# Mapping Stability: Binary Phase Diagrams

22.14 – Intro to Nuclear Materials February 19 & 24, 2015

> Images from Engineering Materials Science, *Milton Ohring* unless otherwise noted

# **Major Steps**

- Phase diagrams
- Reading phase diagrams
- Thermodynamics
- Free energy
- Free energy diagrams
- Constructing phase diagrams from free energy diagrams

# Phase Diagram: Example





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### **Phase Separation in Real Life**

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# **Examples: Complete Solubility**



Binary phase diagrams from ASM Handbooks, Vol. 3 (available at vera.mit.edu)

## **Examples: Miscibility Gap**



### **Examples: Intermetallics**



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### **Example Phase Diagrams**



# **Examples: Eutectic, Everything!**



# **Fe-C Phase Diagram**



### Basis for steelmaking

### Most important one to remember & understand!

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# **Fe-C Phase Diagram**



A1: Temperature at which phase transformation from α-γ begins

A3: Temperature at which it ends

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# **Fe-C Phase Diagram**



Composition determines ending microstructure

Microstructure determines steel properties

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# Reading Phase Diagrams: The Lever Rule



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# Reading Phase Diagrams: The Lever Rule



# Reading Phase Diagrams: The Lever Rule



$$C_0 = f_\alpha C_\alpha + (1 - f_\alpha) C_\beta$$

How much of each phase exists at the specified temperature?

What are the compositions of each phase?







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## **Thermodynamics Review**



# **Free Energy**

Each component *i* has a tabulated, specific Gibbs free energy  $(\Delta G_i)$ 

– Lower  $\Delta G_i$  indicates higher stability



Graphic by Shamsher Singh

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http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical\_Chemistry/Elec trochemistry/Electrochemistry\_and\_Thermodynamics

# **Free Energy of Mixtures**

Two parts:

- Atomic (mole) fractions of free energies
- Free energy from mixing

$$G_{tot} = X_A G_A + X_B G_B + \Delta G_{mix}$$
  
Nole fraction of component A  
Gibbs free energy of component B

Ν

G(p,V) = U + pV - TS $\Delta G_{mix} = \Delta H_{mix} - T\Delta S_{mix}$ 

Let's take a system of atoms (A & B) which totals one mole ( $N_{av}$ ), with mole fractions  $X_A \& X_B$ :





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Bond numbers before mixing:

$$\#_{A-A} = \frac{zN_{av}X_A}{2} \qquad \qquad \#_{B-B} = \frac{zN_{av}X_B}{2}$$

Bond numbers after mixing:

$$\#_{A-A} = \frac{zN_{av}(X_A)^2}{2} \qquad \#_{B-B} = \frac{zN_{av}(X_B)^2}{2} \qquad \#_{A-B} = zN_{av}X_AX_B$$

z = coordination number (# bonds / atom)

Next steps:

- Obtain energy before & after mixing
- Subtract to get change in mixing enthalpy

### Examine available number of microstates...



Use the Boltzmann equation:

$$S = k_B \ln\left(\Omega\right)$$

$$G(p,V) = U + pV - TS$$

$$\Delta G_{mix} = \Delta H_{mix} - T\Delta S_{mix}$$

$$\Delta H_{mix} = zN_{av}X_AX_B \left(E_{A-B} - \frac{E_{A-A} + E_{B-B}}{2}\right)$$

$$\Delta S_{mix} = -R \left[X_A \ln (X_A) + X_B \ln (X_B)\right]$$

# Drawing Free Energy Diagrams of One *Phase*

What happens to the free energy when...



# Drawing Free Energy Diagrams of One *Phase*

What about...

### $\Delta H_{mix} > 0; \quad |\Delta H_{mix}| > |\Delta S_{mix}|$

# Drawing Free Energy Diagrams of One *Phase*

Start with the free energy of the two separate components in one phase...

Add in the free energy of mixing...

Then superimpose all possible phases.

# **Drawing Free Energy Diagrams**

Image: Q. Jiang, Z. Wen. "Thermodynamics Of Materials." Available through MIT Libraries at http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-642-14718-0/page/1.



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# Drawing Free Energy Diagrams of *Multiple Phases*

### Examples:

- Solid/liquid solution
- Miscibility gap
- Eutectic (zero solubility)
- Eutectic (some solubility)
- Intermetallic (ordered) compound

# Free Energy Diagrams to Phase Diagrams Inage: Q. Jiang, Z. Wen. "Thermodynamics Of Materials." Available through MIT

Libraries at http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-642-14718-0/page/1.



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## **Two-Phase Region Criterion**

Image: Q. Jiang, Z. Wen. "Thermodynamics Of Materials." Available through MIT Libraries at http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-642-14718-0/page/1.



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# How will the phases form?

# Nucleation & Growth



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### Spinodal Decomposition



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# How will the phases form?



# **Phase Diagram: Spinodal Region**



Courtesy of W. Craig Carter. Used with permission.

http://pruffle.mit.edu/~ccarter/3.21/Lecture\_27/

# **Spinodal Decomposition Energy**

Image: Q. Jiang, Z. Wen. "Thermodynamics Of Materials." Available through MIT Libraries at http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-642-14718-0/page/1.

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Delta_{\min} G_{\mathrm{m}}}{\partial x_{\mathrm{B}}^2} = RT \left\{ \frac{1}{x_{\mathrm{B}}} + \frac{1}{(1-x_{\mathrm{B}})} \right\} - 2\omega = 0.$$



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# **In-Class Example: W-Zr**

Draw the Gibbs free energy diagram at 1000C



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## In-Class Example: W-Zr



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