupt weight loss and a subsequent weight gain at about 750°, followed by a continuous weight gain from 790 to 900°, while above 900° the weight remained constant. The powder X-ray diffraction pattern of the sample quenched at 740° showed the existence of LaS<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The final product at Table 2

Reaction processes in La-S-O system

(1) 
$$\log P_{O_2} > -1.3$$
  

$$LaS_2 \xrightarrow{740^{\circ}} La_2O_2S_2 \xrightarrow{750^{\prime}} La_2O_2SO_4$$

$$740^{\circ} \xrightarrow{700^{\circ}} 700^{\circ} \xrightarrow{750^{\prime}} La_2O_2SO_4$$

$$740^{\circ} \xrightarrow{700^{\circ}} 120^{\circ} \xrightarrow{750^{\prime}} La_2O_2SO_4$$

$$740^{\circ} \xrightarrow{700^{\circ}} 120^{\circ} \xrightarrow{700^{\circ}} 120^{\circ} \xrightarrow{750^{\prime}} 120^{\circ} \xrightarrow{750^{\circ}} 1$$

 $\text{La}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 9 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow[140^\circ]{} \text{La}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow[270^\circ]{} \text{La}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ 

900° was identified as  $La_2O_2SO_4$ . From these facts, the following reactions may be proposed for the first exothermic peak:

$$2 \operatorname{LaS}_2 + 4 \operatorname{O}_2 \to \operatorname{La}_2 \operatorname{O}_2 \operatorname{S} + 3 \operatorname{SO}_2 \tag{19}$$

$$2 \text{ LaS}_2 + 3 \text{ O}_2 \to \text{ La}_2 \text{ O}_2 \text{ S}_2 + 2 \text{ SO}_2.$$
<sup>(20)</sup>

Considering the abrupt weight loss in the first stage, reaction (19) may be thought to be predominant. The following reactions are considered responsible for the second exothermic peak:

$$La_2O_2S + 2O_2 \rightarrow La_2O_2SO_4 \tag{21}$$

$$La_2O_2S_2 + 3O_2 \rightarrow La_2O_2SO_4 + SO_2,$$
 (22)

The change in weight agreed well with the theoretically estimated weight difference between  $LaS_2$  and  $La_2O_2SO_4$ . The present oxidation process is in agreement with



Fig. 3. DTA and TG curves for the La–S–O system at log  $P_{O_2} > -1.3$ . (a)  $La_{10}S_{14+x}O_{1-x}$  (La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>), (b)  $LaS_{1,981}(LaS_2)$ , (c)  $La_2O_2S$ , (d)  $La_2O_2S_2$ , (e)  $La_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 9 H_2O$ 

the result reported by Toide *et al.* [25], except for the peak temperature noted by them.

b) Reactions under the condition  $-2.0 > \log P_{O_2} > -2.4$ 

The DTA and TG curves for four compounds at  $-2.0 > \log P_{O_2} > -2.4$  are shown in Fig. 4. In the DTA curve for LaS<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 4(b)), a broad exothermic peak was detected at temperatures between 630 and 750°. In the TG curve a weight loss between 630 and 700 and a subsequent weight gain from 700 to 1000° were observed. The products at 1000° were identified as a mixture of La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (A-type). The powder X-ray diffraction patterns of samples quenched at temperatures between 680 and 900° reveal that the first weight loss is caused by the reaction

$$2 \operatorname{LaS}_2 + 4 \operatorname{O}_2 \to \operatorname{La}_2 \operatorname{O}_2 \operatorname{S} + 3 \operatorname{SO}_2$$
(23)

while the second is due to reactions (21) and (24)

$$La_2O_2S + 3/2 O_2 \rightarrow La_2O_3 + SO_2$$
. (24)



Fig. 4. DTA and TG curves for the La-S-O system at  $-2.0 > \log P_{O_2} > -2.4$ . (a) La<sub>10</sub>S<sub>14+x</sub>O<sub>1-x</sub>(La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>), (b) LaS<sub>1,918</sub>((LaS<sub>2</sub>), (c) La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, (d) La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

In this case the weight gain phenomenon in the TG curve supports the predominance of reaction (21).

# c) Reactions under the condition $\log P_{O_4} < -2.7$

Figure 5 shows the DTA and TG curves for four compounds at log  $P_{O_2} < -2.7$ . In the DTA curve for LaS<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 5(b)), two broad exothermic peaks were observed at 600-720° and 720-800°. The TG curve also showed two steps of weight loss, in agreement with the DTA peaks. The profile of the weight loss was parabolic at temperatures between 600 and 720°, and at temperatures above 720° it was linear. The powder X-ray diffraction patterns of the samples quenched at 720° and 850° showed the existence of  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, LaS<sub>2</sub> and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, and of  $\beta$ -La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> and La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, respectively. On the basis of these results the following two reactions may be considered to take place:

$$2 \operatorname{LaS}_2 + \operatorname{O}_2 \to \operatorname{La}_2 \operatorname{S}_3 + \operatorname{SO}_2 \tag{25}$$

$$2 \operatorname{LaS}_2 + 4 \operatorname{O}_2 \to \operatorname{La}_2 \operatorname{O}_2 S + 3 \operatorname{SO}_2.$$
<sup>(26)</sup>

In the second step the reaction may be as follows:

$$La_2S_3 + 3O_2 \rightarrow La_2O_2S + 2SO_2$$
. (27)



Fig. 5. DTA and TG curves for the La–S–O system at log  $P_{02} < -2.7$ . (a)  $La_{10}O_{14+x}S_{1-x}$  ( $La_2S_3$ ), (b)  $LaS_{1,919}(LaS_2)$ , (c)  $La_2O_2S$ , (d)  $La_2O_2S_2$ 

As seen from Table 2, the phases of the final products were dependent on the  $P_{O_2}$ . La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was the only compound stable in air in the present experiment. From the phase diagram in Fig. 1, we can predict the order of increasing activity of oxygen for the final three compounds as La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> > La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> > La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S. This agrees well with the results observed in the present study, of the oxidation steps depending on the  $P_{O_2}$ .

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG – Das Phasendiagramm des La–S–O-Systems bei 1073 K wurde bestimmt. Bei dieser Temperatur liegen 6 Phasen vor, und zwar La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (B-Typ), LaS<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S und La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>. Für die Reaktion La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> = La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + SO<sub>2</sub> + 1/2 O<sub>2</sub> wurden die thermodynamischen Funktionen im Temperaturbereich von 1123–1373 K nach der EMF-Methode bestimmt. DTA, TG und Pulver-Röntgendiffraktometrie wurden zur Untersuchung der Mechanismen der im La–S–O-System verlaufenden Oxydationsreaktionen herangezogen, wobei der Sauerstoffpartialdruck in den Grenzen von  $-4.4 < \log p_{O_2} < < -0.7$  variiert wurde.

Резюме — С помощью вакуумной изолированной техники была установлена фазовая диаграмма системы La—S—O при 1073 К. При этой температуре существует шесть фаз: La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Б-типа), LaS<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S и La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>. Используя метод э. д. с., были определены термодинамические параметры реакции La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> = La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + SO<sub>2</sub> + 1/2 O<sub>2</sub> в температурном интербале 1123–1373. С помощью ДТА, ТГ и порошковой рентгенодиффрактометрии исследованы механизмы реакций в системе La–S–O б области парциальных давлений кислорода —4.4 < log P<sub>O2</sub> < -0.7.