

# Thermodynamic Modeling of Oxide Phases in the Mn-O System

YOUN-BAE KANG and IN-HO JUNG

A critical evaluation and thermodynamic modeling for thermodynamic properties of all oxide phases and phase diagrams in the Mn-O system are presented. Optimized Gibbs energy parameters for the thermodynamic models of the oxide phases were obtained which reproduce all available and reliable experimental data within error limits from 298 K (25 °C) to above the liquidus temperature at compositions covering from MnO to MnO<sub>2</sub>, and oxygen partial pressure from 10<sup>-15</sup> to 10<sup>2</sup> (bar). The optimized thermodynamic properties and phase diagrams are believed to be the best estimates presently available. Two spinel phases ( $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) were modeled using Compound Energy Formalism (CEF) with the use of physically meaningful parameters. Valence states of the spinels are interpreted based on the available thermopower measurement, for which Mn<sup>4+</sup> was considered in the cubic spinel ( $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>). The present Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> spinel solutions can be integrated into a larger spinel solution database, which has been already developed. The database of the model parameters can be used along with a software for Gibbs energy minimization in order to calculate any type of phase diagram sections and thermodynamic properties.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

MANGANESE oxides are of great interest in metallurgical fields (iron and steelmaking, ferroalloy production), since the manganese plays an important role as a major alloying element in steel, and manganese silicate is one of the abundant inclusions in steels. Also manganese oxides have been interesting materials for their applications to oxide fuel cell as one of the energy materials, and magnetic storage materials. Mn nodule under pacific ocean also has been interesting as noble metal resources. Therefore, knowledge for the manganese oxide containing system is valuable to the industries. In this regard, a research on the thermodynamic properties and phase equilibria in the Mn-O system is necessary. Extensive reviews of several investigations and comparisons of data obtained in the Mn-O system were given by Wang and Sundman<sup>[1]</sup> and Grundy *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> by critical evaluations and thermodynamic assessments.

Apart from metallic Mn ( $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -,  $\gamma$ -,  $\delta$ -Mn and L-Mn), the Mn-O system is composed of the following phases: manganosite (Mn<sub>1-x</sub>O), hausmannite ( $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>),

bixbyite ( $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), pyrolusite (MnO<sub>2</sub>), and liquid oxide (slag). Mn may exist as divalent, trivalent, and tetravalent ions in those oxide phases depending on phase, temperature, and oxygen partial pressure. Non-stoichiometries of the Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and MnO<sub>2</sub> are very small, while manganosite deviates considerably from its stoichiometry at high temperature/oxygen partial pressure. Non-stoichiometries of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> were observed.<sup>[3]</sup>

The earlier thermodynamic assessment by Wang and Sundman<sup>[1]</sup> used Compound Energy Formalism<sup>[4]</sup> to model the manganosite and Two Sublattice Ionic Model<sup>[5]</sup> for the liquid phase which extends from metallic liquid to ionic liquid. Other phases were regarded as stoichiometric compounds. Later, Grundy *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> pointed out that the thermodynamic description of Wang and Sundman<sup>[1]</sup> had some flaws and they re-assessed the Mn-O system using the same modeling approach but different set of model parameters. In both studies,  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> were treated as stoichiometric compounds.

However, when an optimized thermodynamic database of the Mn-O system is to be integrated into an already developed large thermodynamic database, keeping consistency between the databases is indispensable. Since the manganese spinels ( $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, both) form extensive solid solutions with Fe, Al, Cr, Co, Mg, *etc.*,<sup>[6]</sup>  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> have to be modeled as a part of larger thermodynamic database of spinel solid solution, for example, developed at the CRCT, École Polytechnique de Montréal.<sup>[7]</sup> Therefore, in the present study, it has been attempted to

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model both  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> spinels as solutions, not stoichiometric compounds. Recently, Kjellqvist and Selleby updated thermodynamic modeling of the Mn-O system by Grundy *et al.*,<sup>[2]</sup> by taking into account the two spinel phases as a part of larger solution composed of Fe-Mn-O,<sup>[8]</sup> but only limited results were presented in their article.

The present study is a part of a complete database development of the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-CaO-CoO-CrO-Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Cu<sub>2</sub>O-FeO-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-MgO-MnO-Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-NiO-PbO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub>-Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-ZnO systems for applications in the ferrous, non-ferrous, ceramic, and electric/electronic industries. In particular, in conjunction with the present study of Mn oxide, critical evaluation and thermodynamic optimization for the Mn-Cr-O system were already published,<sup>[9]</sup> and those of Fe-Mn-O, Mn-Si-O, and Fe-Mn-Si-O systems will be described elsewhere.<sup>[10,11]</sup> Some of the results obtained in the present study was presented in a conference proceeding.<sup>[12]</sup> All the thermodynamic calculations in the present study were carried out using FactSage.<sup>[13,14]</sup>

## II. THERMODYNAMIC MODELS

Figure 1 shows a phase diagram of the Mn-O system as a function of temperature and oxygen partial pressure, calculated from the thermodynamic models of the present study. The following phases are found in this system: Slag, Mn<sub>1-x</sub>O,  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>,  $\alpha$ -Mn,  $\beta$ -Mn,  $\gamma$ -Mn,  $\delta$ -Mn, and liquid Mn (L-Mn).

### A. $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (Spinel)

Thermodynamic models for the spinel solutions were developed using two sublattice model within the framework of the Compound Energy Formalism (CEF).<sup>[22]</sup> Using the model, a thermodynamic database for a multicomponent spinel composed of Al-Co-Cr-Fe-Mg-Ni-Zn-O has been developed.<sup>[7]</sup> In the present study, this model was extended to incorporate Mn. Moreover, since the model and the database were previously developed only for the cubic spinel, a new thermodynamic model using the similar approach (CEF) was developed for the tetragonal spinel ( $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>).

In the cubic spinel, oxygen ions form a fcc close packing structure. Cations occupy half of octahedral interstices and one-eighth of tetrahedral interstices. The number of the octahedral sites is twice the number of the tetrahedral sites. Therefore, a formula unit of spinel may be written as  $(i)^T[j]_2^O O_4$ . For the tetragonal spinel, the same close packing scheme of oxygen in the tetragonal structure may be used. Additional interstitial site to describe a deviation toward Mn side was not considered in the present study.

The Gibbs energy expression in the CEF per formula unit of spinel is

$$G = \sum_i \sum_j y_i^T y_j^O G_{ij} - TS^{\text{config}} + G^{\text{excess}} + G^{\text{magnetic}}, \quad [1]$$

where  $y_i^T$  and  $y_j^O$  represent the site fractions of species  $i$  and  $j$  on the tetrahedral and octahedral sites, and  $G_{ij}$

is the Gibbs energy of an “end-member”  $(i)^T[j]_2^O O_4$  of the solution, in which the first sublattice is occupied only by the species  $i$  and the second sublattice only by the species  $j$ .  $S^{\text{config}}$  is the configurational entropy assuming random mixing on each sublattice:

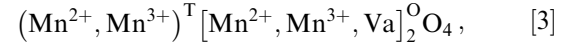
$$S^{\text{config}} = -R \left( \sum_i y_i^T \ln y_i^T + 2 \sum_j y_j^O \ln y_j^O \right). \quad [2]$$

$G^{\text{magnetic}}$  is the contribution of magnetic properties on the Gibbs energy, which is explained in Section II-E.

Since the Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> exhibits two different structures (tetragonal and cubic), thermodynamic modeling was carried out separately in the present study.

#### 1. $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (tetragonal spinel)

For the tetragonal Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> spinel solution, the following model structure was considered:



for which the reason is discussed in detail in Section III-B.

In the present study, no excess Gibbs energy terms were required, that is  $G^{\text{excess}} = 0$ . The Gibbs energy of the tetragonal spinel solution is thus fully defined by the Gibbs energies  $G_{ij}$  of the six end-members. These are denoted as  $G_{JJ}$ ,  $G_{JK}$ ,  $G_{JV}$ ,  $G_{KJ}$ ,  $G_{KK}$ , and  $G_{KV}$ , where J, K, and V mean Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>3+</sup>, and Va, respectively. These are also connected each other by certain linear combinations of the  $G_{ij}$ , having physical sense as

$$G_{JK}, \quad [4]$$

$$G_{KJ} = G_{JK}, \quad [5]$$

$$G_{KK} = G_{JK} + I_{JK}, \quad [6]$$

$$G_{JJ} = G_{JK} - I_{JK} + \Delta_{JK}, \quad [7]$$

$$G_{KV} = 8G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \gamma) - 2RT(5 \ln 5 - 6 \ln 6) - 5G_{JK} - 5I_{JK}, \quad [8]$$

$$G_{JV} = \Delta_{JK} - \Delta_{KJV} - 6I_{JK} + 8G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \gamma) - 2RT(5 \ln 5 - 6 \ln 6) - 5G_{JK}. \quad [9]$$

$G_{JK}$  represents a Gibbs energy of  $(\text{Mn}^{2+})^T[\text{Mn}^{3+}]_2^O \text{O}_4$  end-member in the tetragonal spinel structure.  $G_{KJ}$  was set to the same to  $G_{JK}$  as the reference state for charged end-members of spinels, as was done for cubic spinel.<sup>[22]</sup>  $I_{JK}$  was used to set  $G_{KK}$ , and represents degree of inversion of cation distribution.  $\Delta_{JK}$  was used to set  $G_{JJ}$ . Gibbs energy of end-members containing Va ( $G_{KV}$  and  $G_{JV}$ ) were described by Eqs. [8] and [9], using Gibbs energy of a hypothetical “ $\gamma$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>” (Mn deficient spinel structure). The Gibbs energy of the “ $\gamma$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>” was optimized in order to model experimentally observed

