

PHYSICOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS
OF INORGANIC SYSTEMS

Phase Equilibria of Three-Component
Reciprocal System Na,K||I,MoO₄

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Abstract—The three-component reciprocal system Na,K||I,MoO₄ has been studied by differential thermal analysis (DTA). The compositions and melting temperatures have been determined, and the enthalpies of melting of eutectic mixtures measured. Phase equilibria in the system are described, and phase fields are demarcated.

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Studies into phase equilibria and a search for invariant compositions in multicomponent salt systems are topical problems of contemporary materials science. The compositions corresponding to invariant equilibrium points are used as fusible electrolytes for chemical current sources and heat-accumulating materials [1, 2]. Halide systems involving oxygen-containing salts of *s*¹ elements, in particular, molybdates, are poorly studied as yet. The primary reason behind this is the complexity of experimental data interpretation due to numerous polymorphic transitions in sodium and potassium molybdates. On the other hand, the superposition of the thermal effects of polymorphic and eutectic transitions makes it possible to obtain a heat-accumulating material having a high value of the enthalpy of phase transition [3, 4]. Referring to foreign sources shows that the studies into salt mixtures are mainly directed to the theoretical calculations of thermodynamic, physical, and thermo-physical characteristics without comprehensive studies of phase diagrams [5, 6]. Thus, an experimental investigation of halide systems involving *s*¹-element molybdates is very topical.

We have studied three-component reciprocal system Na,K||I,MoO₄ in order to elucidate the phase complex and to determine the alloy compositions corresponding to invariant equilibrium points. The experimental tool was differential thermal analysis (DTA) carried out on a standard design setup

[7–9]. The initial reagents, which were of chemically pure grade (NaI and KI) or pure for analysis grade (Na₂MoO₄ and K₂MoO₄) were pre-dehydrated. The melting points of the reagents matched reference values [10, 11]. Platinum microcrucibles were used in experiments. The reference used was a freshly calcined Al₂O₃ sample. The sample size was 0.3 g. The compositions are expressed in equivalent percent.

The composition square of the three-component reciprocal system Na,K||I,MoO₄ is shown in Fig. 1. The two-component boundary systems were studied elsewhere: NaI–KI [12], Na₂MoO₄–K₂MoO₄ [13], NaI–Na₂MoO₄ [14], and KI–K₂MoO₄ [15]. Two of these two-component boundary binaries are eutectic melting systems. In system NaI–KI there is formed a continuous solid solution series with a minimum. System Na₂MoO₄–K₂MoO₄ is distinguished by the formation of incongruently melting compound D (Na₂MoO₄ · K₂MoO₄), which influences the partition of the composition figure of the reciprocal system and its liquidus configuration.

For verifying the theoretical partition of the system, we experimentally studied diagonal section KI–Na₂MoO₄, whose *T*–*x* diagram is shown in Fig. 2. The composition and melting temperature of the quasi-binary eutectic were determined to be *e*₄ 518°C, 35% KI and 65% Na₂MoO₄.

