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# Thermodynamic and dynamic fragility in metallic glass-formers

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## Abstract:

The paper focuses on the study of glasses using models of thermodynamic and transport properties (e.g. heat capacity, viscosity and liquid fragility) of various alloys in comparison with organic and inorganic substances. The work attempts to identify possible correlations and trends in these properties which can relate to indicators of melt fragility for metallic glasses. The ratio of the specific heat integral between selected temperatures gives only a rough indication of the fragility behaviour. More insight is gained in considering the thermodynamic fragility index derived from the PEL model having either a hyperbolic or Gaussian distribution of energy minima. The Wang-Angell-Richert correlation holds for some metallic glasses. Deviations from it help in identifying hidden transitions in the liquid state.

Keywords: Metallic glasses, specific heat, glass transition, amorphous materials, melt fragility.

## 1. Introduction:

Metallic glasses are usually obtained by rapid quenching deep eutectics [1]. Thermodynamically this implies liquid stabilization down to the low melting point.

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Rapid quenching suppresses crystal nucleation letting the supercooled liquid survive well below the melting point. Here transport properties are important: the liquid viscosity must become quickly high enough to freeze the structure into a glass.

If we consider, for simplicity, a binary eutectic with no miscibility of components in the solid-state, the melting enthalpy of the eutectic mixture ( $\Delta H_m$ ) is given by the melting enthalpies of the proper amount of individual components at the eutectic temperature plus the effect of mixing the elements in the liquid state, i. e.  $\Delta H_{eut} = \Delta H_{elements} + \Delta H_{mix}$  [2]. In metallic glass-formers  $\Delta H_{mix}$  is definitely negative providing stabilization to the liquid. It is also temperature dependent in that it decreases on decreasing temperature because of the contribution of an excess mixing term to the specific heat of the liquid glass-former being definitely higher than that of the crystal at all temperatures [3]. When vitrification occurs there is a jump in specific heat from the value of the undercooled liquid to that of the glass which is close to that of the crystal phases. Therefore, the liquid specific heat is a relevant parameter for glass-formers influencing extensive thermodynamic quantities, e. g.:

$$\Delta S = \Delta S_m - \int_T^{T_m} \Delta C_p d \ln T \quad (1)$$

with  $\Delta S$  the difference in entropy,  $\Delta S_m = \frac{\Delta H_m}{T_m}$  where  $\Delta H_m$  is the melting enthalpy, and  $\Delta C_p$  the difference in specific heat between the liquid,  $C_p^l$ , and the solid,  $C_p^s$ , and  $T_m$  is the melting temperature [4]. Being  $\Delta C_p$  positive,  $\Delta S$  decreases with decreasing temperature and should become nil at the so-called Kauzmann temperature ( $T_k$ ). The material, however, becomes a glass at the glass transition temperature,  $T_g > T_k$ . It has been debated whether the concept of an entropy catastrophe at  $T_k$  is actually acceptable [5], nevertheless  $T_k$  is useful as a reference state for the glass.

The rate of entropy loss on undercooling depends on the shape of the specific heat curves of the liquid and of the solid. As a consequence, the specific heat trend should reflect the so-called melt fragility. Angell [6-7] has termed thermodynamic fragility a parameter,  $m_T$ , defined as:

$$m_T = \left[ \frac{d \frac{\Delta S_g}{T_g}}{d \frac{\Delta S}{T}} \right]_{T=T_g} \quad (2)$$

Considering the definition of  $\Delta S$  in eq. (1), it is easily shown that  $m_T$  is expressed by the ratio  $\Delta C_p(T_g)/\Delta S_g$  where  $\Delta S_g$  is the entropy difference between liquid and glass at the experimental  $T_g$ .