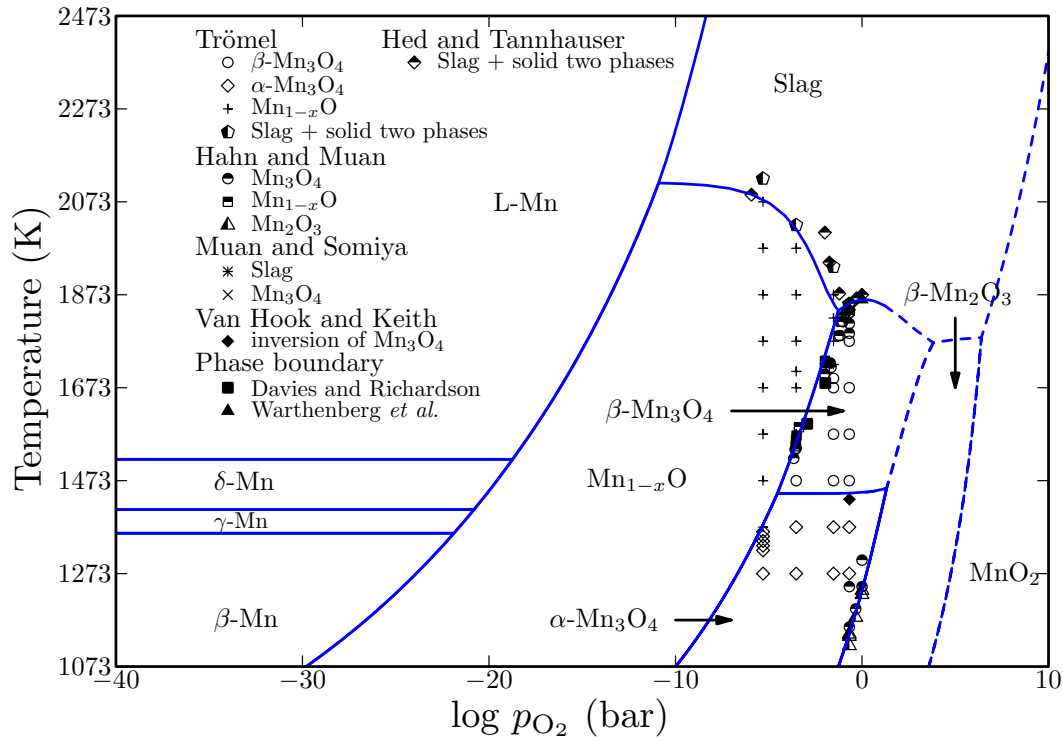


Fig. 1—Calculated phase diagram of the Mn-O system along with experimental data.<sup>[20,21,55,67–70]</sup>

**Table I. Optimized Model Parameters for Tetragonal Spinel Phases**

Tetragonal Spinel:  $(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{3+})_{\text{T}}[\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{3+}, \text{Va}]_{\text{O}}\text{O}_4^*$

$$G_{\text{JK}} = 7 \times (-200290.47 - 2.56T - 0.002914T^2 - 0.0001736T^3), \quad T < 70 \text{ K}$$

$$= 7 \times (-192269.76 + 209.89T - 32.27T \ln T - 41304.25T^{-1} - 364.67T^{-0.5} - 2290.5 \ln T), \quad 70 \text{ K} < T < 1445 \text{ K}$$

$$G_{\text{KJ}} = G_{\text{JK}}$$

$$G_{\text{KK}} = G_{\text{JK}} + I_{\text{JK}}$$

$$G_{\text{JJ}} = G_{\text{JK}} - I_{\text{JK}} + \Delta_{\text{JK}}$$

$$G_{\text{KV}} = 8G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \gamma) - 2RT(5 \ln 5 - 6 \ln 6) - 5G_{\text{JK}} - 5I_{\text{JK}}, \quad \text{where } G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \gamma) = G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \beta) + 20,920$$

$$G_{\text{JV}} = \Delta_{\text{JK}} - \Delta_{\text{KJV}} - 6I_{\text{JK}} + 8G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \gamma) - 2RT(5 \ln 5 - 6 \ln 6) - 5G_{\text{JK}}$$

$$I_{\text{JK}} = G_{\text{KK}} + G_{\text{KJ}} - 2G_{\text{JK}} = 98,324$$

$$\Delta_{\text{JK}} = G_{\text{JJ}} + G_{\text{KK}} - G_{\text{JK}} - G_{\text{KJ}} = 40,000$$

$$\Delta_{\text{KJV}} = G_{\text{JJ}} + G_{\text{KV}} - G_{\text{KJ}} - G_{\text{JV}} = -941190.8 + 627.6T$$

Magnetic properties

$$\beta_{\text{JK}} = \beta'_{\text{JK}} = -3 \times 7.91 \text{ (average magnetic moment per atom)}$$

$$T_{\text{JK}} = T'_{\text{JK}} = -3 \times 43.19 \text{ K (Néel temperature)}$$

$$p = 0.28$$

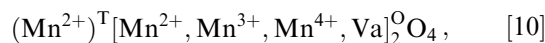
\*Notation A, E, J, K, L and V are used for  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  and vacancy, respectively.

non-stoichiometry of  $\alpha\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ <sup>[3]</sup> toward O-rich side, assuming an ideal dissolution of a hypothetical “ $\gamma\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ” (Mn deficient spinel structure) in the spinel.

All the parameters are listed in Table I.

## 2. Cubic spinel solution ( $\beta\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ )

For the cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  spinel solution, the following model structure was considered:



for which the reason is discussed in detail in Section III-B. As was done for the tetragonal spinel, no excess Gibbs energy terms were required, that is  $G^{\text{excess}} = 0$ . The Gibbs energy of the cubic spinel solution is thus fully defined by the Gibbs energies  $G_{ij}$  of the four end-members. These are denoted as  $G_{\text{JJ}}$ ,  $G_{\text{JK}}$ ,  $G_{\text{JL}}$ , and  $G_{\text{JV}}$ , where J, K, L, and V mean  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ , and Va, respectively. Since the present study is part of a larger effort aimed at developing a complete database for multicomponent spinel, it is

necessary to maintain consistency in parameters which are common to several sub-systems. Therefore, although only  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  spinel is considered in this article, the Gibbs energies of end-members  $G_{ij}$  in the Mn-O system are linked to the Gibbs energies of end-members in other sub-systems. In the present study, Gibbs energies of end-members in the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,<sup>[22]</sup> and  $(\text{Fe,Mn})_3\text{O}_4$ <sup>[10]</sup> which was simultaneously optimized in the present study, were used as parts of Gibbs energies of end-members in the  $\beta\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ . Also, certain linear combinations of the  $G_{ij}$ , which have physical sense, are used as the optimized model parameters. These linear combinations are related each other as

$$G_{\text{JK}}, \quad [11]$$

$$G_{\text{JJ}} = -2G_{\text{AE}} - 2I_{\text{AE}} + 3G_{\text{JE}} + I_{\text{JE}} + \Delta_{\text{JE}}, \quad [12]$$

$$G_{\text{JL}} = 2G_{\text{JK}} - G_{\text{JJ}} + \Delta_{\text{JL}}, \quad [13]$$

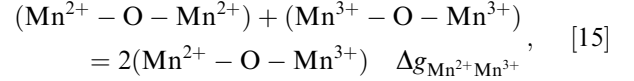
$$G_{\text{JV}} = \frac{5}{7}G_{\text{JK}} + V_x, \quad [14]$$

where A and E represent  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , respectively.  $G_{\text{JK}}$  represents Gibbs energy of  $(\text{Mn}^{2+})^{\text{T}}[\text{Mn}^{3+}]_2^{\text{O}}\text{O}_4$  end-member in the cubic spinel structure.  $V_x$  is used to set  $G_{\text{JV}}$  in order to reproduce non-stoichiometry of  $\beta\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  toward O-rich side, followed by the suggestion of Degterov *et al.*<sup>[22]</sup>  $\Delta_{\text{JL}}$  is used to set  $G_{\text{JL}}$  in order to reproduce the degree of inversion. Description of  $G_{\text{JJ}}$  is connected to the Gibbs energy of other end-members in the Fe-O system<sup>[22]</sup> and those in the Fe-Mn-O system, which can be found elsewhere.<sup>[10]</sup> All the parameters are listed in Table II.

