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TECHNICAL PAPER proposed for presentation at
Fourth Symposium on Thermophysical Properties
sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers
College Park, Maryland, April 1-4, 1968

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FOR 10 REFRACTORY ELEMENTS WITH THERMAL ABSORPTION
CROSS SECTIONS LESS THAN 5 BARNS
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## ABSTRACT

Increased interest in high-temperature technology makes knowledge of the vapor pressure of refractory materials more important. We have collected existing vapor-pressure data for 10 elements (C, Ce, $\mathrm{Mo}, \mathrm{Nb}, \mathrm{Pt}, \mathrm{Ru}, \mathrm{V}, \mathrm{W}, \mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{Zr}$ ). These have atmospheric boiling points over $3000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ and thermal absorption cross sections less than 5 barns. Data were discussed and extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres. An error analysis was used to indicate the error in temperature at a given pressure introduced by scatter in the original data. At 1000 atmospheres, zirconium has the highest boiling point ( $10100^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ ).

## INTRODUCTION

As interest in high-temperature technology increases, the need for predicting the vapor pressure of materials at these high temperatures and pressures becomes more important. This is of particular interest in nuclear engineering, where the systems usually involve high temperatures and pressures. One group of materials that is in frequent use in nuclear engineering concepts has low vapor pressure and low thermal absorption cross section. This type of material is used in gas-core (ref. 1) and liquid-core (ref. 2) nuclear-rocket
concepts. In these concepts, hydrogen propellant is radiantly heated by a nuclear fuel. However, hydrogen gas at a temperature less than $5000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ cannot absorb radiant heat because of its transparency. A powdered material can be suspended in the hydrogen propellant to absorb the radiant heat leaving the reacting fuel and then to conduct the heat to the hydrogen propellant. If it is assumed that only the particle absorbs radiant heat, a low-vapor-pressure material is necessary to keep the vaporization rate low. Therefore, in this report, only elements which have atmospheric boiling points over $3000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ were selected. The material must also have a low thermal absorption cross section in order not to cause an increase in the critical mass of the system. Therefore a maximum of 5 barns was placed on selecting elements. References 3 and 4 contain summaries of vapor-pressure data for the elements with estimated atmospheric boiling points, and reference 5 contains the values of thermal absorption cross sections.

This study was performed to collect, evaluate and select the best vapor-pressure data available, and then to extrapolate them to 1000 atmospheres. The 10 elements chosen were $\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{Ce}, \mathrm{Mo}, \mathrm{Nb}, \mathrm{Pt}, \mathrm{Ru}$, V, W, Y, and Zr. Their values of thermal absorption cross section, and the references from which the vapor-pressure data were taken are shown in table I.

## COLLECTION AND EVALUATION OF VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA

Examination of the available data indicate that most experimental data were obtained at temperatures less than $3000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ and that, hence,
the vapor pressures were in the range of $10^{-5}$ to $10^{-10}$ atmospheres. Therefore, an extrapolation of at least 7 orders of magnitude is required to reach the desired 1000 atmospheres.

During the collection and evaluation of vapor-pressure data, it was necessary to judge the reliability of reported vapor-pressure measurements. In the cases where more than one set of vaporpressure data are collected for a given material, each is discussed. If one set is preferred over the other, the reasons are discussed and only the preferred set is retained; otherwise all sets are retained. The following factors were considered:
(1) The behavior of the system
(2) The identification of the various gaseous species in the system
(3) The experimental technique by which the vapor pressure was measured
(4) The range and scatter of the vapor-pressure data

The investigation of the general behavior of the system should reveal whether there is any reaction between the sample and any other part of the system. If there is a reaction, the resulting phase may vaporize and affect the vapor-press ure measurements. Or the reaction may contaminate the sample by changing the samples composition. The measured vapor pressure thus would not be of the pure sample but of the contaminated one.

The various gaseous species must be identified to complete any vapor-pressure experiment. Several different species may vaporize from a sample, and each must be identified and its share of the vapor pressure calculated or measured. Whenever vapor-pressure data are
extrapolated, the vapor pressure of each individual species should be extrapolated, rather than the sum of the partial pressures of the species.

