

## PHASE DIAGRAM OF $V_2O_5$ – $MoO_3$ – $Ag_2O$ SYSTEM

### Part III. Vanadium-rich part of the diagram

E. Wenda<sup>1\*</sup> and A. Bielański<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Chemistry, Jagiellonian University, ul. R. Ingardena 3, 30-060 Cracow, Poland

<sup>2</sup>Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, ul. Niezapominajek 8, 30-239 Cracow, Poland

The results concerning the synthesis, structure and thermal properties of  $V_2O_5$ – $MoO_3$ – $Ag_2O$  samples in the vanadium rich region of ternary system are presented in the form of quasi-binary phase diagrams in which at constant  $V_2O_5/MoO_3$  molar ratios, equal 9:1, 7:3 and 1:1, the content of  $Ag_2O$  was variable. A new ternary phase isostructural with  $NaVMoO_6$  has been detected in the investigated system.

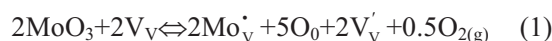
**Keywords:** molybdena, phase diagram, silver oxide, vanadia

### Introduction

Oxide systems containing vanadium and molybdenum play an important role as the catalysts for different oxidation processes first of all oxidation of aromatic and alkyl aromatic hydrocarbons [1, 2]. They are frequently doped with other oxides such as the oxides of cobalt, iron, chromium, phosphorus, sodium, etc. Silver oxide has been shown to enhance selectivity of benzene oxidation to maleic anhydride if added in small amount (of the order of 1 mass%) [3, 4] to the solid solution of  $MoO_3$  in  $V_2O_5$ . On the other hand, catalyst may become not active or only weakly active at larger concentrations of silver when vanadium–molybdenum  $\beta$ -bronze and  $V_9Mo_6O_{40}$  compound are present as the predominant phases. This is why the knowledge of the physico-chemical properties of the  $V_2O_5$ – $MoO_3$ – $Ag_2O$  system and in particular the knowledge of its phase diagram is interesting from the point of view of catalysis.

Until now only the binary systems  $V_2O_5$ – $MoO_3$ ,  $V_2O_5$ – $Ag_2O$  and  $MoO_3$ – $Ag_2O$  were described in the literature. The  $V_2O_5$ – $MoO_3$  phase diagram has been published by Strupler and Morette [5] and Bielański *et al.* [6]. The work concerning the particular phases appearing in this system has been reviewed in [7]. There is a vast region of solid solubility of  $MoO_3$  in  $V_2O_5$  reaching approximately 30 mol% at eutectic temperature 611°C (this latter temperature has been corrected as 636°C in the present research carried out with more precise method) but it decreases below 500°C in the case of samples containing 10–15 mol%  $MoO_3$  [8].

Doping  $V_2O_5$  with  $MoO_3$  results in the formation of an appropriate number of  $V^{4+}$  ions according to the equation:

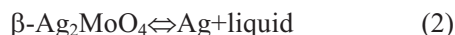


where Kröger–Vink symbols are used.  $Mo_V^{\cdot}$  represents Mo atom in the oxidation state VI in the cationic position,  $O_0$  oxygen atom in the oxidation state –II in the anionic position and  $V_V'$  an excess electron localized on  $V^{5+}$  i.e. vanadium atom in the oxidation state IV.

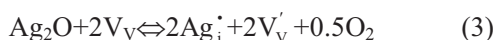
An intermediate compound  $V_9Mo_6O_{40}$  congruently fusing at about 660°C appears in the  $V_2O_5$ – $MoO_3$  system. Depending on calcination temperature the composition of  $V_9Mo_6O_{40}$  phase may vary within certain limits [9, 10] and this is why some earlier authors proposed  $V_2MoO_8$  formula. The solid solution of  $MoO_3$  in  $V_2O_5$  phase and  $V_9Mo_6O_{40}$  phase are forming an eutectic melting at about 636°C, to which composition about 45 mol% of  $MoO_3$  corresponds. The part of the phase diagram corresponding to the higher  $MoO_3$  content than in  $V_9Mo_6O_{40}$  represents a typical two-component phase diagram without the formation of solid solution of  $V_2O_5$  in the usual orthorhombic modification of  $MoO_3$ . The eutectic containing about 60 mol%  $MoO_3$  melts at 645°C.

