Application of the generalised central atom model to sulphur containing oxide slags

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Abstract: Through a collaborative research project between CSIRO and ArcelorMittal, the capability of the Generalised Central Atom (GCA) model in describing complex oxide slags has been assessed. A slag model database for the Na₂O-K₂O-CaO-MgO-MnO-FeOx-Al₂O₃-P₂O₅–SiO₂ and its sub-systems has been developed. Recently the applicability of the GCA model has been further assessed for sulphur containing oxide slags. The published experimental data on sulphur behaviour in various metallurgical systems has been critically reviewed and analysed. Systematic approach was taken to first model sulphur solubility and sulphide capacity in the binary oxide systems. The sulphide capacity in ternary and high order systems was then predicted by the model using binary parameters. The results of the application of the GCA model to sulphide containing metallurgical slag systems of the CaO-MgO-MnO-Al₂O₃–SiO₂ and its sub-systems will be discussed in the present paper.

Keywords: The GCA model, oxide slags, sulphide capacity

1. Introduction

The study of behavior of sulphur in molten slags has been one of the important topics in the thermodynamic properties of high temperature melts. This is mainly due to practical interests in steelmaking processes. The measured sulphide capacity data up to 1995 were compiled in Slag Atlas by Gaye and Lehmann [1]. The recent paper by Kang and Pelton [2] on modelling sulphide dissolution in oxide slags has also provided comprehensive review of the published data.

Sulphur in slag under reducing conditions can be considered as sulphur exchange between a slag and a gas phase and presented by the following expression [1]

$$\frac{1}{2}S_2 + (O^{2-})_{slag} = \frac{1}{2}O_2 + (S^{2-})_{slag} \tag{1}$$

Accordingly, Fincham and Richardson [3] defined the sulphide capacity C_S , as a measure of the capacity of a slag to hold sulphur. It was defined as:

$$C_S = (P_{O2}/P_{S2})^{1/2} \bullet (wt\% S),$$
 (2)

Where P_{O2} and P_{S2} are partial pressure of oxygen and sulphur respectively. Their experimental results on the CaO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ melts showed that for a given slag composition and over an appropriate range of P_{O2} , the Cs was constant at a given temperature and S content up to 1 wt%.

Understanding of the behavior of sulphur in molten slags is greatly aided by well developed liquid oxide or slag models. The researchers at the ArcelorMittal Maizières, Research and Development (AMMRD), formerly IRSID have modeled sulphide capacity in the slag CaO-MgO-MnO-FeO-Fe₂O₃-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ system using the cell model approaches [4,5]. More recently Kang and Pelton have reported their modelling work on the sulphide dissolution in oxide slags CaO-MgO-MnO-FeO-Fe₂O₃-Al₂O₃-Ti₂O₃-Ti₂O₃-Ti₂O₂-SiO₂ system in the framework of the modified quasichemical model [2]. There have been models by Reddy and Blander [6], and Nilsson et al [7]. Attempts were also made to correlate sulphide solubility with optical basicity [8].

AMMRD have further developed the so called generalised central atoms (GCA) model for modelling both liquid slag and liquid steel phases. Application of the GCA model to the liquid steel has shown significant improvement in the model descriptions [9,10]. In recent years there has been a collaborated research effort between CSIRO and AMMRD in evaluation of the applicability and database development of the GCA model to molten slags. The improvement by the GCA model over the cell model for the CaO-Al₂O₃–SiO₂ system has been reported at the last conference MOLTEN2009 [11]. Since then a slag model database for the Na₂O-K₂O-CaO-MgO-MnO-FeO-Fe₂O₃-Al₂O₃-P₂O₅–SiO₂ and its sub-systems has been developed. More recently the applicability of the GCA model has been further assessed for sulphur containing oxide slags of the Na₂O-K₂O-CaO-MgO-MnO-FeOx-Al₂O₃–SiO₂ system. In that work, the published experimental data on sulphur behaviour in various metallurgical systems were critically reviewed and analysed. Systematic approach was taken to first model sulphur solubility and sulphide capacity in the binary oxide systems. The sulphide capacity in ternary and high order systems was then predicted by the model using binary parameters. Due to the restriction on the length of the paper only the results of the CaO-MgO-MnO-Al₂O₃–SiO₂ and its sub-systems will be presented and discussed in the present paper.