Vapor-pressure measurements on high-temperature materials are suitably made by using either the Knudsen or the Langmuir method. Both methods require a high-vacuum system. In the Knudsen method, the sample is contained in an inert crucible that has a small, thin orifice. This container is called a Knudsen cell. Equilibrium is established inside the crucible if the orifice is sufficiently small. However, all the vapor striking the orifice inlet does not leave the orifice outlet. The ratio between the rate at which vapor leaves the orifice outlet and that at which vapor strikes the orifice inlet is given by a "Clausing factor." This Clausing factor is governed only by the dimensions of the orifice. The rate of effusion through the orifice is then governed by the Clausing factor, the temperature, the molecular weight of the effusing vapor species, and the vapor pressure.

In the Langmuir method, no crucible is used but rather free evaporation occurs from the entire sample surface. The vapor pressure is therefore a function of the rate at which material sublimes from the sample, the surface area and the absolute temperature of the sample, and the molecular weight of the vapor leaving the sample.

## METHOD OF EXTRAPOLATION

The curve that was fitted to the data and extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres can be derived from the Clapeyron equation for a constant heat of vaporization and is of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\log P=\frac{A}{T}+D \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $A$ and $D$ are constants, $P$ is vapor pressure in atmospheres, and $\mathbf{T}$ is temperature in ${ }^{0} \mathrm{~K}$.

We used least-squares method to fit the selected vaporpress ure data to equation (1). In the majority of cases, the referenced literature already reported the results using this method with equation (1). However, the data were refitted to equation (1) using the least-squares method.

The possible error in predicting a value of vapor pressure from extrapolated data originates from three sources. First, there is the error introduced by the assumption of constant heat of vaporization which results in equation (1). The importance of this error cannot be assessed until additional experimental data at higher temperatures become available Second, a systemic error may already be present in the original vapor-pressure data. Assessment of the magnitude of this type of error is also not possible. Third, there is an error caused by the random scatter of the data. This error can be estimated.

Figure 1 shows a schematic drawing of the error analysis used by us to estimate the third type of error. By using the common logarithmic coordinate of vapor pressure and reciprocal temperature,
equations in the form of equation (1) are represented by straight lines. In figure 1 , the lines $W$ and $X$ are visually drawn parallel and equidistant from the line generated when curve fitting the data to equation (1). These boundary lines encompass at least 90 percent of the data points. The diverging lines, Y and Z , encompass all possible straight lines that can be drawn through the data. These two straight lines are then extended to a pressure of 1000 atmospheres. The "temperature uncertainty" is the difference at a given vapor pressure between the temperature value given by equation (1) and the values given by the two diverging lines, $Y$ and $Z$. The calculated temperature uncertainty is for a given set of vaporpressure data and reflects only the random error caused by the scatter in the data. Figure 1 shows that the magnitude of the temperature uncertainty at a given pressure is also dependent on the amount of extrapolation from the original data. Where two or more sets of data are selected, each is extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres. The results are then combined: the average value of A and D are found and these average values are used in the extrapolation. Also the temperature uncertainty at a given pressure includes the entire range found for all sets of data.

## DISCUSSION OF MATERIALS

Carbon
In reference 6 mass spectrographic studies were performed on carbon in the temperature range from $1800^{\circ}$ to $2700^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The ions observed were $\mathrm{C}_{1}^{+}, \mathrm{C}_{2}^{+}, \mathrm{C}_{3}^{+}, \mathrm{C}_{4}^{+}$, and $\mathrm{C}_{5}^{+}$; the intensities of $\mathrm{C}_{6}^{+} / \mathrm{C}_{1}^{+}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{7}^{+} / \mathrm{C}_{1}^{+}$were less than $5 \times 10^{-4}$ at $2500^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$, and no results were
reported for the two species $C_{6}$ and $C_{7}$. To minimize temperature uncertainties ref. 6 assumed the vapor pressure of $C_{1}$ to be known and its associated value for the heat of vaporization $\Delta H_{o}^{O}$ to be equal to 169.58 kilocalories per gram atom. A least-squares treatment was applied to the relative intensities $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{n}}^{+} / \mathrm{C}_{1}$ to calculate $\Delta \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{o}}^{\mathrm{O}}\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{n}}\right)$ where $\mathrm{n} \leq 5$. The ratios were divided by $2.30,3.66,4.96$, and 6.30 for $C_{2}$ to $C_{5}$, respectively, to convert to relative pressures. We used a trial and error graphical method to calculate the temperature of the total carbon vapor pressure at 1 to 1000 atmospheres. The partial pressure of $C_{1}$ to $C_{5}$ were summed and table $\Pi($ a) gives temperatures for total carbon pressures of $1,10,100$, and 1000 atmospheres. The errors involved in $\mathrm{C}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{C}_{5}$ are based on a given value of $C_{1}$; therefore, any error in $C_{1}$ increases the errors of the larger carbon polymers. In addition, carbon polymers larger than $\mathrm{C}_{5}$ start to influence the total vapor pressure in this pressure range.