The  $MoO_3$ – $Ag_2O$  system has been investigated by Kohmüller and Fourie [11] and one of the present authors [12]. In the former case the range of 0–50 mol%  $Ag_2O$  was studied and the range of 0–100 mol%  $Ag_2O$  in the latter one. There are two congruently melting compounds appearing in this system:  $Ag_2Mo_4O_{13}$  (536°C) and  $Ag_2Mo_2O_7$  (516°C) as well as one incongruently melting  $\beta$ - $Ag_2MoO_4$  (575°C). They are forming three eutectic subsystems. All the above compounds are stoichiometric and contain molybdenum in its highest oxidation state (VI). However  $\beta$ - $Ag_2MoO_4$  melts incongruently decomposing at 575° according to the equation:

\* Author for correspondence: wenda@chemia.uj.edu.pl



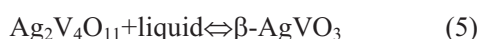
The  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  system presented in [13] is the most complicated one. Its knowledge is essential for the understanding of the vanadium rich section of the ternary system the object of the present publication. That is why it is shown in Fig. 1. It differs slightly from that in [13] in which the composition limits of  $\beta$ -bronze  $\text{Ag}_x\text{V}_{2-x}\text{O}_{5-z}$  below temperature of congruent melting  $714^\circ\text{C}$  were not taken into account. Five different phases appear in this system. Two of them:  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  solid solution and vanadium–silver oxide bronze are non-stoichiometric. The range, within which the value of  $x$  in  $\text{Ag}_x\text{V}_{2-x}\text{O}_{5-z}$  may change, becomes narrower with the increasing temperature and equals to zero at the composition corresponding to the highest point of the liquidus curve. The formation of vanadium–silver oxide bronze is due to reaction:



where vanadium is partly reduced to the oxidation state IV. Maximal concentration of  $\text{V}^{4+}$  has been found at the composition 14.8 mol%  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$ . The same sample exhibits the highest temperature of fusion  $714^\circ\text{C}$  (point C). Its composition corresponds to the formula:  $\text{Ag}_{0.3}\text{V}_{1.7}\text{O}_{4.25}$ . On cooling the  $\beta$ -bronze enters at  $550^\circ\text{C}$  into meritectic reaction:



The  $\text{Ag}_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{11}$  compound is incongruent and on further cooling the sample another meritectic reaction occurs at  $470^\circ\text{C}$ :



As Fig. 1 shows eutectic  $\beta\text{-AgVO}_3\text{-Ag}_3\text{VO}_4$  corresponds to the composition of 62.5 mol%  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  and solidifies at  $376^\circ\text{C}$  (point F). Silver vanadate  $\text{Ag}_3\text{VO}_4$  is fusing incongruently and decomposes with the segregation of metallic silver at  $450^\circ\text{C}$ :



Despite the fact that the three binary systems  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-MoO}_3$ ,  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{MoO}_3\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  are known no any investigation of the triple system  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-MoO}_3\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  was undertaken in the literature and hence the aim of the present research was to gather the basic information concerning this system. The study does not comprise the silver oxide reach region of the triple system where, as already was said, the formation of metallic silver takes place as it is shown by the Eqs (2) and (6).

The present paper is the continuation of the earlier papers published by one of the present authors as Part I [13] describing  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  system and Part II [12] concerning the  $\text{MoO}_3\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  system and deals with the vanadium reach region of the triple system

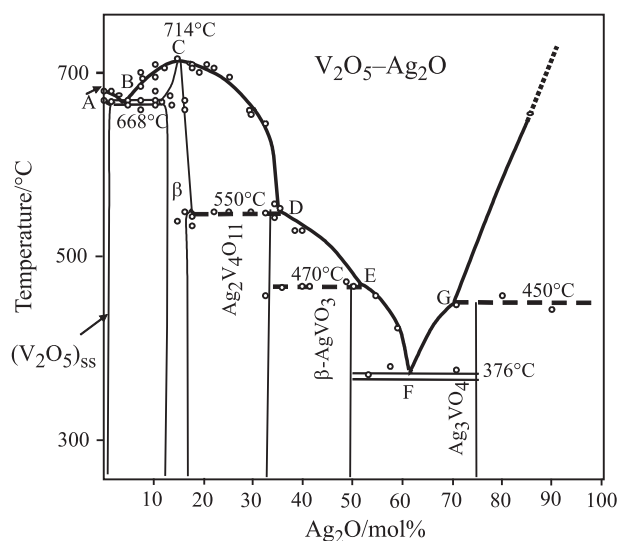


Fig. 1 Phase diagram of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  system (according to [13])

$\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-MoO}_3\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$ . In the following papers we intend to present the molybdenum reach part of the system and subsequently to discuss the phase diagram of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-MoO}_3\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  system.