The concept of melt fragility was originally introduced by considering liquid viscosity,  $\eta$ , as a function of temperature with the parameter,  $m$ , defined as [6]:

$$m = \left[ \frac{d \log(\eta)}{d \frac{T_g}{T}} \right]_{T=T_g} \quad (3)$$

Glass forming liquids are classified as strong or fragile depending on their viscosity behaviour when approaching the glass transition. In an Arrhenius plot the viscosity of strong liquids has an almost linear trend. On the contrary, the viscosity of fragile liquids shows highly non-Arrhenius behaviour, i. e. they manifest a progressive change in the mobility kinetics [8, 9]. This is expressed by the Adams-Gibbs and Vogel-Fulcher-Tammann (VFT) equations [7]: i. e.

$$\eta = A \exp \left[ \frac{C}{TS_c} \right] \quad (4)$$

where  $C$  and  $A$  are constants and  $S_c$  is the configurational entropy of the liquid providing the link between thermodynamics and kinetics of glass-formers, and

$$\eta = \eta_0 \exp [B/(T-T_0)] \quad (5)$$

where  $B$  and  $\eta_0$  are constants and  $T_0$  is the Vogel's temperature at which viscosity would diverge. The two equations become identical if a hyperbolic behaviour of  $\Delta C_p$  versus temperature is assumed to calculate  $S_c$ . The reference state of the specific heat is usually taken as the specific heat of crystalline phases in view of its closeness to that of the glass and therefore  $S_c$  is approximated by  $\Delta S$ . It follows that  $T_k$  and  $T_0$  should coincide. To corroborate this, a correlation between  $m_T$  and  $m$  [6] has been demonstrated for several substances<sup>2</sup>.

Recent application of the Potential Energy Landscape (PEL) model has provided insight into the correlation between thermodynamics and dynamics of glass-forming liquids. In the PEL model the inherent structures of the liquid correspond to energy minima, comprised in different basins, describing its configurational space. The minima are distributed in energy and accessed in large number at high temperature whereas the kinetic arrest at the glass transition relates to the number still accessible at lower temperatures. The thermodynamic properties are related to the average value of the minima in potential energy available at every temperature, while the potential energy topology controls the dynamics [11]. As a consequence of multiple configurations in the PEL there is no single glassy state [12]. The relaxation between different states within a

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<sup>2</sup> The Adams-Gibbs model is used here because of the straightforward relationship it expresses between liquid entropy and viscosity. The free volume model is often successfully employed to express viscosity. In the Cohen-Turnbull [9] notation

$$\eta = A \exp \left[ \frac{\gamma v^*}{v_f} \right] \text{ where } \gamma v^* \text{ is the product of free parameters and } v_f \text{ is the free volume}$$

of the liquid/glass [12]. Note that the free volume approach provides the VFT equation if  $v_f$  depends linearly on the temperature.

basin and among various basins is the basis for the dynamics of the liquid as reflected in the viscosity behaviour as a function of temperature.

The PEL statistical thermodynamic model expresses changes in entropy as due to changes in shape of potential energy basins. The enumeration function of the basins, i. e. the energy distribution of the minima in the PEL, has been expressed in different forms to represent the liquid configurational entropy. More common is the Gaussian distribution of energies whereas the shape of the specific heat curve of the liquid as a function of temperature mentioned above, has suggested an hyperbolic distribution. Expressions of fragility parameters have been derived from these distributions as a function of thermal parameters  $T_k$  and  $T_g$  [7].

This paper seeks to apply the above concepts to metallic glass formers by deriving thermodynamic fragility parameters and compare them with kinetic ones available in the literature as well as to compare the fragility of metallic and non-metallic glass-formers. The paper is organized as follows: expressions of the liquid specific heat in the range from  $T_k$  to well above  $T_m$  are used to derive fragility indicators being solely function of significant temperatures, the thermodynamic data of the literature are critically reviewed and employed to test both thermodynamic and kinetic fragility indexes, the test is then extended to non-metallic glass formers to derive comparative conclusions.

## **2. The liquid specific heat in metallic glass-formers**

The evolution of the specific heat of the liquid as a function of temperature is expected to reflect the fragile/strong behaviour of the melt. Fig. 1 reports the specific heat of liquid ( $C_p^l$ ) and crystal phases ( $C_p^s$ ) as derived from experimental data of  $\text{Pd}_{40}\text{Ni}_{40}\text{P}_{20}$  [13]. The relevant temperatures  $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ , and  $T_k$ , of the alloy are marked.

The areas of the rectangles in the graph match the integral of the specific heat difference between two relevant temperatures, i. e. they express the average values of  $\Delta C_p$  between  $T_k$  and  $T_g$  and between  $T_g$  and  $T_m$  ( $\overline{\Delta C_p'}$  and  $\overline{\Delta C_p''}$  respectively). The ratio of  $C_p^l$  to  $C_p^s$  or the jump in specific heat at  $T_g$  have been proposed as a metric for the fragility showing diverse behaviour for different classes of materials, i. e. organic, inorganic, polymeric substances [14]. We pose the question whether amorphous alloys can be ranked according to the above average values and the related temperatures.

