The Cathodic Process in Magnesium Chloride-Alkali Chloride Melts

Jerzy Kazmierczak,1 Adolf Kisza,1 Geir Martin Haarberg2 and Reidar Tunold2

1University of Wroclaw
Department of Chemistry, ul. Joliot-Curie 14
Wroclaw PL 50-383
Poland

2NTNU
Department of Materials Technology and
Electrochemistry, Sem Selandes veg 6
Trondheim NO 7491
Norway

The rate of the electrode reaction on molten magnesium surfaces was studied in binary melts containing magnesium chloride and alkali chlorides, using impedance spectroscopy and galvanostatic relaxation. Studies were performed at different temperatures in melts with varying concentration of magnesium chloride in LiCl, NaCl, KCl and CsCl.

The process seems to consist of dissociation of a complex, of diffusion and of two subsequent charge transfer steps. Both the absolute and the relative rates of all these steps depend on the size of the alkali cation.

Interesting relations between kinetic parameters and thermodynamic and spectroscopic data have been observed.