Reference 7 describes a mass spectrometric study of the vapor ejected from a graphite sample that was flash heated by a focused laser beam. The relative abundance of the carbon polymer species, $C_{1}$ to $C_{11}$ and $C_{14}$, at approximately $4000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ was obtained. The relative ion intensities of the various carbon species did not vary significantly for different graphite samples; however, a standard deviation of about 50 percent necessitated a large number of measurements on each carbon species. A typical averaged mass spectrum is presented in reference 7 , with the extrapolated results of reference 6 , and is reproduced in table $I(b)$. The agreement between Drowart, et al, (ref. 6) and Berkowitz, et al, (ref. 7) is good considering the
differences in the methods used. It is also interesting that, from the data of reference 7 , the carbon species $C_{7}$ approaches the magnitude of $C_{4}$ and $C_{5}$ in importance and that at higher pressures and temperatures it may become dominant.

## Cerium

The vapor-pressure data for liquid cerium were obtained directly from Habermann, et al (ref. 8), and consist of 19 data points in the temperature range from $1861^{\circ}$ to $2252^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The Knudsen technique was used involving a quartz-fiber microbalance. The cerium was 99. 9 percent pure. The major impurities detected were tantalum, 100 parts per million (ppm); iron, 250 ppm ; oxygen, 345 ppm ; carbon, 200 ppm ; nitrogen, 150 ppm ; and traces of calcium, silicon, fluorine, and hydrogen, 95 ppm . Table $I(\mathrm{c})$ indicates the results when the vapor-pressure data were extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres.

## Molybdenum

Three references were used for the extrapolated vapor pressure of solid molybdenum. Edwards, et al (ref. 9) used the Langmuir method; nine data points were recorded in the temperature range from $2151^{\circ}$ to $2462^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The sample was at least 99.957 percent molybdenum. Spectroscopic analysis showed the presence of 0.023 percent carbon and 0.01 to 0.001 percent each of iron and silicon. In table $\amalg(d)$, extrapolation of the data of reference 9 to 1000 atmospheres is presented.

Vozzella, et al. (ref. 10) also used the Langmuir method for solid molybdenum. An automatic recording semimicro vacuum balance and a calibrated optical pyrometer were used to obtain measurements
in the temperature range from $2141^{\circ}$ to $2533^{\circ} \mathrm{K} ; 12$ data points are presented. The sample showed 99.89 percent molybdenum. Impurities amounted to 1730 ppm ; oxygen, 30 ppm ; carbon, 700 ppm ; and traces of iron, nickel, chromium, and silicon, totaling 1000 ppm . An extrapolation of the data to 1000 atmospheres yielded the results shown in table II(e).

Fries (ref. 11) also used the Langmuir method for solid molybdenum. The apparatus used by Fries (ref. 11) was essentially the same as that used by Vozzella, et al., (ref. 10). Twelve data points were recorded in the temperature range from $2086^{\circ}$ to $2489^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ using an optical pyrometer. Maximum impurities amounting to 1085 ppm consisting of oxygen, 45 ppm ; nitrogen, 20 ppm ; niobium, tungsten and zinc, each 150 ppm ; iron, 75 ppm ; tantalum, zirconium, strontium, colbalt, titanium, potassium, and silicon, each 45 ppm ; and trace materials amounting to 180 ppm . Extrapolating the data to 1000 atmospheres yielded the results shown in table $\mathrm{II}(\mathrm{f})$.