## Experimental

$\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{-MoO}_3\text{-Ag}_2\text{O}$  samples were obtained by mixing at first  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  (p.a. 'Analar') and  $\text{MoO}_3$  (p.a. 'Reanal') in following fixed ratios:

- 1) 90 mol%  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  – 10 mol%  $\text{MoO}_3$
- 2) 70 mol%  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  – 30 mol%  $\text{MoO}_3$
- 3) 50 mol%  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  – 50 mol%  $\text{MoO}_3$

Subsequently appropriate amounts of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (p.a. POCH Gliwice) were added thus giving a series of samples with fixed  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5/\text{MoO}_3$  ratio and variable content of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$ . The mixtures were homogenised for 24 h in pebble mill. On still longer homogenisation time the formation of small amounts of metallic silver was observed. Samples were heated in the atmosphere of air at temperatures about  $50^\circ\text{C}$  below the melting point. The information concerning the melting temperatures of all samples presented in this work was obtained from the preliminary thermal analysis of the initial oxide mixtures. At temperatures as high as  $600\text{--}650^\circ\text{C}$  the reactions were fast enough and no pressing was necessary. On the other hand the samples heated at  $360\text{--}500^\circ\text{C}$  had to be pressed into pellets. In the first series of experiments (Table 1) the samples were heated with different rates up to a fixed temperature and immediately cooled down in the furnace according to the accepted program. In the second series of the experiments the samples after reaching a certain temperature were kept at it for a certain period

of time and cooled down at two different rates (Table 2). In the third series of the experiments the conditions of the samples preparation varied dependently on the silver oxide concentration (Table 3). In particular the samples containing 25–90 mol% Ag<sub>2</sub>O were pelleted and heated for 24 or more hours at the temperatures given in the table. Subsequently the pellets were crushed, analysed and examined by XRD. The samples were then pelleted and again heated at appropriate sintering temperature. This procedure was repeated until no changes in XRD pattern or DTA curve were observed. The method of heating and cooling the samples was essentially the same as it was applied in a number of papers concerning metal oxide system, e.g. [18–35]. The information concerning the synthesis of particular samples is given in Tables 1–3.

DTA and DTG analyses were carried out using Mettler and also SDT 2960 TA Instruments thermo-analysers. The position of DTA peak could be read using our instruments with the precision of the order of 1k and 0.1K, respectively. In most cases heating rate

10°C min<sup>-1</sup> was applied. Temperatures of endothermic effects (no exothermic ones were observed) have been used to determine the points on liquidus and solidus lines corresponding to the particular set of the samples.

The X-ray powder diagrams of samples were obtained using X-ray Seifert spectrometer and CuK<sub>α</sub> radiation. Phase identification was carried out by comparing the obtained data with ASTM and ICDD-PDF using computer program or with the data in original papers [14, 15]. The results are given in Tables 1–3.

## Results and discussion

Phase diagram sections presented in this paper were constructed basing on DTA analysis supported by the results of X-ray phase analysis. There are two procedures in the interpretation of DTA effects. The first of them which may be called the onset method determines the very beginning of the observed effect. The characteristic onset temperature corresponds in DTA

**Table 1** Samples with V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/MoO<sub>3</sub> molar ratio 9:1<sup>x</sup>. Sintering conditions, phase composition and DTA analysis

Ag <sub>2</sub> O/ mol%	Heating rate/ °C h <sup>-1</sup>	Sintering T/°C	Average cooling rate/°C h <sup>-1</sup>	Phase composition	T of DTA endothermic effects/°C	Remarks
1	4.4	630	72	(V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>ss</sub> , β-bronze V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub>	677	sample non pelleted
2	6.6	630	72	as above	674	as above
3	6.5	620	48	as above	671	as above
4	8.6	620	72	as above	669	as above
5	6.5	620	48	as above	666, 688	as above
7.5	4.3	620	48	as above	666, 700	as above
10	5.3	640	48	as above	672, 708	as above
12.5	4.5	650	72	as above	575, 672, 714	as above
15	4.0	680	264	β-bronze, (V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>ss</sub> -traces	556, 669, 724	as above
17.5	6.5	620	72	β-bronze, AgVMoO <sub>6</sub>	550, 642, 708	as above
20	6.5	620	72	β-bronze, Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub> AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> (traces)	560, 716	sample kept at sintering T for 10 h
30	7.6	550	6	as above	564, 664	pellet sample kept at sintering T for 10 h
40	4.2	500	24	β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub> , AgVMoO <sub>6</sub>	483, (527), 550	pellet
50	7.3	350	cooling with furnace	β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	360, 480	as above
60	7.3	350	as above	β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub>	370, 405	as above
70	7.3	350	as above	Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> β-AgVO <sub>3</sub>	375, 455	as above
80	7.3	350	as above	Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub> , Ag	450, 635	as above

<sup>x</sup>samples cooled down after reaching 'sintering temperature'