### B. Slag (Molten Oxide)

For the slag (molten oxide) phase, the Modified Quasichemical Model in the pair approximation (MQM) was used.<sup>[15,16]</sup> This model has been recently further developed and summarized.<sup>[17,18]</sup> Short-range

ordering (SRO) is taken into account by considering second-nearest neighbor (SNN) pair exchange reactions. For example, for the  $\text{MnO-MnO}_{1.5}$  slag, this reaction is



where (*i*-*O*-*j*) represents a SNN pair. The parameter of the model is the Gibbs energy of this pair forming reaction,  $\Delta g_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{3+}}$ , which may be expanded as empirical functions of composition. There being no evidence to the contrary in the present optimization, it was assumed that only  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  are considered for the molten oxide. ‘‘Coordination numbers’’ of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  required in the MQM were set to be 1.3774 ( $Z_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{2+}}$ ) and 2.0662 ( $Z_{\text{Mn}^{3+}\text{Mn}^{3+}}$ ), respectively. Gibbs energy of pure liquid MnO was taken from Wu *et al.*<sup>[19]</sup> However, a pure liquid ‘‘ $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ’’ is not stable under normal condition, and its thermodynamic properties has not been known. Therefore, in the present study, the Gibbs energy of hypothetical liquid ‘‘ $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ’’ was assumed to be 2.5 times of Gibbs energy of the pure liquid MnO, and an additional enthalpic term was used as a model parameter during optimization in order to reproduce measured liquidus temperatures<sup>[20,21]</sup> (Actual model component is  $\text{MnO}_{1.5}$ , not  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ).  $\Delta g_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{-Mn}^{3+}}$  was set to zero. The optimized thermodynamic values for the molten oxide are shown in Table III.

### C. Manganosite Solution ( $\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{O}$ )

The manganosite solution of rock-salt structure was modeled as a simple random mixture of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ions on cation site using a simple polynomial excess Gibbs energy. It is assumed that cation vacancies associate with the  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  cation in order to maintain electrical neutrality and do not contribute to the configurational entropy independently. The Gibbs energy per mole of the solution is given as

$$\begin{aligned} G = & X_{\text{Mn}^{2+}}G_{\text{MnO}} + X_{\text{Mn}^{3+}}G_{\text{MnO}_{1.5}} \\ & + RT(X_{\text{Mn}^{2+}} \ln X_{\text{Mn}^{2+}} + X_{\text{Mn}^{3+}} \ln X_{\text{Mn}^{3+}}) \quad [16] \\ & + X_{\text{Mn}^{2+}}X_{\text{Mn}^{3+}}L_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{3+}} \end{aligned}$$

**Table II. Optimized Model Parameters for Cubic Spinel Phases**

Cubic Spinel:  $(\text{Mn}^{2+})^{\text{T}}[\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{3+}, \text{Mn}^{4+}, \text{Va}]_2^{\text{O}}\text{O}_4^*$

$$G_{\text{JK}} = 7 \times (-189699.33 + 207.82T - 32.27T \ln T - 41304.25T^{-1} - 364.67T^{-0.5} - 2290.5 \ln T)$$

$$G_{\text{JJ}} = -2G_{\text{AE}} - 2I_{\text{AE}} + 3G_{\text{JE}} + I_{\text{JE}} + \Delta_{\text{JE}}$$

$$G_{\text{JL}} = 2G_{\text{JK}} - G_{\text{JJ}} + \Delta_{\text{JL}}$$

$$G_{\text{JV}} = \frac{5}{7}G_{\text{JK}} + V_x$$

$$\Delta_{\text{JL}} = 26210 - 17.46T$$

$$V_x = 679021.36 - 264.99T$$

$$G_{\text{AE}} = 7 \times (-161655.14 + 144.93T - 0.00116417T^2 - 24.976T \ln T + 206468T^{-1})^{[22]}$$

$$I_{\text{AE}} = -31229 + 22.063T$$

$$G_{\text{JE}} = 7 \times (-183138 + 167.46T - 28.11T \ln T + 227857T^{-1})^{[10]}$$

$$I_{\text{JE}} = 16963.13 + 16.79T^{[10]}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{JE}} = 40,000^{[10]}$$

\*Notation A, E, J, K, L and V are used for  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  and vacancy, respectively.  $G_{\text{AE}}$  and  $I_{\text{AE}}$  are a Gibbs energy of end-member and a model parameter used in the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  spinel and are given in Degterov *et al.*<sup>[22]</sup>  $G_{\text{JE}}$ ,  $I_{\text{JE}}$  and  $\Delta_{\text{JE}}$  are a Gibbs energy of end-member and model parameters used in the  $(\text{Fe,Mn})_3\text{O}_4$  spinel and are given in Kang and Jung.<sup>[10]</sup>



**Table III. Optimized Model Parameters for Slag, Manganosite, and Stoichiometric Compounds**

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Manganosite: (MnO-MnO<sub>1.5</sub>)  
 $G(\text{MnO}) = G^\circ(\text{MnO, solid})^*$   
 $G(\text{MnO}_{1.5}) = 0.5G^\circ(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \beta) + 12001.8 - 4.87T$   
 $q_{\text{MnO, MnO}_{1.5}}^{20} = 20,920$

Slag: (MnO-MnO<sub>1.5</sub>)\*\*  
 $G(\text{MnO}) = G^\circ(\text{MnO, liquid})^*$   
 $G(\text{MnO}_{1.5}) = 1.25G^\circ(\text{MnO, liquid}) + 25731.6$   
 $\Delta g_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{3+}} = 0$

Stoichiometric compounds

$G(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \alpha) = -961204.54 - 10.27T - 0.075T \ln T - 40.833 \times 10^{-5}T^3, T < 100\text{K}$   
 $= -963053.57 + 672.49T - 96.35T \ln T - 0.0927T^2 - 3028.61T^{0.5}, 100\text{K} < T < 308\text{K}$  (Néel temperature)  
 $\beta = -3 \times 2.439, T_N = -3 \times 79.45$

$G(\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \beta) = -1512892.14 + 26796.59T - 5081T \ln T + 15.56T^2 - 0.0081T^3, 308\text{K} < T < 320\text{K}$   
 $-945439.49 + 813.45T - 133.5T \ln T - 0.006T^2 + 143152.38T^{-1} - 10000 \ln T, 320\text{K} < T$

$G(\text{MnO}_2) = -526358.49 - 7.80T - 0.015T \ln T - 9.83 \times 10^{-7}T^4, T < 113\text{K}$   
 $= -521554.48 + 947.57T - 126.28T \ln T - 5738.46T^{0.5} + 3246.06 \ln T, 113\text{K} < T$  (Néel temperature)  
 $\beta = -3 \times 1.5562, T_N = -3 \times 92.2$

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\* Parameters of the MQM is defined in Ref. [17].

\*\* The Gibbs energies of pure solid and liquid MnO were taken from Wu *et al.*[19]

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where  $L_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{3+}}$  may be expanded as a function of polynomial:

$$L_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{3+}} = \sum_{i,j \geq 0} q_{\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}^{3+}}^{ij} X_{\text{Mn}^{2+}}^i X_{\text{Mn}^{3+}}^j \quad [17]$$

#### D. Metallic Phases

All metallic Mn ( $\alpha$ -Mn,  $\beta$ -Mn,  $\gamma$ -Mn,  $\delta$ -Mn, and L-Mn) were treated as stoichiometric phases and their Gibbs energies were taken from Dinsdale.[23]

#### E. Magnetic Properties

$\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and MnO<sub>2</sub> have magnetic transition associated with Néel temperatures. Their magnetic contributions to the Gibbs energies were considered by an empirical relationship suggested by Inden[24] and modified by Hillert and Jarl.[25] Although the suggested Gibbs energy equation for the magnetic property was developed for cubic (FCC, BCC) and hexagonal (HCP) structures,[25] in the present study, the same equation with the same  $p$  factor for FCC ( $p = 0.28$ ) was assumed for  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (tetragonal),  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (orthorhombic), and MnO<sub>2</sub> (tetragonal) phases.

### III. CRITICAL EVALUATION OF EXPERIMENTAL DATA AND THERMODYNAMIC OPTIMIZATION

#### A. Thermodynamic and Magnetic Properties

Gibbs energy of stoichiometric MnO was taken from Wu *et al.*[19]

Low-temperature heat capacities and heat contents of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and MnO<sub>2</sub> were measured by a number of researchers. Millar measured the heat capacities of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and MnO<sub>2</sub> calorimetrically down to  $\sim 72\text{K}$  ( $-201\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ).[26] He did not observe  $\lambda$ -type anomaly of heat capacity of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, which was later found by Robie and Hemingway[27] and Chhor *et al.*[28] at  $\sim 43\text{K}$  ( $-230\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ). Also, the measured heat capacity of MnO<sub>2</sub> by Millar is systematically higher than later measurements by Robie and Hemingway[27] and Kelley and Moore.[29] Kelley and Moore pointed out that Millar's calibration on his calorimeter had small error which caused the systematic error. Other measurements of the heat capacities of Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> by King[30] and Robie and Hemingway[27] were in good agreement with each other. Robie and Hemingway also observed a broad change of heat capacity near  $307.5\text{K}$  ( $34.5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ), which is associated with the orthorhombic to cubic transition discovered by Geller and Espinosa.[31] All the measured heat capacity data are shown in Figures 2 through 4 with optimized heat capacities in the present study. By fitting the heat capacities considering magnetic transitions, the third law entropies for these phases were calculated as  $168.06\text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$  for the Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,  $115.78\text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$  for the Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and  $53.48\text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$  for the MnO<sub>2</sub>, while the reported values are in the ranges of  $154.07$  to  $167.1\text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$  for the Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,  $110.5$  to  $113.7\text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$  for the Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and  $52.75$  to  $58.32\text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$  for the MnO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>[2]</sup> All these phases experience phase transitions from the antiferromagnetic to the paramagnetic states and corresponding Néel temperatures are shown in Tables I and III along with optimized magnetic momentum  $\beta$ . Large heat capacity data of  $\alpha$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> at the magnetic transition temperature observed by Robie and Hemingway[27] and Chhor *et al.*[28] could not be accounted for by the current magnetic model of Hillert and Jarl.[25]