Because each set of data (refs. 9, 10, and 11) yields different results for the vapor pressure at 1 to 1000 atmospheres all three sets were combined. The results of this procedure are listed in table $\mathrm{II}(\mathrm{g})$, along with the temperature uncertainty which was calculated using all three sets of data.

## Niobium

Two sets of data for the vapor pressure of solid niobium are discussed herein. The first set (ref. 12) was presented in 1959. The Langmuir method was employed, and temperatures were measured by sighting with an optical pyrometer into a blackbody hole drilled into
the sample. Seventeen data points were recorded in the temperature range from $2304^{\circ}$ to $2596^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The sample purity was 99.9 percent, but no mention was made of the types of impurities; however, the sample was thoroughly outgassed before it was heated inductively and measurements taken. In table $\Pi(\mathrm{h})$ the data of reference 12 are extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres.

In 1962 the Langmuir method was again used (ref. 13), the temperatures were measured with an optical pyrometer, which was sighted on a blackbody hole drilled in the sample. The experimenter used a high-temperature thermobalance which incorporated a new furnace design that gave stable temperatures up to $3000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. Impurities amounted to 248 parts per million; carbon, 20 ppm ;, oxygen, 100 ppm ; nitrogen, 8 ppm ; hydrogen, 5 ppm ; tantalum, 100 ppm ; iron, 8 ppm ; and silicon, 7 ppm . The raw vapor-pressure data were received from Woerner, et al. (ref. 13), and consisted of 32 data points in the temperature range from $2241^{\circ}$ to $2588^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The data were extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres and the results are shown in table II(i).

Each set of data (refs. 12 and 13) is essentially in the same temperature range, and the resulting vapor-pressure lines are parallel. This indicates that the experimenters are in agreement on the slope of the vapor-pressure curve but that a systemic error in the temperature or weight measurements caused a shift in the vapor pressure values. The difference in the two curves on the temperature scale is $40^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. When the results are averaged a vapor-pressure line
parallel to and between the two sets of data is formed and these results are shown in table $\operatorname{II}(\mathrm{j})$.

## Platinum

The first set of platinum data discussed herein is presented in reference 14. The Langmuir technique was used, and the vapor pressure of solid platinum was measured in the temperature range from $1571^{\circ}$ to $1783^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The sample was at least 99. 95 percent pure, but no mention was made of the types of impurities. Only nine data points are presented and five of these are within $5^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ of $1740^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$; therefore, it was difficult to estimate an error throughout the temperature range investigated. The vapor-pressure curve calculated from the data of reference 14 resulted in an equation that was of the same form but numerically different from that calculated in reference 14. At 1000 atmospheres, equation (1) gives a temperature of $5430^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ whereas the equation calculated in reference 14 predicts $6490^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. Because Dreger, et al. (ref. 14) may not have used the least-squares method for calculating the vapor-pressure equation, or because other unmentioned factors may have entered his calculations, these data were not used for extrapolation purposes.

A second set of platinum vapor-pressure data is presented in reference 15. A microbalance was used in measuring the vapor pressure of solid platinum by the Langmuir technique over the range from $1916^{\circ}$ to $2042^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. A plot of the 18 data points shows a good distribution over the temperature range (Hampson, et al. (ref. 15)), but because the temperature range was only $125^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$, the temperature uncertainty becomes large at 1000 atmospheres. The platinum sample
was approximately 99.7 percent pure. The major impurities were palladium, iridium, and rhodium at percentage levels of 0.01 to 0.1 percent, copper and iron at percentage levels of 0.001 to 0.01 and silver at less than 0.001 percent. An extrapolation to 1000 atmospheres results in temperature estimates shown in table II(k).

## Ruthenium

Survey studies were made of three references containing information on the vapor press ure of solid ruthenium. In reference 16 , 24 data points for ruthenium in the temperature range from $2036^{\circ}$ to $2591^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ are presented. Sixteen data points were obtained by the Knudsen method; the other eight points were obtained by the Langmuir technique. The Knudsen method employed ruthenium 103 as a radioactive tracer in the vaporizing ruthenium metal. The radioactivity of the target on which the effusion beam condensed was then compared with a previously calibrated sample.