**Table 2** Samples with V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/MoO<sub>3</sub> molar ratio 7:3. Sintering conditions, phase composition and DTA analysis

Ag <sub>2</sub> O/ mol%	Heating rate/ °C h <sup>-1</sup>	Sintering T/°C	Time of sintering/h	Average cooling rate/°C h <sup>-1</sup>	Phase composition	T of DTA endothermic effects/°C	Remarks
1	264	660	24	260	(V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>ss</sub> , β-bronze, V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub>	555, 635, 655	sample non pelleted
2	264	660	24	260	as above	560, 620, 650	as above
3	264	600	24	86	as above	622, 644	as above
5	264	660	24	260	as above	620, 638, 665	as above
7.5	264	560	24	86	as above	613, 643, 684	as above
10	264	660	24	86	as above	585, 630, 700	as above
12.5	264	560	24	85	as above	588, 635, 692	as above
15	264	600	24	85	β-bronze, V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> , AgVMoO <sub>6</sub>	600, 708	as above
17.5	24.2	510	24	88	as above	600, 685	as above
20	264	660	24	86	β-bronze, AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	553, 607, 700	as above
22.5	264	580	48	86	as above	550, 592, 690	as above
25	264	580	48	86	as above	555, 591, 667	as above
30	264	560	48	85	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	550, 560, 620	as above
40	10.4	420	48	86	Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , AgVMoO <sub>6</sub>	482, 544	as above
50	250	350	48	86	β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	365, 430, 500	pellet
60	250	340	48	85	β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	370	as above
70	275	320	48	86	β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> , Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub>	370, 450	as above
80	250	400	48	86	β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> (traces), Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub> , Ag	325, 450, 520	as above

diagram to the intersection of the extrapolated base-line and the tangent through the inflection point on the leading edge of the peak [17]. The other method characterising the DTA effects consists in determining the temperature corresponding to maximum of the DTA peak. Physically it is the temperature read at the moment when the heat consumption rate is most rapid. In our investigation in some cases – mostly when overlapping of the effects occurred – the course of base-line could not be determined univocally and hence we decided to apply the second method for all the samples. The difference between the onset and peak temperatures was tested by us on the case of 21 different samples of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O system on which the onset method could be univocally applied. The average value of  $\Delta T$  was  $11.5 \pm 4.6^\circ$  which characterises the difference between both methods in case of our metal–oxide system.

In determination of liquidus and solidus lines in binary system several interpretations of DTA peaks are possible. A single symmetric narrow DTA peak was ascribed to the congruently fusing compound or to an eutectic. A broad asymmetric peak indicates the pres-

ence of a mixture of phases of the average composition close to that of congruent compound or eutectic. Most frequently two DTA peaks were observed. Peak at lower temperature corresponds to the fusion of eutectic and the other one – to the fusion of the component of the binary system present in an excess as compared with the eutectic composition. Two peaks are present also when compound with incongruent melting point is present in the binary system. The case in which three endothermic DTA peaks were registered was interpreted as the presence of two compounds with incongruently melting points. In the ternary system the situation is much more complicated. We can observe here endothermic effects on one sample: corresponding to the fusion of ternary eutectic, the fusion of binary eutectic along eutectic line and the fusion of single compound phase. However, in many cases we observe two or even only one broad asymmetric DTA peak if the investigated sample exhibits the composition similar to that of double eutectic or one of the triple points. An additional difficulty in the studied ternary system is connected with the non stoichiometric bronze phase which at each point of the Gibbs diagram exhibits dif-

PHASE DIAGRAM OF V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O SYSTEM

**Table 3** Samples with V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/MoO<sub>3</sub> molar ratio 1:1. Sintering conditions, phase composition and DTA analysis

Ag <sub>2</sub> O/ mol%	Heating rate/ °C h <sup>-1</sup>	Sintering T/°C	Time of sintering/h	Average cooling rate/°C h <sup>-1</sup>	Phase composition	T of DTA endothermic effects/°C	Remarks
1	256	660	24	128	V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> , (V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>ss</sub> , β-bronze	560, 630, 650	sample non pelleted
2	256	660	24	128	V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> , (V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>ss</sub> , β-bronze	570, 610, 620	as above
5	256	660	24	128	V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> , β-bronze	563, 650	as above
10	256	660	24	128	V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> , β-bronze	590, 670	as above
15	256	660	24	128	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> , β-bronze	540, 590	as above
20	256	660	24	128	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , β-bronze, V <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>40</sub> (tr)	610	as above
25	2.2	520	168	86	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , β-bronze, Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	550, 605	pellet
30	2.6	470	96	86	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , Ag <sub>2</sub> V <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	555, 600	as above
35	2.4	420	72	86	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	459, 545	as above
40	2.3	450	96	86	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	475, 540	pellet
45	300	320	48	86	AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	434, 466	as above
50	2.3	450	96	86	β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub>	360, 430, 450	as above
55	300	320	48	86	β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub>	370, 405	as above
60	300	320	72	86	β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> , β-AgVO <sub>3</sub> , Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub>	370	as above
70	300	320	24	86	β-Ag <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> , Ag <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub> , Ag	375, 455, 500	as above
80	1.8	400	96	86	as above	365, 448, 490	as above
90	1.8	400	96	86	as above	459, 520, 540	as above

