



**The application of an effective equilibrium reaction zone model  
based on CALPHAD thermodynamics to steel making**

**or**

**The story of Thermo-Calc's Process Metallurgy Module**

Paul Mason, A. Nicholas Grundy, Ralf Rettig, Lina Kjellqvist,  
Johan Jeppsson and Johan Bratberg

# Thermo-Calc Software

- ❑ Company dedicated to provide computational tools in the field of materials engineering
- ❑ Phase diagrams, thermodynamics, diffusion, kinetics of phase formation / transformation
- ❑ Founded in 1997
- ❑ Headquarters in Stockholm
- ❑ Total of ~40 employees worldwide
- ❑ > 1250 customers in 70+ countries



# CALPHAD databases



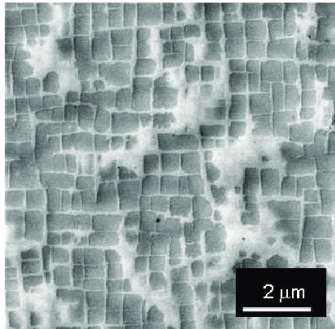
Steel, cemented carbides,  
High Mn, stainless



Aluminium alloys  
Magnesium alloys



Titanium and Ti-Aluminides



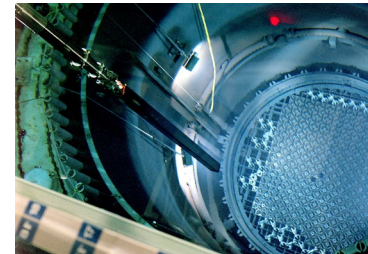
Nickel superalloys



Nobel metals



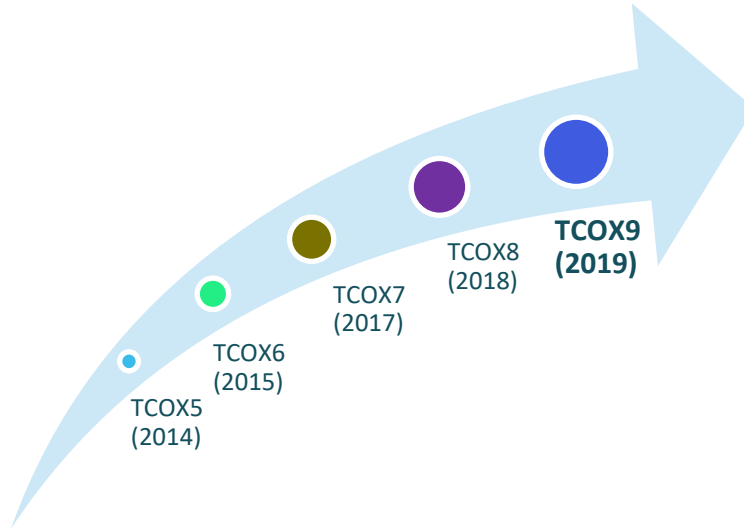
Aqueous, corrosion



Nuclear materials

Also High Entropy Alloys, Copper alloys, Pure Silicon,  
Molten salts, solder materials, and.....

# CALPHAD Database for Oxides: TCOX9



- 25 elements
- 260 binaries
- 244 ternaries
- 118 pseudo-ternary MeO-MeO-MeO
- 32 Me-O-F, Me-O-S
- Many higher order systems
- Validation in multicomponent space

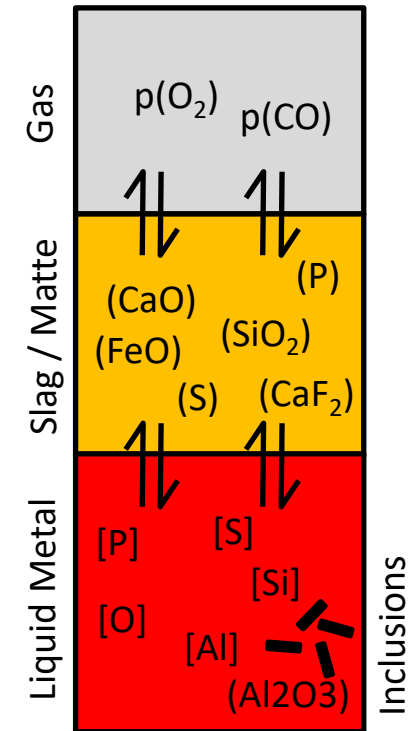
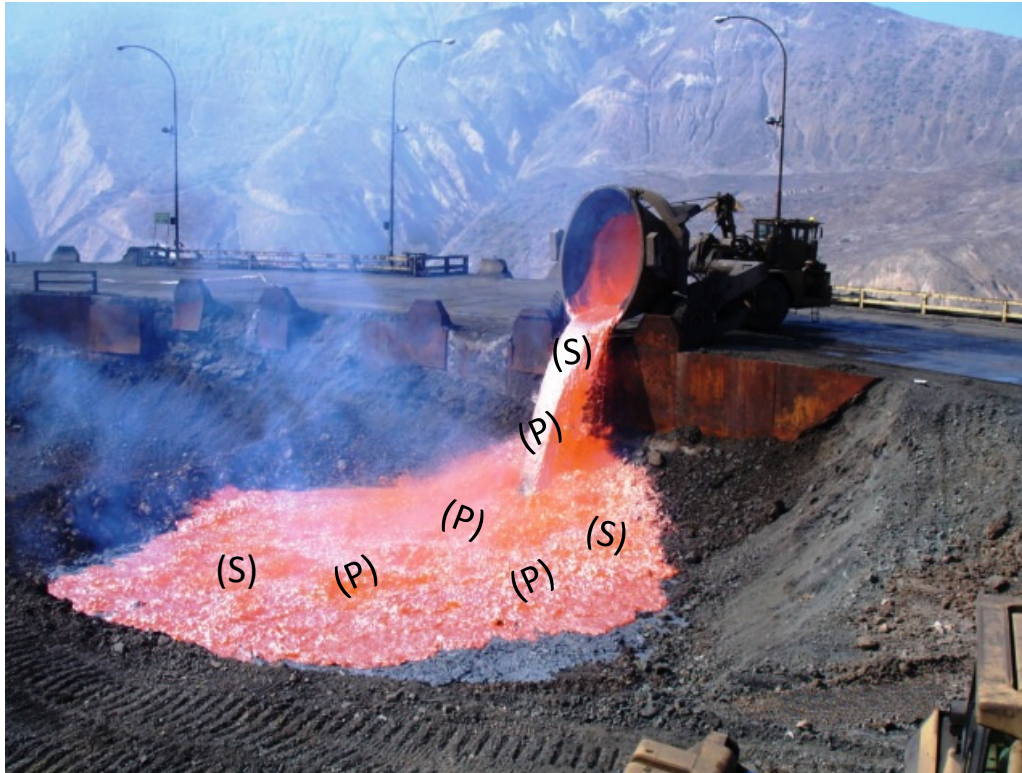
From Dec 2019 also physical properties  
(viscosity, surface tension, density)