2. The GCA Model

The generalised central atoms (GCA) model developed by Lehmann and co-workers [9] was based on the central atoms model, originally proposed by Lupis and Elliott [12]. In this approach the cell model for the slag phase (oxides and oxi-sulphides) and the central atom model for liquid metallic phase were unified to the GCA model. The main advantage of the GCA model is its ability to treat the short range order in the liquid phase more precisely than the Cell model. Instead of pair interactions between cations around a given anion as in the cell model the GCA model considers interactions around a central atom between its neighbouring atoms, cations and anions.

In the GCA model the structure of liquids is described in terms of cells composed of a central atom and its shell of nearest neighbours. In a system with m components, t cations and (m-t) anions, the cell will be denoted as

 $i_1, i_2, \dots i_k, \dots i_t$ Atoms on cationic shell

J Central atom

 $j_{t+1},...j_r,...j_m$ Atoms on anionic shell

In such a cell, around the central atom J, either a cation or an anion, there are i1 cations # 1, i2 cations # 2... on the

cation shell and j_{t+1} anions # t+1, j_{t+2} anions # t+2... on the anion shell. Similar to the cell model, there are two kinds of parameters in the GCA model, namely the formation and the interaction energy. The formation energy of the cell is 错误! 未定义书签。 $\varphi_{\{i\},\{j\}}^J$ where J represents the central atom and $\{i\}$ and $\{j\}$ are the whole set of cations and anions respectively present on J-neighbouring shells. For the sake of simplicity, this formation energy term is assumed as the sum of the contributions of the two shells:

$$\varphi_{\{i\},\{j\}}^{J} = \varphi_{\{i\}}^{J} + \varphi_{\{j\}}^{J} \tag{3}$$

To reduce the number of parameters, different assumptions can be formulated to describe the energy variation for the central atom according to the composition of the chemical neighbourhood. To be compatible with the expression of the cell model the following form was chosen for the GCA model for the contribution of the cationic shell [13]

$$\varphi_{\{i\}}^{J} = \sum_{k=1}^{t} i_{k} \varphi_{kk}^{J} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{k,l=1\\k \neq 1}}^{t} i_{k} i_{l} \varphi_{kl}^{J}. \tag{4}$$

Equation (4) applies to both cations and anions as central atoms and the equivalent equation can be derived for the anionic shell. In addition to these parameters, interaction parameters are also considered. Details of the formalism of the GCA model have been given by Lehmann et al [9,10].

In S containing oxide system, for example in CaO containing melts, the reaction was considered as [3],

$$(CaO)_{melt} + \frac{1}{2}S_2 = (CaS)_{melt} + \frac{1}{2}O_2.$$
 (5)

The Gibbs free energy of the reaction can be expressed as $\Delta G_{(1)} = 1/2G_{O2} + G_{CaS}(1) - 1/2G_{S2} - G_{CaO}(1)$, where G_{O2} , $G_{CaS}(1)$, G_{S2} and $G_{CaO}(1)$ are Gibbs free energy of formation of G_{S2} , liquid G_{S2} and liquid G_{S2} . In the GCA model the oxide-sulphide exchange formation parameter was defined as $\varphi_{S}^{Ca} = G_{CaS}(1) - G_{CaO}(1)$. In the current work the values of $G_{MS}(1)$, $G_{$

3. Results and Discussion

The sulphide capacity in the slag phase were calculated by the GCA model and using Eq.(2) under gas and slag equilibrium. In most cases the partial pressure of oxygen was set to $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ atm and the partial pressure of sulphur, $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm in the equilibrium calculations. This choice was based on the study by Fincham and Richardson [3] on the effect of oxygen partial pressure on sulphide capacity, in which it was found that sulphide capacity was independent of oxygen partial pressure when $P_{O2}<10^{-7}$ atm in the CaO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ melts at 1500°C. Some recent measurements for various slag systems were carried out at KTH under the same order of P_{O2} and P_{S2} values [18,19]. A number of test runs have been carried out at lower P_{O2} values, such as $P_{O2}=10^{-9}$ atm in the CaO-Al₂O₃, and CaO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ systems, and it was found that the calculated sulphide capacity were almost identical as those under $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ atm. In the present work the modelling results were presented as sulphide capacity variations with temperature and slag compositions in comparison with the published data.

