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Stability of SiC,  $Si_3N_4$ ,  $Si_2N_2O$ ,  
SIALON and Chromium Oxide-Containing Refractories  
in Coal-Gasification Environments

## FINAL REPORT

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## SUMMARY

The present report summarizes the results of research performed under Contract EF-77-S-01-2708 and DE-AS05-77OR10476 during the period 9/1/77-10/31/80.

The major part of this research (the first two years of the project) was concerned with delineation of stabilities and performance characteristics of carbides and nitrides, primarily SiC,  $Si_3N_4$  and  $Si_2N_2O$ , in slagging coal gasifiers. The data-base for evaluation of such characteristics was expanded by studying the stabilities of the above materials with respect to their oxidation by gas phases and by reaction with iron oxide-containing slag phases. This part of the research involved the following main sequential steps:

- 1) Application of available thermodynamic data, supplemented by additional experimental data, as needed, to evaluate stabilities of carbide-, nitride- and oxynitride phases as a function of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon activities.
- 2) Investigation of the nature of the reactions between liquid silicates (slags) and carbide-, nitride- and oxynitride phases.
- 3) Determination of the rates of reactions between liquid silicates (slags) and carbide-, nitride- and oxynitride phases.
- 4) Determination of temperature limits to which commercial silicon carbide refractories can be safely used in slagging coal gasifier environments.

The main conclusions of this phase of the work are as follows:

- a) The refractory phases SiC,  $Si_3N_4$  and  $Si_2N_2O$  are not stable at the oxygen potentials prevailing in slagging coal gasifiers in the temperature range 900-1500°C.
- b) The corrosive action of coal-ash slags on SiC refractories is caused mainly by the reduction-oxidation reaction between SiC and the iron oxide component of the slag.

c) The rate of attack on SiC by coal-ash slag is critically dependent on temperature, i.e. whether or not the SiC-slag interface is above or below the solidus temperature of the silicates involved (as a first approximation selected compositions in the system  $\text{CaO-FeO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ ). This temperature is  $\sim 1100^\circ\text{C}$ .

Work during the third and final year of this contract was directed mainly toward delineation of equilibrium relations in chromium oxide-containing silicate systems. Main emphasis was placed on systems in which either  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  solid solutions or  $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$  solid solutions are present as solid phases in equilibrium with slags containing the main constituents of typical coal-ash slags. Various compositions within the system  $\text{CaO-MgO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$  were selected initially for such studies, specifically the composition volumes  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$ .

The main conclusions from these studies are as follows:

a) While the solubilities of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  and chromites in the silicate melts concerned are relatively small under the atmospheric conditions usually prevailing in slagging coal gasifiers, the solubilities increase drastically at extremely low oxygen pressures, under which conditions a substantial fraction of the chromium is present in the silicate liquid as  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$ . The oxygen pressures at which this situation prevails, however, are somewhat lower than those usually prevailing in coal gasification atmospheres.

b) The lowest liquidus and solidus temperatures in the systems  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$  systems are not significantly below those of the  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$  join ( $\sim 1387^\circ\text{C}$ ) because of the relatively low solubility of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  (and  $\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$ ) in these silicate melts, as noted above. With increasing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  ratios of the refractory phases, however, the lowest

liquidus and solidus temperatures decrease considerably, as larger amounts of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  or  $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4$  of the refractory phase dissolve in the silicate liquid.

c) The mutual solubilities between  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - and  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  end members in the system  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  are rather limited. Two new ternary compounds, "E" and "L", have been synthesized, with compositions approximately as follows:

"E": 19 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ , 38 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , 43 wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$

"L": 44 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ , 33 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , 23 wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ .

d) A quinary compound has been found in the system  $\text{CaO-MgO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , with composition approximately as follows: 15 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ , 6 wt.%  $\text{MgO}$ , 40 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , 30 wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ , 9 wt.%  $\text{SiO}_2$ .

The overall time schedule for work on the various tasks is shown in Fig. 1.

## RESULTS

### Stabilities of $\text{SiC}$ , $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ and $\text{Si}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$

The diagrams presented in Figs. 2-3 summarize in simple graphical form interrelations between oxygen potentials of typical coal gasification atmospheres and stability ranges of the various carbide-, nitride- and oxynitride phases as a function of temperature. The first diagram (Fig. 2) illustrates relations for  $\text{SiC}$ . The solid curve in the lower part of the diagram represents the equilibrium between  $\text{SiO}_2$  (stable in the area above the curve) and  $\text{SiC}$  (stable in the area below the curve) at a  $\text{CO}$  pressure of 1 atm. The dash curves above and below the solid curve depict the same equilibrium (i.e. coexistence of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{SiC}$ ) at  $\text{CO}$ -pressures of 50 and 0.02 atm., respectively. It is seen that over the entire temperature range covered ( $\sim 800-1600^\circ\text{C}$ ), and at the three  $\text{CO}$  pressures used as examples, the  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{SiC}$  equilibrium curves are located far below the shaded area representing approximate oxygen potentials

(in terms of the function  $R'T \log_{10} P_{O_2}$  as plotted along the vertical axis) of typical coal gasification atmospheres.

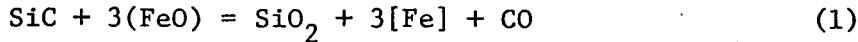
Similar relations apply in the case of silicon nitride and oxynitride, as demonstrated in Fig. 3. The solid curves in the lower part of the diagram show the equilibrium curves for  $SiO_2/Si_2N_2O$  and  $Si_2N_2O/\alpha-Si_3N_4$  at an  $N_2$  pressure of  $10^{-2}$  atm. The dash and dash-dot curves represent the  $SiO_2/Si_2N_2O$  equilibrium at  $N_2$  pressures of 1 atm. and  $10^{-4}$  atm., respectively. It is seen that the  $SiO_2/Si_2N_2O$  curves, at all three  $N_2$  pressures considered, are located far below the shaded area representing approximate oxygen potentials of typical coal gasification atmospheres. Hence, the typical coal gasification atmospheres are strongly oxidizing relative to these nitride- and oxynitride phases.

#### Nature of Reactions between SiC or $Si_3N_4$ and Various Oxide Constituents,

##### Including Slags

Reactions between simplified slags and SiC or  $Si_3N_4$  have shown that only small to moderate depressions of the known liquidus temperatures of the oxide phases takes place when the latter are made up from oxide components of very high thermodynamic stability, i.e. of large negative standard free energies of formation (e.g.  $CaO$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $SiO_2$  etc.). This is an indication that relatively small amounts of C and N are dissolved in the largely oxidic liquids present. At elevated pressures (e.g. 68 atm.), these effects are undoubtedly somewhat larger than at 1 atm., but they are still expected to be relatively minor. There is one component of coal-ash slags, however, which behaves quite differently, viz. iron oxide ( $FeO$  and/or  $Fe_2O_3$ ). This oxide is much less stable relative to its constituent elements than are the oxides previously mentioned ( $CaO$ ,  $MgO$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $SiO_2$ ), as illustrated by the standard-free energy curves ( $\Delta G^\circ$ ) shown in Fig. 4. Hence, in the case of  $FeO$ , this component of the slag

will have a tendency to react with SiC according to the simplified equation



The change in standard free energy of this reaction is relatively small ( $\sim -20$  Kcal). Hence equilibrium between SiC, the oxidation product  $\text{SiO}_2$ , metallic iron and  $\text{FeO}$  of the slag is reached at a moderately low  $\text{FeO}$ -concentration of the slag. Metallic iron will tend to be precipitated from the slag at or near the SiC refractory-slag interface until the  $\text{FeO}$  activity has been lowered to the equilibrium value required by equation (1).

That this reaction actually takes place at the SiC-slag interface has been shown in testing of SiC brick corrosion by actual coal-ash slags and by laboratory reactions between SiC and  $\text{FeO}$ -containing silicate melts, as illustrated by sketches shown in Fig. 5.

The reaction between SiC and  $\text{FeO}$  of the slag, as described above, serves to remove part of the  $\text{FeO}$  component from the slag. The equilibrium relations in the remaining oxide system may then, as a first approximation, be discussed in terms of the system  $\text{CaO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ . This is shown in Fig. 6, illustrating the liquidus surface of this system and showing as a black circle the approximate composition of  $\text{FeO}$ -depleted coal-ash slags in terms of the components used in this diagram. The solidus surface of the same system ( $\text{CaO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ ) is sketched in Fig. 7, with the black circle again representing approximate compositions of  $\text{FeO}$ -depleted coal-ash slags. It is seen that the solidus temperatures for a mixture of this composition, and consisting mainly of anorthite, with lesser amounts of silica and wollastonite, is  $\sim 1100^\circ\text{C}$ . It is inferred that the SiC-slag interface must be cooled to temperatures below this level in order to provide a reasonable measure of protection for a SiC refractory against oxidation-corrosion by coal-ash slags (see section on kinetics below).

Inasmuch as the reaction between SiC and the FeO of the slag removes only a part of the FeO component of the slag, a more accurate picture of equilibrium relations attending the reaction is afforded by consideration of phase relations in parts of the system  $\text{CaO}-\text{FeO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , as illustrated in Figs. 8-10. The first of these (Fig. 8) is a perspective drawing of a tetrahedron representing this system and showing the various composition volumes. The parts of the tetrahedron of greatest interest in the present research are the volumes and the bounding triangles in the vicinity of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  apex, i.e.  $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{CaSiO}_3-\text{FeO}-\text{SiO}_2$ . Phase relations in two of the ternary systems bounding this quaternary system are portrayed in Figs. 9 and 10. The solidus temperatures are of the order of  $\sim 1080-1120^\circ\text{C}$ , thus establishing an upper limit for the temperature that may be tolerated without severe fluxing-oxidation of a SiC refractory by coal-ash slags, in accordance with considerations presented in the following section. The actual practical temperature limit may be considerably lower, however.

Kinetics of Reactions between SiC and Oxidizing Atmospheres, with or without Oxide (Slag) Phases Present

A large volume of literature is available on the oxidation of SiC. These previous studies have established that the reaction is usually characterized by the formation of a dense  $\text{SiO}_2$  layer on the surface of the SiC, and that the rate of oxidation is dependent primarily on the rate of diffusion of oxygen through this layer. Inasmuch as this diffusion rate is low under most circumstances, the rate of oxidation at moderate temperatures is usually quite low. However, continued protection against oxidation of the remaining SiC is dependent on the preservation of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  protective layer. Hence, a slag having constituents reacting with  $\text{SiO}_2$  to remove this layer would have a strong

detrimental effect on the ability of the SiC body to withstand corrosion by oxidation. It is clear that the rate and mechanism by which the protective  $\text{SiO}_2$  layer is removed by reaction with the slag is a critical factor in evaluating behavior of SiC refractories in a coal gasification environment.

Representative results of the rates of the SiC-gas reactions, as determined in the present research, are shown in Figs. 11-14. The first of these (Fig. 11) shows results of oxidation of SiC in  $\text{O}_2$ -argon atmospheres at 1100, 1200 and 1300°C. The most striking feature of the graph is the progressive decrease in the dependence of the parabolic rate constant K with increasing temperature ( $[1-(1-F)^{1/3}]^2 = Kt$ , where F is fraction of SiC reacted and t is the time).

The next diagram (Fig. 12) shows some typical results of experiments involving the oxidation of SiC pellets in various  $\text{CO}_2$ -containing atmospheres. The calculated activation energies for the oxidation under these conditions was found to be relatively constant ( $\sim 75$  Kcal) in the temperature range of 1100-1300°C.

The effects of the presence of admixtures of some silicate phases on the oxidation of SiC in a  $\text{CO}_2/\text{CO}$  atmosphere are illustrated in Fig. 13. Included for comparison is a curve for SiC without the addition of an oxide phase.

Data obtained for the kinetics of the reaction between FeO and SiC in  $\text{CO}_2$ -CO atmospheres are shown in Fig. 14. An activation energy of  $\sim 50$  Kcal is calculated from these data.

#### Effects of Strongly Reducing Conditions on Equilibria in Chromium

#### Oxide-Containing Systems

Liquidus and solidus temperatures in systems containing chromium oxide as a component may decrease drastically at very low oxygen potentials, where

substantial proportions of the chromium is present as  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$  in the silicate melts. This is illustrated for the systems chromium oxide- $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -chromium oxide- $\text{SiO}_2$  in contact with metallic chromium, in Figs. 15 and 16, respectively.

Experimental studies of these systems have also been carried out at somewhat higher oxygen potentials. This is based on the observation that the presence of  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$  in amounts large enough to change significantly the phase relations observed in  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ -containing systems is restricted to a range of very low oxygen pressures. It was considered essential that the extent of this range be established for at least a couple of systems. Toward this end, the solidus temperatures as a function of oxygen pressure were determined experimentally for the systems chromium oxide- $\text{SiO}_2$  and chromium oxide- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{SiO}_2$ . The results are summarized in Fig. 17. It is clear that the oxygen partial pressures of the gas phase in slagging coal gasifiers usually is higher than those at which the presence of  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$  in the slag phase has a noticeably depressing effect on solidus (and liquidus) temperatures of the refractory. However,  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$  may play a role in the chemistry of coal-ash slags at the  $\text{SiC}$ -slag interface, especially at the highest temperatures ( $\sim 1600^\circ\text{C}$ ) involved.

#### Equilibrium Relations in the System $\text{CaO}$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ in $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2$ Atmosphere

Phase relations in the system  $\text{CaO}$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  have been determined in the solidus temperature region  $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2$  atmospheres of mixing ratio 10:1. The results obtained are summarized graphically in Fig. 18. Most noteworthy among the relations shown is the occurrence of two previously unreported ternary phases. One of these (designated "L" in the diagram) has a composition of approximately 44 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ , 33 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and 23 wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ . The other phase (designated "E" in the diagrams) has a composition of approximately 19 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ , 38 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and 43 wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ .

In the bounding binary system  $\text{CaO-Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ , there is only one stable compound,  $\text{CaCr}_2\text{O}_4$ , whereas in the system  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  a large number of calcium aluminates are stable, viz.  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$ ,  $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ ,  $\text{CaAl}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{CaAl}_4\text{O}_7$ ,  $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ . There is a complete solid-solution series between  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  to form the sesquioxide phase in which at high temperatures ( $> \sim 1100^\circ\text{C}$ )  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  substitute for each other in all proportions. The degree of substitution of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in the various calcium aluminates varies greatly with  $\text{CaO}/(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3+\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3)$  ratios of the phase, decreasing, in general, with increasing values of this ratio. A substantial amount ( $\sim 20\%$ ) of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  substitutes for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  in  $\text{CaCr}_2\text{O}_4$  at the high temperatures involved in the present study. The lowest solidus temperatures in the system are for mixtures of relatively high  $\text{CaO}$ - and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  contents (composition triangles  $\text{CaO-CaCr}_2\text{O}_4$ -" $\text{L}$ ",  $\text{CaO}$ -" $\text{L}$ "- $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$ , " $\text{L}$ "- $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$ - $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ , and " $\text{L}$ "- $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ - $\text{CaAl}_2\text{O}_4$ ).