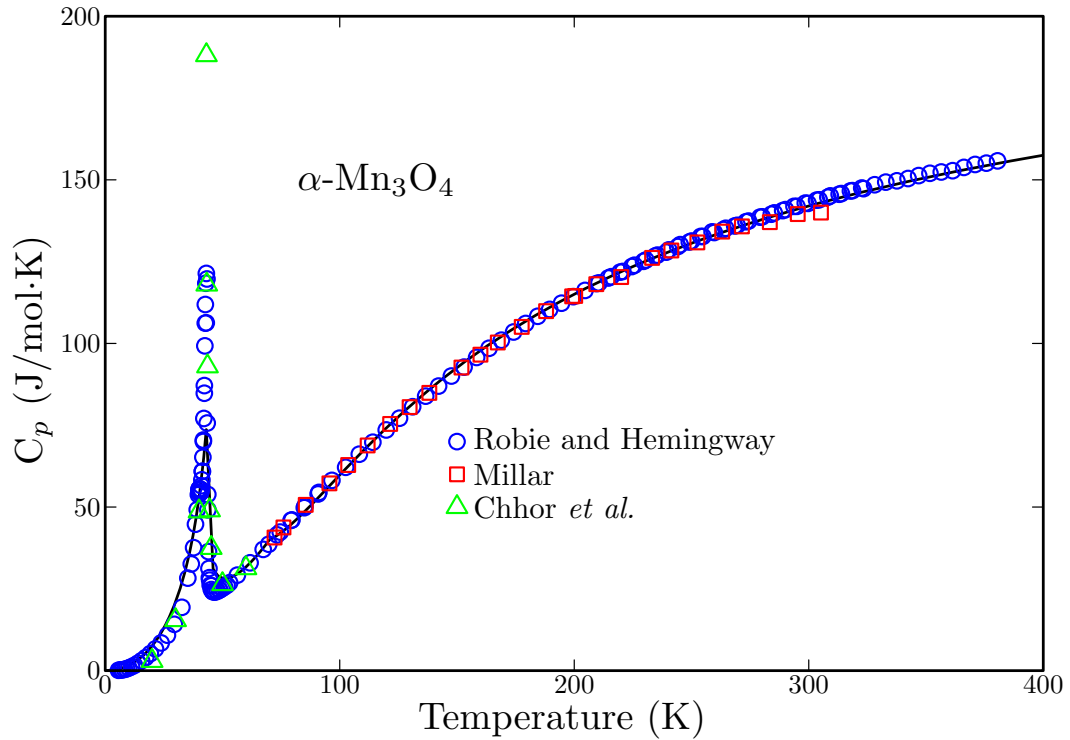


Fig. 2—Optimized heat capacity of  $\alpha$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  along with experimental data.<sup>[26–28]</sup>

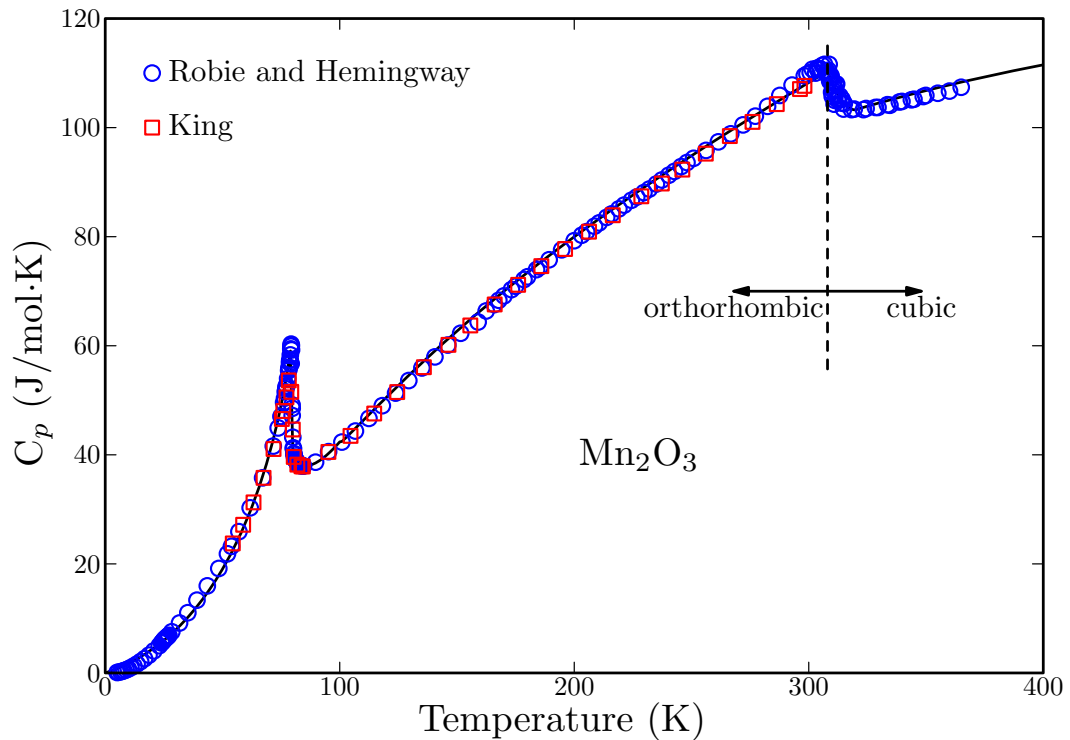


Fig. 3—Optimized heat capacity of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$  along with experimental data.<sup>[27,30]</sup>

Heat contents of  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ , and  $\text{MnO}_2$  were also measured calorimetrically by Fritsch and Navrotsky,<sup>[32]</sup> Southard and Moore,<sup>[33]</sup> Orr,<sup>[34]</sup> and Moore.<sup>[35]</sup> A discontinuity of heat content of  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  at 1441 K to

1448 K (1168 °C to 1175 °C) associated with  $\sim 20$  kJ/mol was observed by Southard and Moore.<sup>[33]</sup> This corresponds to the enthalpy of transformation from tetragonal to cubic structure of the  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  spinel.

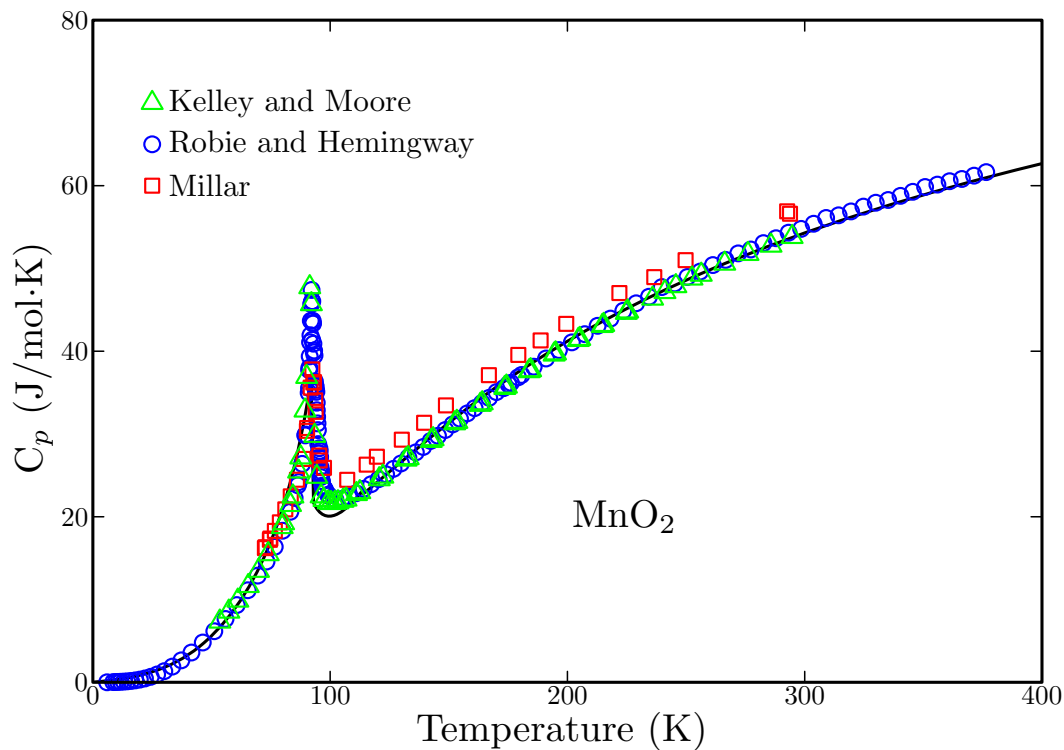


Fig. 4—Optimized heat capacity of  $\text{MnO}_2$  along with experimental data.<sup>[26,27,29]</sup>