3.1 Binary systems

The sulphide capacity data in the binary oxide systems of concern of the current study were available in the Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system at 1650° C and alumina mole fraction X_{Al2O3} < 0.3 [20], CaO-Al₂O₃ in a temperature range of 1500 to 1650° C [3,18,21-24], CaO-SiO₂ in 1500 to 1650° C [3,25-27], MgO-SiO₂ in 1580 to 1650° C [3,20,26,28], MnO-Al₂O₃ in 1500 to 1650° C [19,20] and MnO-SiO₂ in 1300 to 1650° C [20,29-32]. The published data for these binary oxides are shown in Figures 1 to 6. The calculated sulphide capacity values by the GCA model are also shown in these Figures for comparison.

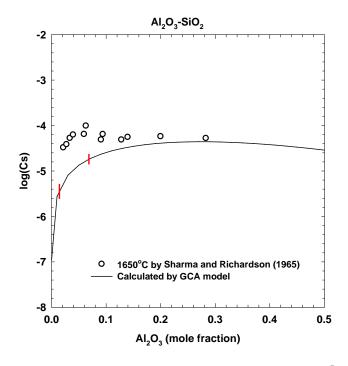


Fig. 1 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_8)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data [20] at $1650^{\circ}C$ in the Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system (vertical bars show the calculated oxide solid/liquid boundaries).

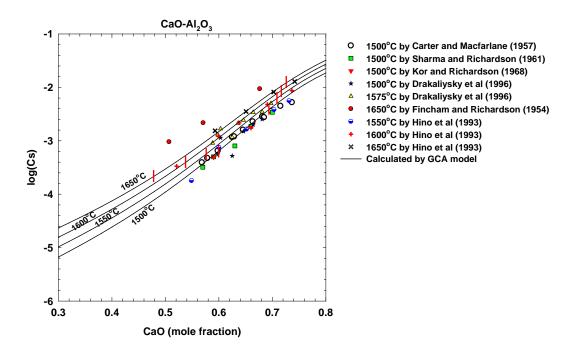


Fig. 2 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data [3,18,21-24] in the temperature range of 1500 to 1650°C in the CaO-Al₂O₃ system (vertical bars show the calculated oxide solid/liquid boundaries).

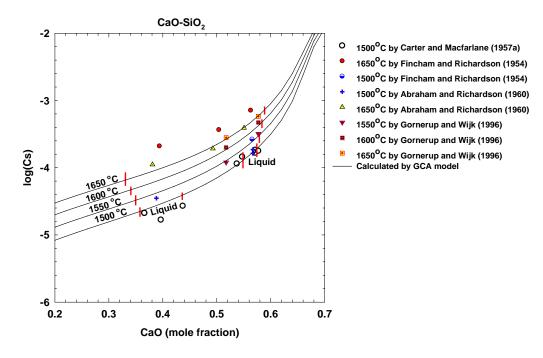


Fig. 3 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data [3,25-27] in the temperature range of 1500 to 1650°C in the CaO-SiO₂ system (vertical bars show the calculated oxide solid/liquid boundaries).

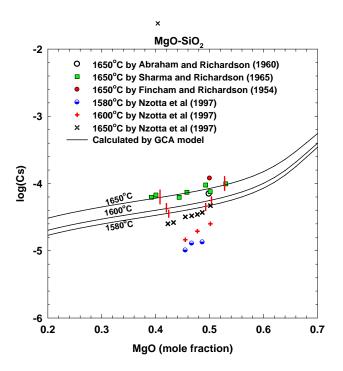


Fig. 4 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_8)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data [3,20,26,28] at 1580 to 1650°C in the MgO-SiO₂ system (vertical bars show the calculated oxide solid/liquid boundaries).

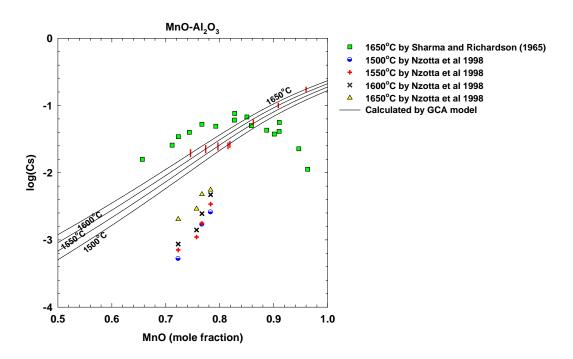


Fig. 5 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-8}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-5}$ atm and the experimental data [19,20] at 1500 to 1650°C in the MnO-Al $_2O_3$ system (vertical bars show the calculated oxide solid/liquid boundaries).