#### Equilibrium Relations in the System $\text{FeO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$

The equilibrium studies in this system were carried out over a range of controlled oxygen partial pressures similar to those involved in slagging coal gasifiers. The results obtained demonstrate that there is a profound effect of oxygen pressure on the distribution of chromium between solid phases (i.e. refractory phases) and silicate liquids (i.e. slags) at very low oxygen pressures. For instance, the solubility of chromium oxide in the silicate liquid in equilibrium with the crystalline phases  $\text{SiO}_2$ , mullite, sesquioxide ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  solid solution), spinel ( $\text{FeAl}_2\text{O}_4-\text{FeCr}_2\text{O}_4-\text{FeFe}_2\text{O}_4$  solid solution) increases by a factor of  $\sim 8$  as the oxygen pressure decreases from  $\sim 10^{-9}$  to  $\sim 10^{-12}$  atm. at  $\sim 1400^\circ\text{C}$ . This is illustrated in Fig. 19. No drastic effect of changing oxygen pressures on the solidus and liquidus temperatures for this phase assemblage in the system  $\text{Fe-Cr-Al-Si-O}$  is observed. This is because the

iron-oxide content of the liquid phase decreases concomitantly with the increase in chromium oxide content ( $\text{Cr}^{2+}$ ) as the oxygen pressure decreases from  $\sim 10^{-9}$  to  $\sim 10^{-12}$  atm. at  $\sim 1400^\circ\text{C}$ .

Equilibrium Relations in the System  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  in

$\text{CO}_2-\text{H}_2$  Atmosphere

The system  $\text{CaO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$  is portrayed in the form of a regular tetrahedron in Fig. 20. The compositions of the two ternary compounds gehlenite ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7$ ) and anorthite ( $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ ) are shown in the basal plane. Combination of these two points with the two apices  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  describes an irregular tetrahedron representing the sub-system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ . Phase relations in one of the bounding planes of this tetrahedron, viz.  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , are known from previous work, as shown in Fig. 21.

Phase relations in the bounding plane  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  were determined in the present work. Results obtained are shown graphically in Fig. 22. Attention is directed toward the very low solubility of chromium oxide ( $\sim 0.5$  wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ) in the silicate liquid and the relatively low depression of liquidus temperatures (temperature of the ternary eutectic point  $\sim 1380^\circ\text{C}$  as compared with an eutectic temperature of  $1387^\circ\text{C}$  in the binary system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ ). Attention is also directed toward the much higher solubility of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in the corresponding silicate liquids in the system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (see Fig. 21).

Equilibrium Relations in the System  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$

$\text{CO}_2-\text{H}_2$  Atmosphere

The system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$  is portrayed in the form of a regular tetrahedron in Fig. 23. The join  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7$  (gehlenite)- $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$

(anorthite) represents simplified compositions of typical coal-ash slags, and the remaining two apices of the tetrahedron ( $MgAl_2O_4$  and  $MgCr_2O_4$ ) represent end-member refractory spinels. Phase relations existing in two of the faces of this tetrahedron, viz.  $Ca_2Al_2SiO_7$ - $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$ - $MgAl_2O_4$  and  $Ca_2Al_2SiO_7$ - $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$ - $MgCr_2O_4$ , are shown in Figs. 24-25. The first of these (Fig. 24) shows approximate phase relations in the system  $Ca_2Al_2SiO_7$ - $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$ - $MgCr_2O_4$  in an atmosphere of  $CO_2$ - $H_2$  = 10:1. The second diagram (Fig. 25) shows approximate liquidus phase relations in the system  $Ca_2Al_2SiO_7$ - $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$ - $MgAl_2O_4$  in  $CO_2$ - $H_2$  atmosphere of  $CO_2$ / $H_2$  ratio = 10:1.

The crystalline phase designated "Y" in Fig. 24 has been found, by electron microprobe analysis, to have approximately the following compositions: 15 wt.%  $CaO$ , 6 wt.%  $MgO$ , 40 wt.%  $Al_2O_3$ , 30 wt.%  $Cr_2O_3$ , 9 wt.%  $SiO_2$ .

LEGENDS FOR DIAGRAMS

Fig. 1 Summary of time schedules for various aspects of the research. The width of the bars is a measure of the relative efforts of the various tasks performed.

Fig. 2 Curves (see lower part of diagram) showing the  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{SiC}$  equilibrium at CO-pressure of 1 atm. (solid line), 50 and 0.02 atm. (dash lines) as a function of temperature. The shaded area in the upper part of the diagram indicates approximate oxygen potentials of typical coal gasification atmospheres.

Fig. 3 Curves (see lower part of diagram) showing the  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Si}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Si}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}/\alpha\text{-Si}_3\text{N}_4$  equilibria at  $\text{N}_2$  pressures of  $10^{-2}$  atm. (solid line), 1 atm. (dash line) and  $10^{-4}$  atm. (dash-dot line). The shaded area in the upper part of the diagram indicates approximate oxygen potentials of typical coal gasification atmosphere.

Fig. 4 Standard free energies ( $\Delta G^\circ$ ) of formation of various oxides from their elements<sup>(1)</sup>.

Fig. 5 Sketches showing typical features of reactions between SiC and FeO-containing coal-ash slags, as observed in testing of refractories (a) and in laboratory-scale experiments (b).

Fig. 6 Liquidus surface of the system  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , reproduced from Muan and Osborn<sup>(1)</sup>, based on data available in previous literature<sup>(2-7)</sup>.

Fig. 7 Solidus surface of the system  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , sketched on the basis of data shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 Sketch of tetrahedron representing the system  $\text{CaO-FeO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , showing the composition volumes of main interest in conjunction with coal-ash slags.

Fig. 9. Liquidus phase relations in part of the system  $\text{CaO}-\text{FeO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , based on data of Schairer<sup>(8)</sup>.

Fig. 10. Liquidus phase relations in part of the system  $\text{CaO}-\text{FeO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ , based on data of Schairer<sup>(8)</sup>.

Fig. 11. Parabolic rate constants as a function of oxygen pressure at various temperatures (1100, 1200, 1300°C) for oxidation of SiC pellets in  $\text{O}_2$ -Ar mixtures.

Fig. 12. Parabolic rate constants as a function of  $\text{CO}_2$  pressure at various temperatures (1200, 1250, 1300°C) for oxidation of SiC pellets in various  $\text{CO}_2$ -containing atmospheres.

Fig. 13. Rates of oxidation of SiC pellets with and without additions of various oxide phases, as labelled on each curve, at a constant temperature of 1100°C.

Fig. 14. Rates of oxidation of SiC pellets with additions of various amounts of FeO, as labelled on each curve, at a constant temperature of 1000°C.

Fig. 15. Phase relations in the system chromium oxide- $\text{SiO}_2$  in contact with metallic chromium.

Fig. 16. Liquidus phase relations in the system  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -chromium oxide- $\text{SiO}_2$  in contact with metallic chromium.

Fig. 17. Effects of oxygen pressure on solidus temperatures in  $\text{SiO}_2$ -chromium oxide and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -chromium oxide- $\text{SiO}_2$  mixtures.

Fig. 18. Approximate solidus surface of the system  $\text{CaO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  in a  $\text{CO}_2-\text{H}_2$  atmosphere of ratio 10:1. The composition of two ternary compounds designated as "L" and "E" are approximately as shown, although further analytical work is needed to characterize these phases more accurately.

Fig. 19 Variation in chromium oxide content of liquid of phase assemblage  $\text{SiO}_2$  + mullite + spinel + sesquioxide + liquid in the system Fe-Cr-Al- $\text{SiO}$  at  $\sim 1400^\circ\text{C}$ , as a function of oxygen pressure.

Fig. 20 Perspective drawing of tetrahedron representing the system  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2$ . The composition volume of especial interest in the present work is  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ .

Fig. 21 Sketch showing main features of liquidus phase relations in the system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , reproduced from Muan and Osborn<sup>(1)</sup>, based largely on the original data of Rankin and Wright<sup>(2)</sup> and of Greig<sup>(3)</sup>, with modifications based on more recent data<sup>(4-7)</sup>.

Fig. 22 Sketch showing main features of liquidus phase relations in the system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  in a  $\text{CO}_2-\text{H}_2$  atmosphere of ratio 10:1, as determined in the present investigation.

Fig. 23 Tetrahedron representing the system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$ , showing representative planes of constant  $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$  ratios of mixtures.

Fig. 24 Approximate liquidus phase relations in the system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_4$  in an atmosphere of  $\text{CO}_2-\text{H}_2 = 10:1$ . Heavy lines are boundary curves outlining the various primary phase fields, and light lines are liquidus isotherms.

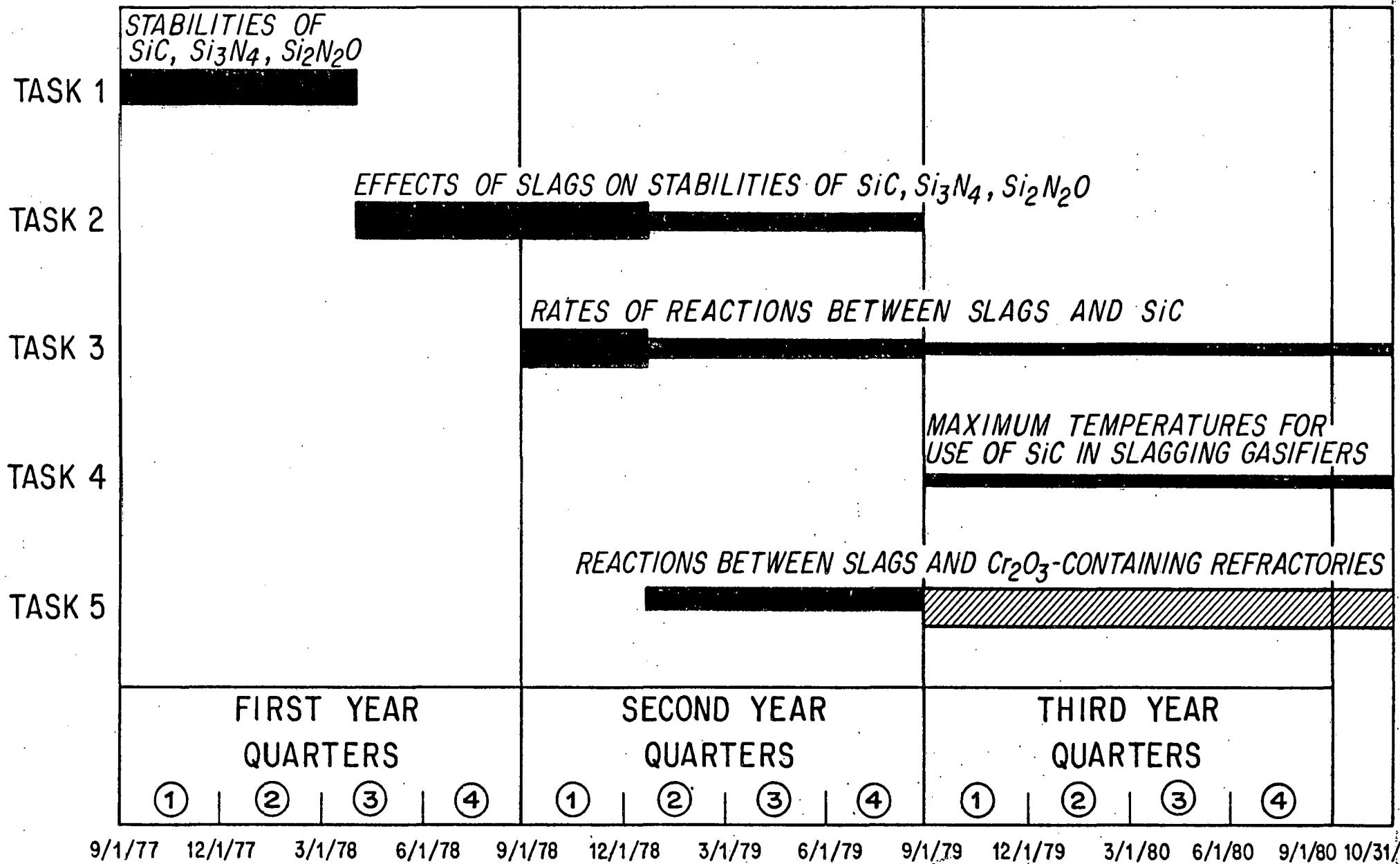
Fig. 25 Approximate liquidus phase relations in the system  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7-\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8-\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , as reproduced from previous literature<sup>(9)</sup>. Heavy lines are boundary curves outlining the various primary phase fields, and light lines are liquidus isotherms.