Al	Ar	C	Ca	Co	Cr	Cu	F	Fe
Gd	La	Mg	Mn	Mo	Nb	Ni	O	P
S	Si	Ti	V	W	Y	Zr		

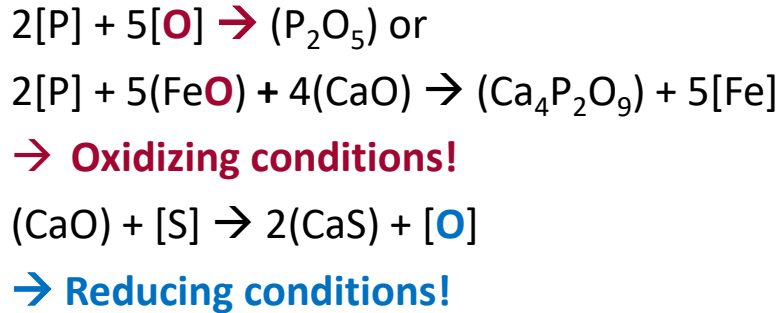
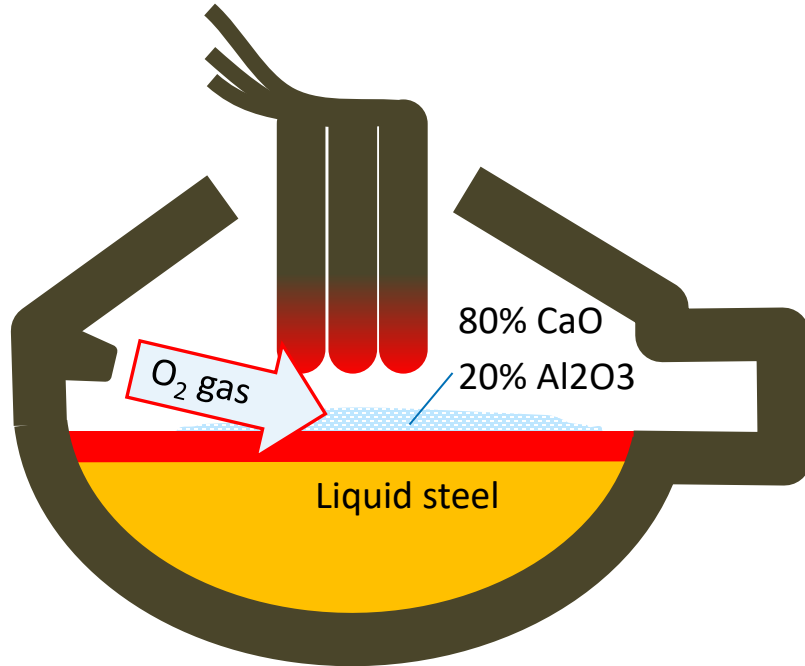
Details of database development under [www.thermocalc.com](http://www.thermocalc.com)

# CALPHAD Database for Oxides: TCOX9

Replaces SLAG database  
For process metallurgy (and many other things)

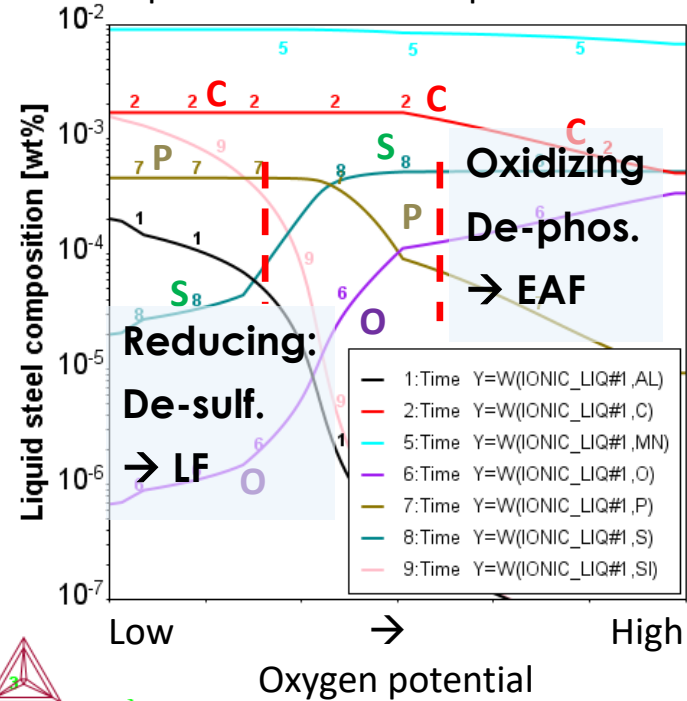


# Applications of TCOX9



## → Isothermal calculations

Equilibrium steel composition



# New easy to use interface to set-up steel-slag calculations

**Process Metallurgy Calculator**

Material: Steel Example Steel  
 Amount: Tonne 100 Hide composition  
 Input type: Mass percent Element Major component Save material  
 Major element: Fe 98.78, C 0.17, Si 1, S 0.05, Total: 100.0

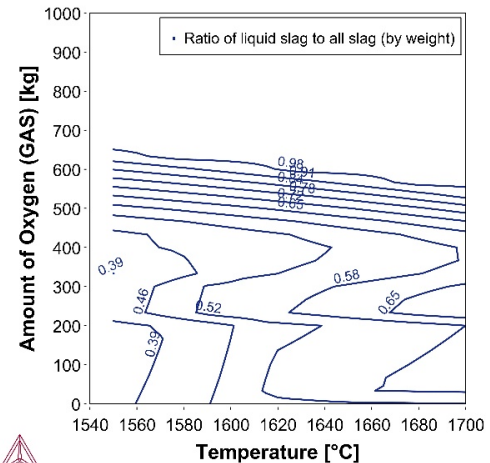
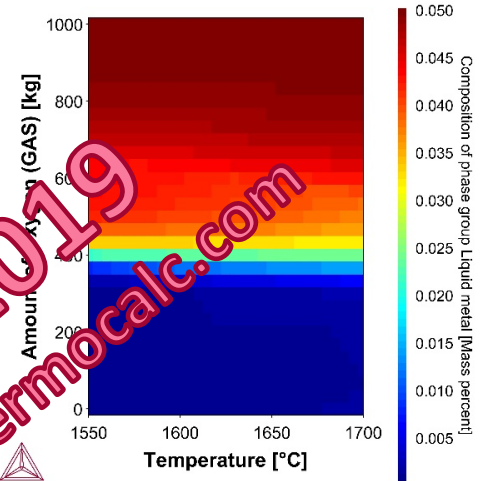
Material: Slag Example Slag  
 Amount: Kilogram 2000 Hide composition  
 Input type: Mass percent Component Major component Save material  
 Major element: CaO 85.0, Al2O3 15, Total: 100.0

Material: Gas Oxygen  
 Amount: Kilogram 200 Show composition

Calculation Type  
 Single  One axis  Grid  Homogeneity

Grid Definitions

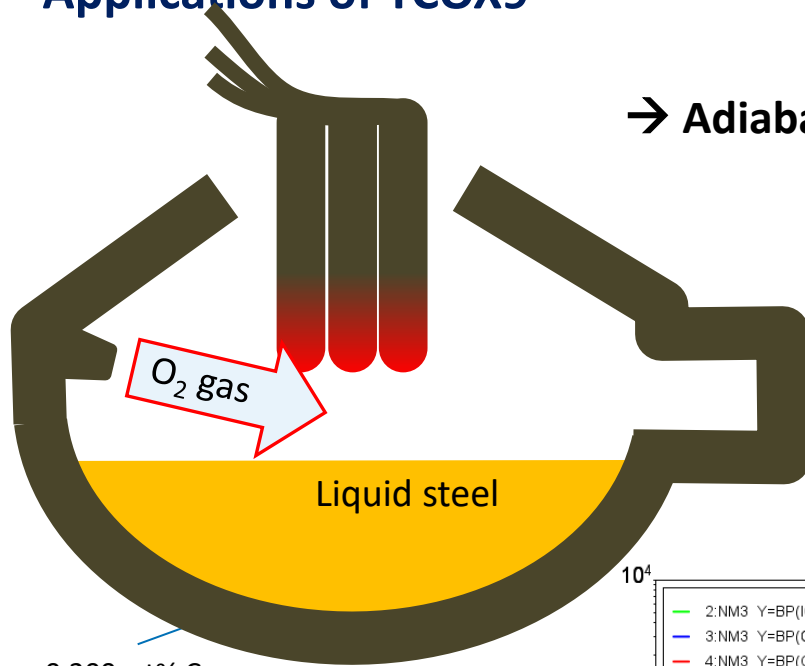
Quantity	Min	Max	Number of steps
Temperature	1550	1700	30
Amount of Oxygen (GAS)	0.0	1000	30