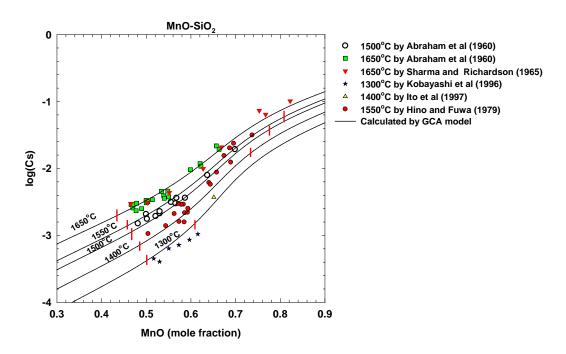


Fig. 6 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_8)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-8}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-5}$ atm and the experimental data [20,29-32] at 1300 to 1650°C in the MnO-SiO₂ system (vertical bars show the calculated oxide solid/liquid boundaries).

In the Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system at 1650° C the experimental data shows that sulphide capacity Cs increases with increasing alumina content in the liquid region (0.014< X_{Al2O3} < 0.069) and reaches a plato [20]. It can be seen that the model was able to reproduce such a trend though the calculated values were lower than the data. The model parameters were determined by compromising the accuracy of the binary Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system in order to fit data in higher order systems, such as the CaO- Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system.

In other binary systems the general trend of the behavior sulphide capacity was that Cs increased with increasing temperature and metal oxide (Ca,Mg,Mn)O content. The scatters and discrepancy of the data were significantly large in some systems, such as in MnO-SiO₂ and MnO-Al₂O₃. The model parameters for the MnO-Al₂O₃ (data with large uncertainties) and MgO-Al₂O₃ (no data were available) systems were determined mainly based on ternary information. In general it can be seen that the fit of the model to the data was satisfactory in most binary systems.

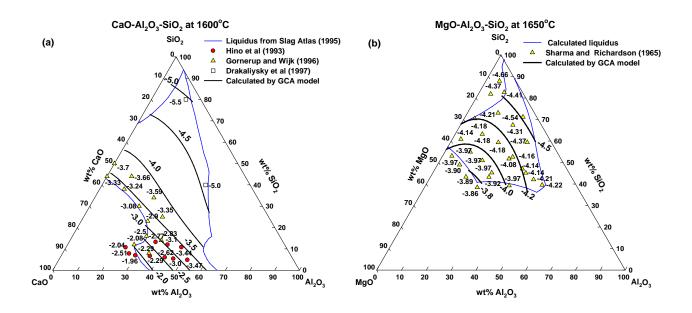
3.2 Ternary systems

In the ternary systems the sulphide capacity data were found in the CaO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ at 1500, 1550, 1600 and 1650°C [3,24,27,33,34,35], MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ [20] and MnO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ at 1650°C [20], CaO-MgO-SiO₂ at 1550, 1550, 1600 and 1650°C [28,29,35,36], CaO-MnO-SiO₂ in a range of 1500 to 1650°C [29,30,37,38], MnO-MgO-SiO₂ in 1550 to 1650°C [20,30,39], CaO-MgO-Al₂O₃ at 1550, 1600 and 1650°C [24], MnO-MgO-Al₂O₃ at 1600 and 1650°C for 6 MnO rich composition points [19]. The published data in the form of iso-sulphide capacity curves in the ternary oxides are shown in Figures 7a to g and Table 1. Due to the page restriction for the current paper only one temperature 1600°C

(whenever data were available) or 1650°C for each system was chosen to show the variation trends of the sulphide capacity with slag compositions. The model predicted values in terms of iso-sulphide capacity curves by the GCA model are also shown in these Figures for comparison.