The Langmuir evaporation studies by Panish, et al. (ref. 16) were performed on a small cylindrically shaped pellet of ruthenium containing a blackbody hole for temperature measurements. Trace amounts of impurities were found spectroscopically; however, the types and amounts were not reported. By extrapolating the data to 1000 atmospheres, results for the vapor pressure of ruthenium were calculated and are shown in table II(1).

Reference 17 presents studies of the vapor pressure of solid ruthenium in the temperature range $2011^{\circ}$ to $2330^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. By using the Langmuir technique in conjunction with a microbalance built inside the vacuum system, nine data points were obtained. The sample
was between 99.8 and 99.98 percent ruthenium, with the major impurities being platinum and calcium from 0.01 to 0.1 percent. Extrapolation of these nine data points yields the values given in table $I(\mathrm{~m})$.

Reference 18, reports the vapor pressure of solid ruthenium in the temperature range from $1918^{\circ}$ to $2377^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$, using the Langmuir method. A microbalance was used for weight measurements, and a calibrated pyrometer was used for temperature measurements. Two samples of different purities were used. Sample 1 had a purity greater than 99.97 percent, with the major impurities being less than 0.02 percent osmium and less than 0.007 percent rhodium. Sample 2 had a purity greater than 99.8 percent, with the major impurities being less than 0.1 percent platinum and calcium. In reference 18, 42 data runs were presented using sample 1 , and 52 runs were presented using sample 2. Extrapolating the data to 1000 atmospheres results in the vapor-pressure values presented in table $\amalg(\mathrm{n})$.

The resulting vapor-pressure equations of references 16 to 18 were averaged and extrapolated to 1000 atmospheres. These results are presented in table $\mathrm{II}(\mathrm{o})$.

## Tungsten

The vapor pressure of solid tungsten is reported in reference 19, where 10 data points are recorded in the temperature range from $2574^{\circ}$ to $3183^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The Langmuir method was used with the aid of a vacuum microbalance. A calibrated optical pyrometer was used to
measure temperatures by sighting on a blackbody hole drilled in the specimen. Results of a spectrochemical analysis indicate a maximum impurity content of 0.02 percent where molybdenum and silicon are the principal impurities. The results obtained by extrapolating these data to 1000 atmospheres are shown in table II(p).

## Vanadium

The vapor pressure of solid vanadium was measured in the temperature range from $1666^{\circ}$ to $1882^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ in reference 20 by the Langmuir method. The vanadium sample was heated inductively and temperature measurements were made with an optical pyrometer that was sighted on a blackbody hole drilled in the sample. The sample contained 99.6 percent vanadium, 0.2 percent carbon, 0.1 percent hydrogen, with traces of iron, silicon, manganese, copper, and calcium comprising the other 0.1 percent. No correction factor was applied to the vapor-pressure measurements resulting from these impurities. However, in several of the initial runs, gas was evolving from the sample which would indicate outgassing of some impurities, and these runs were rejected; 12 data points were recorded. The results are presented in table $\mathrm{II}(q)$ for the extrapolation of the data to 1000 atmospheres.

## Yttrium

The vapor pressures of liquid yttrium from two references are discussed and compared herein. Reference 21 contains data on liquid yttrium in the temperature range from $1774^{\circ}$ to $2103^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. An inductively heated, tungsten Knudsen cell was used, and weight measurements were made with a vacuum balance, while temperatures were
recorded by an optical pyrometer. Seven vaporization data points were recorded from the sample of yttrium, which contained about 0.4 percent calcium. However, the orifice of the Knudsen cell was not thin, and a Clausing factor of 0.36 was used in the calculations.

Reference 8 presents a vapor-pressure study of liquid yttrium. The Knudsen method was used in conjunction with a quartz-fiber microbalance for weight measurements, and an optical pyrometer for temperature measurements. Data for 18 runs were received from Habermann, et al. (ref. 8); and were in the temperature range from $1861^{\circ}$ to $2252^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The sample was better than 99.98 percent yttrium. The impurities were tantalum, 400 ppm ; iron, 150 ppm ; oxygen, 300 ppm ; carbon, 150 ppm ; fluorine, 100 ppm ; and 65 ppm of trace materials.