Released June 2019  
 ...more info on [www.thermocalc.com](http://www.thermocalc.com)

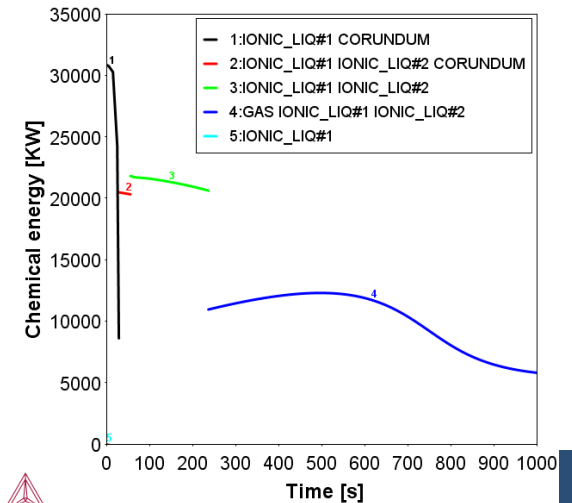
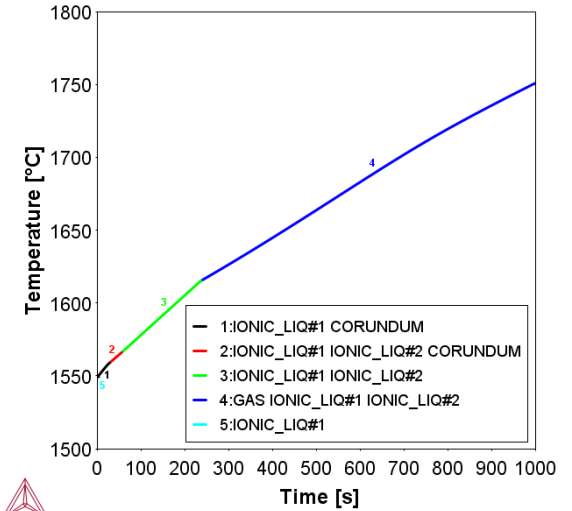
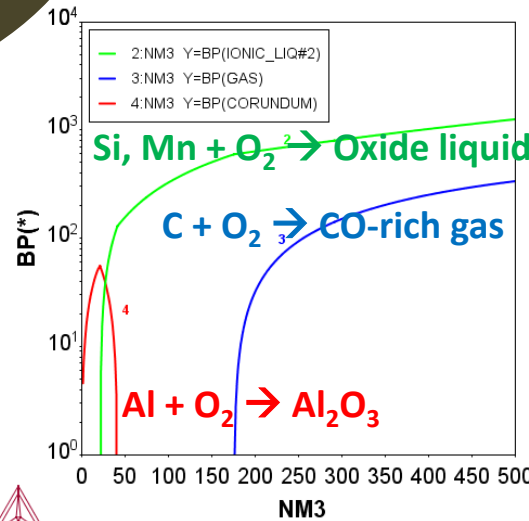


# Applications of TCOX9



→ Adiabatic calculations

- 0.200 wt% C
- 1.000 wt% Mn
- 0.025 wt% P
- 0.023 wt% S
- 0.250 wt% Si
- 0.030 wt% Al
- 3E-5 wt% O
- Balance: Fe





# New easy to use interface to set-up steel-slag calculations

Process Metallurgy Calculator 1

Conditions Options

Database: TCOX9

Thermal control: **Adiabatic**

Temperature: Celsius

Pressure: Pascal 100000.0

+ -

Material: Steel User-defined with temperature: 0.0

Amount: Tonne 100 Show composition

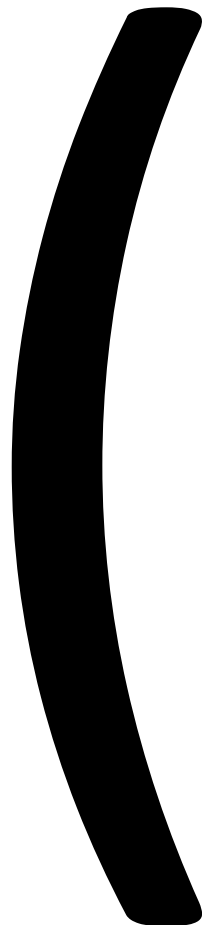
+ -

Material: Slag User-defined with temperature: 0.0

Amount: Tonne Show composition

*Released December 2019  
...more info on [www.thermocalc.com](http://www.thermocalc.com)*



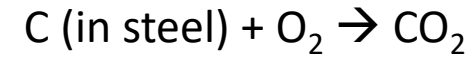


# Applications for adiabatic calculations

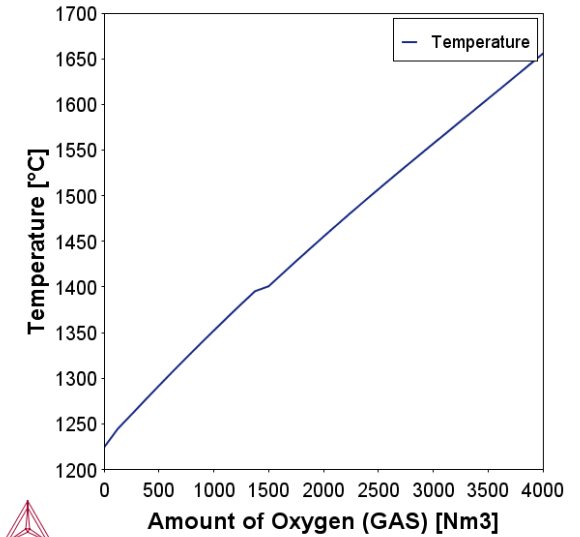
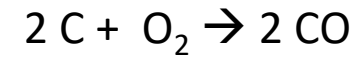
→ Example 1 in Thermo-Calc help



Steelmaking in a BOF converter:



Or



# Applications for adiabatic calculations

→ Real requests coming from customers!