It is interesting to note that the iso-sulphide capacity curves in the M(M=Ca,Mg,Mn)O-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ systems (Figures 7a to 7c) run almost parallel to the Al₂O₃-SiO₂ binary boundary. The sulphide capacity increases with increasing MO content in the liquid region starting from the Al₂O₃-SiO₂ binary. In the M₁O-M₂O-SiO₂ systems (Figures 7d to 7f), such as CaO-MgO-SiO₂, the sulphide capacity decreases with increasing SiO₂ content in the liquid region. The iso-sulphide capacity curves are almost parallel to the CaO-MgO binary in CaO-MgO-SiO₂ system. In the CaO-MnO-SiO₂ and MgO-MnO-SiO₂ system, the iso-sulphide capacity curves are almost parallel to the CaO-MnO or MgO-MnO binaries at silica content of less than 30 wt pct. However, as silica content increases, the iso-sulphide capacity curves on the MnO rich side started to elevate towards higher silica contents. This implies that at given silica contents, substitution of MnO for CaO or MgO causes sulphide capacity to increase. The behaviour in the CaO-MgO-Al₂O₃ was similar to CaO-MgO-SiO₂ system, i.e., the sulphide capacity decreases with increasing Al₂O₃ content. It can be seen that the modelling results presented as iso-sulphide capacity curves in Figures 7a to g were in good agreement with most sets of data. The sulphide capacity data in the MnO-MgO-Al₂O₃ system by Nzotta et al [19] listed in Table 1 showed that Cs increased with MgO substituting for Al₂O₃. The calculated values show similar trends, though they were lower than those measured.

It should be noted that the model is able to reproduce the trends found by the experiments of variation of sulphide capacity with slag compositions and temperature in ternary systems. It thus provides a useful tool in analysing the effects of individual oxides on sulphide capacity in slags.



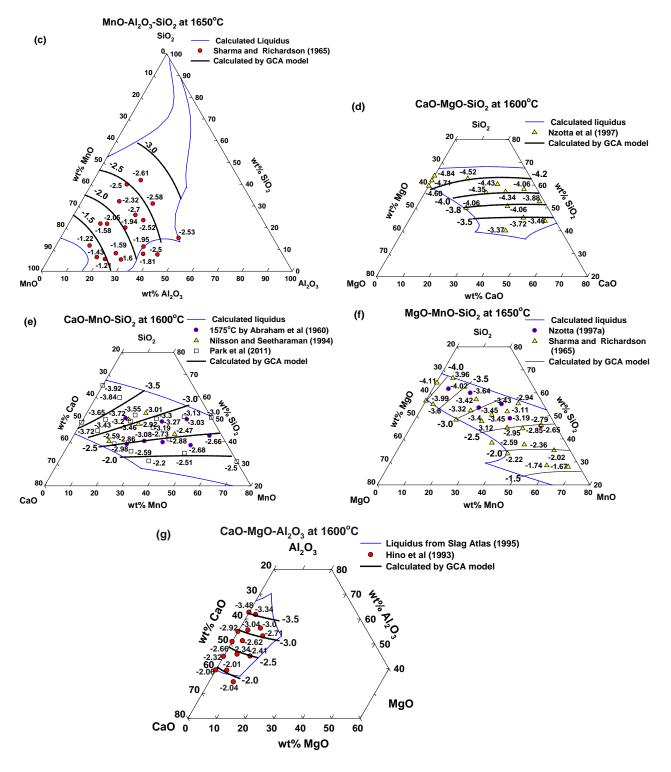


Fig. 7 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data in (a) $CaO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2$ at $1600^{\circ}C$ [24,27,34], (b) $CaO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2$ at $1650^{\circ}C$ [20], (c) $CaO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2$ ($CaO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2$) and $CaO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2$ at $1600^{\circ}C$ [28], (e) $CaO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2$ at $1600^{\circ}C$ [29,37,38], (f) $CaO-Al_2O-SiO_2$ at $1650^{\circ}C$ [20,39] and (g) $CaO-Al_2O_3$ at $1600^{\circ}C$ [24].