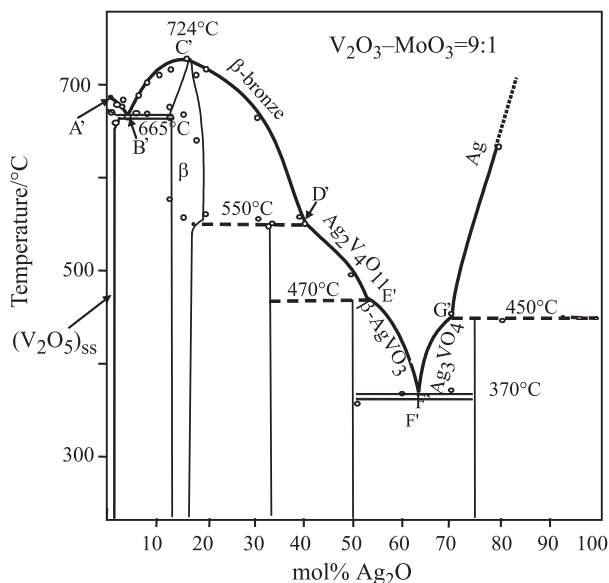
ferent composition and different characteristic temperatures. The interpretation of the results obtained for ternary system has to be done by comparing simultaneously the results of DTA, X-ray phase analysis and apply the general rules of projecting liquidus planes on the plane of Gibbs triangle.

Figures 2–4 show the cross sections of the V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O ternary system in which at constant V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/MoO<sub>3</sub> molar ratio (equal to 9:1, 7:3 and 1:1) the content of Ag<sub>2</sub>O was variable. In each of them the temperatures of DTA effects corresponding to the particular samples are given. The temperature of the highest DTA peak was assumed as the melting point of the sample determining the course of liquids represented by full thick line. The DTA peaks at lower temperatures correspond to different thermic effects: melting of the binary or ternary eutectics or the meritectic reactions. Particular diagrams are described in the following section of the present paper. However it should be observed that the results of the present investigation will be used for the construction of the full three dimensional ternary diagram in the

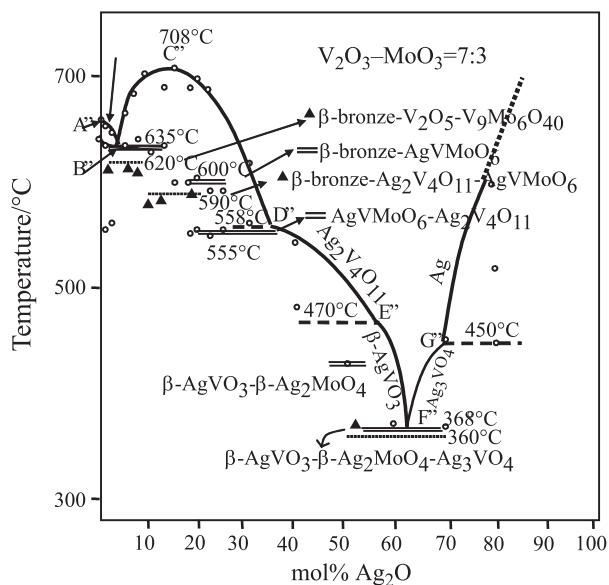
last paper of the presented series. Then the more ample discussion of crystallisation processes in V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O system will be given.