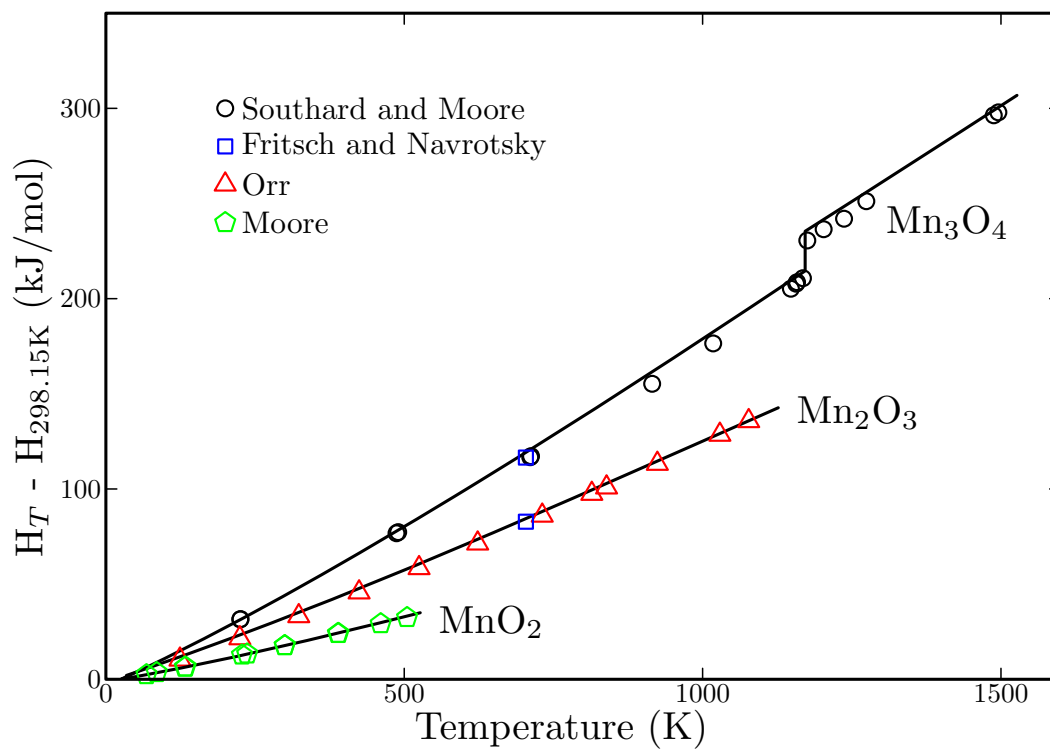


Fig. 5—Optimized heat contents of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ , and  $\text{MnO}_2$  along with experimental data.<sup>[32–35]</sup>

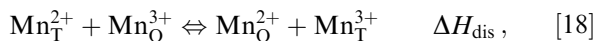
Optimized heat contents for these phases are in good agreement with the measured data as shown in Figure 5.

#### B. Valence State in Spinel

The valence state of cations in  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  is still controversial. Some investigations suggested “ $2+/4+$ ”

structure ( $\text{Mn}_2^{2+}\text{Mn}^{4+}\text{O}_4$ ),<sup>[36–38]</sup> while others are in favor of the “2+/3+” structure ( $\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Mn}_2^{3+}\text{O}_4$ ).<sup>[39–41]</sup> In spite of this controversy, it is generally accepted that  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  is almost normal spinel due to high site preference energies of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  for octahedral sites,<sup>[42–44]</sup> and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  in octahedral site is in charge of tetragonal distortion of spinel containing Mn.<sup>[40]</sup>

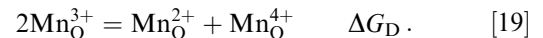
A later investigation by Dorris and Mason<sup>[45]</sup> using thermopower measurement on electrical properties and cation valences in  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  suggested that “2+/3+” structure cannot explain the electrical properties of the cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ . They observed a sudden increase of electrical conductivity and decrease of thermopower by passing the tetragonal-to-cubic transformation temperature. This implies a significant change of valence status between these two spinels. For the tetragonal  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , they concluded that the “2+/3+” structure is reasonable on the basis of a direct relationship between the concentration of octahedral  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and the tetragonal-to-cubic transformation temperature,<sup>[46,47]</sup> and the high transformation temperature in  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ . On the other hand, in order to see feasibility the “2+/3+” structure for the cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , they considered the following cation distribution reaction in sublattices:



where values for the  $\Delta H_{\text{dis}}$  have been estimated in the range of 75 to 80 kJ/mole.<sup>[42,43]</sup> Assuming that conduction can occur on either tetrahedral or octahedral sites, not simultaneously on both sites, they considered four possible conduction models for the cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  as follows:

1. The conduction occurs on octahedral sites by electron holes.
2. The conduction occurs on tetrahedral sites by electron holes.
3. The conduction occurs on octahedral sites by electrons.
4. The conduction occurs on tetrahedral sites by electrons.

Using the above four models along with appropriate site balance equation and the measured thermopower data, they showed that the models (1) and (3) gave site fraction of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  on tetrahedral site to be higher than 1. Also, derived enthalpy of the distribution reaction from the models 2 and 4 is calculated to be only 15 to 45 kJ/mole, as opposed to the reported values of 75 to 80 kJ/mole.<sup>[42,43]</sup> Moreover, non-insulating characteristic of cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  compared to near insulation of tetragonal  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  implies that the “2+/3+” structure is not appropriate to the cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , since the conduction can occur by electrons or electron holes between  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  in spite of high octahedral preference energy of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ . Hence, they employed an alternate model in which  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  was considered in octahedral sites along with  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ , while tetrahedral sites are assumed to be occupied solely by  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  due to high octahedral site preference energies of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ . The following “disproportionate equilibrium” was considered:



After careful considerations, they concluded that conduction proceeds by the hopping of electron holes between  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  on octahedral sites. Other conduction mechanisms (conduction by the hopping of electrons or electron holes between  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ , or conduction by the hopping of electrons between  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ ) seemed unlikely. Therefore, in the present study, the valence status of cubic spinel was followed by the suggestion of Dorris and Mason in which  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ , and  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  mix each other in octahedral site, while  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  is the only constituent in tetrahedral site, as seen in Eq. [10]. This is also confirmed by recent electrical conductivity measurement on manganese chromite ( $\text{MnCr}_2\text{O}_4$ ) of Lu *et al.*<sup>[48]</sup> that the  $\text{Mn}_2\text{CrO}_4$  can be thought as  $(\text{Mn}^{2+})_{\text{T}}[\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{3+}, \text{Mn}^{4+}, \text{Cr}^{3+}]_{\text{O}}\text{O}_4$ . (Manganese chromite was already modeled in the framework of the present spinel modeling by one of the present authors,<sup>[9]</sup> keeping consistency to this observation.)

For the tetragonal  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , the usual “2+/3+” model was used, as seen in Eq. [3]. Moreover, vacancy was also considered on octahedral sites for both  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  in order to model non-stoichiometries, although it is known to be very small.<sup>[3]</sup> However, it is also required to incorporate this spinel model into large spinel database already developed.<sup>[22]</sup>

Figure 6 shows the mole number of cations in each site per mole of  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  for tetragonal and cubic  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , derived from appropriate conduction mechanisms along with the measured thermopower data by Dorris and Mason,<sup>[45]</sup> as symbols. Lines in the Figure 6 are calculated in the present study. In order to reproduce the derived cation valencies in these spinels,  $\Delta_{\text{JL}}$  for the cubic spinel and  $I_{\text{JK}}$  and  $\Delta_{\text{JK}}$  for the tetragonal spinel were optimized. As seen in the figure,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  on octahedral site becomes dominant species during cubic-to-tetragonal transformation at 1445 K (1172 °C) in accord with the high preference energy of octahedral site of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ .

### C. Non-stoichiometry in Manganosite and Spinel

Manganosite ( $\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{O}$ ) has a non-stoichiometry toward oxygen due to oxidation of Mn ( $\text{Mn}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{Mn}^{3+}$ ) under high oxygen partial pressure. Contrary to wüstite ( $\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{O}$ ), the manganosite has also a non-stoichiometry toward Mn ( $-0.128 < x < 0$ ).<sup>[49]</sup> However, in the present study, only the non-stoichiometry toward oxygen was considered. Defect mechanism of the non-stoichiometry has generally been known to be cation vacancy.<sup>[50–54]</sup> However, most of those researches showed that a single defect species does not applicable over wide range of oxygen partial pressure. For example, experimental data of non-stoichiometry by Keller and Dieckmann<sup>[53]</sup> showed that isotherms of  $\log x$  (measured by TGA) vs  $\log p_{\text{O}_2}$  do not vary linearly. This implies that more than one defect species play in the manganosite. However, for the sake of simplicity, only



