

Measurement of Thermophysical Properties by Arbitrary Heating Method

- Development of Pressure and Corrosion Resistance Measurement Unit -

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SUMMARY

In order to measure thermophysical properties of $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot n\text{NH}_3$ system as one of thermal storage systems, pressure and corrosion resistance measurement unit was developed, and effective thermal conductivity and thermal diffusivity were measured by arbitrary heating method. Effective thermal conductivity and effective thermal diffusivity of CaCl_2 only system in the temperature range of 290 K to 340 K were approximately constant, respectively. And then effective thermal conductivity and thermal diffusivity of $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$ system in the temperature range of 290 K to 350 K were approximately constant, respectively. No leak of the gas and no corrosion for this measurement cell were observed on the repeated measurements.

KEY WORDS: thermophysical properties, arbitrary heating method, calcium chloride, ammonia, pressure proof cell, thermal storage unit

1. INTRODUCTION

These days, some kinds of freons as the brine disrupt the ozone layer, and with increasing tendency of carbon dioxide and freons, the temperature on the earth is rising. Ammonia (NH_3) is presently attracting an attention as a promising working fluid, because NH_3 has no relation to disruption of the ozone layer and greenhouse effect on the earth.

For the sake of a thermal energy storage system utilizing low temperature heat sources such as solar energy or a hot effluent (approximately 353~373 K), the process using the chemical reaction of anhydrous salt with NH_3 has been proposed and discussed for its practicably. In this study, the chemical reaction of $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$ with 4NH_3 was chosen here for the thermal energy storage system (see the following reversible chemical reaction: Ammoniation/Deammoniation), since this reaction can be driven by using low temperature heat sources.

Furthermore, the salt is low cost and easy to supply.



In the reversible reaction, ΔH (enthalpy change) is 43.8 kJ/mol-NH₃ at 0.1 MPa, 304 K¹⁾, the value of which is considerably higher than the latent heat of vaporization of liquid NH₃, 23.4 kJ/mol-NH₃ at 0.1 MPa, 240 K²⁾. Furthermore, this chemical reaction is well known as higher energy density system as compared with other reaction systems for energy storage system. In these studies, some prototypes of energy storage unit using CaCl₂·nNH₃ system were designed and discussed these performance^{3,4,5,6)}.

However, thermophysical properties (e.g. effective thermal conductivity and thermal diffusivity) of CaCl₂·nNH₃ system for the sake of design as the thermal storage system have not measured. Furthermore, it is one of the difficult measurements to measure these thermophysical properties such as powder (solid - gas system) and with the chemical reaction.

Because it is necessary to establish various boundary conditions of measurement sample on general measurement methods of thermophysical properties. For example, the condition of constant temperature on steady state method, cyclic, pulse and step heating conditions and the constant heat flux of adiabatic, constant temperature and cooling condition on unsteady state method, which have fundamental necessity to establish various conditions. However, it is very difficult to satisfy these thermal conditions. Then, in this study, the measurement method, which is especially convenience to measure such as powder, grain and molten solid inserted in cylindrical or tubular vessel was adopted. In this measurement method, the temperature of powder sample and the boundary condition of heat flux are arbitrary. Therefore, in measuring time, heating and cooling conditions in this measurement method can be arbitrary.

In this study, thermophysical properties for CaCl₂·nNH₃ system were measured by arbitrary heating method using Laplace transform for cylindrical sample. This arbitrary heating method was developed by Iida *et al.*^{7,8,9)}.

2. PRINCIPLE OF MEASUREMENT

In this study, this principle of measurement is only shown. Regarding the principle of this measurement method in detail, refer to arbitrary heating method by Iida *et al.*^{7,8,9)}.

2.1. Fundamental relation of heat conduction for one dimensional cylindrical coordinate

Assuming heat flux is the direction of radius r only, where t , T and α are, respectively, time, temperature and thermal diffusivity, and $T(r,0) = \text{constant}$, that is, initial temperature distribution is uniformity.