In extrapolating the vapor-pressure data, only the data of reference 8 were used. The advantages of this set of data were the following. First, the orifice in the Knudsen cell was much thinner than that used in reference 21. This led to a Clausing factor of 0.9666 compared with 0.36 in reference 21 . Second, 18 data points were received from Habermann, et al. (ref. 8) compared with 7 presented in reference 21. Table II(r) shows the results or extrapolating the data of reference 8 to 1000 atmospheres.

## Zirconium

Data on the vapor pressure of zirconium were obtained from three references. The first set of data is presented by Skinner, et al. (ref. 22) in 1951. The vapor pressure of solid zirconium was measured between $1949^{\circ}$ and $2054^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ by the Langmuir technique.

The zirconium sample was heated inductively while temperature measurements were taken from optical pyrometer readings. Weight loses were determined by two methods: first, by collecting and analyzing the evaporated film and, second, by direct measurement of the sample weight loss.

The zirconium sample contained 0.99 atom percent hafnium, 0.05 atom percent tungsten, and 0.37 atom percent of other impurities, which were mostly silicon and aluminum. A plot of the data shows a good distribution over the temperature range, however, this data was not used for extrapolation purposes. The reason for this is the availability of more recent vapor-pressure data on liquid zirconium.

The second set of data was presented by Federov et al. (ref. 23) in 1962. The vapor pressure of solid zirconium measured using the Knudsen method with radioactive indicators. Data was obtained from two Knudsen cells with different diameter openings. Six data points from a cell with an effusion apertures diameter of 1.4 millimeters and four data points from a cell having a 0.99 millimeter effusion aperture. The Knudsen cell was made of molybdenum and was resistance heated by passing current through tungsten wires. Temperature measurements were made with thermocouples in the range from $1540^{\circ}$ to $1680^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ and weight measurements were made on a target where the evaporated metal condensed. Again this vaporpressure data was not used because the zirconium was in a solid state.

The third set of data presented by Trulson et al. (ref. 24) in 1965 contains vapor pressure data of both solid and liquid zirconium. A mass spectrometer was used with a Knudsen cell to obtain fourteen data points on solid zirconium ( $1968^{\circ}$ to $2112^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ ) and eight data points on liquid zirconium ( $2148^{\circ}$ to $2274^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ ). Temperature measurements were made with an optical pyrometer sighted into blackbody holes drilled in the crucible wall. The zirconium measurements were made in a graphite crucible lined with zirconium carbide, however, no mention was made on the area of the Knudsen effusion aperture. The solid and liquid vapor pressure data were separately fitted to equation 1 and there is a marked difference in slope of the vapor pressure line caused by the heat of fusion. Since we are interested in extrapolating the data to 1000 atmos pheres only the eight liquid data points are used. Since the liquid temperature range is only $126^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ a large temperature uncertainty is calculated at 1000 temperatures. Table II(s) summarizes the extrapolation of the least-squares curve fit and the temperature uncertainty.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Existing vapor-pressure data were collected from the literature for 10 elements. The materials chosen had a thermal neutron absorption cross section less than 5 barns and an atmospheric boiling point over $3000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. Each set of data was curve fitted to an equation of the following form:

$$
\log P=\frac{A}{T}+D
$$

where A and D are constants, P is vapor pressure, and T is
temperature. The constants A and D were obtained for each of the materials discussed herein and are listed in table III.

Equation (1) was used to extrapolate the vapor-pressure data to 1000 atmospheres. Whatever limitations exist in using the preceding for extrapolating vapor-pressure data exist in the extrapolations presented herein. An error analysis was used to find the possible error in the extrapolated vapor pressure due to the scatter of the original data. Figure 2 plots the extrapolated vapor pressures for all of the elements chosen from 1 to 1000 atmospheres. At 1000 atmospheres, zirconium has the highest boiling point ( $10100^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ ). REFERENCES

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TABLE I. - REFRACTORY MATERIALS

INVESTIGATED

| Material | Thermal absorption <br> cross section, <br> (barns) | Vapor-pressure <br> reference |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Carbon | 0.00373 | 6 |
| Cerium | .73 | 8 |
| Molybdenum | 2.70 | $9,10,11$ |
| Niobium | 1.16 | 12,13 |
| Platinum 196 | .70 | 14,15 |
| Platinum 194 | 1.2 | 14,15 |
| Ruthenium | 2.56 | $16,17,18$ |
| Tungsten 184 | 2.0 | 19 |
| Vanadium | 5.0 | 20 |
| Yttrium | 1.31 | 8,21 |
| Zirconium | .185 | $22,23,24$ |

