Landolt-Börnstein
Numerical Data and Functional Relationships in Science and Technology
New Series / Editor in Chief: W. Martienssen

Group IV: Physical Chemistry
Volume 11

Ternary Alloy Systems
Phase Diagrams, Crystallographic and Thermodynamic Data

critically evaluated by MSIT®

Subvolume C

Non-Ferrous Metal Systems

Part 4
Selected Nuclear Materials and Engineering Systems

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Springer

MSI
The Materials Chemistry Knowledge Network

ISSN 1615-2018 (Physical Chemistry)

ISBN-13 978-3-540-48474-5 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Zahlenwerte und Funktionen aus Naturwissenschaften und Technik, Neue Serie
Editor in Chief: W. Martienssen
Vol. IV/11C4: Editors: G. Effenberg, S. Ilyenko

At head of title: Landolt-Börnstein. Added t.p.: Numerical data and functional relationships in science and technology.
Tables chiefly in English.
Intended to supersede the Physikalisch-chemische Tabellen by H. Landolt and R. Börnstein of which the 6th ed. began publication in 1950 under title:
Zahlenwerte und Funktionen aus Physik, Chemie, Astronomie, Geophysik und Technik.
Vols. published after v. 1 of group I have imprint: Berlin, New York, Springer-Verlag
Includes bibliographies.
1. Physics--Tables. 2. Chemistry--Tables. 3. Engineering--Tables.
I. Börnstein, R. (Richard), 1852-1913. II. Landolt, H. (Hans), 1831-1910.
III. Physikalisch-chemische Tabellen. IV. Title: Numerical data and functional relationships in science and technology.
QC61.23 502'.12 62-53136

Springer is a part of Springer Science+Business Media
springeronline.com

Printed in Germany

Cover layout: Erich Kirchner, Heidelberg
Typesetting: Materials Science International Services GmbH, Stuttgart
Printing and Binding: AZ Druck, Kempten/Allgäu

SPIN: 11671800 63/3020 - 5 4 3 2 1 0 – Printed on acid-free paper

Editors: **Günter Effenberg**
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The present series of books results from collaborative evaluation programs performed by MSI and authored by MSIT®. In this program data and knowledge are contributed by many individuals and accumulated over almost twenty years, now. The content of this volume is a subset of the ongoing MSIT® Evaluation Programs. Authors of this volume are:

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Preface

This volume provides basic information to a field that is facing a strong revival of research and engineering in a growing number of countries. The volume can not claim to be comprehensive in covering all systems, and it has to be noted that for nuclear systems the way from phase diagrams to applicable alloys often is much more complicated than in non-nuclear materials. They are special, Plutonium systems in particular, and require great care in the research of material-property relations.

The sub-series *Ternary Alloy Systems of the Landolt-Börnstein New Series* provides reliable and comprehensive descriptions of the materials constitution, based on critical intellectual evaluations of all data available at the time, and it critically weights the different findings, also with respect to their compatibility with today's edge binary phase diagrams. Selected are ternary systems of importance to industrial alloy development and systems which gained scientific interest in the recent years otherwise. In a ternary materials system, however, one may find alloys for various applications, depending on the chosen composition.

Reliable phase diagrams provide scientists and engineers with basic information of eminent importance for fundamental research and for the development and optimization of materials. So collections of such diagrams are extremely useful, if the data on which they are based have been subjected to critical evaluation, like in these volumes. Critical evaluation means: where contradictory information is published data and conclusions are being analyzed, broken down to the firm facts and re-interpreted in the light of all present knowledge. Depending on the information available this can be a very difficult task to achieve. Critical evaluations establish descriptions of reliably known phase configurations and related data.

The evaluations are performed by MSIT®, Materials Science International Team, a group which has been working together for 20 years now. Within this team skilled expertise is available for a broad range of methods, materials and applications. This joint competence is employed in the critical evaluation of the often conflicting literature data. Particularly helpful in this are targeted thermodynamic calculations for individual equilibria, driving forces or complete phase diagram sections.

Insight in materials constitution and phase reactions is gained from many distinctly different types of experiments, calculation and observations. Intellectual evaluations which interpret all data simultaneously reveal the chemistry of a materials system best. The conclusions on the phase equilibria may be drawn from direct observations e.g. by microscope, from monitoring caloric or thermal effects or measuring properties such as electric resistivity, electro-magnetic or mechanical properties. Other examples of useful methods in materials chemistry are mass-spectrometry, thermo-gravimetry, measurement of electro-motive forces, X-ray and microprobe analyses. In each published case the applicability of the chosen method has to be validated, the way of actually performing the experiment or computer modeling has to be validated and the interpretation of the results with regard to the material's chemistry has to be verified.

An additional degree of complexity is introduced by the material itself, as the state of the material under test depends heavily on its history, in particular on the way of homogenization, thermal and mechanical treatments. All this is taken into account in an MSIT® expert evaluation.

To include binary data in the ternary evaluation is mandatory. Each of the three-dimensional ternary phase diagrams has edge binary systems as boundary planes; their data have to match the ternary data smoothly. At the same time each of the edge binary systems A-B is a boundary plane for many ternary A-B-X systems. Therefore combining systematically binary and ternary evaluations can lead to a level of increased confidence and reliability in both ternary and binary phase diagrams. This has started systematically for the first time here, by the MSIT® Evaluation Programs applied to the *Landolt-Börnstein New Series*. The degree of success, however, depends on both the nature of materials and scientists!

The multitude of correlated or inter-dependant data requires special care. Within MSIT® an evaluation routine has been established that proceeds knowledge driven and applies both human based expertise and electronically formatted data and software tools. MSIT® internal discussions take place in almost all evaluation works and on many different specific questions, adding the competence of a team to the work of individual authors. In some cases the authors of earlier published work contributed to the knowledge base by making their original data records available for re-interpretation. All evaluation reports published here have undergone a thorough review process in which the reviewers had access to all the original data.

In publishing we have adopted a standard format that provides the reader with the data for each ternary system in a concise and consistent manner, as applied in the MSIT® Workplace: Phase Diagrams Online. The standard format and special features of the Landolt-Börnstein compendium are explained in the Introduction to the volume.

In spite of the skill and labor that have been put into this volume, it will not be faultless. All criticisms and suggestions that can help us to improve our work are very welcome. Please contact us via effenberg@msiwp.com. We hope that this volume will prove to be an as useful tool for the materials scientist and engineer as the other volumes of *Landolt-Börnstein New Series* and the previous works of MSIT® have been. We hope that the *Landolt-Börnstein Sub-series Ternary Alloy Systems* will be well received by our colleagues in research and industry.

On behalf of the participating authors we want to thank all those who contributed their comments and insight during the evaluation process. In particular we thank the reviewers - Nathalie Lebrun, Marina Bulanova, Andy Watson, Pierre Perrot, Artem Kozlov, Olga Fabrichnaya, Tamara Velikanova, Anatoliy Bondar, Joachim Gröbner, Yong Du, Ludmila Tretyachenko, Volodymyr Ivanchenko, Hans Leo Lukas, Nataliya Bochvar, Matvei Zinkevich and Lazar Rokhlin.

We all gratefully acknowledge the dedicated scientific desk editing by Oleksandra Berezhnytska and Oleksandr Rogovtsov.

Günter Effenberg, Svitlana Ilyenko and Oleksandr Dovbenko Stuttgart, July 2006

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