Thermite welding process:  
 $\text{Al} + \text{FeO} \rightarrow \text{Fe (liq)} + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

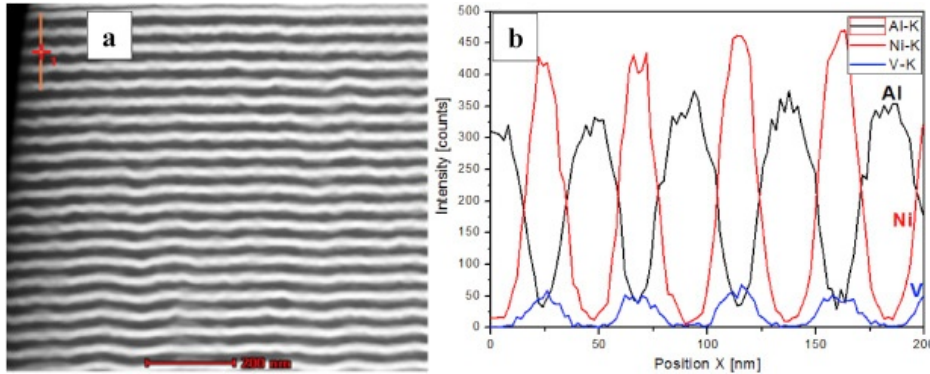
# Applications for adiabatic calculations: hot topping



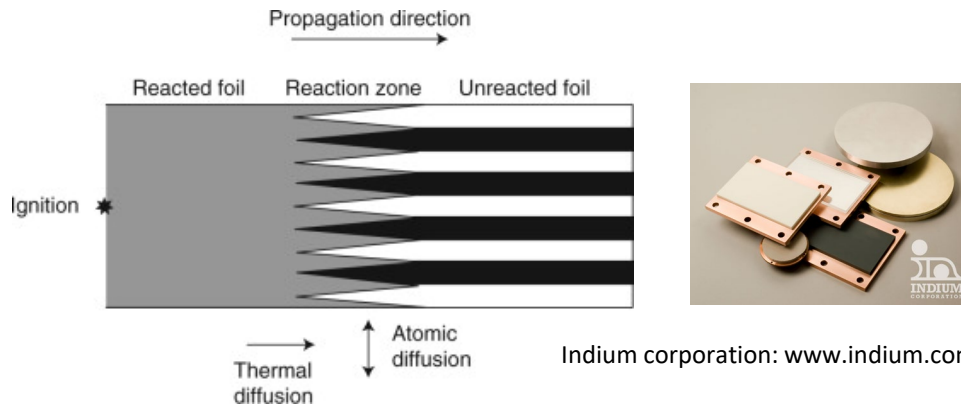
Exothermal mould powders at end of cast for continuous casting or for hot topping during ingot casting:  
 $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{CaO} + \text{FeO} + \text{xxx}$   
 $+ \text{Fe, Al, Si powder or ...}$   
→ Tuned energy release triggered by heat of Liquid steel

# Applications for adiabatic calculations:

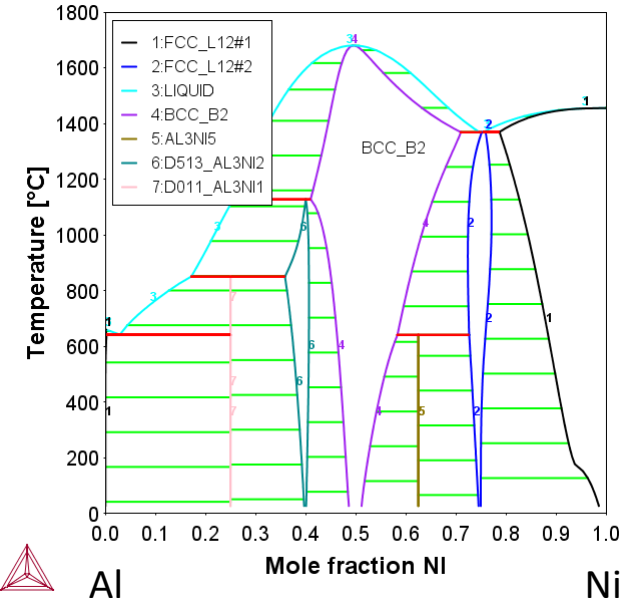
Nanofoil® for bonding, Self-healing multilayers, nano-heaters, dot heaters...



Łukasz Maja, Jerzy Morgiela, Maciej Szlezyngera, Piotr Bałab, Grzegorz Ciośb, *Mat. Chem. Phys.* Volume 193, 2017, Pages 244-252



Indium corporation: [www.indium.com](http://www.indium.com)



→ Adiabatic calculation for T increase

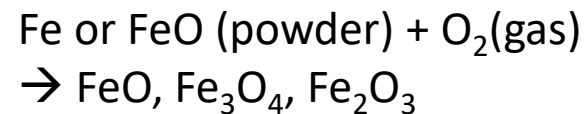
→ Diffusion calculation for kinetics



# Applications for adiabatic calculations: Heat patches for back-ache



Reaction:

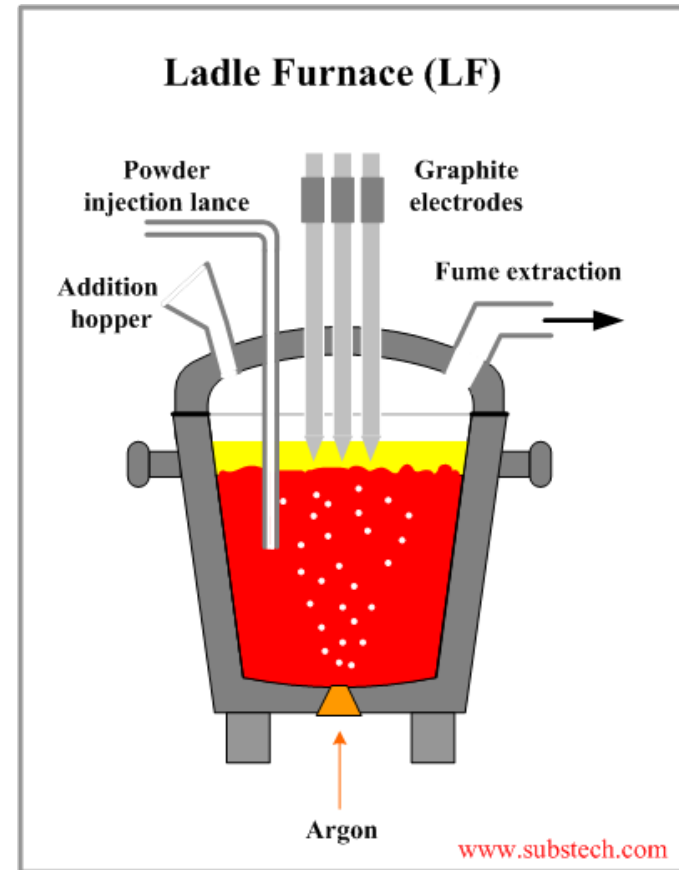




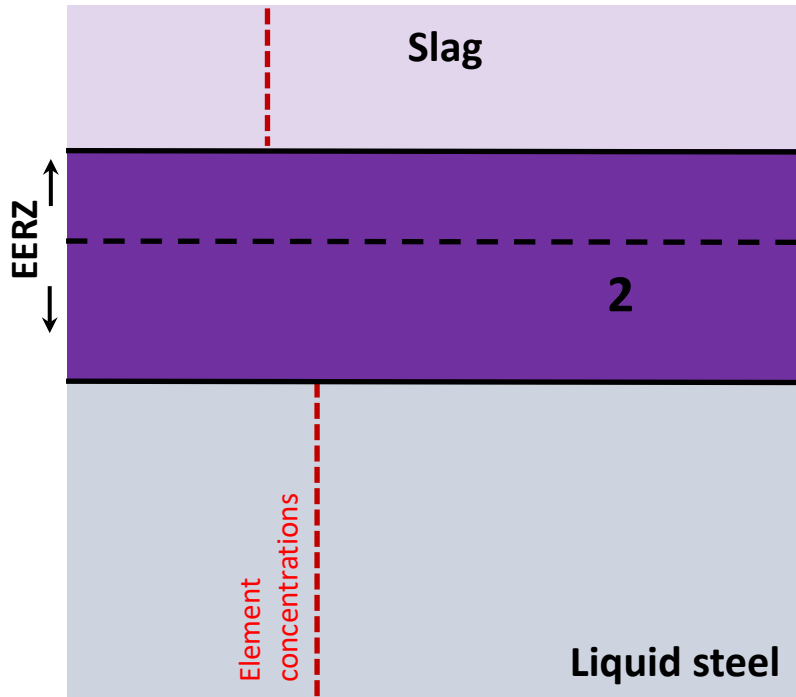


- ❑ Simulation of secondary steel making (Ladle Furnace)
- ❑ Present in every steel-plant
- ❑ Comparison with scientific study from M.-A. van Ende et al. (2017)
- ❑ Actual experimental data from K. J. Graham et al. (2009)

→ Kinetic model needed!