TABLE II. - EXTRAPOLATED VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(a) Data for carbon from reference 6

| Partial vapor pressures of carbon |  |  |  |  | Total vapor pressure, atm | Extrapo- <br> lated temperature, ${ }^{0} \mathrm{~K}$ | Temperature uncertainty, ${ }^{0} \mathrm{~K}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & C_{1} \\ & \mathrm{~atm} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & C_{2} \\ & \mathrm{~atm} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{C}_{3}, \\ & \mathrm{~atm} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{C}_{4}, \\ & \mathrm{~atm} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & C_{5} \\ & \mathrm{~atm} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |
| 0.11 | 0.30 | 0.49 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 1 | 4100 | 3840 to 4380 |
| . 8 | 3.1 | 4.7 | . 6 | . 9 | 10 | 4540 | 4220 to 4890 |
| 6 | 31 | 42 | 8 | 13 | 100 | 5070 | 4650 to 5540 |
| 42 | 292 | 361 | 120 | 185 | 1000 | 5740 | 5150 to 6400 |

(b) Relative concentrations of carbon vapor species above graphite at $4000^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$

| Refer- | Carbon molecular species |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{C}_{1}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{5}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{6}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{7}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{8}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{9}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{10}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{11}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{14}$ |
| 6 | 22.2 | 62.5 | 100.0 | 7. 8 | 11.1 | ----- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ----- |
| 7 | 37.0 | 31.4 | 100.0 | 2.13 | 7.9 | 0.413 | 1.11 | 0. 19 | 0.11 | 0.32 | 0.15 | 0.042 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRA POLATED
VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(c) Cerium

| Vapor <br> pressure, <br> atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> ${ }^{\circ} \mathbf{K}$ | Temperature <br> uncertainty, <br> ${ }^{o_{K}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 3560 | 3480 to 3680 |
| 10 | 4200 | 4080 to 4430 |
| 100 | 5160 | 4940 to 5560 |
| 1000 | 6670 | 6250 to 7460 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRAPOLATED

## VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA

(d) Data for molybdenum from reference 9

| Vapor <br> pressure, <br> atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> ${ }^{\circ} \mathbf{K}$ | Temperature <br> uncertainty, <br> $o_{\mathbf{K}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 5100 | 4880 to 5350 |
| 10 | 6100 | 5740 to 6510 |
| 100 | 7590 | 6980 to 8320 |
| 1000 | 10040 | 8900 to 11530 |

(e) Data for molybdenum from reference 10

| 1 | 4700 | 4590 to 5090 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 5480 | 5310 to 6090 |
| 100 | 6570 | 6290 to 7580 |
| 1000 | 8180 | 7720 to 10040 |

(f) Data for molybdenum from reference 11

| 1 | 4640 | 4500 to |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 4830 |  |  |
| 10 | 5340 | 5180 to |
| 5690 |  |  |
| 100 | 6440 | 6110 to 6910 |
| 1000 | 7980 | 7430 to 8810 |

(g) Data for molybdenum, combined data of references 9,10 , and 11

| 1 | 4800 | 4500 to 5350 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 5630 | 5180 to 6510 |
| 100 | 6820 | 6110 to 8320 |
| 1000 | 8620 | 7430 to 11530 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRA POLATED

VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(h) Data for niobium from reference 12

| Vapor <br> pressure, <br> atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> ${ }^{o_{K}}$ | Temperature <br> uncertainty, <br> ${ }^{\mathbf{o}_{\mathbf{K}}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 4520 | 4360 to 4800 |
| 10 | 5090 | 4870 to 5500 |
| 100 | 5830 | 5510 to 6440 |
| 1000 | 6830 | 6340 to 7780 |

(i) Data for niobium from reference 13

| 1 | 4760 | 4520 to 5040 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 5430 | 5080 to 5840 |
| 100 | 6300 | 5800 to 6950 |
| 1000 | 7530 | 6750 to 8580 |