Considering $\theta(r, t)$ as temperature difference in equation (1),

$$\theta(r, t) = T(r, t) - T(r, 0) \tag{1}$$

Fundamental heat conduction equation is given by

$$\frac{\partial \theta(r, t)}{\partial t} = \alpha \left\{ \frac{\partial^2 \theta(r, t)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \theta(r, t)}{\partial r} \right\} \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) is transformed by using Laplace transformation and substitution of $\theta(r, 0) = 0$ into equation (2), and then is rewritten to the ordinary differential equation, given by

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{\theta}}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{d\bar{\theta}}{dr} - \frac{s}{\alpha} \bar{\theta} = 0 \quad (3)$$

where s is Laplace parameter.

However $\bar{\theta}$ is Laplace integration of $\{\theta(r, t)\}_{r=r}$ $= \theta(t)$, which is defined by equation (4).

$$\bar{\theta} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \theta(t) dt \quad (4)$$

General solution of equation (3) is given by

$$\bar{\theta} = CI_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha} \cdot r) + DK_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha} \cdot r) \quad (5)$$

where I_0 and K_0 are modified Bessel functions of the first and the second kind of zero-order, respectively, and C and D are constants of integration, respectively.

On the other hand, heat flux $q(r, t)$ is given by Fourier's equation.

$$q(r, t) = -\lambda \frac{\partial T(r, t)}{\partial r} = -\lambda \frac{\partial \theta(r, t)}{\partial r} \quad (6)$$

where λ is thermal conductivity.

Equation (6) is transformed by Laplace transform, and substitution of equation (5) into equation (6), then given by

$$\bar{q} = -\lambda \sqrt{\frac{s}{\alpha}} \{CI_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha} \cdot r) + DK_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha} \cdot r)\} \quad (7)$$

2.2. General principle of measurement

Considering there is infinite tubular sample [I] around infinite cylindrical sample [II], as shown in Figure 1, and assuming the heat flux is only direction of radius and the contact resistance is negligible, and the symbol \times is expressed a measuring point of temperature. where measuring point 2 is defined as the boundary surface. And the temperature response $\theta(r_i, t)$ at each measuring point i ($i=1,2,3,4$) is rewritten as $\theta_i(t)$, from equation (4), Laplace integration of each point is expressed by

$$\bar{\theta}_i = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \theta_i(t) dt \quad (8)$$

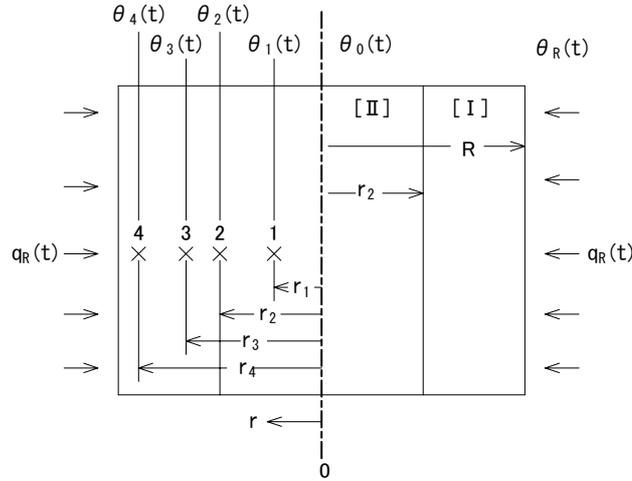


Figure 1. General principle of measurement.

2.2.1. Case of cylindrical sample

In this study, the supplied sample is the case of cylindrical sample [II]. Hence tubular sample [I] is the case of reference sample. Assuming α_1 , λ_1 and $c_p \times \rho_1$ (c_p : specific heat, ρ : density) are, respectively, thermal diffusivity, thermal conductivity and heat capacity, and are well known. Hence measuring point 4 is not necessary. In [II], $q(0,t) = 0$. Hence $(\bar{q})_{r=0} = 0$. Thus $D_{II} = 0$ in equation (7). Therefore, equation (5) is rewritten by

$$\bar{\theta} = C_{II} I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_1) \quad (9)$$

Then, $\theta_1(t)$ and $\theta_2(t)$ are measured, and $\bar{\theta}_1$ and $\bar{\theta}_2$ are calculated from equation (8), and substitution of $\bar{\theta}_1$ and $\bar{\theta}_2$ into equation (9) and C_{II} is defined as equation (10), arranged by

$$C_{II} = \bar{\theta}_1 / I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_1) \quad (10)$$

$$\bar{\theta}_1 I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_2) - \bar{\theta}_2 I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_1) = 0 \quad (11)$$

In equation (11), although unknown quantities are α_{II} and s , as far as the Laplace integration converges, equation (11) is set up for any positive finite value of s . Therefore α_{II} is determined from equation (11).