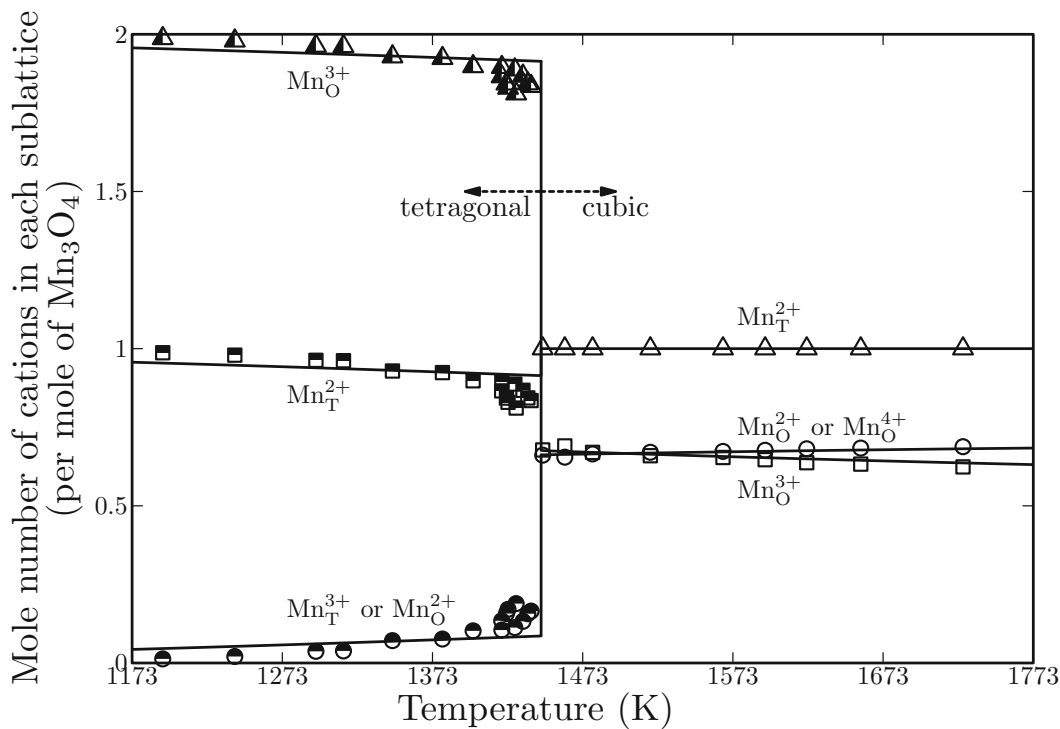


Fig. 6—Calculated cation distributions in  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ . For details, see Section III-B. Experimental data were taken from thermopower measurement.<sup>[45]</sup>

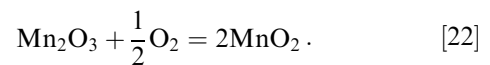
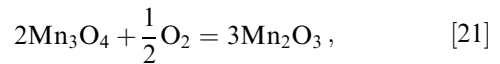
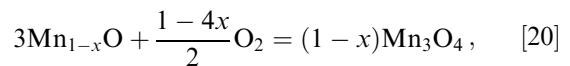
neutral cation vacancy associated with  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  in cationic site was considered in the present study. Figure 7 shows the measured defect concentration as functions of oxygen partial pressure at different temperatures. Lines are calculated in the present study assuming only the neutral cation vacancy as defect species. Agreement between experiments and calculations seems reasonable.

Non-stoichiometries of both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  are very small, and those were neglected in previous thermodynamic assessments.<sup>[1,2]</sup> In fact, thermogravimetrically measured non-stoichiometry of  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  is maximum 0.05% of total cation site.<sup>[55]</sup> However, in order to keep consistency with already developed spinel model by Degterov *et al.*<sup>[22]</sup> and extend thermodynamic database for spinel solid solution, it was tried to model the non-stoichiometries of spinels in the present study. For the  $\alpha$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , it was assumed that the vacancy in the octahedral site was generated due to the dissolution of hypothetical “ $\gamma$ - $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ .” For the  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ , however, it was assumed that no  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ion in tetrahedral site exists. Consequently, the same approach for tetragonal spinel could not be applicable. Therefore, as suggested by Degterov *et al.*,<sup>[22]</sup> the parameter  $V_x$  was fitted to the experimental data of oxygen non-stoichiometry, directly. Figures 8 and 9 show the calculated non-stoichiometries in  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  along with experimental data by Keller and Dieckmann.<sup>[3]</sup> Non-stoichiometry toward MnO was neglected, and the corresponding experimental data by Keller and Dieckmann<sup>[53]</sup> are not shown. Hahn and Muan also carried out to measure

excess oxygen in  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  using quenching and titration analysis.<sup>[55]</sup> However, their results of non-stoichiometry of  $\text{Mn}_{3-x}\text{O}_4$  was quiet larger ( $x$  up to 0.008) than those of Keller and Dieckmann<sup>[3]</sup> ( $x$  up to 0.0015) and scattered. Therefore, the data of Hahn and Muan<sup>[55]</sup> was not considered in the present study.

#### D. Equilibrium Oxygen Partial Pressures

In the Mn-O system, the following redox reactions can be considered:



A number of investigations have been carried out in order to measure the equilibrium oxygen partial pressure of the above reactions using EMF or manometer. Extensive review on these investigations are given by Grundy *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> The measured experimental data<sup>[56-65]</sup> are compared along with the calculations in the present study and shown in Figure 10. Experimental data (equilibrium oxygen partial pressure) for the Reaction [20] are in generally good agreement with those

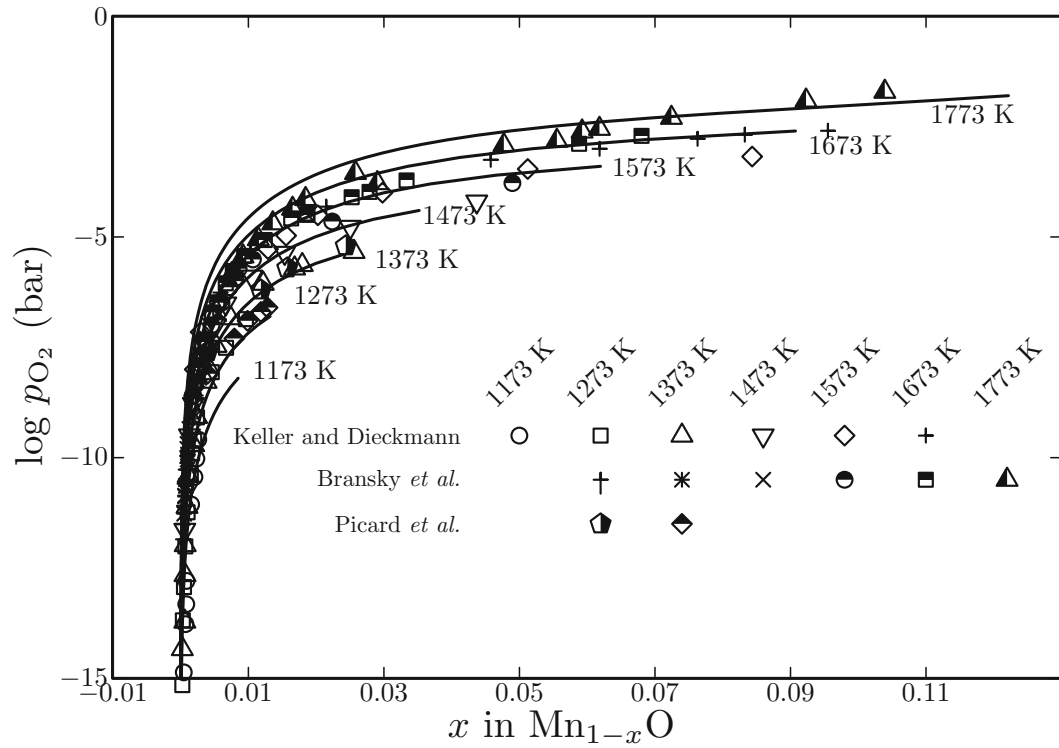


Fig. 7—Calculated oxygen partial pressures over manganosite at various temperatures along with experimental data.<sup>[51-53]</sup>

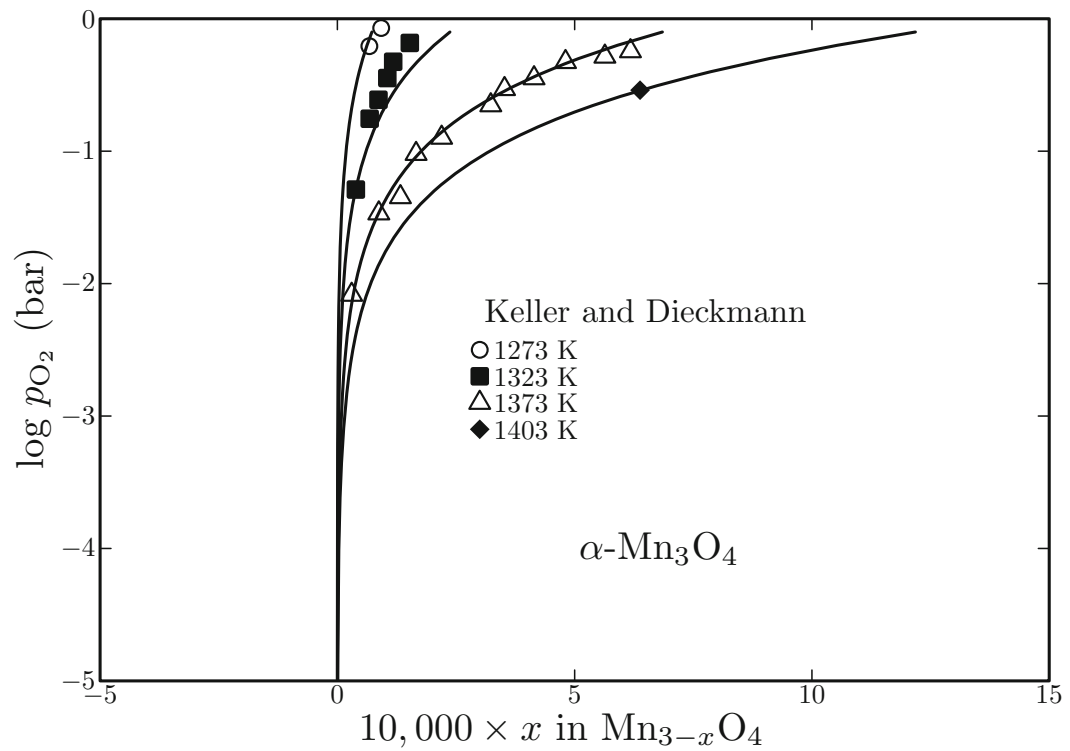


Fig. 8—Calculated oxygen partial pressures over  $\alpha$ - $Mn_3O_4$  at various temperatures along with experimental data.<sup>[3]</sup>

