

Effects of Thermo-Solutal Convection during the Crystal Growth Processes of Mercurous Chloride (Hg_2Cl_2)

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The effects of convection on the crystal growth rates of mercurous chloride (Hg_2Cl_2) are investigated for convective-diffusive conditions and purely diffusion conditions achievable in low gravity environments under a nonlinear thermal profile. For $4 \leq M_B \leq 472.086$, the solute driven convection (solutal Grashof number $Gr_s = 1.72 \times 10^5$) due to the disparity in the molecular weights of the component A (Hg_2Cl_2) and B (argon:Ar) is stronger than the thermally-driven convection (thermal Grashof number $Gr_t = 1.05 \times 10^4$), for an aspect ratio (transport length-to-width) of 5, total pressure of 35,455 Pascal, $Pr = 0.667$, $Le = 0.47$, $Pe = 3.57$, $C_v = 1.029$. With the temperature humps, there were found to be in undersaturations along the transport path for convective-diffusive processes ranging from $D_{AB} = 0.0584 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ to $0.584 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$, in axial positions from 0 to 7.5 cm. The diffusion mode is predominant over convection for gravity levels less than $0.1 g_0$ for the horizontally-oriented configuration.