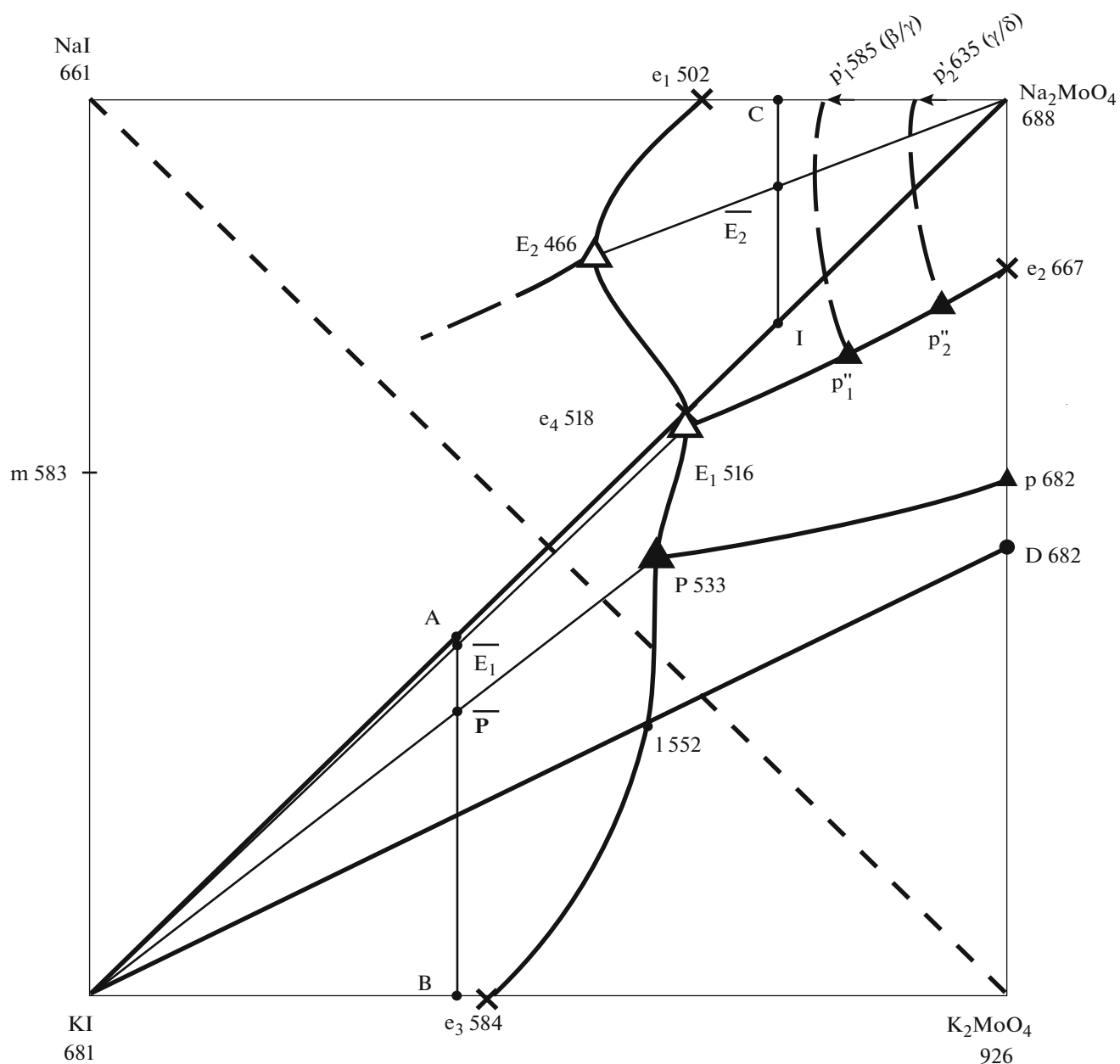


Fig. 1. Three-component reciprocal system Na,K|I,MoO₄.

We studied non-quasi-binary section KI–D. From its T – x diagram, we found the parameters of the intersection point with a monovariant line: 552°C, 39.0% KI, 30.5% Na₂MoO₄, 30.5% K₂MoO₄. These sections are triangulating, and the composition square is partitioned into three phase triangles, namely, KI–NaI–Na₂MoO₄, KI–Na₂MoO₄–D, and KI–D–K₂MoO₄.

For constructing the liquidus of the system, we experimentally studied T – x diagrams of vertical sections AB, where A = [60% KI + 40% Na₂MoO₄] and B = [60% KI + 40% K₂MoO₄] (Fig. 3), and CI, where C = [75% Na₂MoO₄ + 25% NaI] and I = [75% Na₂MoO₄ + 25% KI] (Fig. 4), lying in different simplexes of the system.