Next Laplace integration of heat flux in [II] at $r = r_2$ is given by substitution of $D_{II} = 0$ into equation (7) and using equation (10). Equation (12) is given by

$$(\bar{q}_2)_{II} = -\lambda_{II} \sqrt{\frac{s}{\alpha_{II}}} \bar{\theta}_1 \frac{I_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_2)}{I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_1)} \quad (12)$$

On the other hand, In [I], $\bar{\theta}_2$ and $\bar{\theta}_3$ are calculated from measuring points $\theta_2(t)$ and $\theta_3(t)$. Corresponding to $r = r_2$ and $r = r_3$, respectively, and substitution of each $\bar{\theta}$ and r into equation (5) and C_1 and D_1 are defined by as follows:

$$C_1 = \frac{\bar{\theta}_2 K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_3) - \bar{\theta}_3 K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)}{I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_3) - I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_3) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)} \quad (13)$$

$$D_1 = \frac{\bar{\theta}_2 I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_3) - \bar{\theta}_3 I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)}{I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_3) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) - I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_3)} \quad (14)$$

Hence, Laplace integration of heat flux at $r = r_2$ in [I] is expressed from equation (7) with C_1 and D_1 , as follows:

$$(\bar{q}_2)_I = -\lambda_1 \sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \{C_1 I_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) - D_1 K_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)\} \quad (15)$$

Clearly $(\bar{q}_2)_{II} = (\bar{q}_2)_I$, hence λ_{II} is determined from equation (16).

$$\frac{\lambda_{II}}{\lambda_1} = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_{II}}{\alpha_1}} \frac{I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_1)}{I_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_2)} \frac{1}{\bar{\theta}_1} \{C_1 I_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) - D_1 K_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)\} \quad (16)$$

2.2.2. Measurement of temperature of central point in cylindrical sample and surface of reference sample at the same time

In this experiment, the measurement system by the temperature response of cylindrical sample as supplied sample was adopted, shown in Figure 2. From Figure 2, the temperature responses at $r = 0$, $r = r_2$ and $r = r_R$ are measured, In equation (11), the subscript 1 is rewritten as the subscript 0, and substitution of $I_0(0) = 1$, then given by

$$\bar{\theta}_0 I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_2) - \bar{\theta}_2 = 0 \quad (17)$$

Hence, in this case, $\bar{\theta}_2/\bar{\theta}_0$ is calculated. Thermal diffusivity α_{II} is calculated from Figure 3 immediately.

where for thermal conductivity λ_{II} , substitution of $r_1 \rightarrow 0$, $r_3 \rightarrow R$ and $\bar{\theta}_3 \rightarrow \bar{\theta}_R$ into equations (16), (13) and (14), respectively, give thermal conductivity λ_{II} as the following equation.

$$\frac{\lambda_{II}}{\lambda_1} = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_{II}}{\alpha_1}} \frac{1}{I_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_{II}} \cdot r_2)} \frac{1}{\bar{\theta}_0} \{C_1 I_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) - D_1 K_1(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)\} \quad (18)$$

Then C_1 and D_1 are given by

$$C_1 = \frac{\bar{\theta}_2 K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot R) - \bar{\theta}_R K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)}{I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot R) - I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot R) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)} \quad (19)$$

$$D_1 = \frac{\bar{\theta}_2 I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot R) - \bar{\theta}_R I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2)}{I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot R) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) - I_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot r_2) K_0(\sqrt{s/\alpha_1} \cdot R)} \quad (20)$$

Regarding the range of Laplace integration,

Since $e^{-st} \theta_i(t) dt$ is the function, which converges to zero with increasing t . Values of s and t_{\max} can be determined from the following equation.

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \theta_i(t) dt \doteq \int_0^{t_{\max}} e^{-st} \theta_i(t) dt$$

where st_{\max} is expressed as following equation from Iida *et al.*⁹⁾.

$$8 \leq st_{\max} \leq 12$$

In this experiment, s was determined to satisfy $st_{\max} = 10$.