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## PROJECTED TIME SCHEDULE FOR VARIOUS TASKS

DOE PROJECT NO. EF-77-S-01-2708



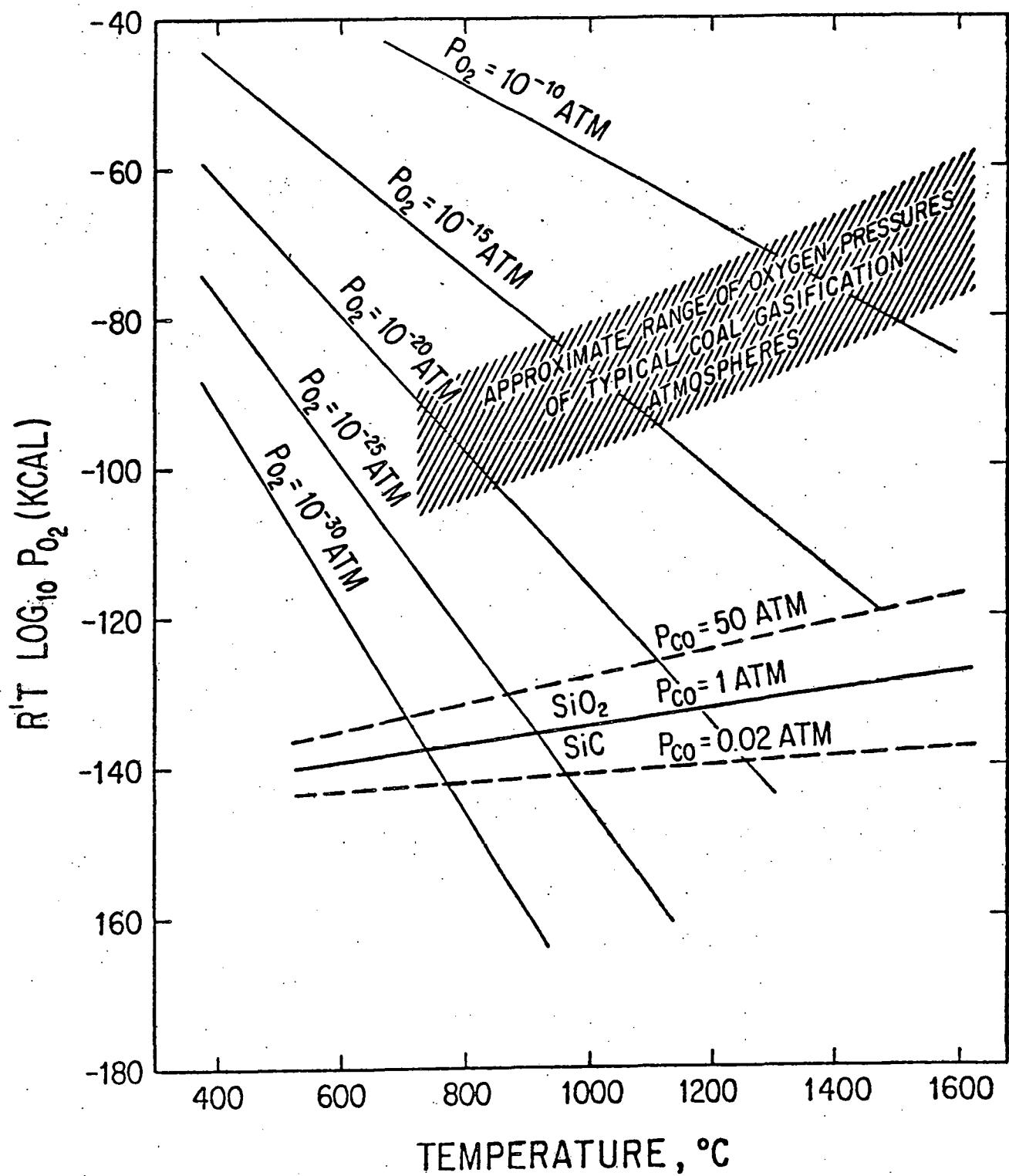


Fig. 2

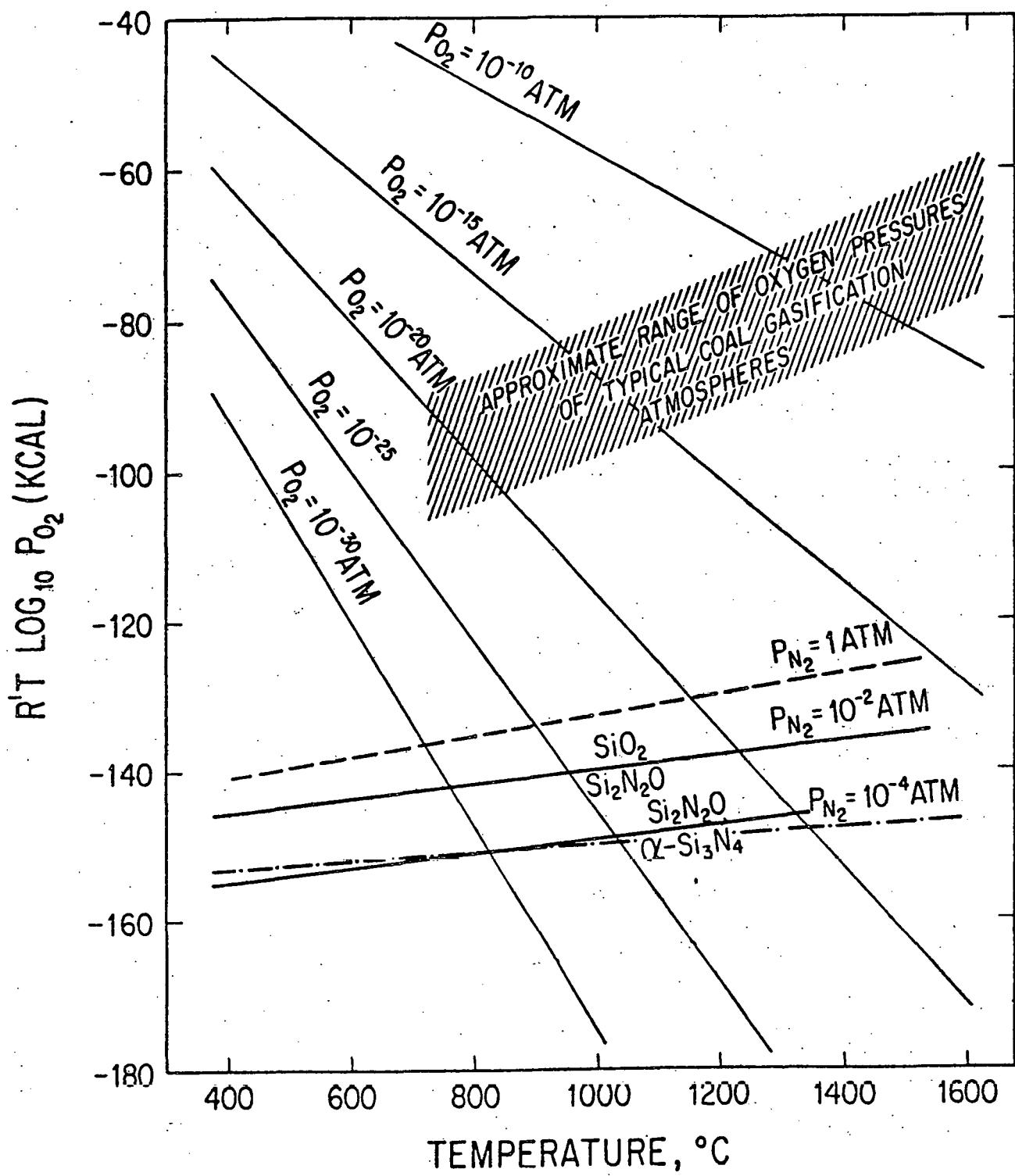


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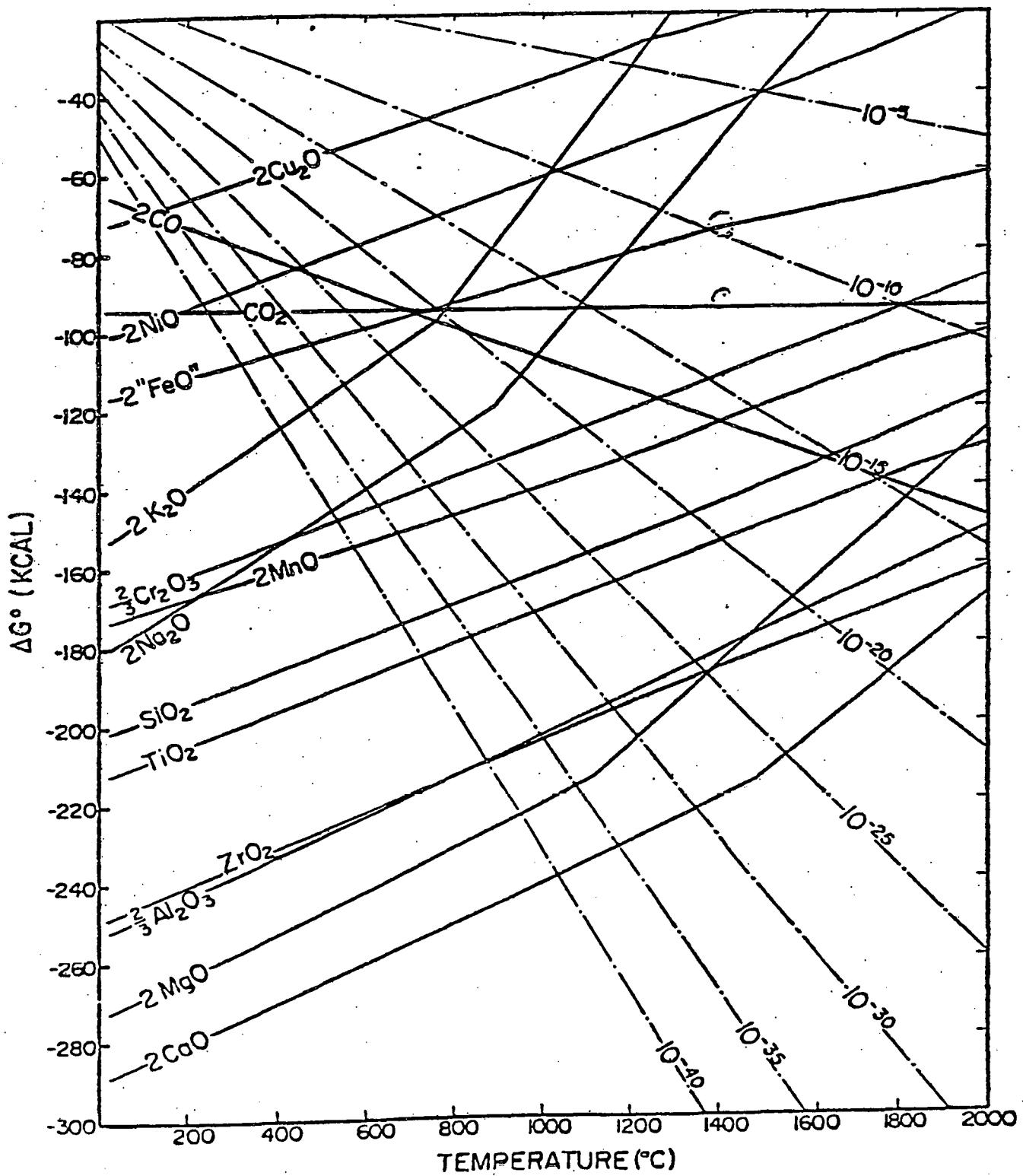
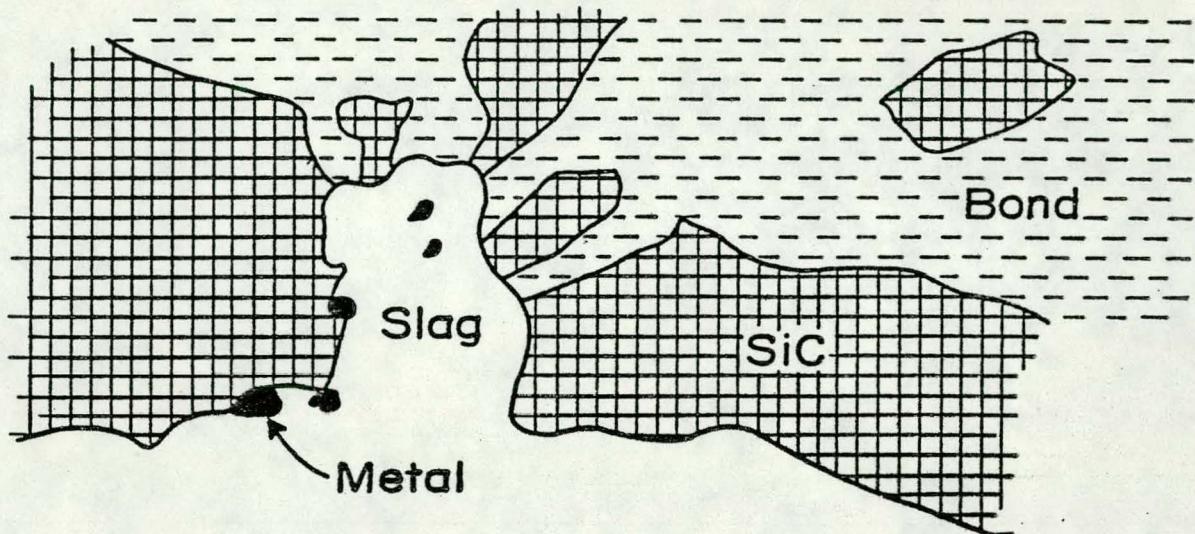
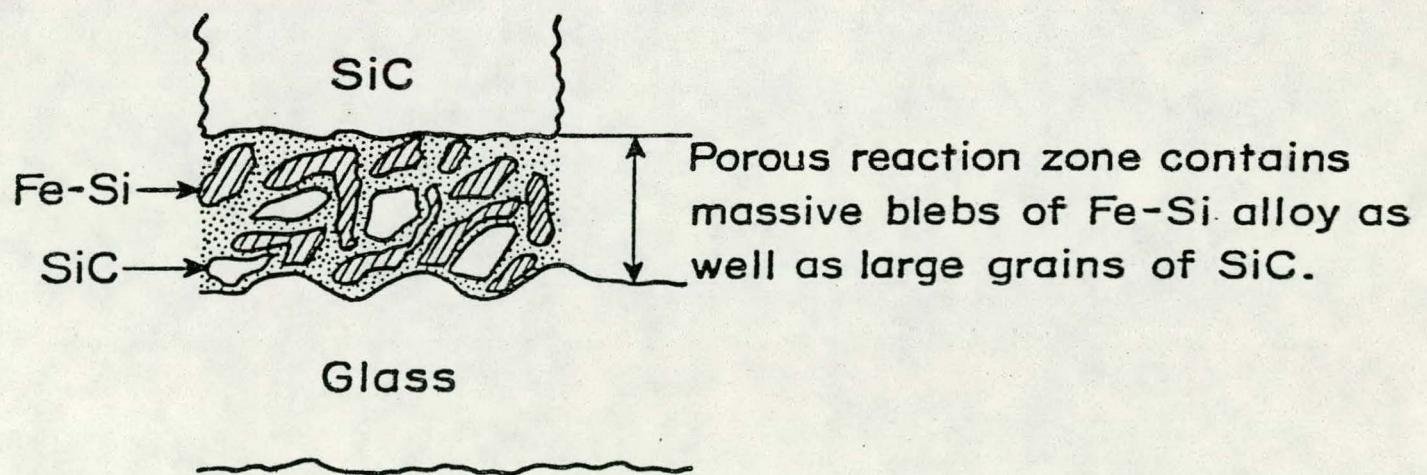


Fig. 4



(a)



(b)