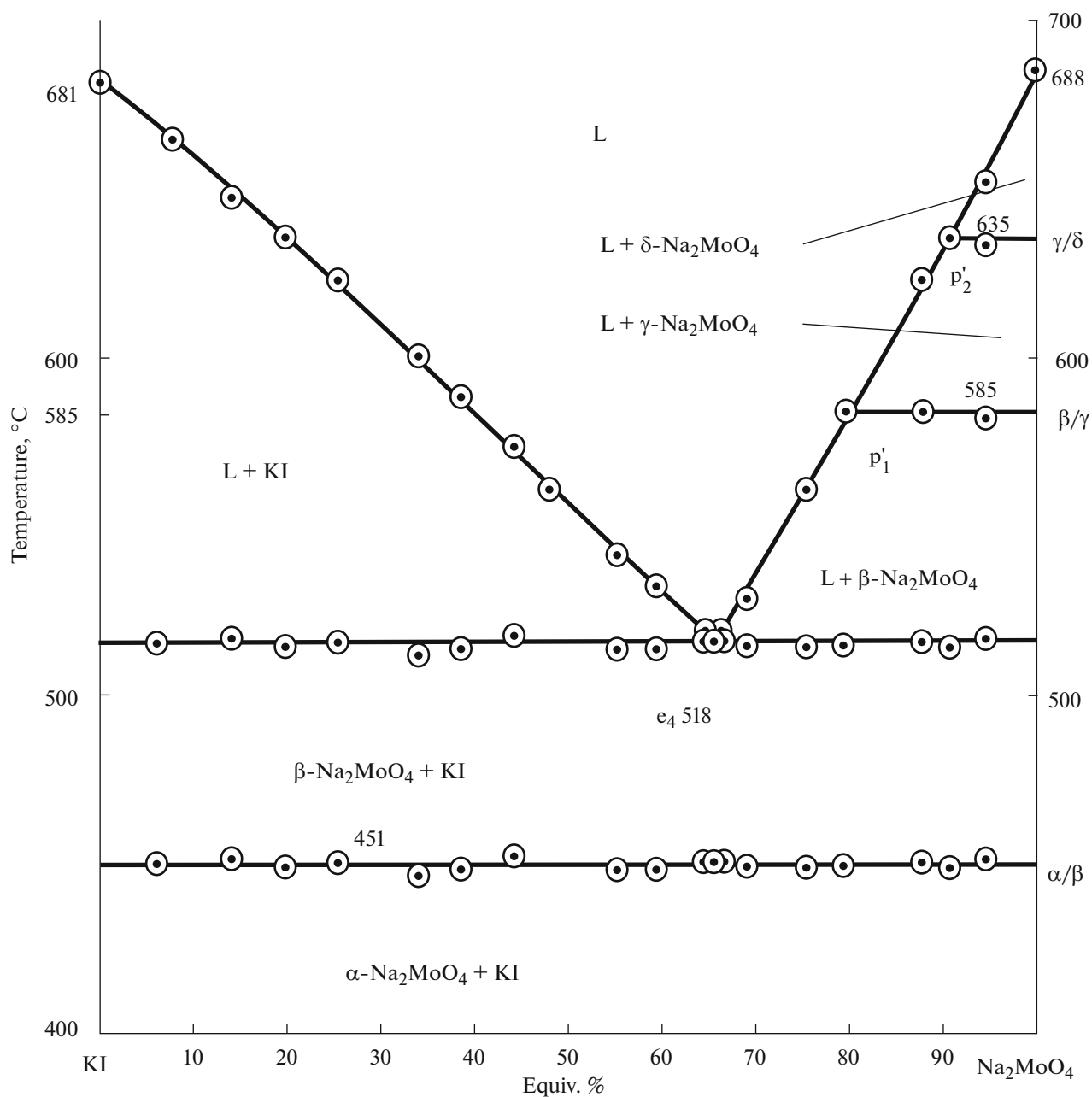


Fig. 2. T - x diagram of diagonal section KI–Na₂MoO₄ of system Na,K||I,MoO₄.