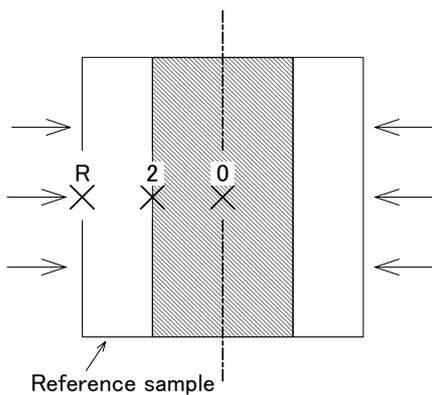


Figure 2. Measurement system.

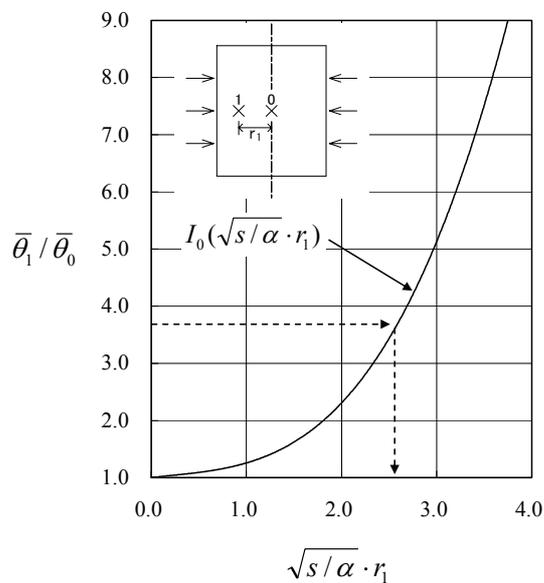


Figure 3. Determination of thermal diffusivity for temperature measurement of central point.

3. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

3.1. Materials

CaCl_2 used in the experiment is produced by Wako Pure Chemical Industries Ltd. Japan. It is guaranteed reagent grade, and it is specified as the pure grade having minimum purity of 95.0 %. CaCl_2 is used without further purification. NH_3 gas of 99.99 % purity is provided from Seitetsu Kagaku Co. Ltd.

3.2. Experimental apparatus

Figure 4 schematically shows the experimental apparatus of the measurement system. This system consists of measurement unit (cell) as the reactor, NH₃ glass vessel, pressure regulator valve, pressure gauges, thermocouples and constant temperature water bath. The measurement cell is made of stainless steel and it is covered with water jacket, which can control the temperature in the measurement cell. The NH₃ vessel is pressure resistance glass vessel, which volume is $0.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$, (up to 2.0 MPa), and the volume of the liquid NH₃ is measured by a microscope with an accuracy of $\pm 0.05 \%$ of full volume ($0.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$).

In order to insulate the measurement unit from the surroundings, the apparatus is wrapped foamed polystyrol. The temperature in this unit is measured by using C-A type thermocouples by digital thermometer and the temperature data as the digital signal (change of mV) transferred to the micro computer and are analyzed.

The amount of liquid NH₃ transferred to the measurement cell from the NH₃ vessel can be measured by microscope. The temperature of the measurement cell, unit and the NH₃ vessel are controlled by using constant temperature bath having minimum accuracy within $\pm 0.1 \text{ K}$ separately.

The pressure in the vessels is measured by Bourdon gauge, which accuracy is $\pm 0.1 \%$ of full scale (up to 2.0 MPa). The pressure control in the measurement cell is carried out using the pressure regulator valve.