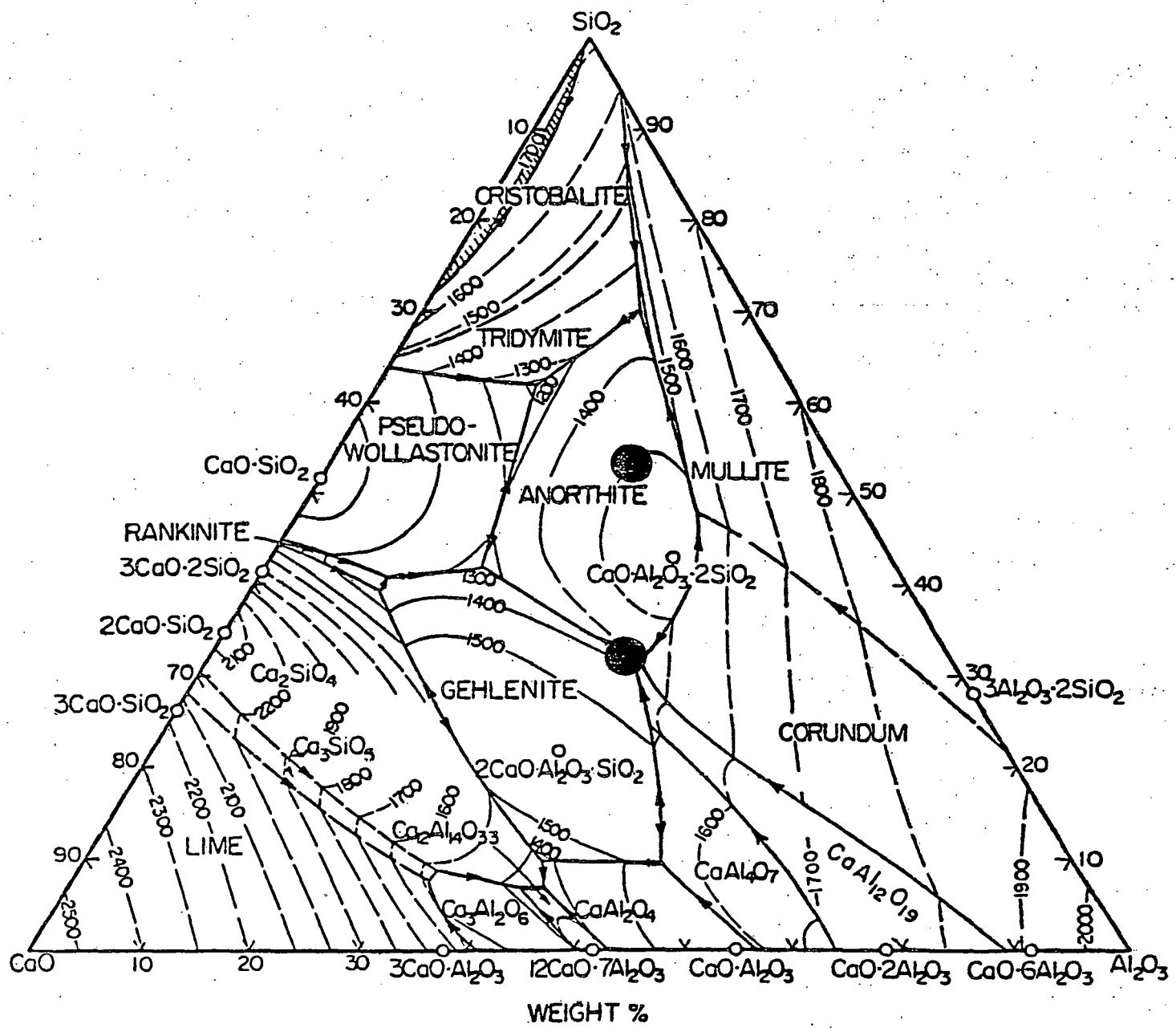


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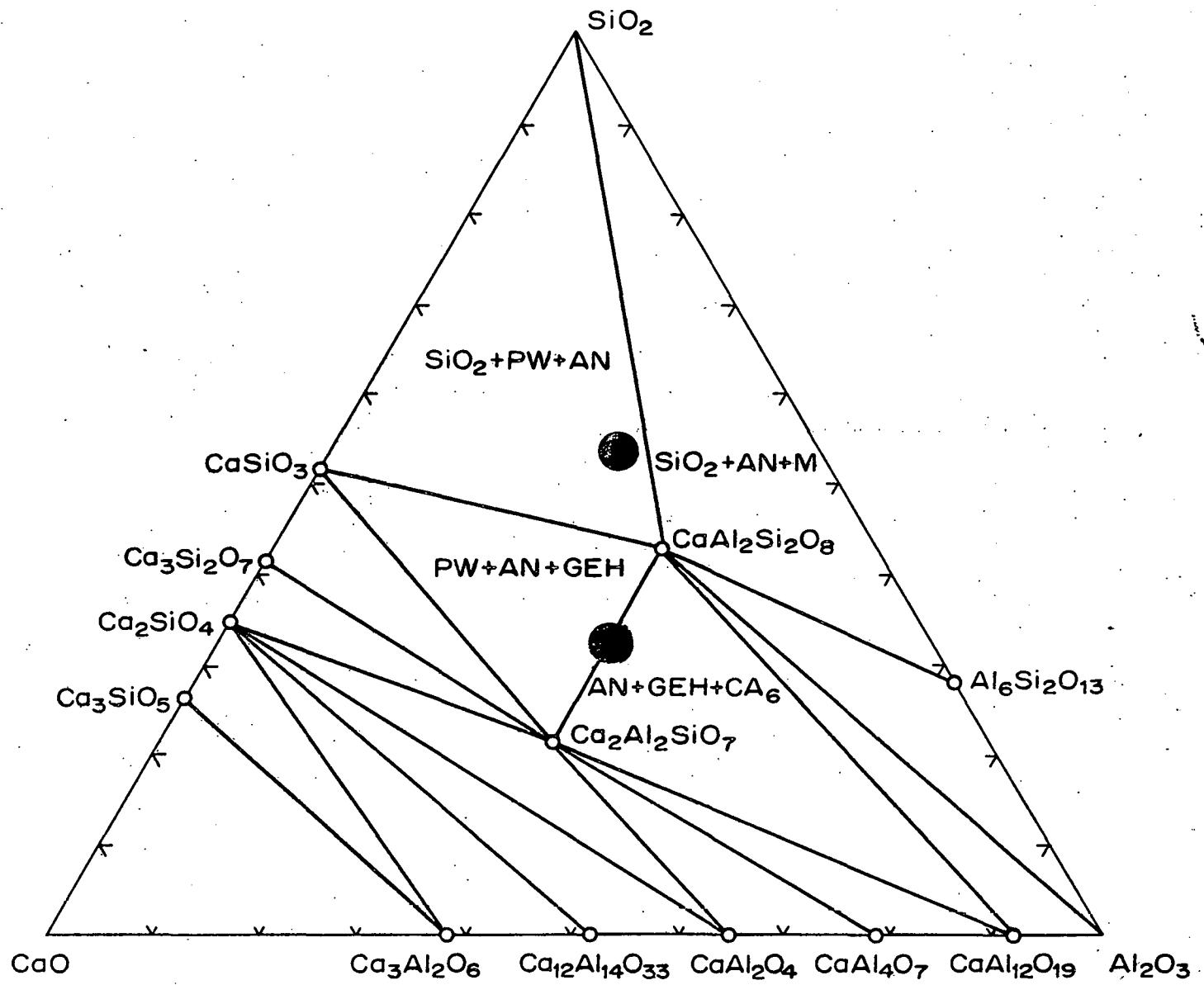


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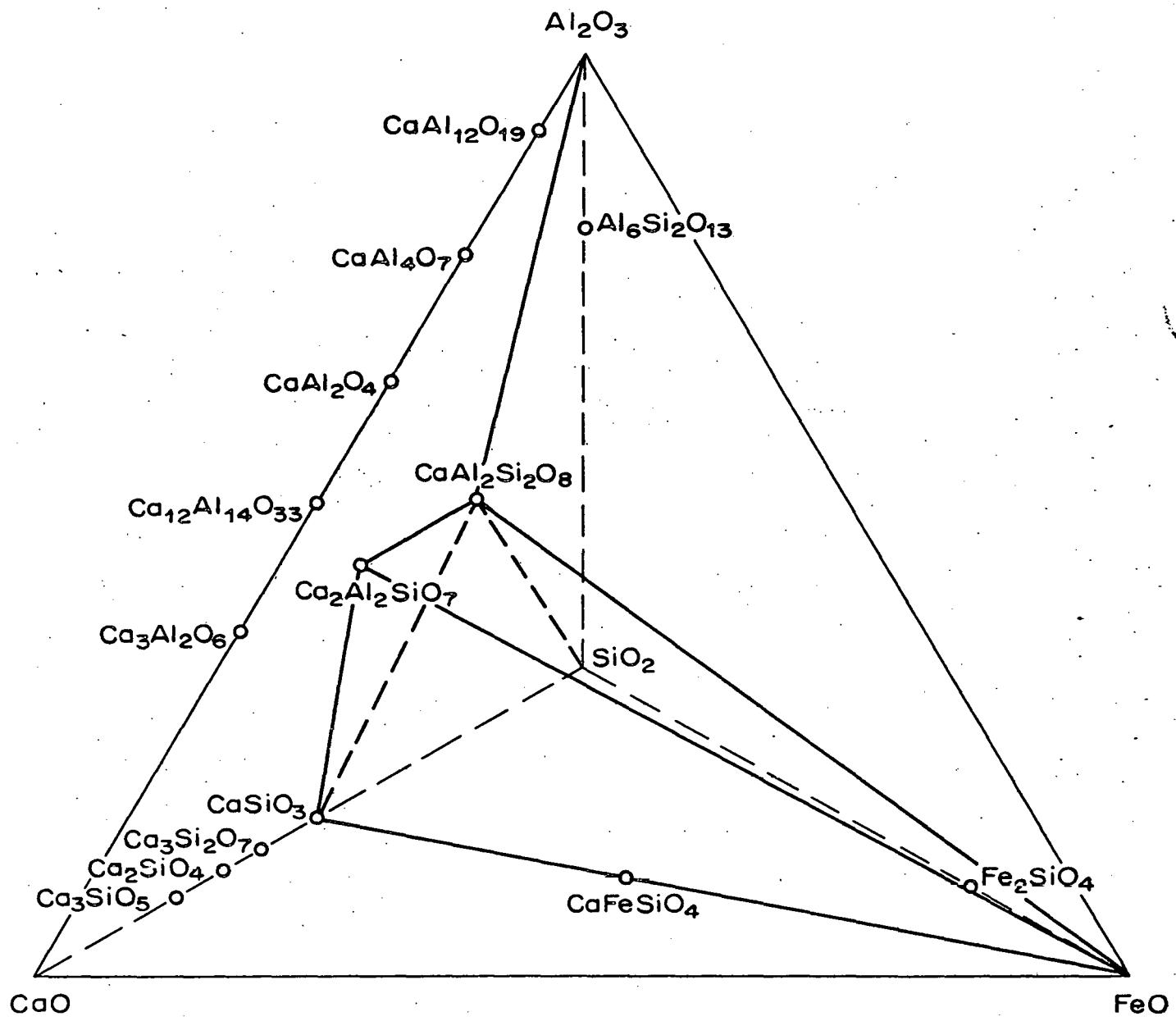


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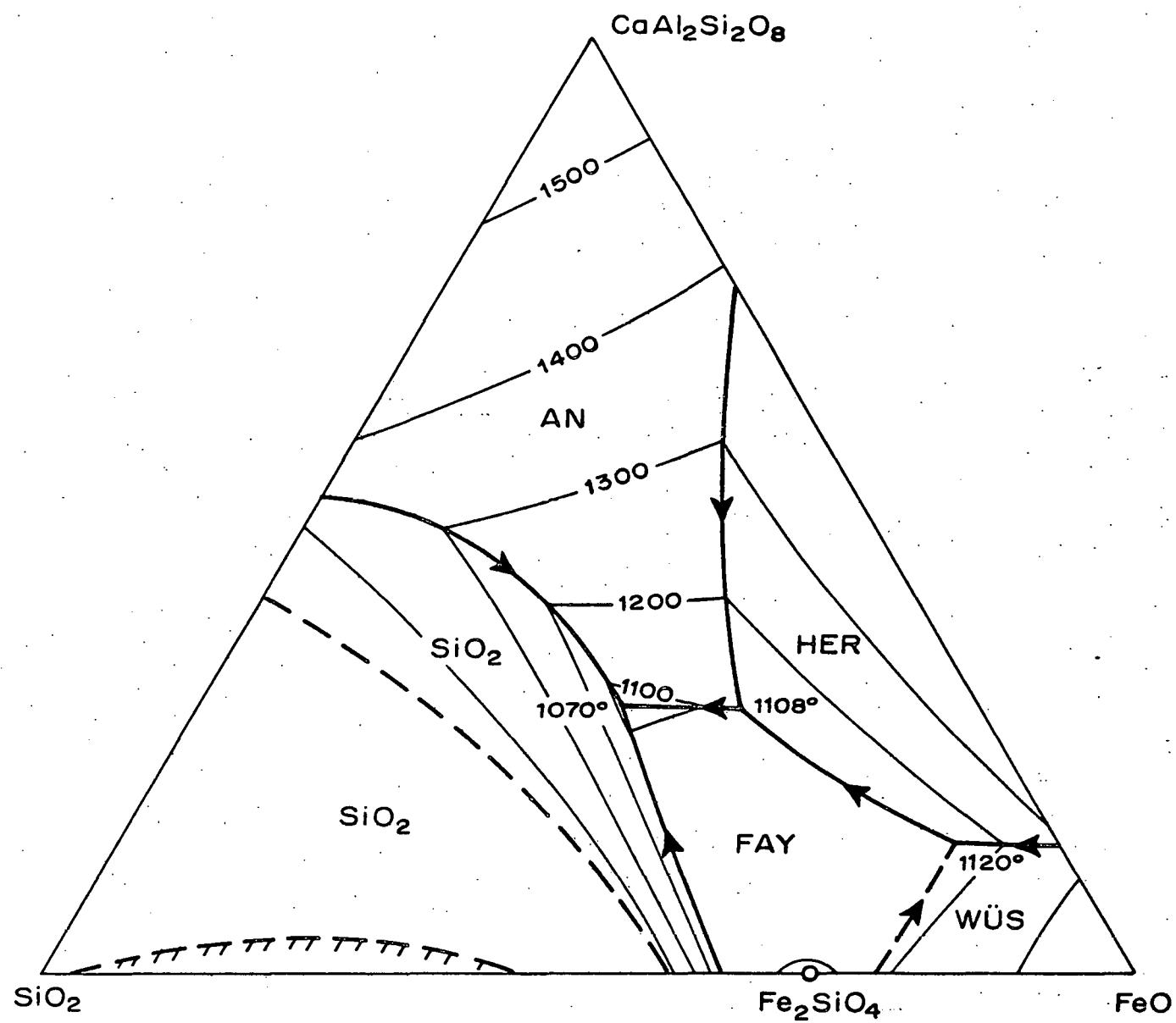