The specific heat of molten glass-formers has been described with  $T^n$  functions,

$$\Delta C_p(T) = \frac{k}{T^n} \text{ where } k \text{ is a material specific constant and } n \text{ is a value between 0 and 2}$$

[6]. We then begin by assuming a hyperbolic trend for  $\Delta C_p$  of the alloy. Consequently, we obtain:

$$\int_{T_1}^{T_2} \frac{A}{T} dT = A \ln \frac{T_2}{T_1} = (T_2 - T_1) \overline{\Delta C_p} \quad (6)$$

$$\overline{\Delta C_p} = \frac{A}{T_2 - T_1} \ln \frac{T_2}{T_1} \quad (7)$$

where  $\overline{\Delta C_p}$  is the average value between two selected temperatures. From Fig. 1. it is

deduced that  $\overline{\Delta C_p'} > \overline{\Delta C_p''}$ . The ratio between the average values, i. e.

$$\frac{\overline{\Delta C_p''}}{\overline{\Delta C_p'}} = \frac{T_g - T_k}{T_m - T_g} \frac{\ln \frac{T_m}{T_g}}{\ln \frac{T_g}{T_k}} \quad (8)$$

depends only on the relevant temperatures and could possibly reflect the fragility of the alloy.

Using a  $T^{-2}$  function, the above ratio becomes:

$$\frac{\overline{\Delta C_p''}}{\overline{\Delta C_p'}} = \frac{T_k}{T_m} \quad (9).$$



On the right hand side of eq. (9) the information on the intermediate temperature between  $T_m$  and  $T_k$  is lost. With the assumption of a  $T^2$  dependence of  $\Delta C_p$ , the ratio of two significant temperatures expresses the trend of the specific heat curve although with less experimental base than before. In this respect, it is worth remembering that one of the most used empirical indexes of glass formability is  $T_g/T_m$  [2] to which the present discussion provides a thermodynamic background.

### 3. Critical analysis of literature data

Data on transition temperatures for many amorphous alloys are available in the literature whereas specific heat data are scarce and subject to considerable error. The main sources of scatter will be summarized in the following to motivate the critical selection among available data which has been performed for the present analysis. The metallic glasses that have been considered are alloys based on Zr, La, Pd, Cu, Mg, Au and Pt. The relevant compositions and data are reported in Tab. 1

The specific heats are obtained from enthalpy data using suitable functions [15]:  $C_p^s = 3R + aT + bT^2$  and  $C_p^l = 3R + cT + dT^2$  where  $R = 8,3142 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ , while  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  are fitting parameters. In some articles, the data are expressed in simplified form, e. g. with a linear dependence on temperature [4] because of the few experimental points available. These have not been used here. Care has been taken that the specific heat of the undercooled liquid state in the temperature range between the glass transition and the crystallization of the glass is described correctly. This refers to data obtained by DSC in the continuous heating mode and implies that such range be substantial so that the heat effect due to relaxation at  $T_g$  is completed, thus avoiding spurious contribution to the excess specific heat.

Since in most cases it is necessary to interpolate the liquid specific heat in the range from the crystallization temperature to the melting point of the alloy, the fitting function

should not give unphysical minima or maxima. Clearly, should a true transition occur in the liquid within such temperature range, it will not be detected.

*A fortiori*, the above warning applies to extrapolating functions to obtain the Kauzmann temperature. An estimate of the uncertainty on it for alloys of Tab. 1 has been obtained by using eq. (2) together with  $T^n$  ( $0 < n < 2$ ) expressions of  $\Delta C_p$  and deviations of experimental variables. The estimated error is in excess of 50 K in all cases, similarly to data on inorganic and organic glasses [7]. Analogously, the uncertainty on  $T_0$  values has been evaluated from the VFT expression resulting of the order of 10-40 K according to the amount of deviation of viscosity in the temperature range above  $T_g$ .

Whenever possible, i. e. when the enthalpies of crystallization,  $\Delta H_x$ , were provided in the papers, the internal consistency of the set of data was checked using eq. (1). In fact, metastable phases may persist in the alloy up to the melting point. Should this occur, the heat of fusion will be underestimated.