(j) Data for niobium, combined data of references 12 and 13

| 1 | 4660 | 4360 to 5040 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 5280 | 4870 to 5840 |
| 100 | 6100 | 5510 to 6950 |
| 1000 | 7220 | 6340 to 8580 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRAPOLATED

VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(k) Platinum

| Vapor <br> pressure, <br> atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> $o_{K}$ | Temperature <br> uncertainty, <br> $o_{K}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 4070 | 3640 to 4740 |
| 10 | 4780 | 4130 to 5880 |
| 100 | 5790 | 4760 to 7760 |
| 1000 | 7330 | 5620 to 11400 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRAPOLATED
VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(l) Data for ruthenium from reference 16

| Vapor <br> pressure, <br> atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> $o_{\mathbf{K}}$ | Temperature <br> uncertainty, <br> ${ }^{\circ} \mathbf{K}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 4280 | 3960 to 4620 |
| 10 | 4930 | 4450 to 5440 |
| 100 | 5790 | 5070 to 6610 |
| 1000 | 7040 | 5900 to 8430 |

(m) Date for ruthenium from reference 17

| 1 | 4080 | 3870 to 4230 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 4650 | 4340 to 4880 |
| 100 | 5410 | 4950 to 5770 |
| 1000 | 6470 | 5750 to 7050 |

(n) Data for ruthenium from reference 18

| 1 | 4370 | 4010 to 4710 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 5040 | 4520 to 5570 |
| 100 | 5960 | 5180 to 6800 |
| 1000 | 7280 | 6060 to 8730 |

(o) Data for ruthenium combined data of references 16,17 , and 18

| 1 | 4240 | 3870 to 4710 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 4870 | 4340 to 5570 |
| 100 | 5710 | 4950 to 6800 |
| 1000 | 6910 | 5750 to 8730 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRAPOLATED
VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(p) Tungsten

| Vapor <br> pressure, <br> atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> ${ }^{\circ} \mathbf{K}$ | Temperature <br> uncertainty, <br> ${ }^{\circ} \mathbf{K}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 5740 | 5620 to 5930 |
| 10 | 6580 | 6420 to 6880 |
| 100 | 7730 | 7470 to 8180 |
| 1000 | 9340 | 8430 to 10110 |

(q) Vanadium

| 1 | 3510 | 3420 to 3640 |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 4060 | 3920 to 4260 |
| 100 | 4800 | 4590 to 5120 |
| 1000 | 5880 | 5540 to 6430 |

TABLE II. - Continued. EXTRAPOLATED

VAPOR-PRESSURE DATA
(r) Yttrium

| Vapor pressure, atm | Extrapo- <br> lated <br> tempera- <br> ture, <br> ${ }^{0_{K}}$ | Temperature uncertainty, ${ }^{o_{K}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 3480 | 3410 to 3590 |
| 10 | 4170 | 4050 to 4390 |
| 100 | 5210 | 5000 to 5630 |
| 1000 | 6950 | 6530 to 7850 |

(s) Zirconium

| 1 | 4840 | 4460 to 5470 |
| ---: | ---: | :--- |
| 10 | 5850 | 5240 to 6970 |
| 100 | 7410 | 6350 to 9600 |
| 1000 | 10100 | 8060 to 15400 |

TABLE III. - CALCULATED CONSTANTS OF VAPOR
PRESSURE EQUATION (EQ. (1))

| Material | Constants |  | Material | Constants |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | A | D |  | A | D |
| Carbon $\left(\mathrm{C}_{1}\right)$ | -37067 | 8.078 | Molybdenum | -32468 | 6.768 |
| Carbon $\left(\mathrm{C}_{2}\right)$ | -42798 | 9.924 | Niobium | -39308 | 8.444 |
| Carbon $\left(\mathrm{C}_{3}\right)$ | -41115 | 9.720 | Platinum | -27546 | 6.747 |
| Carbenium | -32927 | 7.766 |  |  |  |
| Carbon $\left(\mathrm{C}_{4}\right)$ | -50165 | 10.818 | Tungsten | -44680 | 7.790 |
| Carbon $\left(\mathrm{C}_{5}\right)$ | -50820 | 11.132 | Vanadium | -26134 | 7.441 |
| Cerium | -22816 | 6.419 | Yttrium | -20821 | 6.001 |
|  |  |  | Zirconium | -27866 | 5.758 |