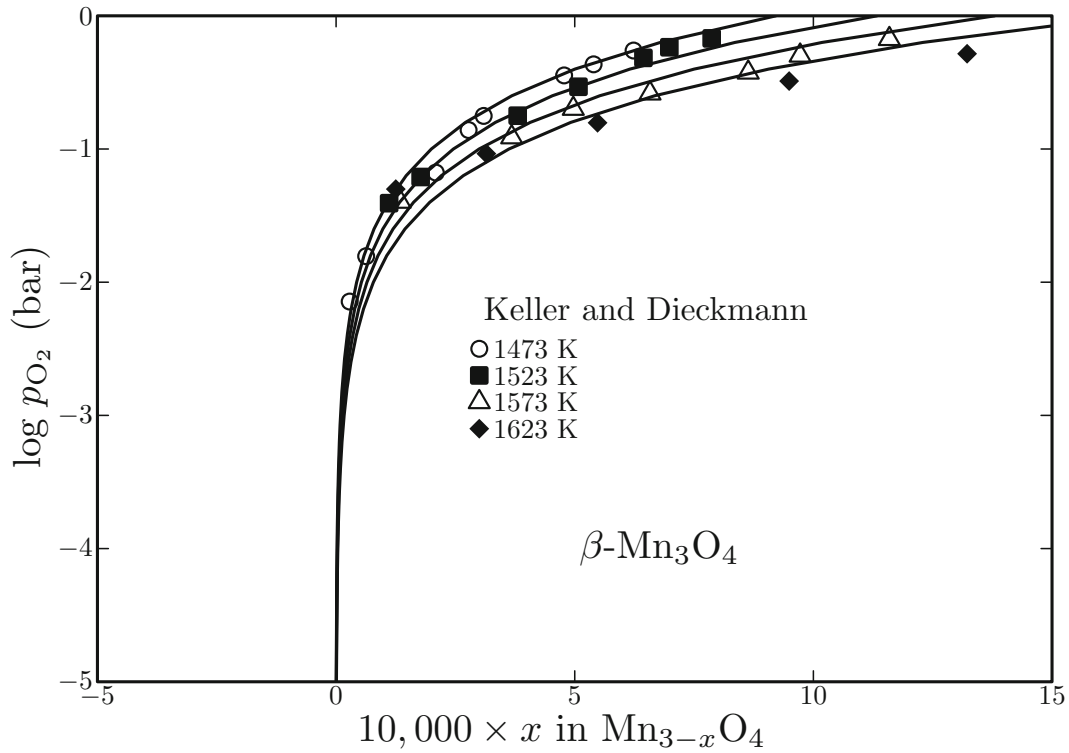


Fig. 9—Calculated oxygen partial pressures over  $\beta$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  at various temperatures along with experimental data.<sup>[3]</sup>

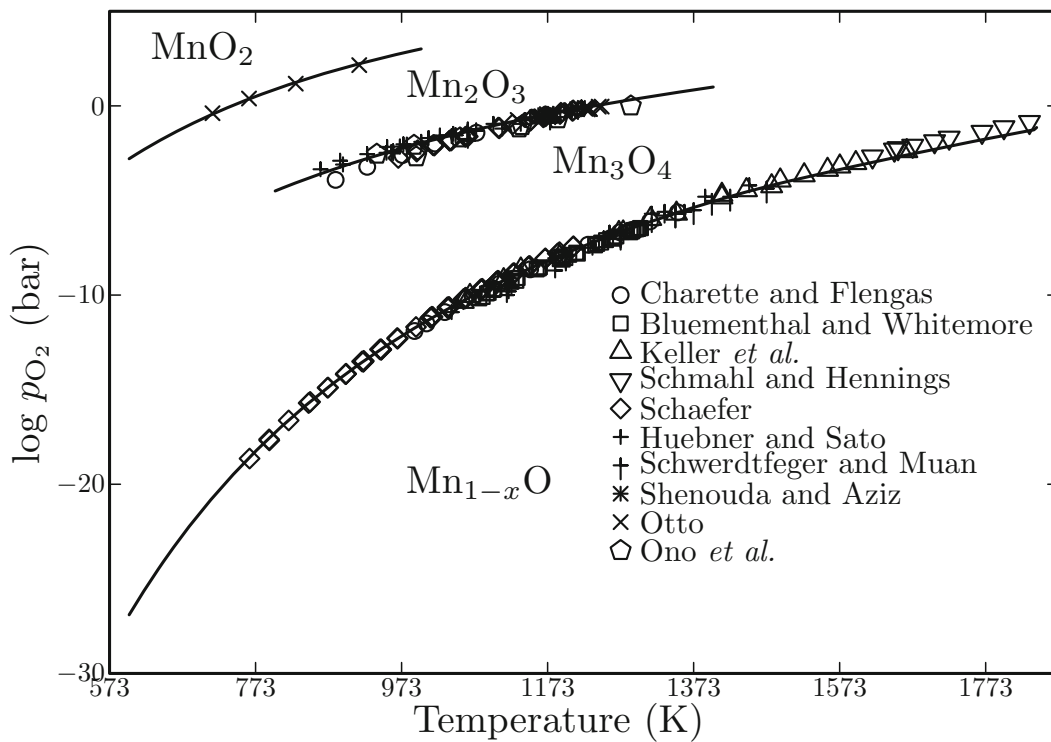


Fig. 10—Calculated oxygen partial pressures in three-phase equilibria (gas phase with  $\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{O}$ - $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ - $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{MnO}_2$ ), as functions of temperature, along with experimental data.<sup>[56-59,61-65]</sup>

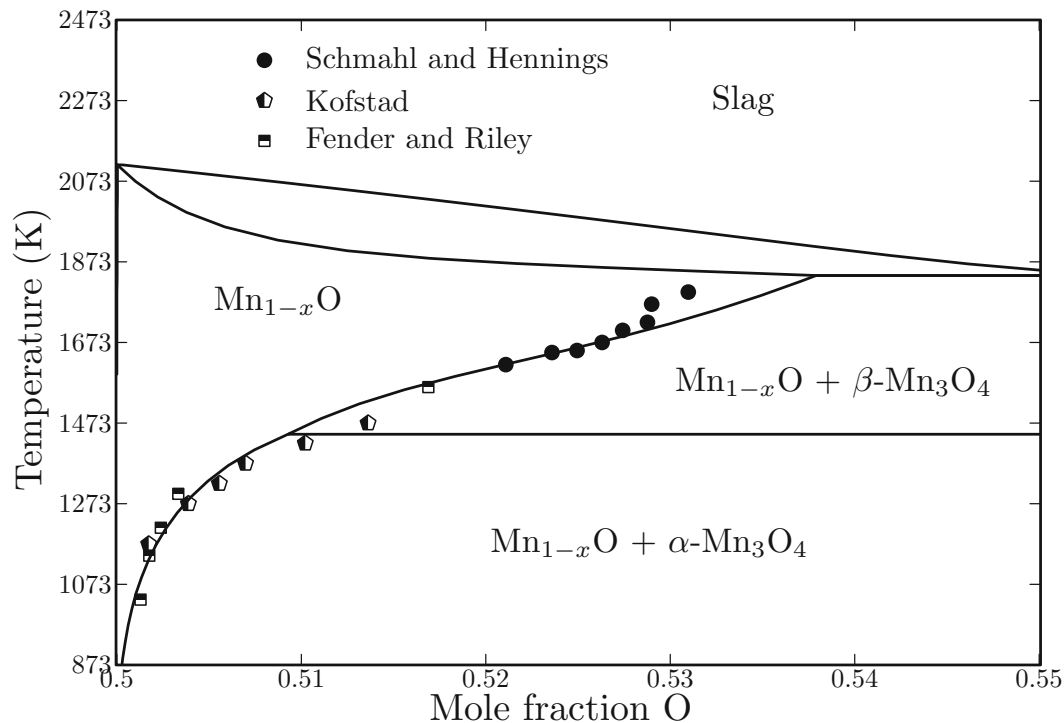


Fig. 11—Enlarged phase diagram at  $Mn_{1-x}O$  region along with experimental data.<sup>[54,64,71]</sup>

investigations. Scatter of the reported data for the Reaction [21] at low temperature is probably due to hysteresis between redox Reaction [21].<sup>[66]</sup> In the present study, experimental data which were obtained relatively high temperature by Shenouda and Aziz<sup>[66]</sup> and Otto<sup>[58]</sup> were preferred for the Reaction [21]. For the Reaction [22], experimental data of Otto<sup>[59]</sup> was used due to relatively longer experimental time.