Section AB lies in the potassium iodide field, so its onset crystallization curve corresponds to the liquidus line. The KI + Na₂MoO₄ and KI + K₂MoO₄ secondary crystallization lines meet the eutectic line at point \bar{E}_1 and meet the peritectic line at point P, these points being central projections on ternary eutectic E₁ 516 and ternary

peritectic P 533, respectively, from the potassium iodide crystallization pole. Studying vertical sections KI → \bar{E}_1 → E₁ and KI → P → P (Figs. 5, 6), we determined the characteristics of the alloys corresponding to the ternary eutectic and ternary peritectic: E₁ 516 with component concentrations of 35% KI, 64% Na₂MoO₄, 1%

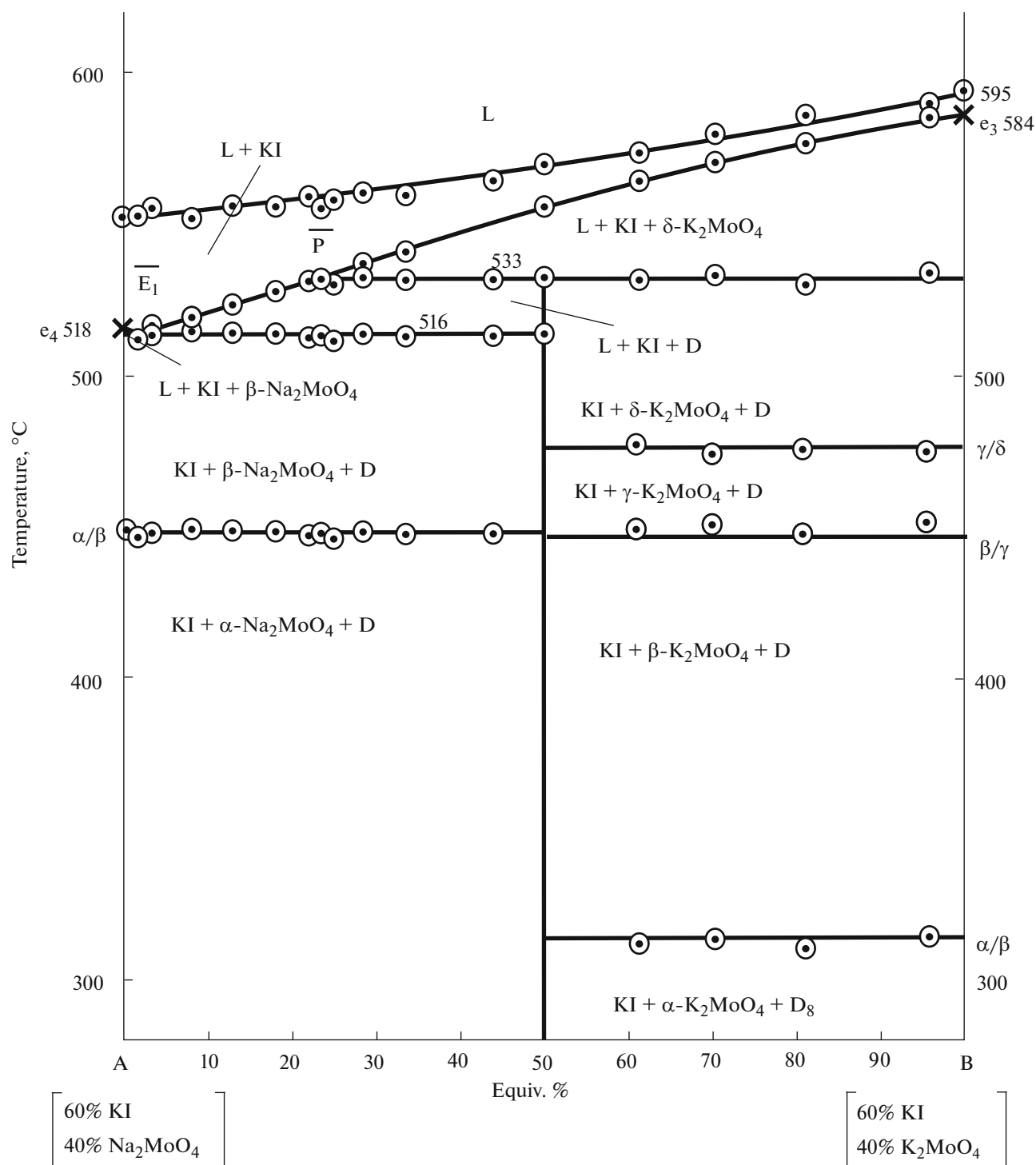


Fig. 3. T - x diagram of section AB of system Na,K||I,MoO_4 .