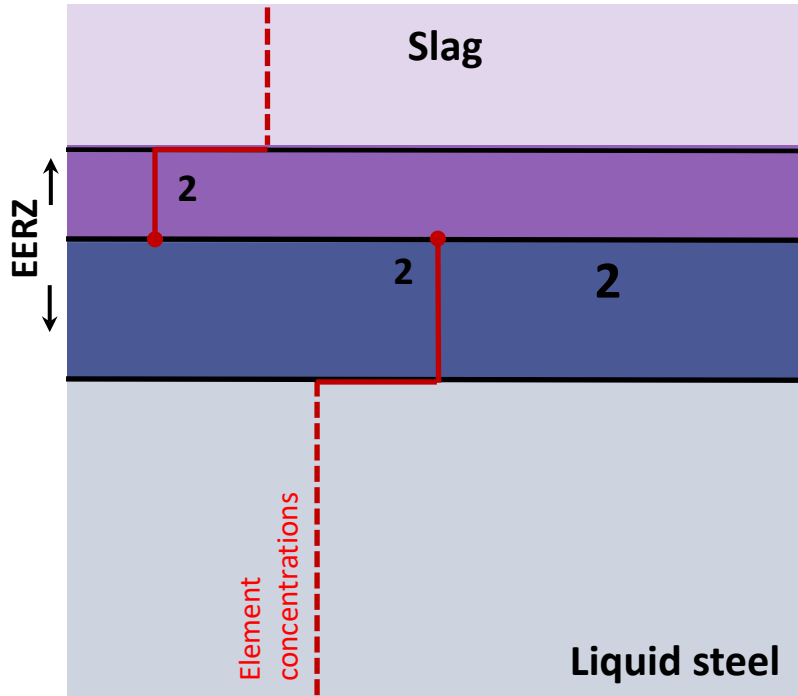


## Kinetic modelling using the Effective Equilibrium Reaction Zone



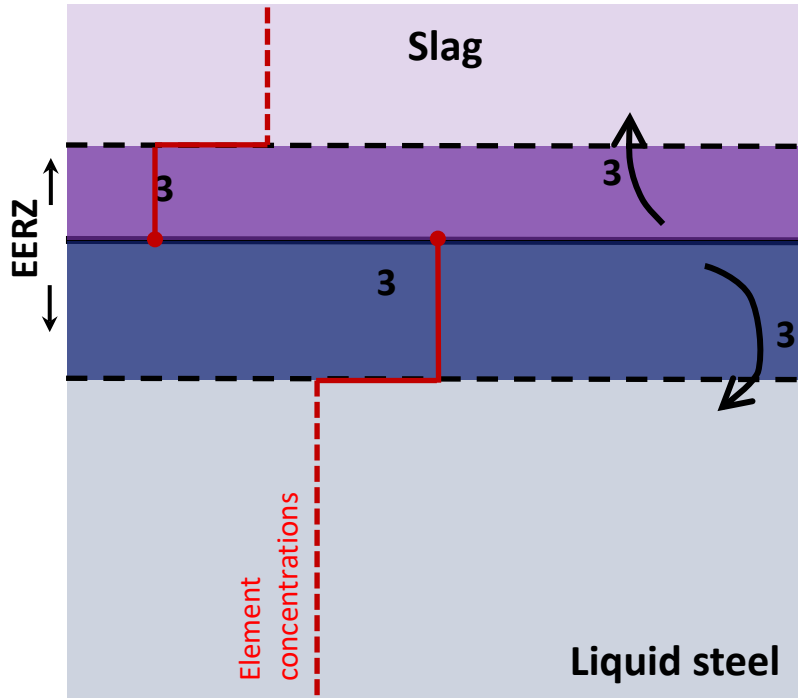
1. Transport to the reaction zone
2. Equilibrium within the EERZ

## Kinetic modelling using the Effective Equilibrium Reaction Zone



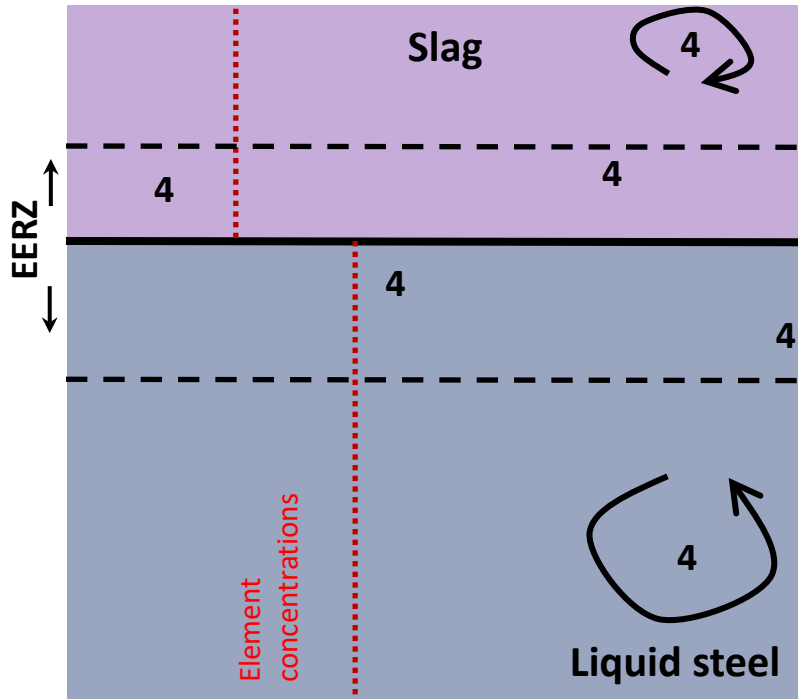
1. Transport to the reaction zone
2. Equilibrium within the EERZ  
**Equilibrium steel-slag interface**

## Kinetic modelling using the Effective Equilibrium Reaction Zone



1. Transport to the reaction zone
2. Equilibrium within the EERZ,
3. Transport away from the EERZ

## Kinetic modelling using the Effective Equilibrium Reaction Zone



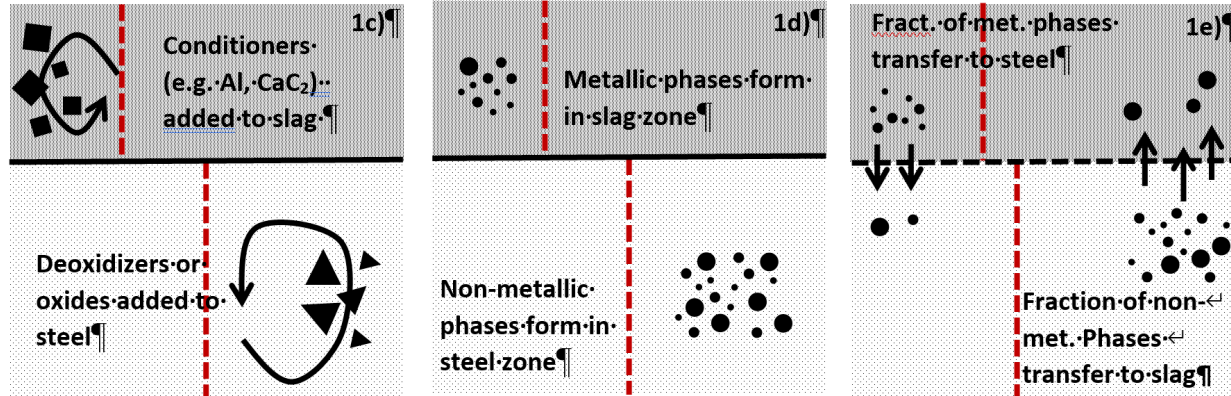
1. Transport to the reaction zone
2. Equilibrium within the EERZ,
3. Transport away from the EERZ
4. Mixing in the bulk slag / liquid steel