Besides the phases present in the binary systems: V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O and MoO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O mentioned in the Introduction the following ternary phases containing all three components were observed in the V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> reach part of diagram:

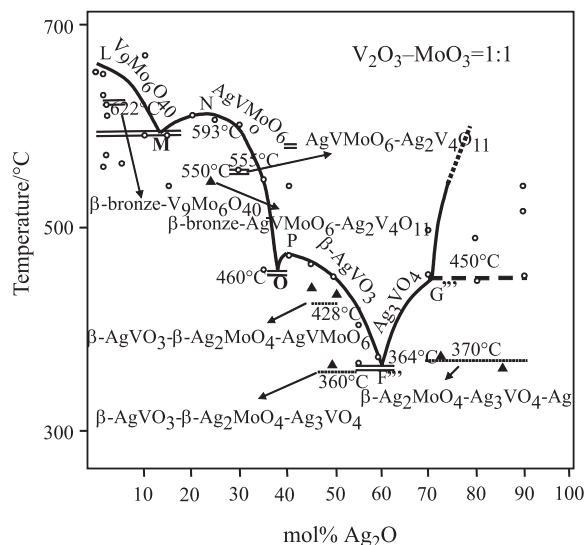
- Solid solution of Ag<sub>2</sub>O and MoO<sub>3</sub> in V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, (V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)<sub>ss</sub>, exhibits the structure of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in which lattice parameters are somewhat larger than in the case of undoped V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. The incorporation of MoO<sub>3</sub> is assumed to occur according to Eq. (1) and that of Ag<sub>2</sub>O according to Eq. (3). This ternary phase is stable within low content of Ag<sub>2</sub>O, not higher than 1 mol%.
- Solid solution of MoO<sub>3</sub> in vanadium–silver–oxide β-bronze Ag<sub>x</sub>Mo<sub>y</sub>V<sub>2-(x+y)</sub>O<sub>5-z</sub> (described in Introduction); Mo<sup>6+</sup> ions substitute V<sup>5+</sup> ions (Eq. (1)) in octahedra and Ag<sup>+</sup> ions are situated in the channels present in the structure. At x=0.30 (15 mol% Ag<sub>2</sub>O) it reaches maximal temperature of fusion: 724°C



**Fig. 2**  $V_2O_5:MoO_3=9:1$  section of the ternary  $V_2O_5-MoO_3-Ag_2O$  diagram. Thick full lines represent the cross-section of the (9:1) diagram plane with crystallization fields in the ternary system. Points on == represent the cross section of double eutectic lines in ternary system with the (9:1) diagram plane. Points on --- represent the cross-section of the boundary planes along which meritectic reaction occurs in the ternary system with the (9:1) diagram plane



**Fig. 3**  $V_2O_5:MoO_3=7:3$  section of the ternary  $V_2O_5-MoO_3-Ag_2O$  diagram. Thick full lines represent the cross section of the (7:3) diagram plane with crystallization fields in the ternary system. Points on == represent the cross section of double eutectic lines in ternary system with the (7:3) diagram plane. Points on --- represent the cross-section of the boundary planes along which meritectic reaction occurs in the ternary system with the (7:3) diagram plane.  $\blacktriangle$  – temperature of ternary eutectic fusion points

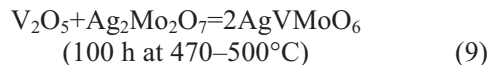
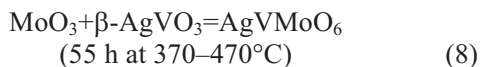
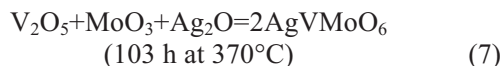


**Fig. 4**  $V_2O_5:MoO_3=1:1$  section of the ternary  $V_2O_5-MoO_3-Ag_2O$  diagram. Thick full lines represent the cross section of the (1:1) diagram plane with crystallization fields in the ternary system. Points on == represent the cross section of double eutectic lines in ternary system with the (1:1) diagram plane. Points on --- represent the cross-section of the boundary planes along which meritectic reaction occurs in the ternary system with the (1:1) diagram plane.  $\blacktriangle$  – temperature of ternary eutectic temperature points

occurring without change of composition. This indicates that there exists maximum in the field of  $\beta$ -bronze crystallisation in the ternary phase diagram. The bronze reaches at this point composition corresponding to an approximate formula:  $Ag_{0.30}Mo_{0.08}V_{1.54}^{5+}V_{0.08}^{4+}O_{4.44}$ . The approximate range of the  $\beta$ -bronze composition at which the melt solidifies as one phase only is marked by  $\beta$  on the diagram in Fig. 2. Interplanar distances obtained in XRD studies of bronzes investigated in [14, 15] as well as in this study are presented in Table 4. The values obtained for  $Ag_{0.35}V_2O_5$  [14] are given in column 1 (experimental data). The values obtained for  $Li_{0.30}V_{1.70}Mo_{0.30}O_5$  [15] as well as for  $Ag_{0.30}Mo_{0.08}V_{1.54}^{5+}V_{0.08}^{4+}O_{4.40}$  (this study) are given in columns 2 and 3, respectively. The fact that all these distances are very much similar suggests that  $\beta$ -bronze structure does not depend (to some extent) on the content of molybdenum and rather weakly depends on the kind of monovalent ions present in the channels of the crystal lattice.