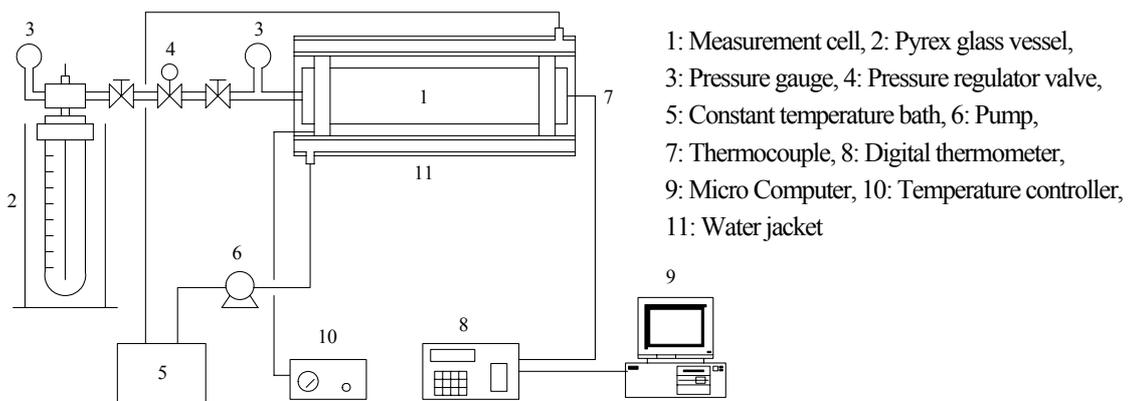


Figure 4. Schematic diagram of measurement unit.

Figure 5 shows the measurement cell in detail. This measurement cell consists of two major units, stainless steel pipe (Length: 230 mm, OD: 76.3 mm, ID: 68.3 mm) and reinforced pressure proof glass tube as the reference sample (Pyrex 7740: OD: 40.0 mm, ID: 32.0 mm), and the temperature response is measured by the stainless steel covered C-A thermocouple (ϕ 0.65 mm), which were inserted in the measurement cell.

The temperature of this measurement cell is increased and controlled by using the heater (Ni-Cr wire: ϕ 2 mm) and thermistor type temperature controller having minimum accuracy $\pm 0.1 \text{ K}$.

In order to escape ununiform temperature field and to decrease heat resistance, Al₂O₃ powder is packed between stainless steel pipe and reference sample in this measurement cell.

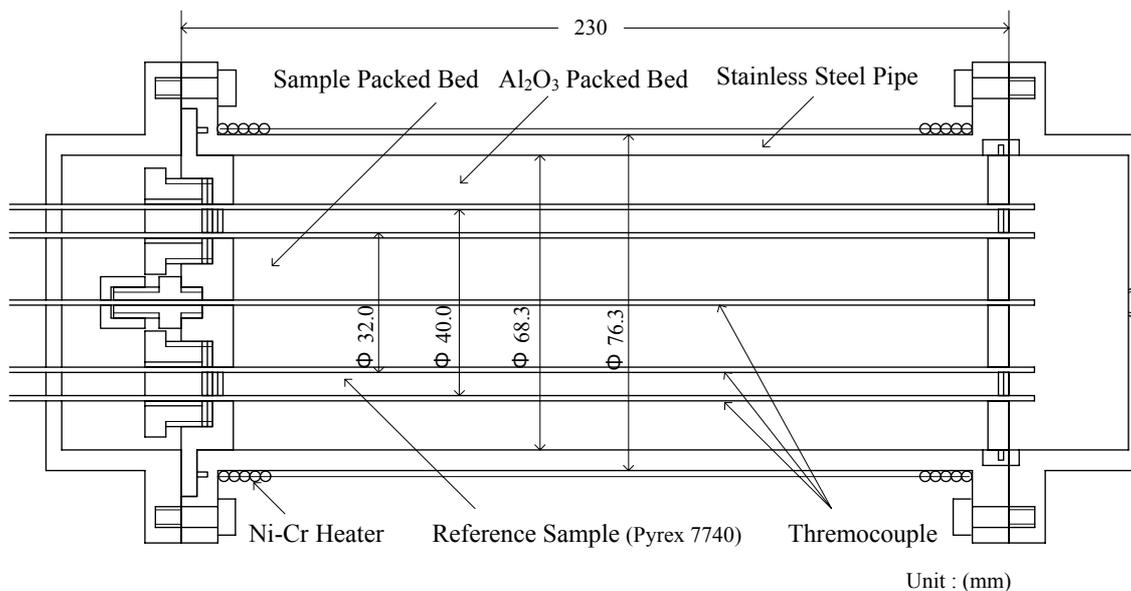


Figure 5. Measurement cell.

3.3. Experimental Procedure

In this experiment, thermophysical properties for CaCl_2 only system and $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$ system were measured.