Table 1. Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{02}=10^{-8}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-5}$ atm and compiled experimental data [19] in the MnO-MgO-Al₂O₃ system

Temperature °C	Composition (mole fraction)			Log ₁₀ (Cs)	
	Al_2O_3	MgO	MnO	Exp. data	Calculated
1650	0.235	0.113	0.652	-1.92	-1.71
	0.207	0.148	0.645	-1.89	-1.60
	0.193	0.159	0.648	-1.81	-1.54
	0.161	0.253	0.586	-1.73	-1.48
1600	0.235	0.113	0.652	-2.09	-1.79
	0.161	0.253	0.586	-1 81	-1 55

3.3 Multi-component systems

Owing to its practical importance, the sulphide capacity of the CaO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ system has been studied extensively from 1960's till very recent in 2009 [19,26,35,40-46]. The published data are available in a temperature range of 1400 to 1650°C and silica contents of 7 to 67 wt pct. Figure 8 showed the comparison between the model predicted values and ten sets of data. It can be seen that the model was able to fit reasonably close to most sets of data. The sulphide capacity data were also available in the quaternary CaO-MnO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ [19,43], CaO-MgO-MnO-SiO₂ [39] and CaO-MgO-MnO-Al₂O₃ systems [19]. Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity and the data was shown in Figure 9. Apart from the data by Nzotta et al in CaO-MnO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ [19], close agreement between the model and the data was obtained.

The sulphide capacity in the CaO-MgO-MnO-Al $_2$ O $_3$ -SiO $_2$ system has been reported by Nzotta et al in a temperature range of 1500 to 1650°C for MgO and SiO $_2$ rich slags [19] and Taniguchi et al at 1400 to 1500°C for CaO and Al $_2$ O $_3$ rich slags [43]. Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity and the experimental data are shown in Figure 10. It can be seen that the fit by the model to the data by Taniguchi et al [43] was closer than that to the data by Nzotta et al [19]. Close examinations found that the model reproduce the same trend as the measurements.

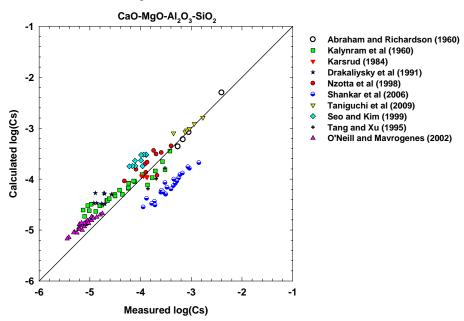


Fig. 8 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and all compiled experimental data [19,26,35,40-46] in the temperature range of 1400 to 1650°C in the CaO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ system.

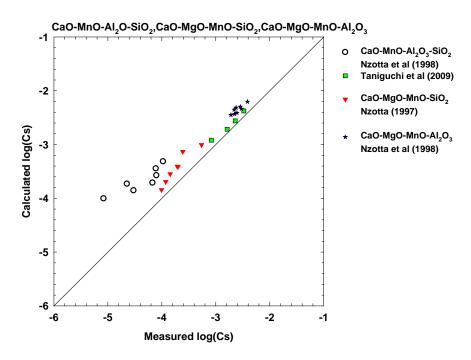


Fig. 9 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_8)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data in the CaO-MnO-Al $_2O_3$ -SiO $_2$ [19,43], CaO-MgO-MnO-SiO $_2$ [39] and CaO-MgO-MnO-Al $_2O_3$ systems [19].

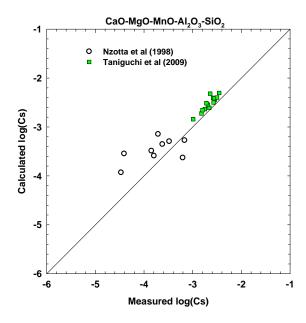


Fig. 10 Comparison between the calculated sulphide capacity $Log_{10}(C_S)$ at $P_{O2}=10^{-7}$ and $P_{S2}=10^{-3}$ atm and the experimental data in the CaO-MgO-MnO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ [19,43],

4. Conclusions

The published sulphide capacity data in the CaO-MgO-MnO-Al₂O₃–SiO₂ slags and sub-systems have been reviewed. The behavior of sulphide capacity in terms of variation with melt compositions were analyzed to provide guidance in the modeling when data were lacking or the scatters of the available data were significant. The GCA model parameters were mostly obtained by fitting the binary data or referred to ternary data when lack of data for some binaries. The modeling results showed that the GCA model was able to describing the behavior of sulphur in oxide slags by reproducing the trends found by the experiments on variation of sulphide capacity with slag compositions and temperatures. Good representations of the binary sulphide capacity data were obtained in most cases. The model predicted sulphide capacities for ternary and high order systems were in general close agreement with the published data. The model was able to account for the effects of different oxides on the sulphide capacity of slags.

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