- The samples of the composition close to  $AgVMoO_6$  exhibit X-ray pattern practically identical with that of  $NaVMoO_6$  [Table 5 column 1]. They are fusing at a constant temperature 625°C. This phase has been obtained by heating in air, at appropriate temperatures, the mixtures of the following compounds pressed into the pellets:

PHASE DIAGRAM OF V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-MoO<sub>3</sub>-Ag<sub>2</sub>O SYSTEM



Each of the above reactions led to the product exhibiting practically the same X-ray diagram (Table 5). The DTA curve of the sample obtained according to Eqs (7–9) is shown in Fig. 5.

**V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:MoO<sub>3</sub>=9:1 section** of the ternary diagram is shown in Fig. 2. In accordance with the fact that there was a high excess of vanadium over molybdenum this diagram is very much similar to that of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-Ag<sub>2</sub>O system and the same phases are present. The compounds of molybdenum V<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>40</sub>, β-Ag<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub> and AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> phase (isostructural with NaVMoO<sub>6</sub>), the crystallisation fields of which are situated in molybdenum rich region of the ternary diagram, are present in definitely small amounts. Their properties and role in crystallisation will be discussed in a later paper.

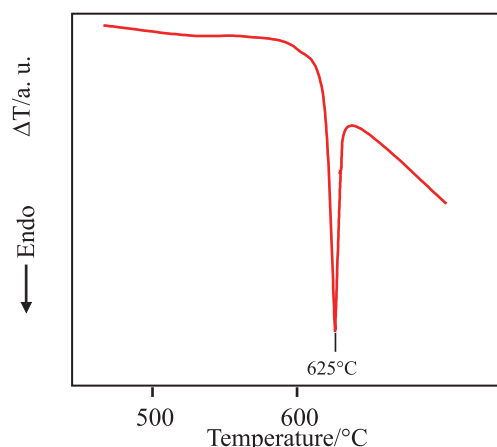
**Table 4** X-ray diffraction lines of isostructural β-bronzes

Ag <sub>0.35</sub> V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> [14]		Li <sub>0.30</sub> V <sub>1.70</sub> Mo <sub>0.30</sub> O <sub>5</sub> [15]		Ag <sub>0.30</sub> Mo <sub>0.08</sub> V <sub>1.62</sub> O <sub>4.40</sub> [this work]	
1		2		3	
<i>d</i> /nm	<i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub>	<i>d</i> /nm	<i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub>	<i>d</i> /nm	<i>I</i> / <i>I</i> <sub>0</sub>
		0.9650	90	0.957	70
0.720	12	0.7270	100	0.7224	2
0.696	8	0.6910	16	0.7089	10
–	–	0.5110	6	–	–
0.472	40	0.4820	25	0.4751	100
0.383	40	0.3810	6	0.3842	6
–	–	0.3640	16	–	–
0.350	12	0.3560	20	0.3514	10
0.337	20	0.3400	20	0.3386	3
–	–	0.3250	6	0.3212	6
–	–	0.3220	20	0.3163	25
0.305	100	0.3110	60	0.3063	30
0.2910	55	–	–	0.2917	10
0.2887	50	0.2886	40	0.2889	4
0.2720	40	0.2728	10	0.2729	4
0.2616	5	–	–	0.2629	10
–	–	0.2532	16	0.2554	7
0.2443	12	0.2475	6	0.2454	4
0.2363	12	–	–	0.2376	77
–	–	0.2412	16	–	–
–	–	0.2372	10	–	–
–	–	0.2305	6	–	–
–	–	0.2276	10	–	–
0.2164	18	0.2204	40	0.2175	12
–	–	0.2026	8	0.2048	22
0.1971	25	0.1973	25	0.1976	23
–	–	0.1947	6	–	–
–	–	0.1908	8	–	–
–	–	0.1897	8	–	–
0.1861	12	–	–	0.1868	27
0.1802	30	–	–	–	–
–	–	0.1705	–	0.1709	31

**Table 5** X-ray diffraction lines pattern of the samples AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> obtained by different methods as compared with NaVMoO<sub>6</sub> compound