3.3.1. Preparing for CaCl_2 only system

CaCl_2 was crushed to a size below 200 JIS mesh, and was oven-dried at 773 K for approximately 5 hours. A dried CaCl_2 of 1.31 mole (approximately 145.2 g) was placed in the measurement cell, and this measurement cell was sealed. Then the preparing for measurement sample is finished.

3.3.2 Preparing for $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$ system (Ammoniation)

CaCl_2 of 0.218 mole (approximately 24.2 g) was crushed below size of 200 JIS mesh and was dried at 773 K approximately for 5 hours by an oven. A dried powder sample was placed in the measurement cell. It was sealed, and worked by the vacuum pump in order to remove air and any water from this measurement cell.

The NH_3 vessel was also evacuated for 2 hours and NH_3 gas introduced from the cylinder into the NH_3 vessel, which was kept at constant temperature (273 K) by cooling liquid. After liquid NH_3 was charged in it, its volume was measured by microscope rapidly and recorded. Then this measurement cell was connected with the NH_3 vessel shown in Figure 4. NH_3 gas moved to the measurement cell through the pressure regulator valve keeping constant pressure (0.5 MPa) during the reaction. The level of liquid NH_3 in the NH_3 vessel was measured by reading the scale of the NH_3 vessel using microscope, and mole number of NH_3 absorbed to pure CaCl_2 was calculated from this volume change.

When 4 moles of NH_3 was absorbed to the pure CaCl_2 , the experiment of ammoniation is just finished.

3.3.3 Measurement of thermal properties

First, after temperature of cell is settled with measurement temperature and the temperature of measuring points are stabilized, and start heating of the measurement cell by charging electricity to Ni-Cr wire, where heating rate and maximum heating temperature are 5 K/min. and 10 K, respectively, in order to avoid violent reaction in the measurement cell during the measuring time. Temperature changes (change of mV) of C-A type thermocouple are measured by digital thermo meter and input was recorded to micro computer system, and the scan rate is every 9 seconds and the measurement time is 30 minutes.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 6 shows relation between temperature and thermal properties of CaCl_2 only system. In the measuring temperature range of 290 K to 340 K, effective thermal conductivity, λ and effective thermal diffusivity, α were approximately constant ($0.75 \text{ W}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{K})$ and $0.15 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$, respectively) at atmospheric pressure. It is found that these thermal properties are almost independence of the measuring temperature range. And it has not been found a comparative data of these thermal properties.

Figure 7 shows relation between temperature and thermal properties of $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$. Effective thermal conductivity, λ and effective thermal diffusivity, α were approximately constant ($0.2 \text{ W}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{K})$ and $0.75 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$, respectively) in the measuring temperature range of 290 K to 350 K. This system indicates similar tendency of CaCl_2 only system.

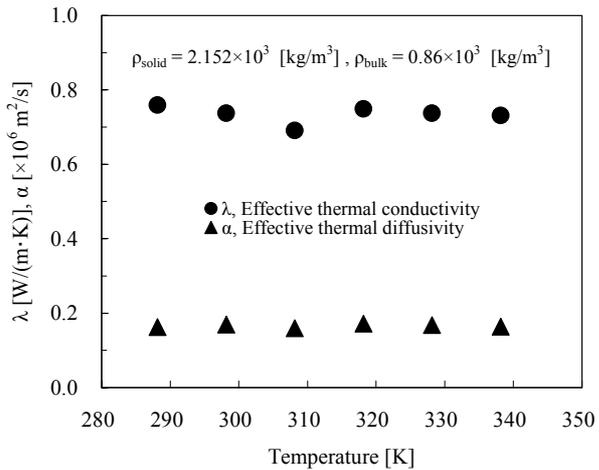


Figure 6. Relation between temperature and thermal properties of CaCl_2 only system.

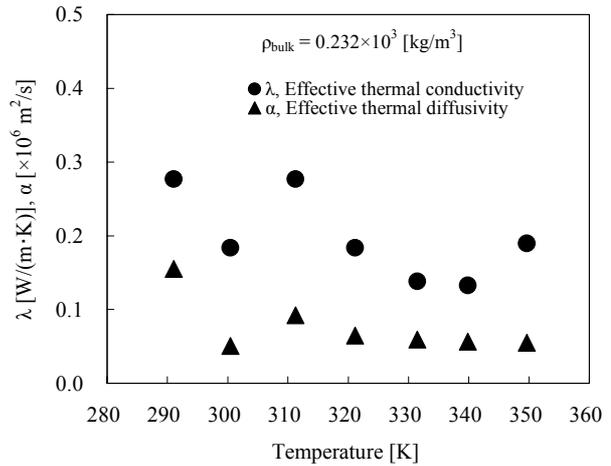


Figure 7. Relation between temperature and thermal properties of $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$ system.

