

Sodium oxide effect on B_2O_3 – Me_2O_3 (Me = Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) melts surface tension

© Viktor P. Chentsov,* Nadezhda V. Korchemkina,[†]
Valery V. Ryabov, and Andrey V. Ivanov

Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of Metallurgical Melts. Institute of Metallurgy. Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Amundsen St., 101. Yekaterinburg, 620016. Russia.

Phone: +7 (343) 232-90-11. E-mail: n_kor@bk.ru

*Supervising author; [†]Corresponding author

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Abstract

The results of sodium borate melts containing 8.7 mass % Na_2O and 1 % mass Me_2O_3 oxides (Me = Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) surface tension measuring are presented. To obtain homogeneous samples composition and structure, the rare earth elements oxides were previously subjected to mechanical activation by mechanical dispersion in a planetary activator mill. The experiments were carried out by the sessile drop method in high-purity helium atmosphere at the 800-1200 °C temperature range. The surface tension temperature dependencies are obtained and its temperature coefficients are calculated. Surface tension of the investigated B_2O_3 - Na_2O - Me_2O_3 (Me = Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) melts increases linearly at temperature increasing. Its dependence on the lanthanide atomic number is non monotonic and follows to the intra-nuclear periodic dependence that is proper to the lanthanide elements series.

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