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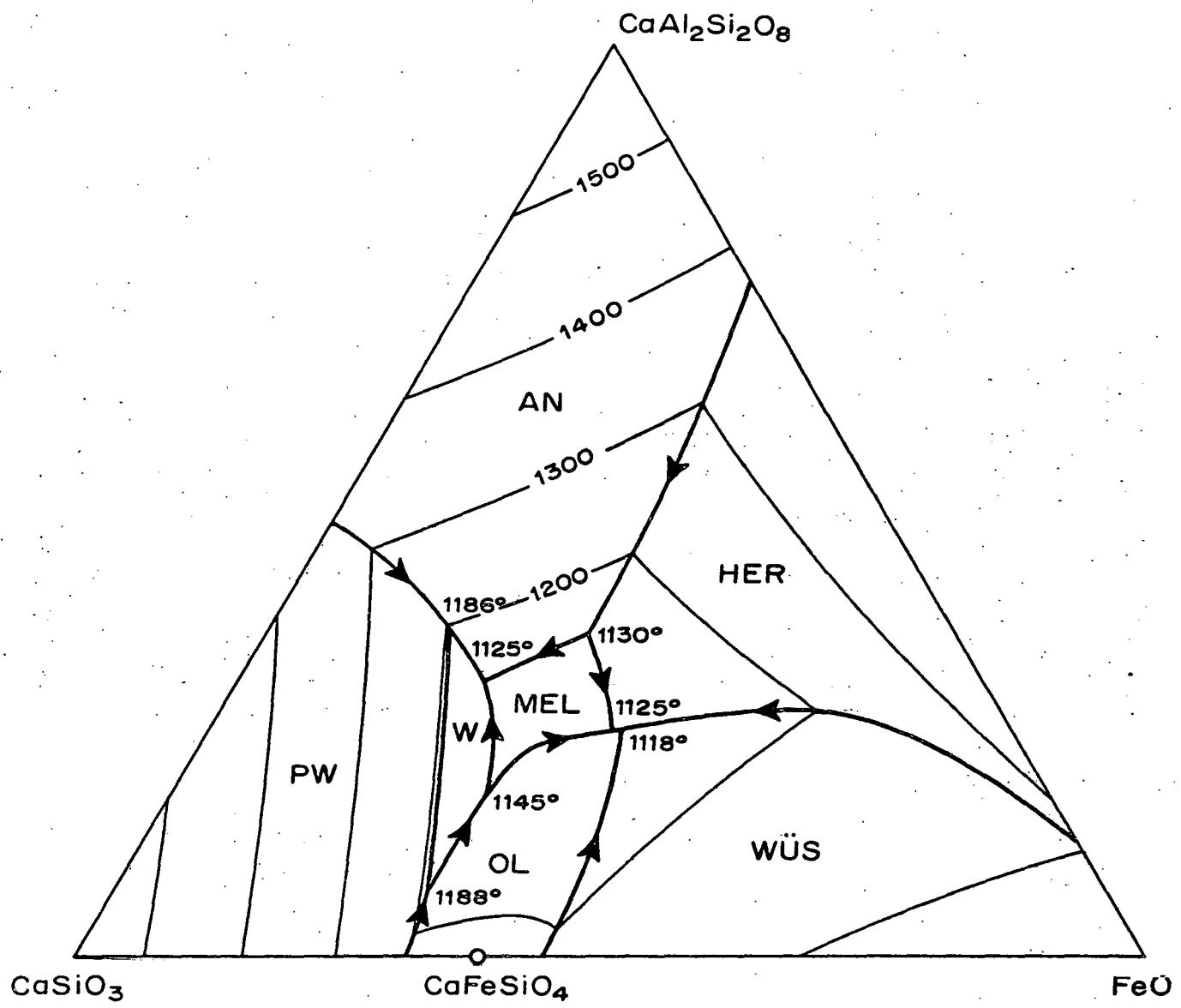


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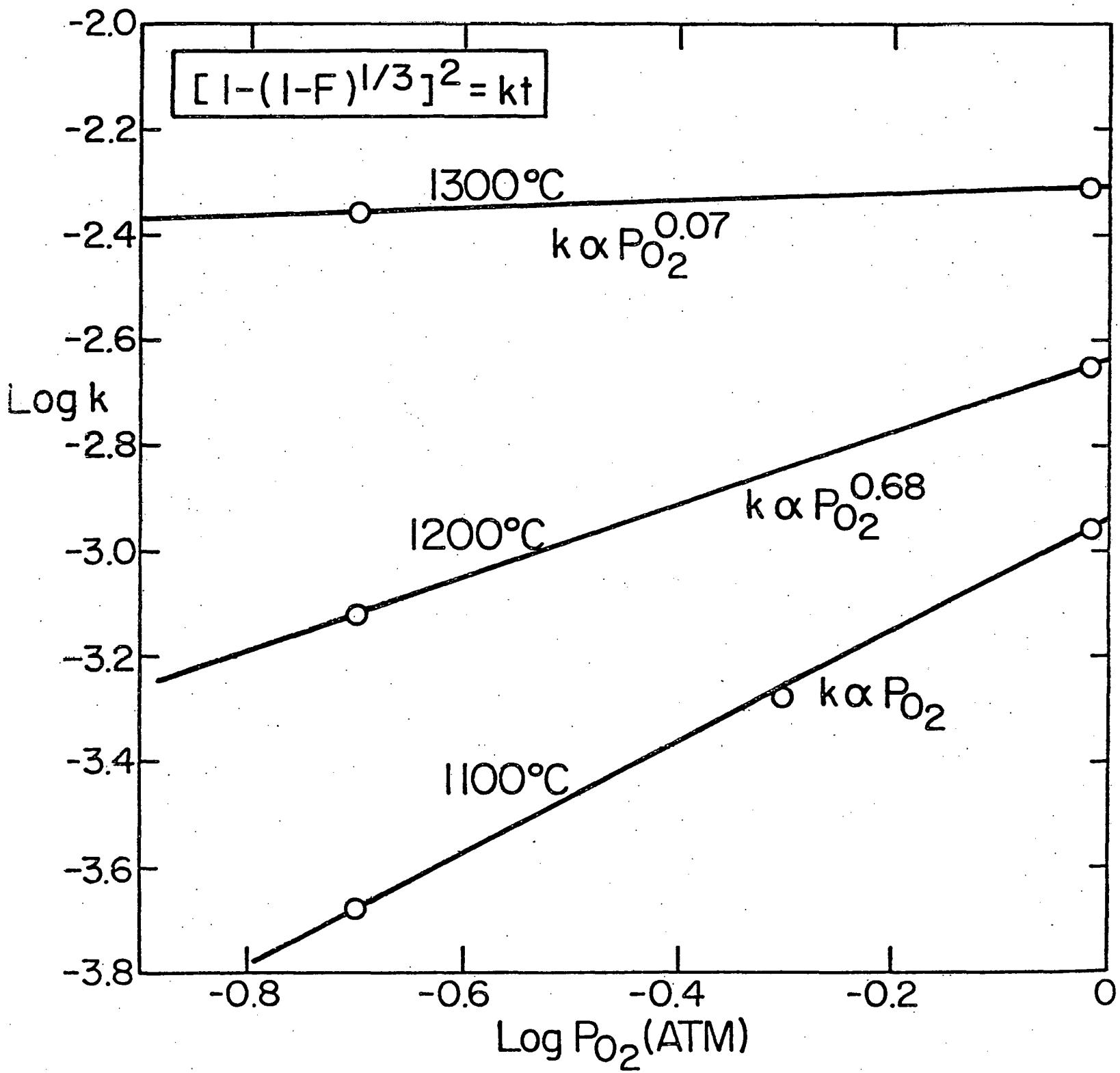


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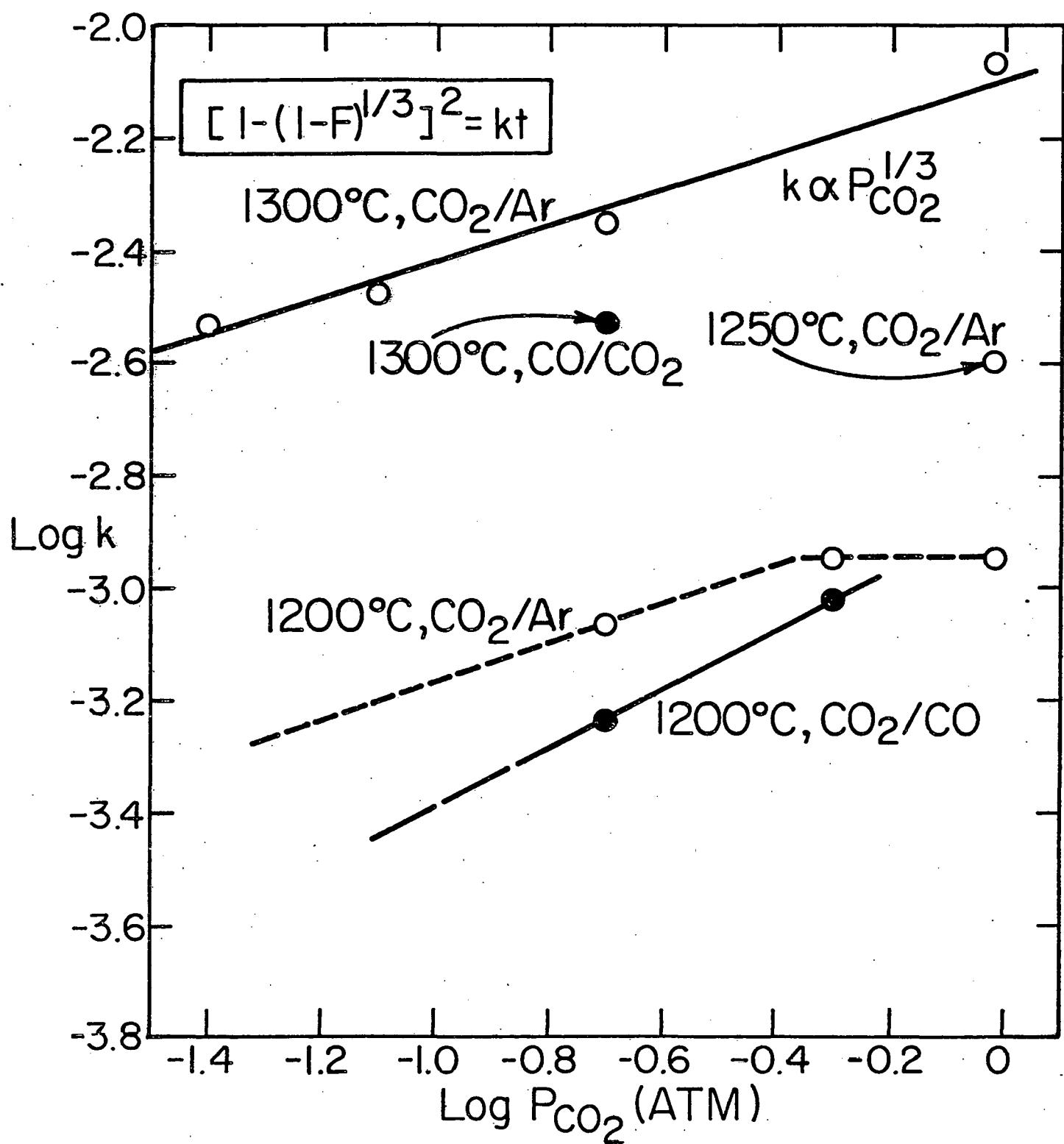


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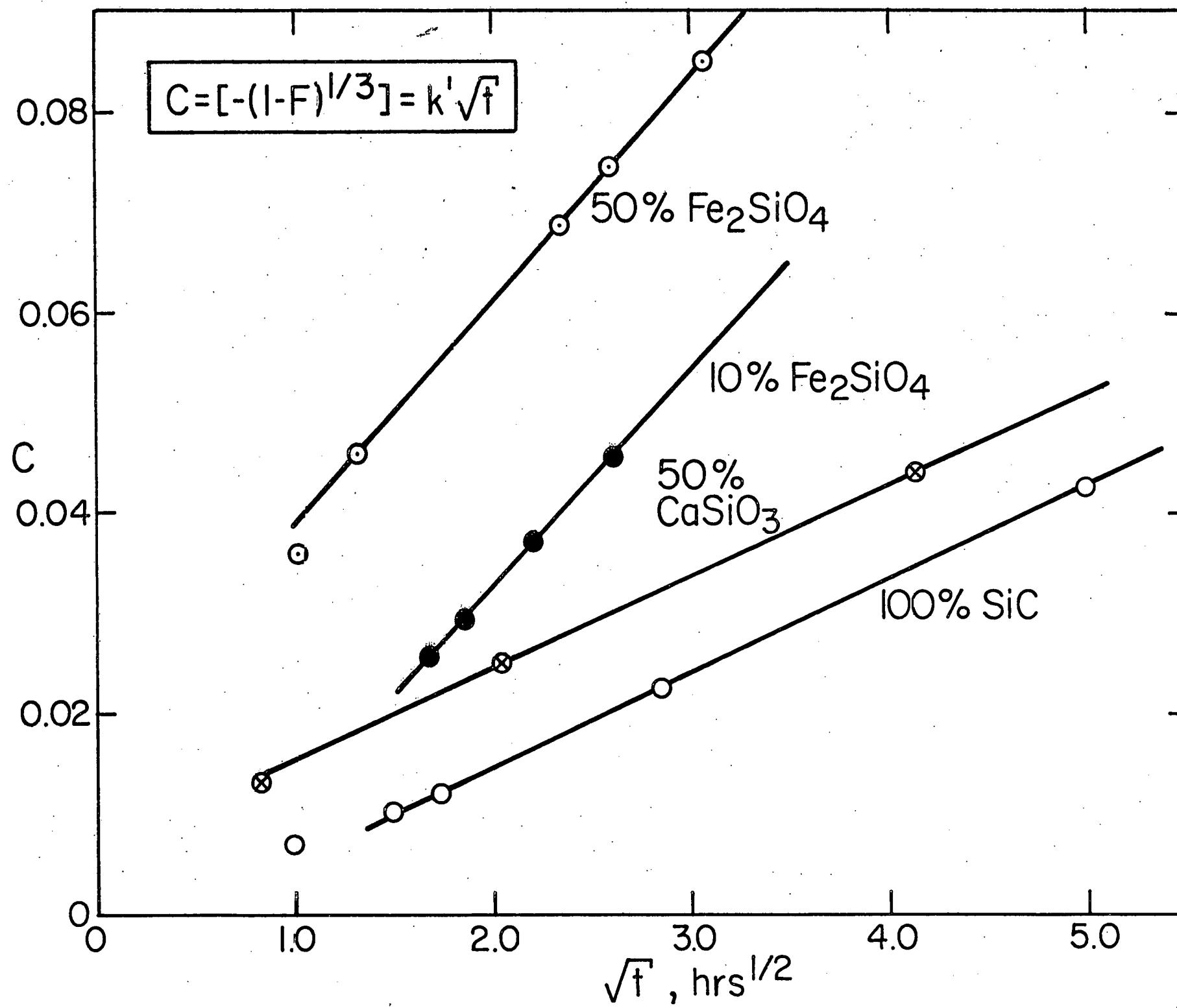