### References

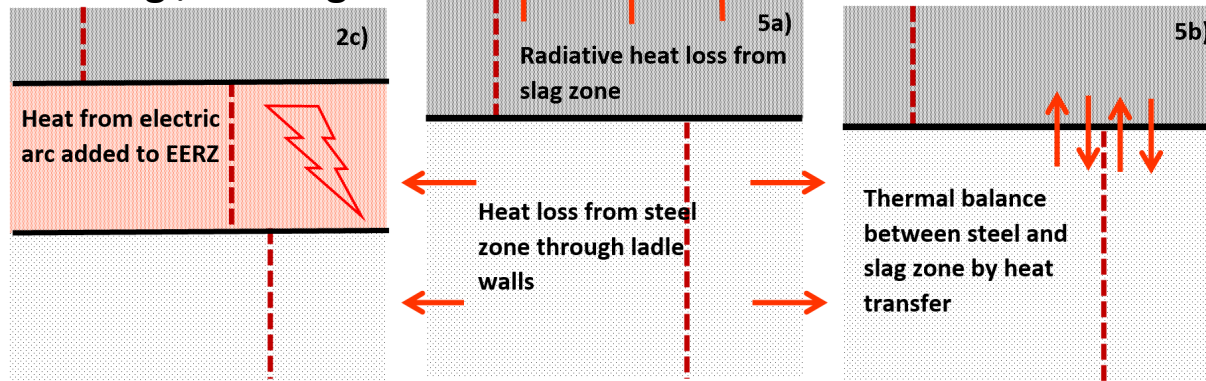
- J. Peter, K.D. Peaslee, D.G.C. Robertson, and B.G. Thomas, Proc. AISTech, 2005, vol. 1, pp. 959 – 73
- A. Harada, N. Maruoka, H. Shibata, and S. Kitamura, ISIJ Int., 2013, vol. 53, pp. 2110 - 2117
- M.-A. van Ende and I.-H. Jung, Met. Mat Trans. B, 2017, Vol 48B, pp. 28 - 36

# Kinetic modelling of steelmaking with TCOX9

## Inclusion formation and flotation / modification



## Heating / cooling



## AIST Transactions

Vol. 6, No. 1

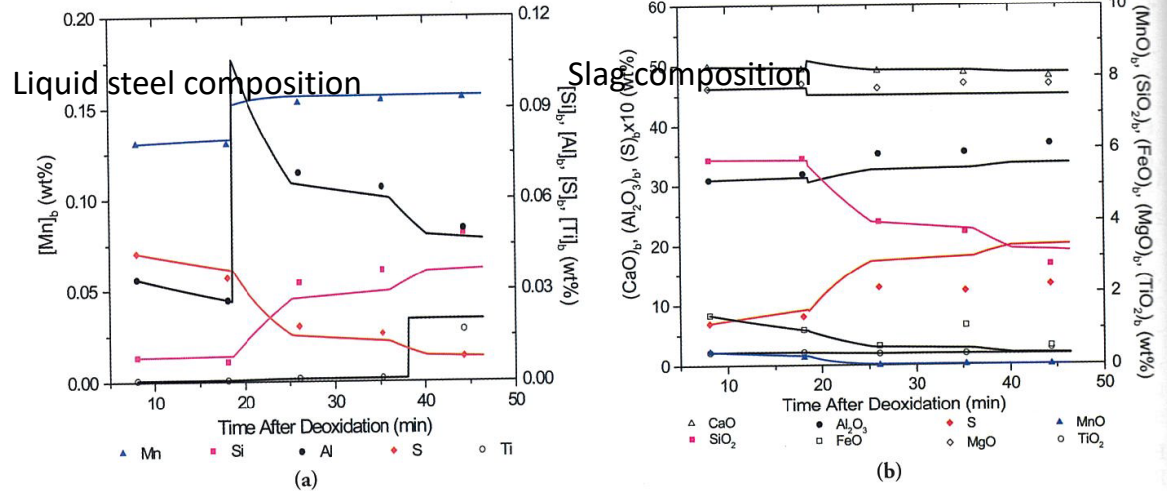
### Toward Integrated Ladle Metallurgy Control

K.J. Graham (formerly of McMaster University), Materials Institute (kevin\_graham@mckinsey.com), and G.A. Irons, Steel Research Centre, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., Canada (ironsga@mcmaster.ca)

#### INTRODUCTION

During the last 50–60 years, considerable interest has been focused on the kinetics of sulfur removal from iron and steel.<sup>1–8</sup> Key findings from these kinetic studies have demonstrated that sulfur transfer from metal

kinetic simulation applications



**Figure 9** Comparison of experimental and model predicted results for: (a) [wt%S]<sub>b</sub>, [wt%Mn]<sub>b</sub>, [wt%Al]<sub>b</sub>, [wt%Si]<sub>b</sub> and [wt%Ti]<sub>b</sub>, and (b) (wt%S)<sub>b</sub>, (wt%CaO)<sub>b</sub>, (wt%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>b</sub>, (wt%MnO)<sub>b</sub>, (wt%SiO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>b</sub>, (wt%FeO)<sub>b</sub>, (wt%MgO)<sub>b</sub> and (wt%TiO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>b</sub>.



# Ladle Furnace Refining

**Initial steel: 165 t, 1600°C**

Fe-0.12 Mn-0.008 Si-0.001 Al-0.001Ti-0.06 S-0.01 O

**Initial slag: 4.95 t, 1600°C**

50 CaO-31.2 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-8 MgO-6.0 SiO<sub>2</sub>-0.8 MnO-1.9 FeO-2.19 TiO<sub>2</sub>-0.01 S