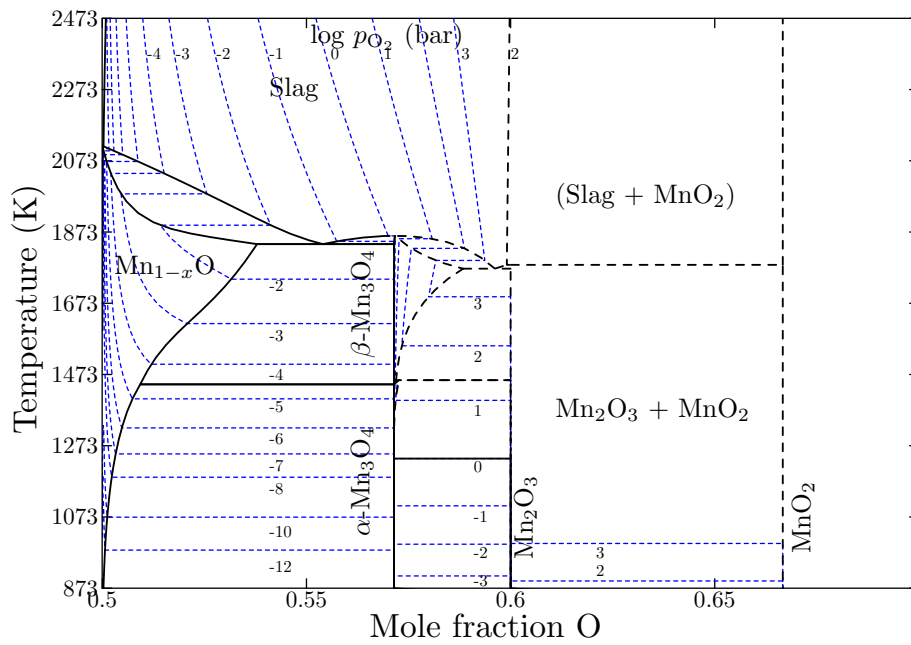
### E. Phase Diagrams

Figure 1 shows the optimized phase diagram of the Mn-O system with the oxygen partial pressure and temperature as axis variables. Several phase-equilibrium data measured mainly using quenching and XRD are shown as symbols.<sup>[20,21,55,67-70]</sup> It should be noted that the dashed lines are only predicted by the model because there is no experimental data available. Also, in the present study, the molten oxide phase is defined up to  $X_O = 0.6$  which corresponds to the hypothetical pure liquid “ $Mn_2O_3$ ”. Therefore, the liquidus of  $MnO_2$  is only imaginary and is pending to further experimental verification. Calculated phase boundary of manganosite in equilibrium with  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $Mn_3O_4$  are shown in Figure 11 along with measured experimental data.<sup>[54,64,71]</sup> The concentration range of the manganosite becomes wide quickly as temperature increases, due to dissolution of  $Mn^{3+}$ . In order to reproduce this and the equilibrium oxygen partial pressures over the manganosite, one interaction parameter and Gibbs energy of dissolution of  $MnO_{1.5}$  in the manganosite solution were optimized (Table III). Also in order to

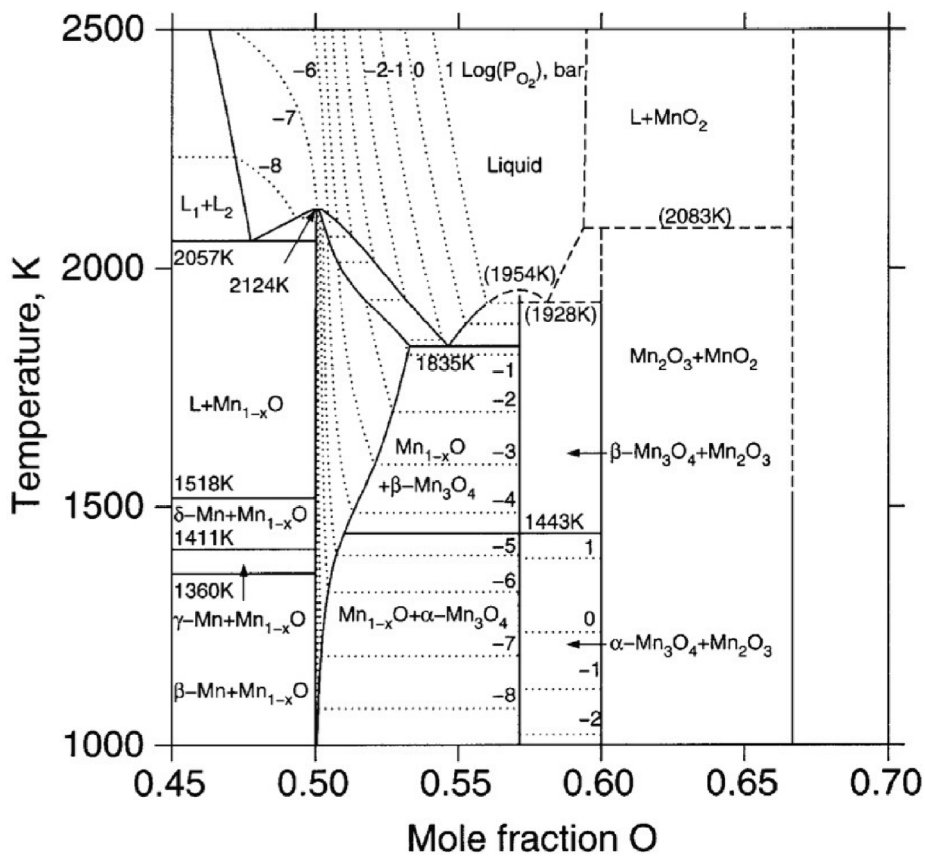
reproduce liquidus of manganosite and  $\beta$ - $Mn_3O_4$ ,<sup>[20,21,69]</sup> Gibbs energy of the hypothetical pure liquid “ $MnO_{1.5}$ ” was used as a model parameter (Table III). Since there is no further experimental data for the slag in the Mn-O system, it was decided not to use interaction parameter between  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{3+}$ . At the present stage, it has been found that the current description of the Mn-O molten oxide phase results in a good agreement with reported experimental data in multicomponent systems containing up to Fe, Cr, Mn, Si, and O from metal saturation to 1 atm  $O_2$  atmosphere. The details of the thermodynamic optimization for these systems will be shown elsewhere.<sup>[9-11]</sup>

From the present thermodynamic optimization, the phase diagram of Mn-O system with oxygen iso-bar was drawn as shown in Figure 12(a) from  $MnO$  to  $MnO_2$ . Gas phase was suspended during the calculation. Again, part of the calculated phase diagram at high oxygen partial pressure ( $\log p_{O_2} > \sim 0$ ) is imaginary and only predicted by thermodynamic models. Nevertheless, since the non-stoichiometries of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $Mn_3O_4$  were considered by introducing the vacancies, it could be observed that the spinel solutions deviate from its stoichiometric composition as the oxygen partial pressure increases. A similar phase diagram reported by Grundy *et al.* is also shown in Figure 12(b) for a comparison.

Various special points including invariant reactions are calculated using the models of the present study and are shown in Table IV. Other calculated values from previous thermodynamic modeling<sup>[1,2]</sup> are also compared.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 12—Calculated phase diagram of the Mn-O system in the range of composition (a) from  $X_O = 0.5$  to  $X_O = 0.7$  in the present study (modified from a figure presented in Ref. [12]), and (b) from  $X_O = 0.45$  to  $X_O = 0.7$ , reprinted with permission from Grundy *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> Dashed lines are oxygen iso-bars.



**Table IV. Special Points Including Invariant Reactions Involving Oxides in Mn-O System**

Reaction	Temperature in Kelvin ( $T$ in [K (°C)])	Reference
Slag $\rightarrow$ Mn <sub>1-x</sub> O + $\beta$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1839 (1566)	Present study Wang and Sundman <sup>[1]</sup>
	1833 (1560) 1835 (1562)	
Slag $\rightarrow$ $\beta$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1862 (1589)	Present study Wang and Sundman <sup>[1]</sup>
	— 1954 (1681)	
Slag $\rightarrow$ $\beta$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> + $\beta$ -Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1770 (1497)	Present study Wang and Sundman <sup>[1]</sup>
	— 1928 (1655)	
$\beta$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> $\rightarrow$ Mn <sub>1-x</sub> O + $\alpha$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1445 (1172)	Present study Wang and Sundman <sup>[1]</sup>
	1448 (1175) 1443 (1170)	
$\beta$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> + $\beta$ -Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> $\rightarrow$ $\alpha$ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1457 (1184)	Present study Wang and Sundman <sup>[1]</sup>
	1448 (1175) 1443 (1170)	

#### IV. CONCLUSION

A critical evaluation/optimization of experimental data for the Mn-O system was performed in the present study. The optimized model parameters can reproduce all reliable thermodynamic and structural data as well as the phase diagrams of the Mn-O system within experimental error limits. In order to construct a larger thermodynamic database,  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> were modeled as a part of spinel solid solutions. This enables us to integrate the presently developed database into a larger thermodynamic database. The database of model parameters can be used with general thermodynamic software, such as FactSage,<sup>[13,14]</sup> in order to calculate the thermodynamic properties, the distribution of cations in the spinel solutions which is related to the electrical properties of the spinel, and phase equilibria for temperatures, compositions, and oxygen partial pressures where experimental data are not available. The present thermodynamic modeling has been extended to incorporate Cr,<sup>[9]</sup> Fe,<sup>[10]</sup> and Si,<sup>[11]</sup> respectively.

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