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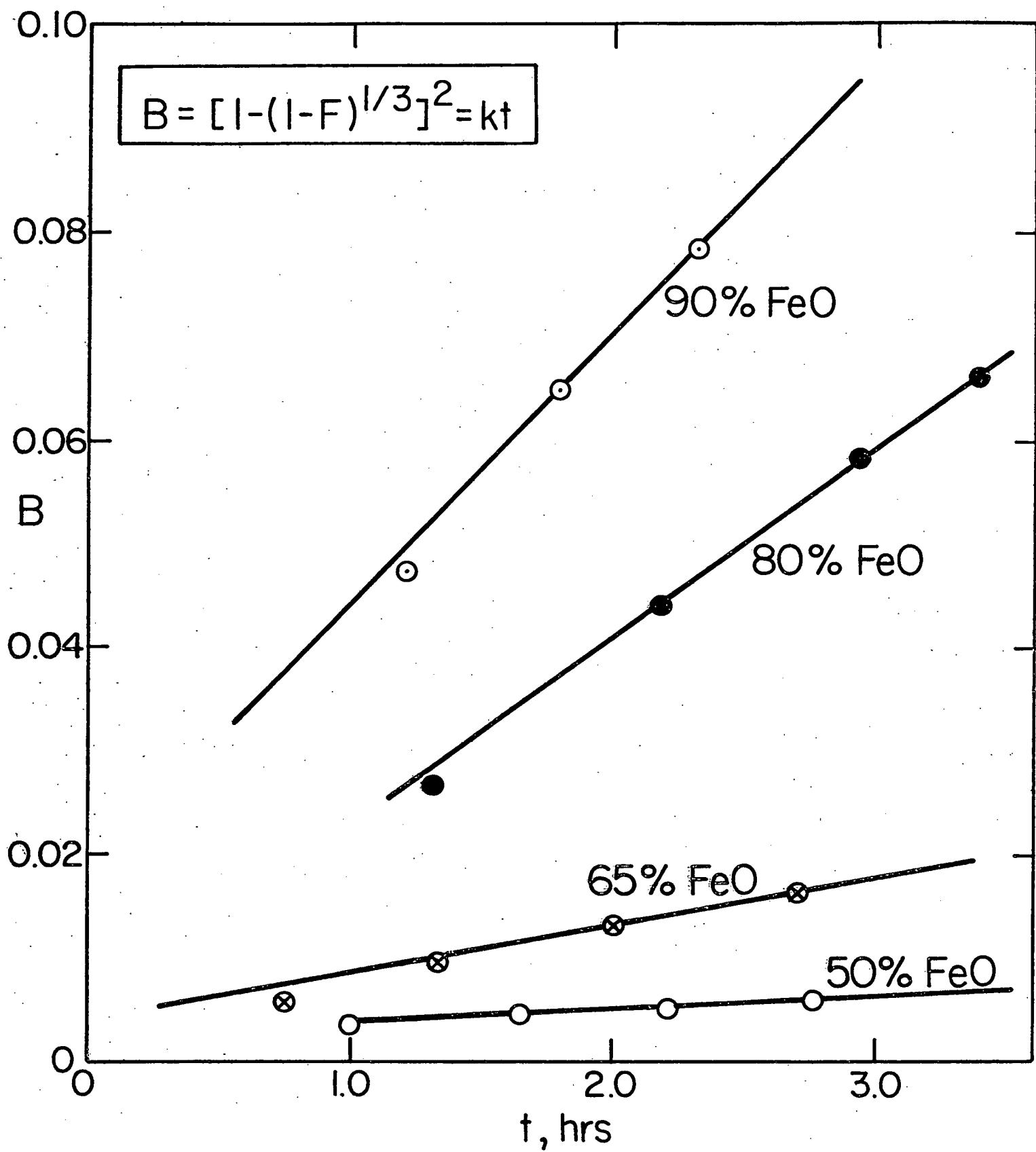


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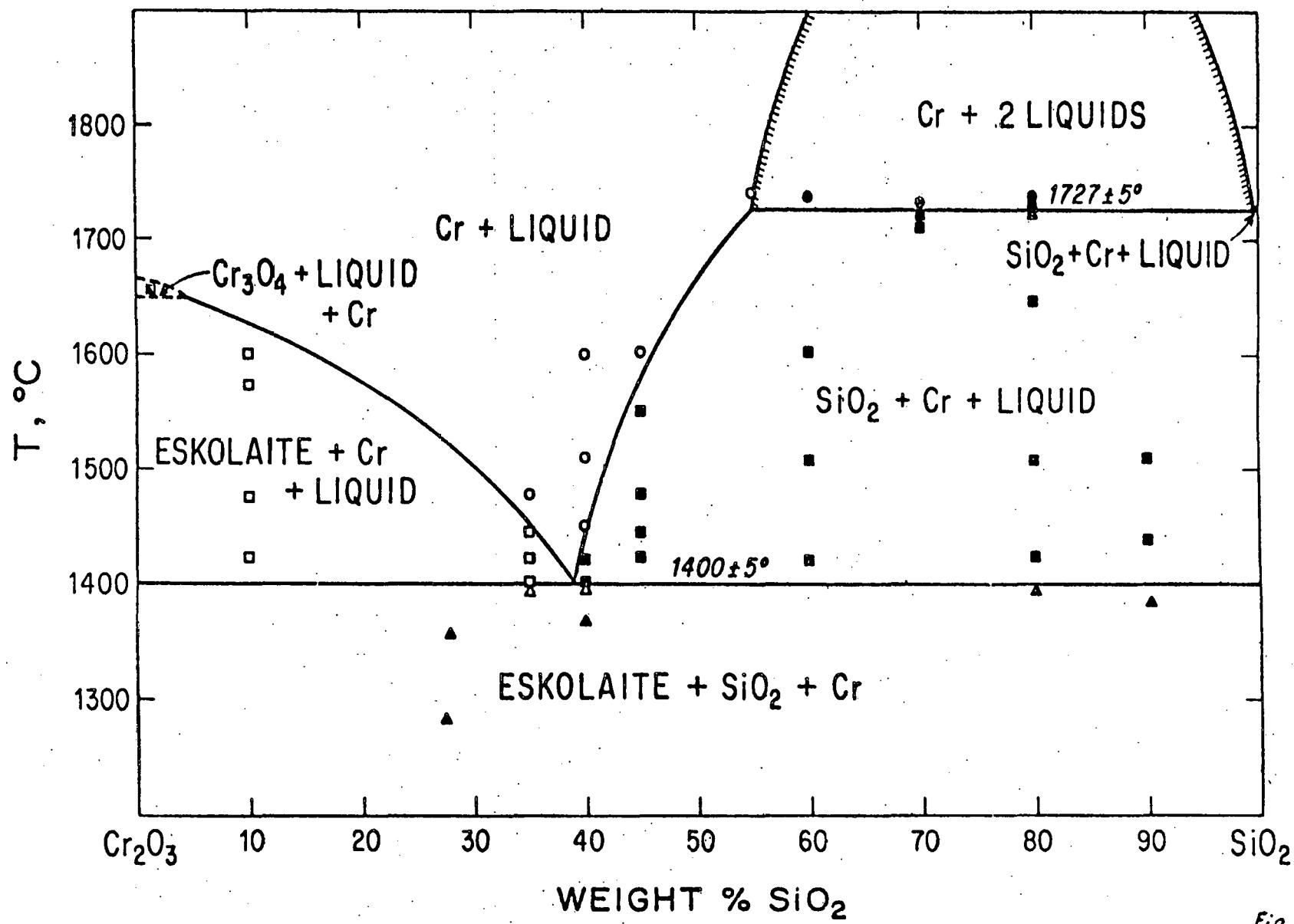


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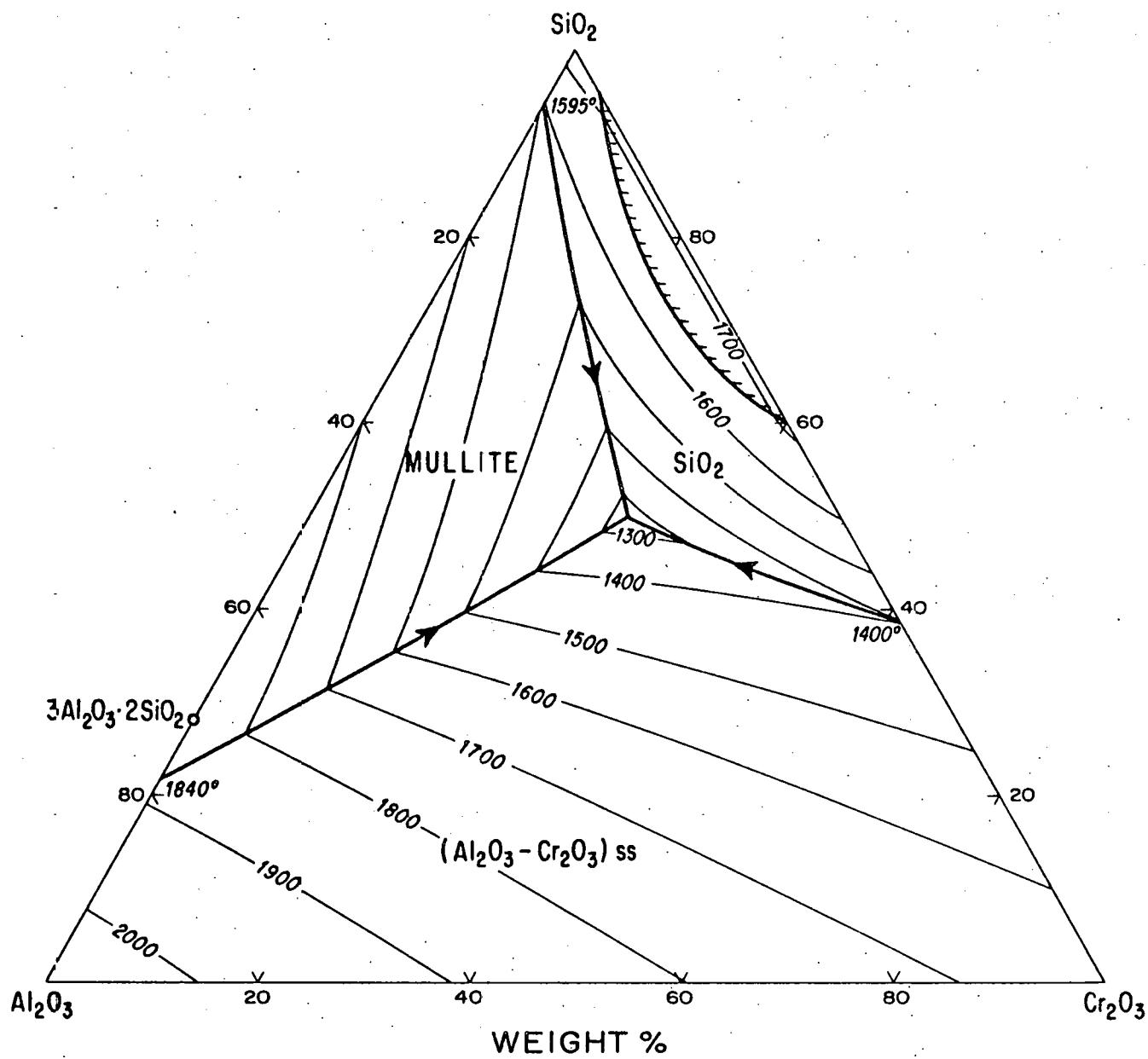


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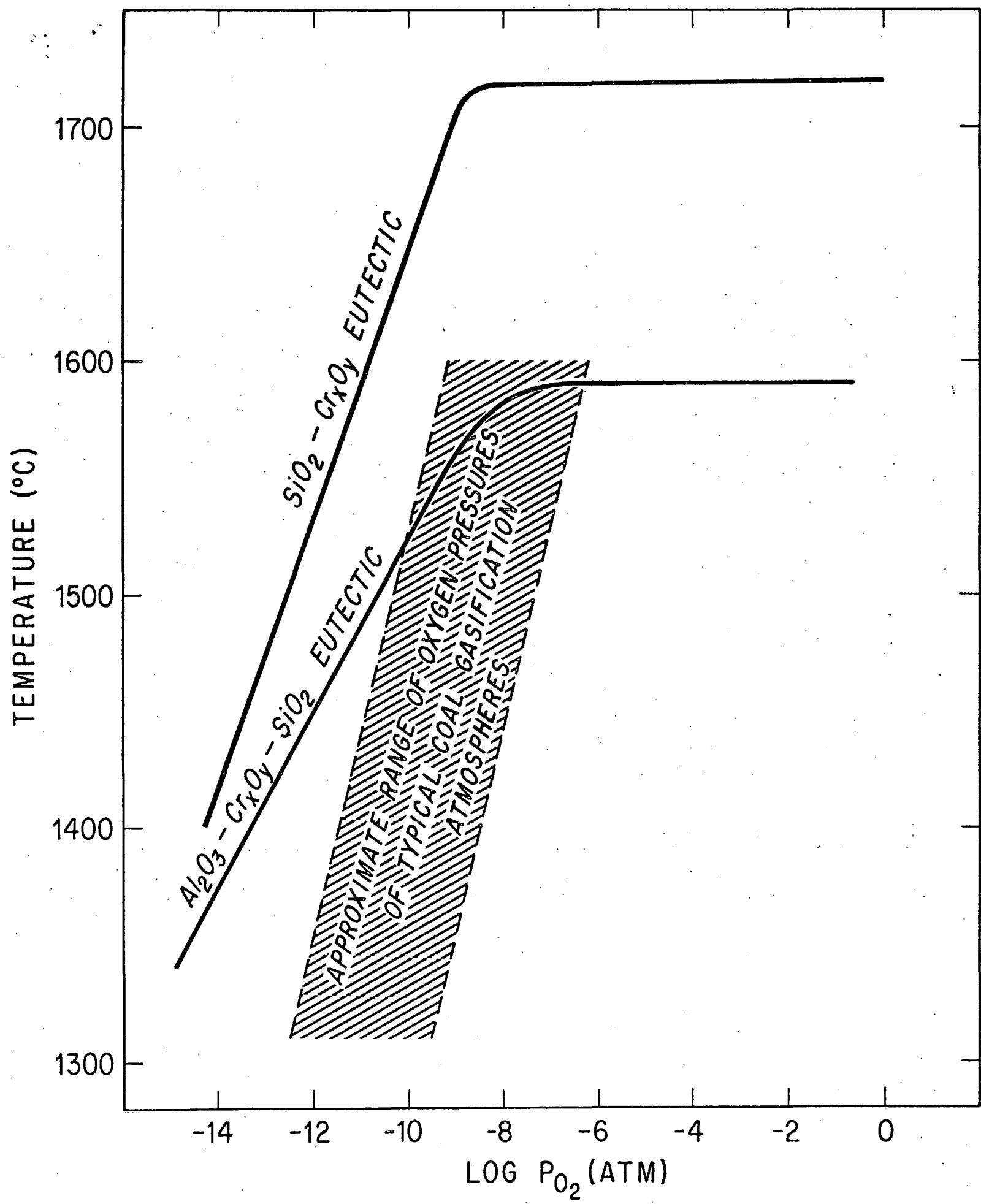