## Process parameters:

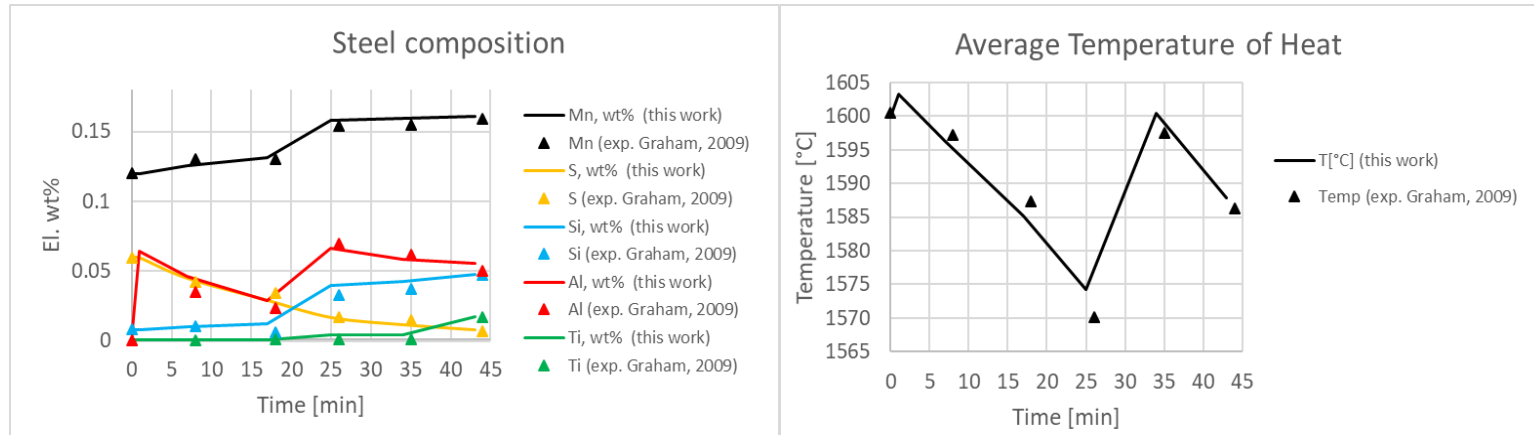
At tap: Al killing with 105 kg Al

20 min: 100 kg CaO, 140 kg Al, 50 kg FeMn added

27 min-34 min: Electric arc heating

39 min: 46 kg FeTi added

→ Manual simulation with 6 calculation steps in console mode





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Fe-0.12 Mn-0.008 Si-0.001 Al-0.001Ti-0.06 S-0.01 O

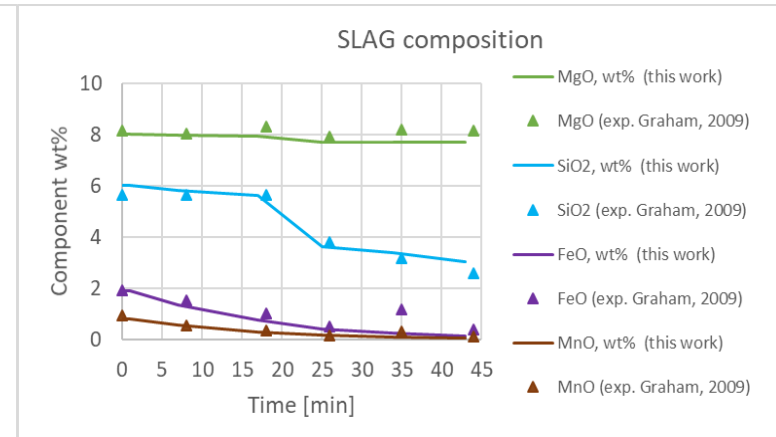
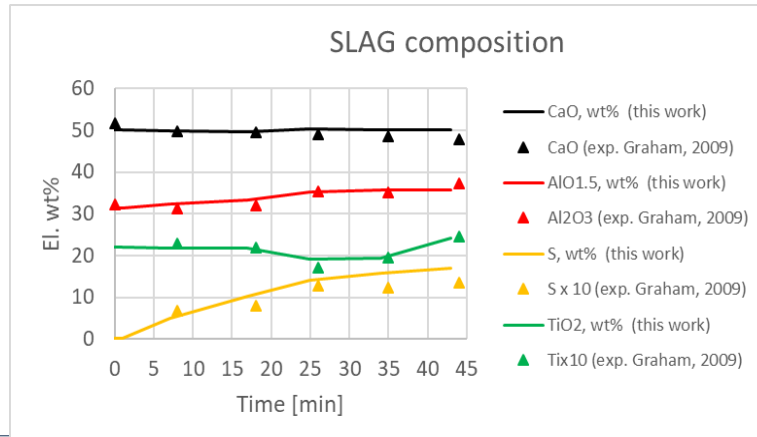
**Initial slag: 4.95 t, 1600°C**

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## Process parameters:

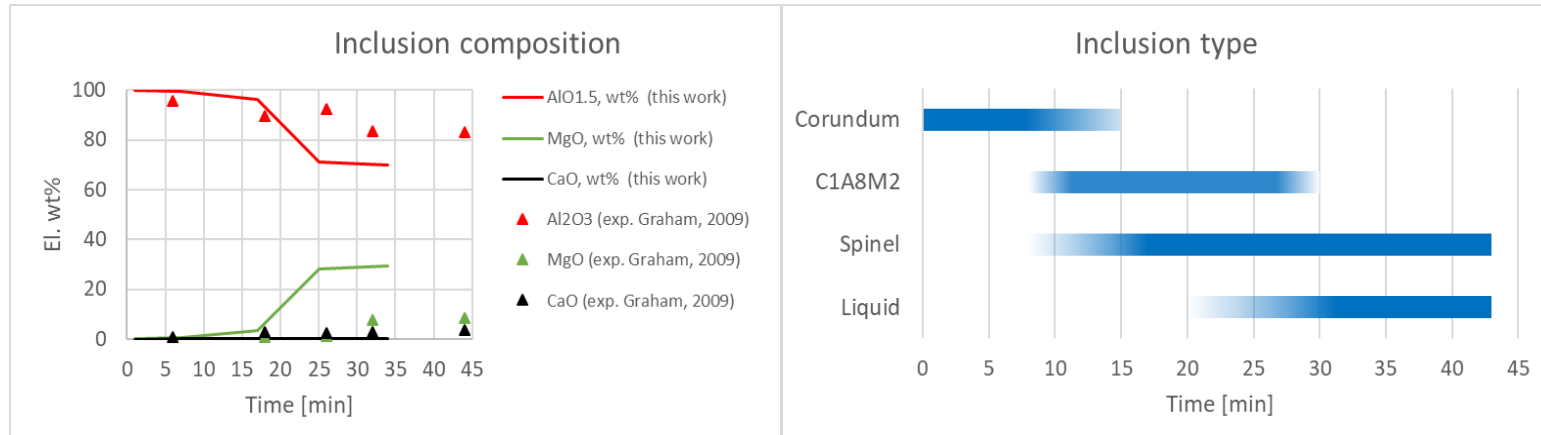
At tap: Al killing with 105 kg Al

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→ Manual simulation with 6 calculation steps in console mode



## Model configuration, kinetic parameters

## Materials compositions

```
# model configuration
database = "TCOX10"
pressure_in_pa = 1.0e5
diameter = 5.0 # in m
delta_time = 60.0 # in s
time_end = 45 * 60 # in s
heat_loss_steel = -3.583e6 # in W
heat_transfer_coeff_steel_and_slag = 5.0e3 # in W/(m**2 * K)
inclusion_removal_rate = 4.5 # in %/min
heat_electric_arc = 11.657e6 # in W
electric_arc_heating_times = {"min":27,"max":34}# in min
steel_mass_transfer_coeff = 0.0008977971148773584 # in m/s
steel_density = 7800 # in kg/m**3
slag_mass_transfer_coeff = 4.668544997362263e-05 # in m/s
slag_density = 4500 # in kg/m**3
low_stirring_gas_flow = 0.167 / 60 # in Nm**3/s
high_stirring_gas_flow = 0.5 / 60 # in Nm**3/s
area = (diameter / 2)**2 * np.pi
```

```
with TPython(debug_mode=True)as session:
    steel = Material(Composition.relative_composition(
        {"Fe":None,"Mn":0.12,"Si":0.008,"Al":0.001,"Ti":0.001,"S":0.06,"O":0.01,"C":0.04},
        RelativeUnit.WEIGHT_PERCENT),165,AbsoluteUnit.TONNE,temperature_in_k=1600 + 273.15)

    oxygen_comp = Composition.relative_gas_composition({"O2":100})

    slag = Material(Composition.relative_composition(
        {"CaO":50,"Al2O3":31.1,"MgO":8,"SiO2":6,"MnO":0.8,"FeO":1.9,"TiO2":2.19,"S":0.01},
        RelativeUnit.WEIGHT_PERCENT),4.95,AbsoluteUnit.TONNE,temperature_in_k=1600 + 273.15)
```