Figure 8 shows relation between temperature, pressure in the measurement cell and effective thermal conductivity.

From Figure 8, effective thermal conductivity did not increase in the range of at high temperature and high pressure in the measurement cell.

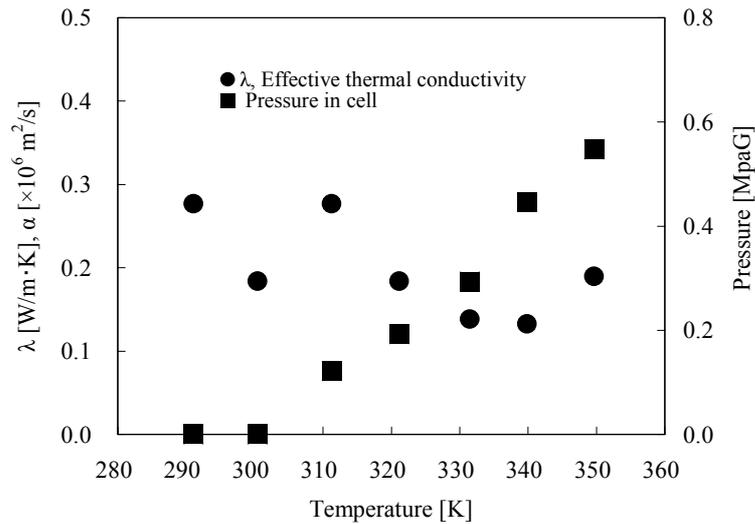


Figure 8. Relation between temperature and pressure in the measurement cell and effective thermal conductivity.

Figures 7 and 8, in the measuring temperature range of 290 K to 310 K, it is found that the values of λ and α vary widely. On the other hand, it is well known thermophysical properties of such as powders and porous solids depend on the void fraction (packed density), the fluid contained and the pressure of system in literatures. Particularly, in this experiment, it can be indicated that the void fraction (low packed density) and the pressure (low pressure: lower than atmospheric pressure) of system influence thermophysical properties.

No leak and no corrosion for this measurement unit were observed on the repeated measurements.

It is found that this measurement unit is applicable for thermal storage working media of high pressure and corrosion such as NH_3 .

5. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, in order to measure thermophysical properties of CaCl_2 only system and $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{NH}_3$ system, the pressure and corrosion resistance measurement unit was developed, and the effective thermal conductivity and the effective thermal diffusivity of those systems were measured by arbitrary heating method. Both thermophysical properties were approximately constant in the measuring temperature and pressure range. It is found that these thermophysical properties are almost independence of the measuring temperature and pressure range.

No leak of the gas and no corrosion for this measurement cell were observed on the repeated measurements. It is

found that this measurement unit is applicable for thermal storage working media of high pressure and corrosion such as NH_3 , and the data of these thermophysical properties of those systems are available for the design of thermal energy storage system.

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NOMENCLATURE

α	= thermal diffusivity and effective thermal diffusivity [m^2/s]
θ	= temperature difference [K]
$\bar{\theta}$	= Laplace integration of θ [-]
λ	= thermal conductivity and effective thermal conductivity [$\text{W}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{K})$]
ρ	= bulk density [kg/m^3]
c_p	= specific heat [$\text{kJ}/(\text{kg}\cdot\text{K})$]
C, D	= constants of integration [-]
I_0	= modified Bessel function of the first kind of zero-order [-]
K_0	= modified Bessel function of the second kind of zero-order [-]
q	= heat flux [W/m^2]
\bar{q}	= Laplace integration of q [-]
r	= radius [mm]
R	= outer diameter of sample [mm]
s	= Laplace parameter [-]
t	= time [s]
t_{\max}	= time step of measuring time [s]
T	= temperature [K]

Scripts

I	= sample [I]
II	= sample [II]
i	= measuring point

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