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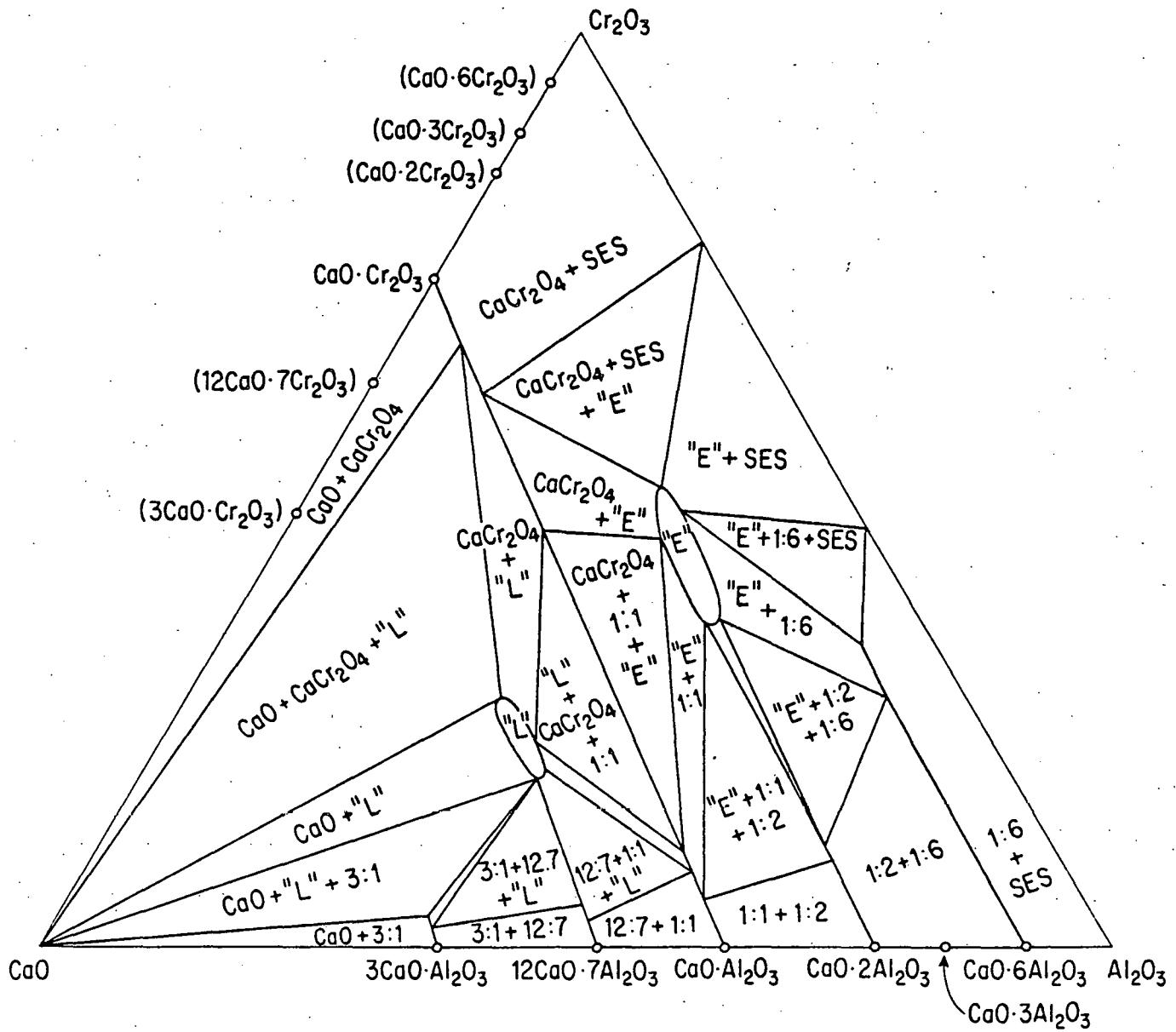


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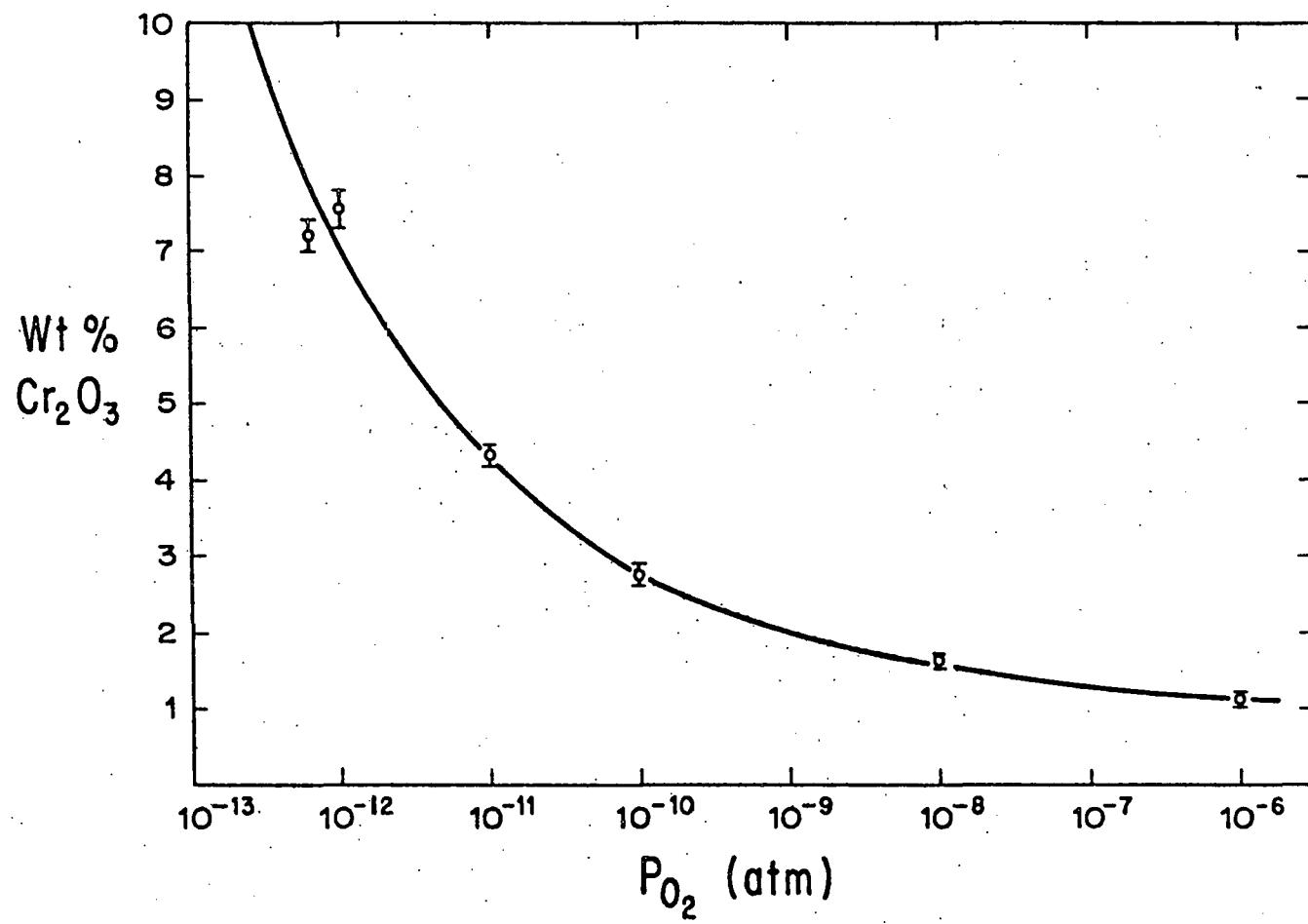


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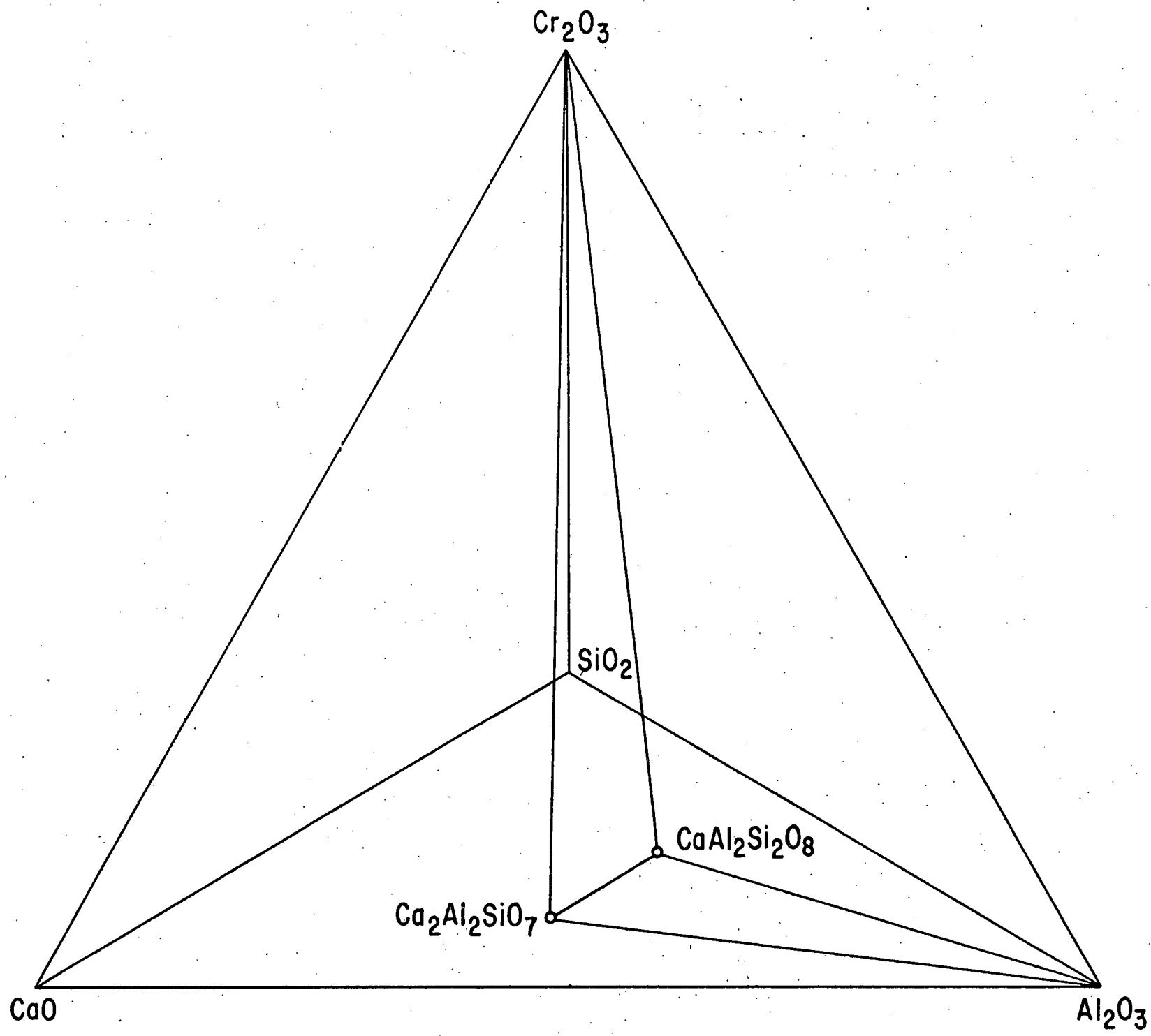


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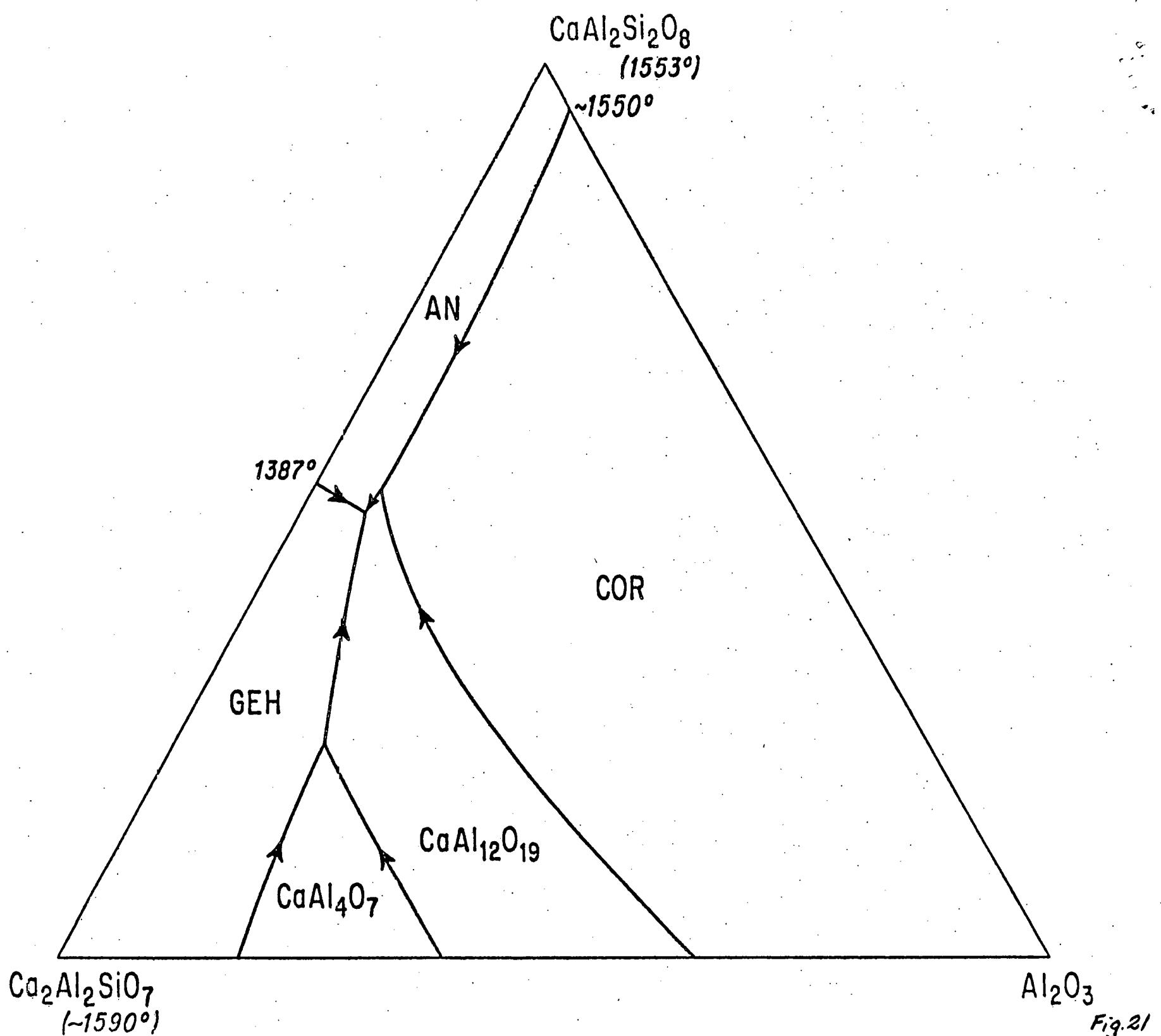


