

that the innermost  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  tube melted over a length  $\approx 10$  cm. and the remaining aluminum metal formed a sharp cylindrical band, about 3 cm. wide and  $\approx 3$  mm. thick, on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the two phases being perfectly defined and separate.

A  $\text{ThO}_2$  tube also has been melted in the plasma jet.

The extended range of use of liquid oxide containers is, on the average

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	2288°K. (m.p.) to $\approx 3800^\circ\text{K}$ .
$\text{ZrO}_2$	3000°K. (m.p.) to $\approx 4600^\circ\text{K}$ .
$\text{ThO}_2$	3300°K. (m.p.) to $\approx 4700^\circ\text{K}$ .

The ratio of the vapor pressure of the container to the total pressure can be adjusted, as desired, by operating the plasma jet and furnace at a higher total pressure.

Thus a way is now open to extend research, particularly on chemical reactions in liquid phase, (for example, between the container and any added substance, lighter than the container) to a much higher temperature range. A full report will be published later.

The above method is not well suited for physical measurements (such as density, electrical resistivity, etc.) because of imperfect geometry. This can be accomplished by the use of centrifugal furnaces heated by ohmic resistance. This type of furnace will be described shortly.

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