

Internally Consistent Thermodynamic Data for Epsomite and Hexahydrate

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The magnesium sulfates epsomite ($\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$) and hexahydrate ($\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$) are important constituents of marine evaporite deposits. Results from the most recent Mars missions support the assumption that significant quantities of Mg-sulfate hydrates including epsomite and hexahydrate are present on Mars, too (*cf.* Chipera & Vaniman, 2007). Recently, Chou & Seal (2003) determined epsomite-hexahydrate equilibria along four humidity-buffer curves between 25 and 45°C. Calculated equilibrium curves based on standard enthalpy and entropy values of these two minerals reported in the literature (DeKock, 1986; Wagman et al., 1982) are in poor agreement with the experimental humidity data. Using mathematical programming techniques (Chatterjee, 1991; Grevel, 2004) the following values consistent both with the calorimetric data (DeKock, 1986; Wagman et al., 1982) and the humidity brackets (Chou & Seal, 2003) could be derived:

$$\Delta_f H^0_{298} (\text{epsomite}) = -3388.82 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

$$S^0_{298} (\text{epsomite}) = 370.08 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$$

$$\Delta_f H^0_{298} (\text{hexahydrate}) = -3086.55 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

$$S^0_{298} (\text{hexahydrate}) = 350.02 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$$

For water the equation of state by Grevel & Chatterjee (1992) was used; the standard thermodynamic properties were taken from Robie & Hemingway (1995).

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