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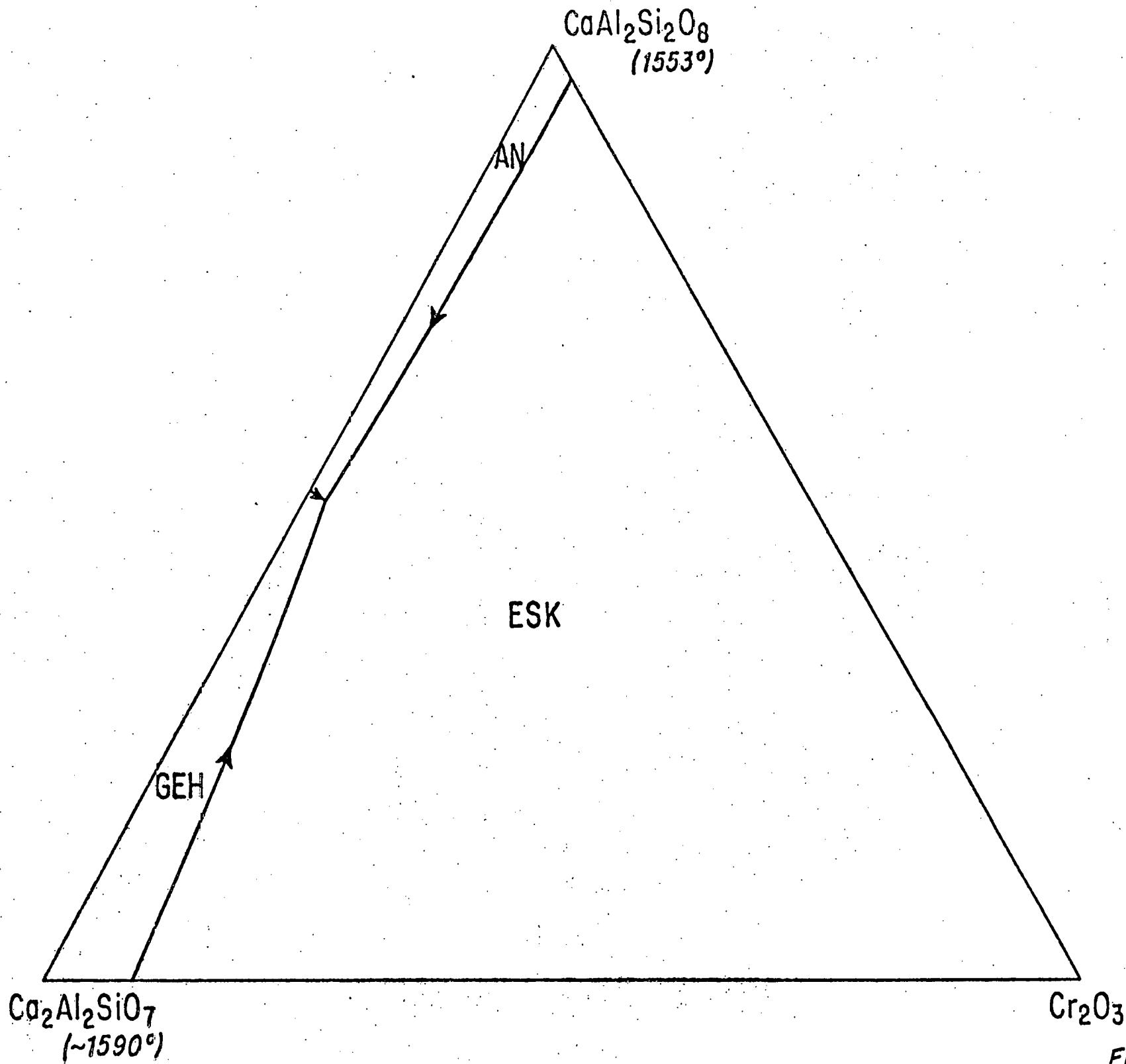


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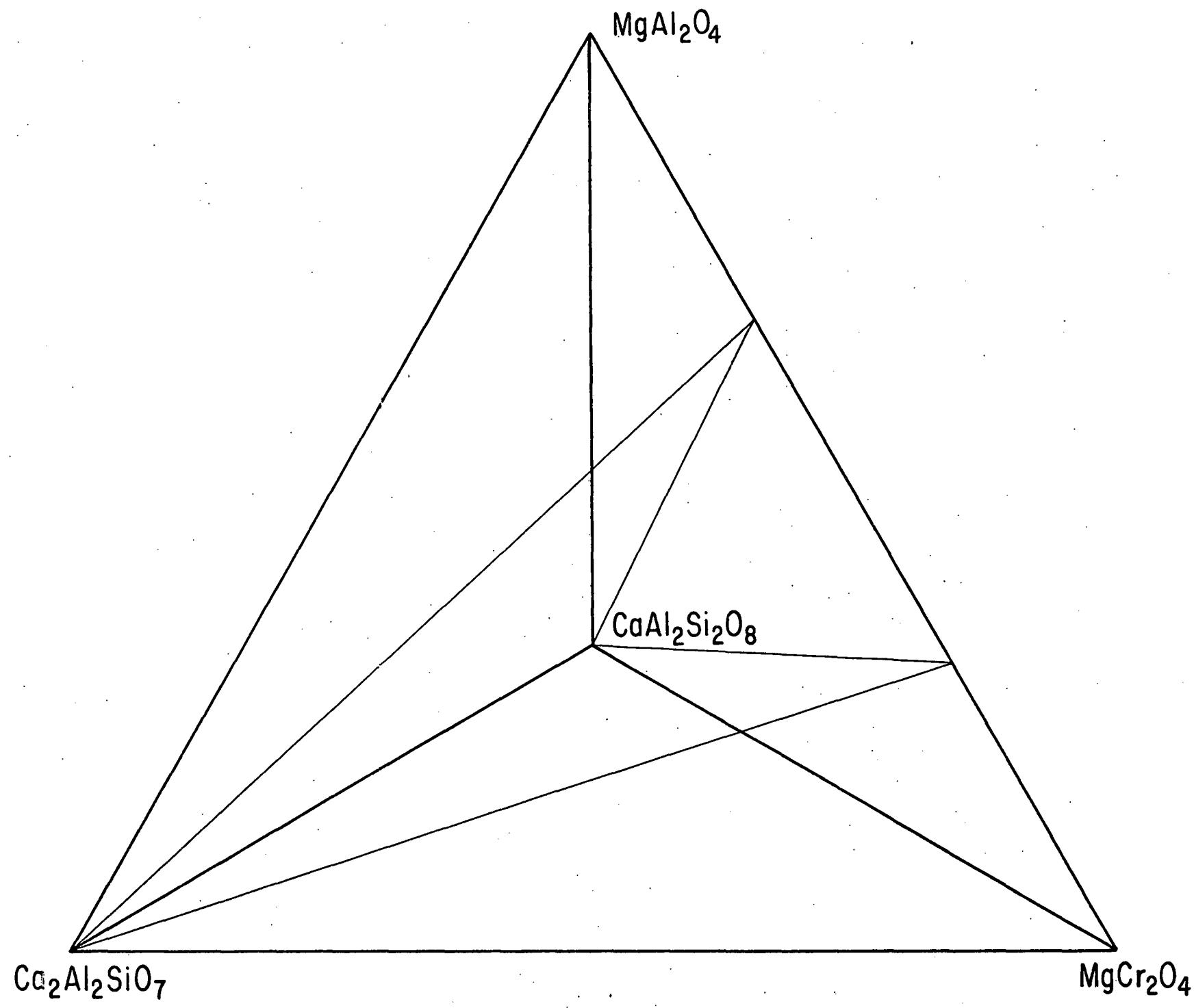


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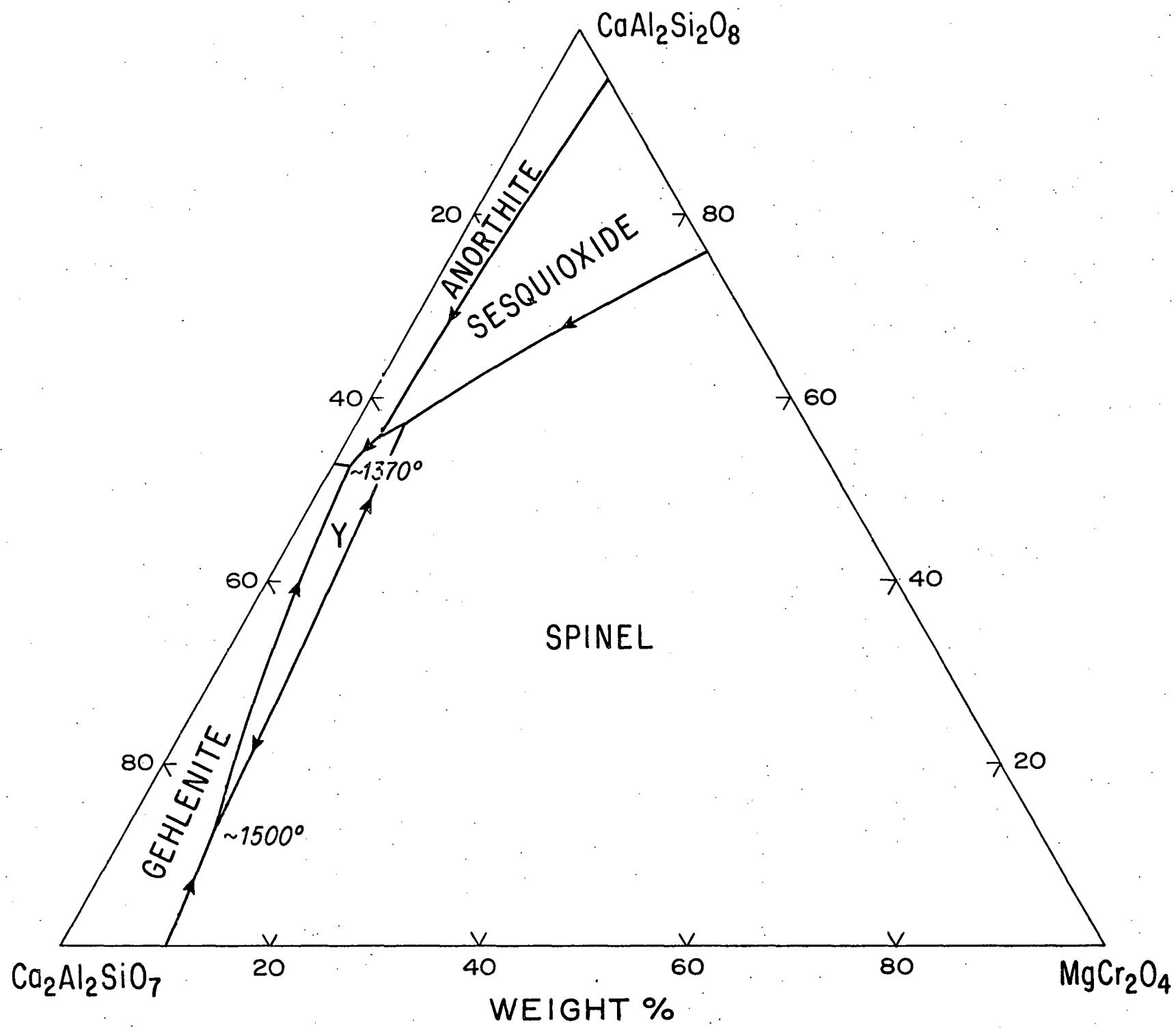


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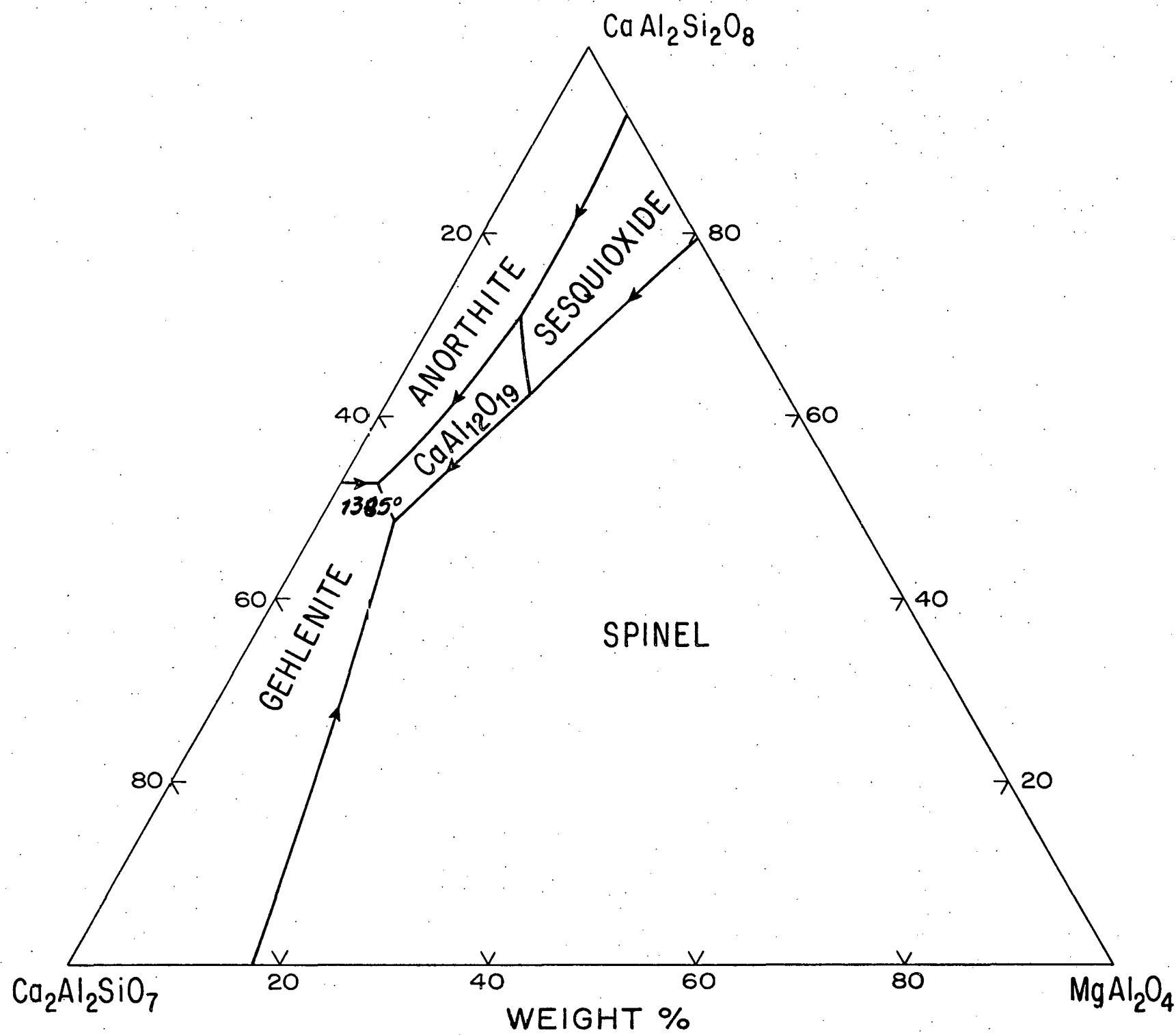


Fig. 25