K_2MoO_4 ; and P 533 with component concentrations of 37% KI, 48% Na_2MoO_4 , 15% K_2MoO_4 .

In the same manner, we studied section CI in the sodium molybdate field to determine the melting tem-

perature and direction to three-component eutectic \bar{E}_2 466. The eutectic composition was elucidated from the study of section $KI \rightarrow \bar{E}_2 \rightarrow E_2$ (Fig. 7) to be 28% NaI, 17% KI, 55% Na_2MoO_4 .

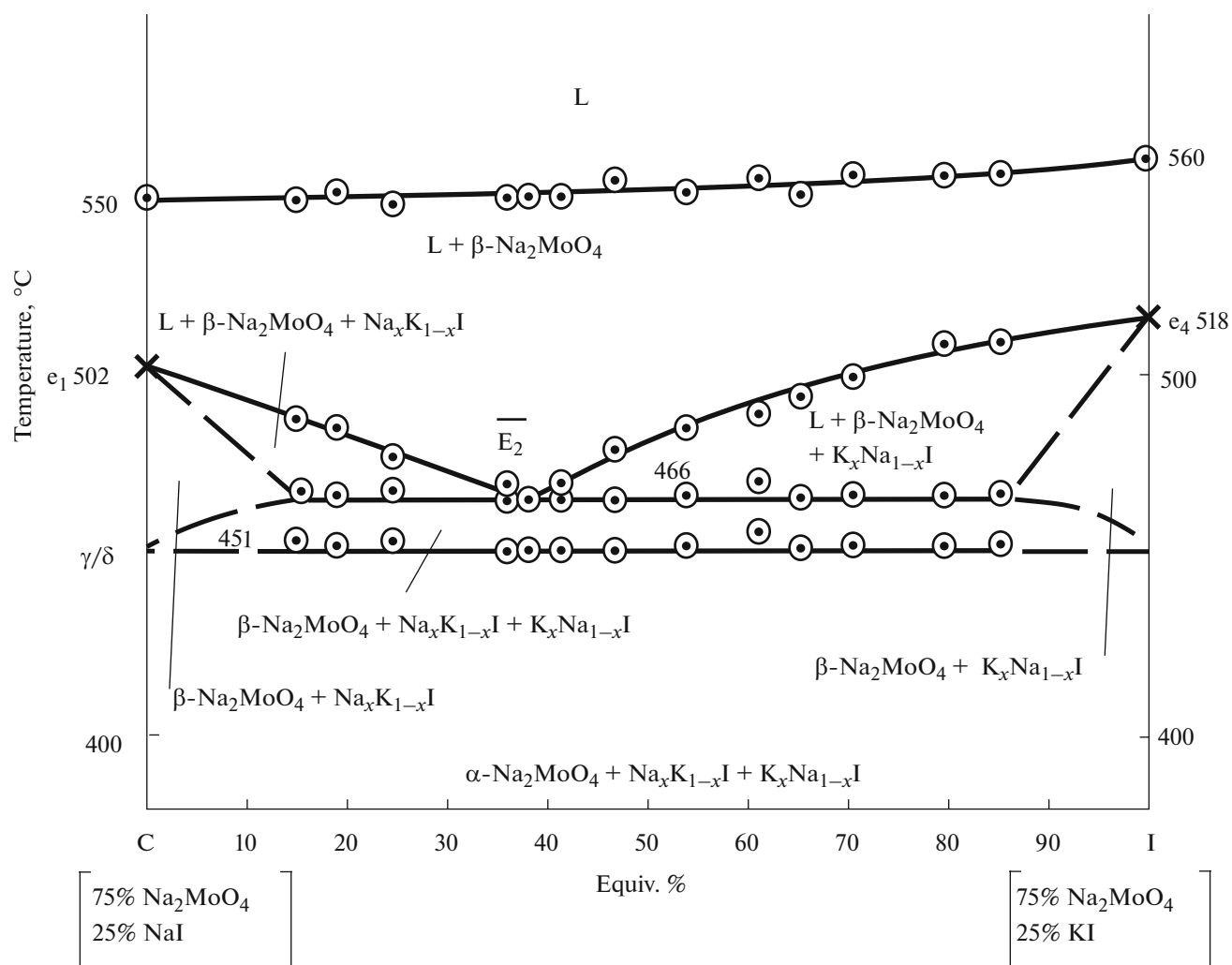


Fig. 4. T - x diagram of section CI of system Na,K||I, MoO₄.