## Time stepping / material addition amounts and times

```
# energy transfer
calc.add_power_to_zone("steel",heat_loss_steel)
calc.add_power_to_reaction_zone("steel","slag",heat_electric_arc,60 * electric_arc_heating_times["min"],
    60 * electric_arc_heating_times["max"]+ delta_time)

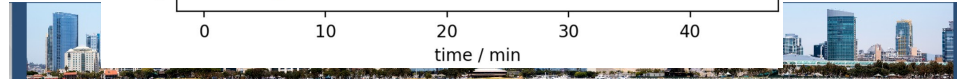
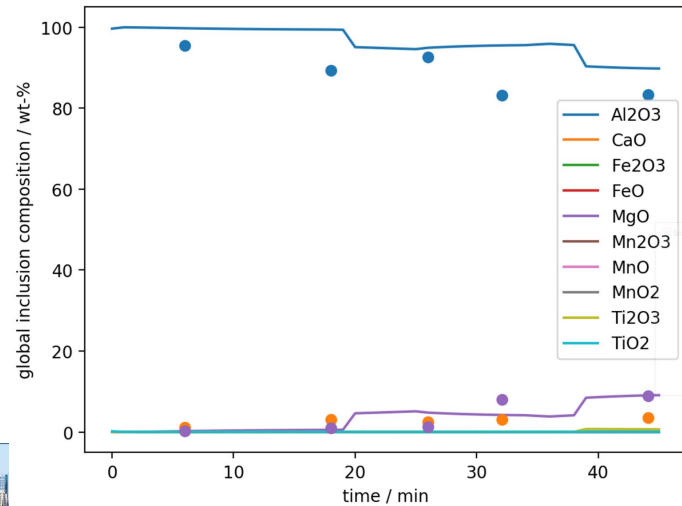
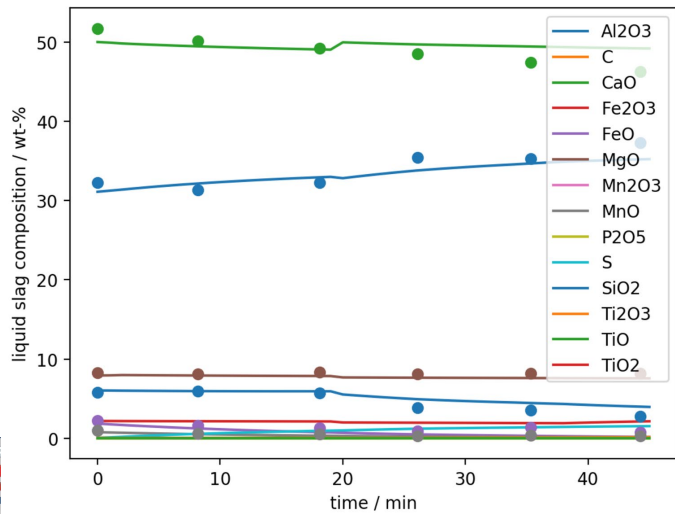
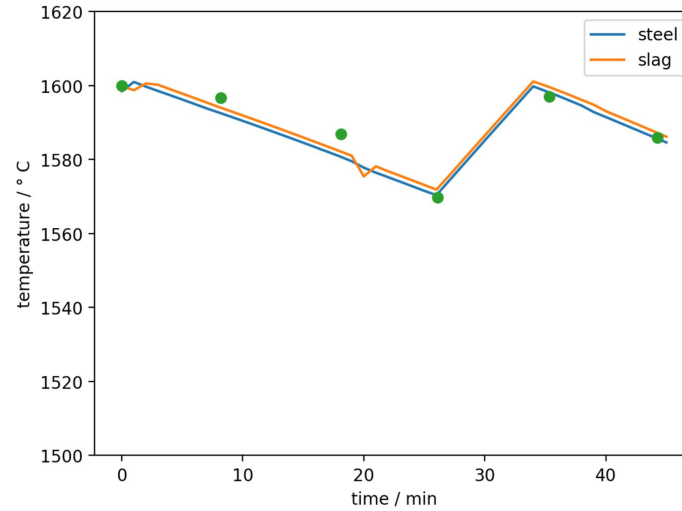
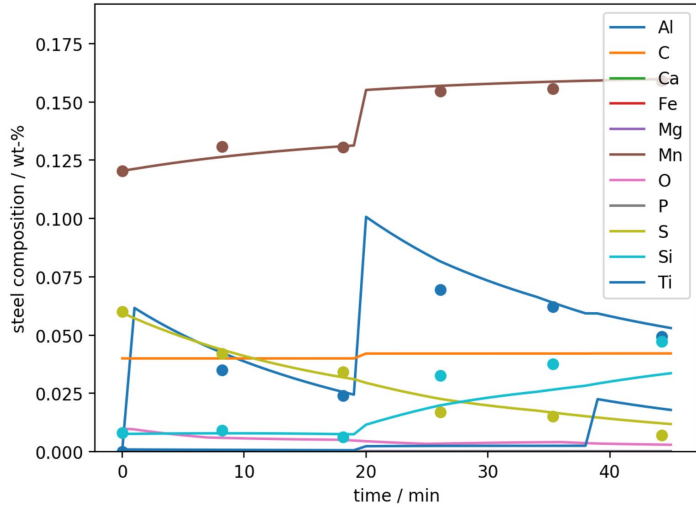
times = np.arange(0,time_end + delta_time,delta_time)
for sim_time in times:
    # material additions
    if len(additions) > 0:
        indices_to_remove = []
        for addition_index,addition in enumerate(additions):
            if sim_time / 60 >= addition["time_in_min"]:
                if addition["zone"]== "reaction_zone":
                    calc.add_material_to_reaction_zone_at_time("steel","slag",addition["material"],sim_time)
                else:
                    calc.add_material_to_zone_at_time(addition["zone"],addition["material"],sim_time)
                indices_to_remove.append(addition_index)
        for index in sorted(indices_to_remove,reverse=True):
            del additions[index]
result = calc.calculate()
times = np.array(result.get_times())
```

→ Calculate (app. 10 min)

→ Plot



# Python calculation results



# Release of Thermo-Calc's Process Metallurgy Module!

Calculator configuration - 2020b Process simulation new proc

Configuration

Process Metallurgy Calculator 1

Conditions Options

**Kinetics**

Equilibrium  Process simulation

**Conditions**

Database: TCOX9  
Thermal control: Adiabatic  
Temperature: Celcius  
Time unit: Minutes

Hot metal p... Ta... BOF    Ladle    Ladle... Vacuum    Tundish

Hot Metal pretreatment BOF Tapping/Deox Ladle Ladle transfer Vacuum Tundish

Name: Hot metal pre-treatment  
Duration: 15    Time-step: 0.5

**Process model**

Process: Hot metal pre-treatment    Edit process

**Material**

Carry over:  
95 % of total amount from 'Steel' to: Steel  
10 % of total amount from 'Slag' to: Slag

**Additions:**

Material: Steel    Steel 18/8    with temperature: 25.0  
Added to: Zone    Steel    Show composition

Link processing steps  
→ Digital Twin of process



# Thank you!

Contact: [nicholas@thermocalc.com](mailto:nicholas@thermocalc.com)

...and please visit our booth

