

THE THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF SOLID AND FLUID HELIUM-3 AND HELIUM-4 ABOVE 3 °K AT HIGH DENSITIES

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CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
1. INTRODUCTION	1	3·4. The fluid range	14
2. EXPERIMENTAL	3	3·5. The thermal energy and entropy	15
2·1. The calorimeter	3	3·6. Calculation of related thermodynamic properties	16
2·2. Temperature scale	5		
2·3. Gas handling and operation	6	4. DISCUSSION	21
2·4. Determination of molar volume and mass of sample	7	4·1. The specific heat of solid helium	21
3. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	9	4·2. Energy relations in solid helium at 0 °K	25
3·1. Specific heat of solid helium	9	4·3. The fluid helium isotopes	27
3·2. The melting range	11	CONCLUSIONS	27
3·3. The high-temperature phase transformation in solid ⁴ He and ³ He	13	REFERENCES	28

Measurements have been made of the specific heat at constant volume of solid ³He from 3 °K up to the melting point at a number of different densities corresponding to pressures up to 2000 atm. The measurements have been extended through the melting region at constant volume up to 29 °K in the fluid phase. For comparison similar measurements have been made on ⁴He at four different densities.

By combining these data with the p - V - T data of Mills & Grilly (1955) and Grilly & Mills (1959), the complete thermodynamic properties of the solids have been derived in the relevant pressure and temperature range. The results can be understood semi-quantitatively in terms of the zero-point energy of the solids and a quasi-harmonic model of the lattice vibrations. A brief discussion of the specific heat of the fluid phase is also given.

1. INTRODUCTION

Simon (1934) first drew attention to the importance of zero-point energy in interpreting the properties of solid and liquid helium. If helium behaved classically, it would exist as a solid in equilibrium with its vapour at the lowest temperatures with a molar volume of about 10 cm³ and a latent heat of sublimation of about 150 cal/mole; all this can be readily deduced from the properties of the gas phase at higher temperatures. In fact experiment shows that solid ⁴He is *not* in equilibrium with the vapour phase at *any* temperature and that at the lowest temperatures it exists in equilibrium with the liquid under a pressure of about 25 atm. Its molar volume under these conditions is more than 20 cm³ and its internal energy

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