In summary, the liquidus projection of system Na,K||I,MoO₄ is represented by six crystallization fields, which belong to potassium molybdate; solid solutions based on sodium and potassium iodides, which decompose to yield a three-component eutectic; compound D; and α -, β -, and γ -sodium molybdate phases (Table 1). Monovariant lines meet two ternary eutectics, one ternary peritectic, and two peritectics that correspond to the polymorphic transitions in sodium molybdate.

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Table 1. Phase equilibria in system Na,K||I,MoO₄

| Element of diagram | Phase equilibrium | Equilibrium |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Eutectic E ₁ | $L \rightleftharpoons \gamma\text{-Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 + \text{KI} + \text{D}$ | Invariant |
| Peritectic P | $L + \alpha\text{-K}_2\text{MoO}_4 \rightleftharpoons \text{KI} + \text{D}$ | Invariant |
| Eutectic E ₂ | $L \rightleftharpoons \gamma\text{-Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 + \text{Na}_x\text{K}_{1-x}\text{I} + \text{K}_x\text{Na}_{1-x}\text{I}$ | Invariant |

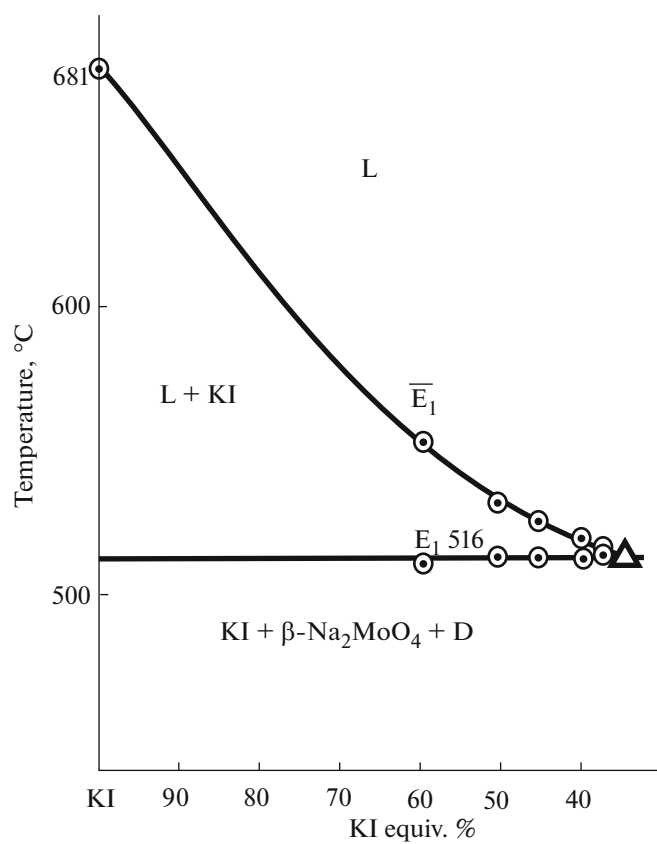


Fig. 5. $T-x$ diagram of section $KI \rightarrow \bar{E}_1 \rightarrow E_1$ of system $Na, K||I, MoO_4$.