NaVMoO <sub>6</sub> [16]		AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> Reaction (7)		AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> Reaction (8)		AgVMoO <sub>6</sub> Reaction (9)	
1		2		3		4	
<i>d/nm</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>d/nm</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>d/nm</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>d/nm</i>	<i>I</i>
0.6748	999	0.6838	5	0.679	10	0.6676	19
0.4494	28	0.4563	12	0.4545	7	0.4470	23
0.4398	162						
0.3376	282m	0.3407	62	0.3397	66	0.3369	100
0.3311	198	0.3341	63	0.3331	57	0.3296	68
0.3200	623	0.3253	100	0.3238	87	0.3210	79
0.2865	21	0.2893	26	0.2883	13	0.2860	32
0.2569	80	0.2588	16	0.2580	16	0.2560	26
–		–	–	0.2397	11	–	–
0.2377	147	0.2389	7	0.2381	9	0.2371	33
0.2354	28	–	–	–	–	–	–
0.2303	141	–	–	–	–	0.2314	11
0.2873	15	0.2268	90	0.2264	100	–	–
0.2247	120m	0.2236	7	0.2226	6	0.2249	97
0.2200	3m	0.2217	6	0.2216	6	0.2209	14
0.2003	98m	–	–	–	–	0.2005	17
0.1963	71	0.1976	12	0.1975	8	0.1966	14
0.1899	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
0.1889	2						
0.1828	107	0.1836	12	0.1831	4	0.1820	21
0.1806	55	0.1816	13	0.1816	7	0.1805	12
0.1765	142m	0.1778	26	0.1777	15	0.1767	25

Due to the presence of third component (introduced into V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O system) the number of the freedom degrees increased by one and the liquidus lines of quasi-binary system shown in Fig. 2 are now lying on the crystallisation fields of ternary diagram and eutectic points of the former one are lying on double eutectic lines in the latter. The eutectic point B at 3.5 mol% Ag<sub>2</sub>O (Fig. 1) in V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O system has its analogy in point B' (Fig. 2) in the ternary system. This latter point is situated on double eutectic line in the ternary system along which crystallisation fields of (V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)<sub>ss</sub> and vanadium–molybdenum–silver bronze intersect. These section of the diagram cuts also the crystallisation field of β-bronze (along the B'C'D' line), Ag<sub>2</sub>V<sub>4</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (line D'E'), β-AgVO<sub>3</sub> (line E'F') and Ag<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub> (line F'G') as well as the lines of the meritectic equilibria:

**Fig. 5** DTA curve of AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> phase obtained according to Eq. (10)

and also the line of double eutectic at 370°C (F') dividing β-AgVO<sub>3</sub> and Ag<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub> crystallisation fields.

**V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>=7:3 section** of the ternary diagram is shown in Fig. 3. On this cross-section only liquidus lines, temperature of binary eutectics, temperature and the range of meritectic reactions (4)–(6) as well as tem-



perature of ternary eutectic fusion points are shown. The course of the liquidus line is similar to those presented in Figs 1 and 2. However temperatures, at which double eutectic are fusing are shifted to lower values. The eutectic point B'' situated on the intersection line of crystallisation fields of vanadium oxide phase and  $\beta$ -bronze (boundary curve) is lowered to 635°C as the effect of increased content of MoO<sub>3</sub>. The same effect is observed in the case of point F'' situated on the intersection line of the crystallisation fields of  $\beta$ -AgVO<sub>3</sub> and Ag<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, temperature corresponding to it is lowered to 368°C. Also the maximum (point C'') on the crystallisation field of  $\beta$ -bronze is lowered to 708°C. It should be observed that the increased content of molybdenum results in the appearance of the molybdenum rich compounds V<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>40</sub> and AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> (Table 2). The course of the crystallization of the latter one will be discussed in the following papers.

**V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:MoO<sub>3</sub>=1:1 section** of the ternary diagram is shown in Fig. 4. In this case the crystallisation fields of the V<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>40</sub> and AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> phases are cut along LM and MO lines, respectively. Both compounds are forming double eutectic the line of which is cut by the 1:1 cross section plane at point M (at 12.5 mol% Ag<sub>2</sub>O) to which temperature 593°C corresponds. Similarly AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> and  $\beta$ -AgVO<sub>3</sub> are forming a double eutectic in the ternary system. Its line cuts 1:1 cross section plane at 460°C and 37 mol% Ag<sub>2</sub>O (point O). The temperature of the analogous eutectic point of  $\beta$ -AgVO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub> is now lowered to 364°C at 60 mol% Ag<sub>2</sub>O.

## Conclusions

The paper presents the vanadium rich sections of the ternary V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–MoO<sub>3</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O system in which at constant V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/MoO<sub>3</sub> ratio (equal to 9:1, 7:3 and 1:1) the concentration of Ag<sub>2</sub>O was variable. In the investigated system the same phases appeared as those present in the binary V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–Ag<sub>2</sub>O system. The X-ray diffraction pattern indicated also the presence of a new phase isomorphic with NaVMoO<sub>6</sub> compound for which tentatively formula AgVMoO<sub>6</sub> was proposed.

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