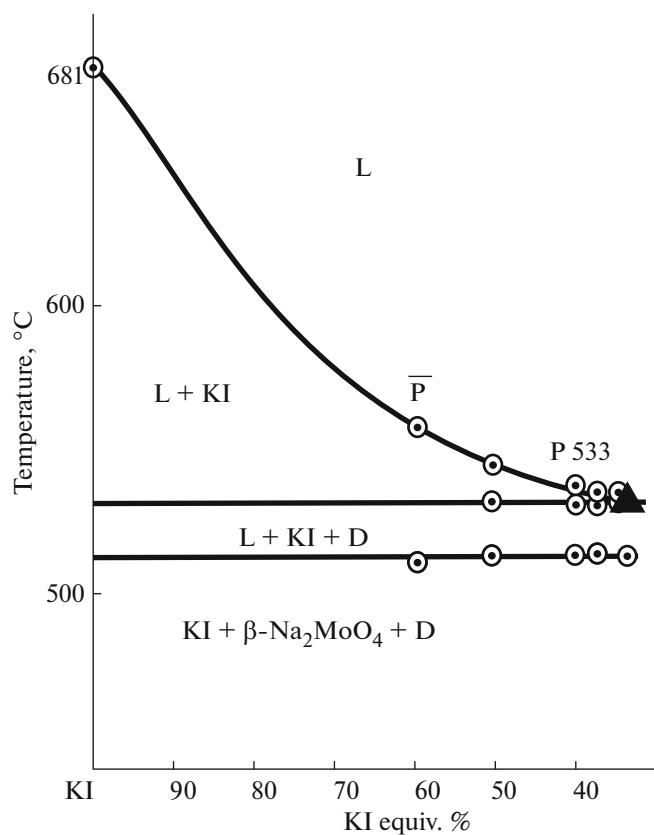


Fig. 6. $T-x$ diagram of section $KI \rightarrow \bar{P} \rightarrow P$ of system $Na, K||I, MoO_4$.

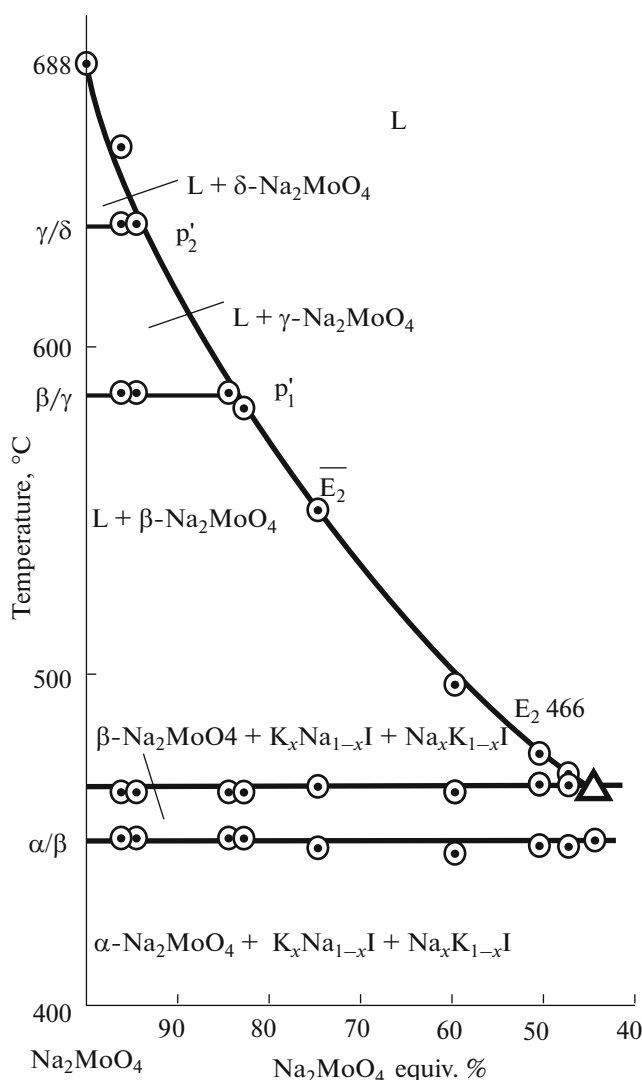


Fig. 7. T - x diagram of section $KI \rightarrow \bar{E}_2 \rightarrow E_2$ of system $Na, K||I, MoO_4$.

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