It is also known that  $T_g$  shifts as a function of heating rate [16], so the data used in this work refer to a limited range of heating rates commonly used in the literature (10 to 40 Kmin<sup>-1</sup>). Finally, data obtained in different laboratories were used for comparison, when available.

#### **4. Models and analyses of thermodynamic and transport properties.**

Fig. 2 reports the function derived by modelling  $\Delta C_p$  as hyperbolic, versus the ratio of the average values of  $\Delta C_p$  between  $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ , and  $T_k$  calculated from the experimental data on metallic glasses and on various organic and inorganic substances reported in the literature.

The specific heat difference for a group of substances can actually be represented by the hyperbolic trend within the data scatter, the largest deviation for alloys is shown by the

Pt-based glasses and by some of the Zr-based ones. The ordinate of all Zr-based alloys is almost the same, while there is a large scatter on the horizontal axis. Also the points relating to  $\text{Mg}_{65}\text{Cu}_{25}\text{Y}_{10}$ , coming from different references in the literature, are shifted on the horizontal axis. This is an indication of the level of uncertainty associated with experimental data.

Fig. 3 reports the function derived by modelling  $\Delta C_p$  as  $T^2$ , versus the ratio of the average values of  $\Delta C_p$  between  $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ , and  $T_k$  calculated from the experimental data. Here, the Pd- and Pt-based alloys fit the expected trend whereas a large number of the other substances display diverse behaviour. Overall, the points representative of alloys are better fitted by the  $T^1$  function than the  $T^2$  one.

Since  $T_k$  is obtained by extrapolation of  $\Delta C_p$  data, the ordinates of Figs 2 and 3 are partially obtained from the same quantities from which the abscissa are derived. Therefore,  $T_0$  which is derived from viscosity measurements has been employed instead of  $T_k$  in an alternative plot to Fig. 2. Although there are changes in the position of individual points (Fig. 4), the overall trend is not modified suggesting that the two temperatures can be considered as equivalent in describing the melt fragility within the limits of the present approach. We do not enter here the debate on whether  $T_k$  and  $T_0$  actually coincide or should be clearly distinguished (as claimed for instance by Tanaka [28]) also in view of the deviation of both of them which has been stated in the previous paragraph.

The analysis performed so far shows that parameters derived from the specific heat function can provide only a very rough indication of the fragility behaviour of the liquid. This is due both to the simplified models needed to express the parameters and to the experimental uncertainty.

Turning now to more common parameters expressing the thermodynamic fragility, the entropy derivative in eq. (4) has been shown to be equivalent to the ratio of  $\Delta C_p(T_g)$  to  $\Delta S_g$ , where  $\Delta S_g$  is the residual entropy at  $T_g$  [7].

The thermodynamic and kinetic fragilities have been correlated [7] by employing the kinetic definition of Speedy:

$$m_s = \frac{d \left[ \frac{\log(\eta(T)/\eta_\infty)}{\log(\eta(T_g)/\eta_\infty)} \right]}{d(T_g/T)} = \frac{m}{17} \quad (10)$$

The factor 17 refers to the decimal logarithmic range of viscosity spanned from the high temperature limit ( $\eta \approx 10^5 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ ) to the conventional value of  $\eta = 10^{12}$  at the glass transition.

Assuming an hyperbolic distribution of energy minima in the PEL in association with the Adam-Gibbs expression of viscosity, eq. (4), it turned out that

$$m_T = m_s - 1 = \frac{T_K}{T_g - T_K} \quad (11).$$

To verify the correlation of thermodynamic parameters for fragility and that based on the viscosity, we have plotted the  $m$  obtained from experimental viscosity data versus  $m_T$  from eq (11). In dynamic DSC experiments, however, the viscosity of the melt in correspondence of the temperature range where the glass transition is detected is lower than the conventional value, typically of two order of magnitude [16]. Therefore, we allow for a range of  $m_s$  values from  $m/17$  to  $m/15$ .

The correlation for metallic amorphous alloys looks poor such as those shown in Figs. 2 and 3.<sup>3</sup> However, to put it in the proper perspective, the insert shows the same plot for

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<sup>3</sup> Note that the parameter  $m_T$  can be related to the  $T_k/T_m$  quantity of eq. (9) as

$$\frac{1}{m_T} - 1 = q \frac{T_k}{T_m}.$$

various glass forming substances where a correlation is recognized. The deviation from the expected trend for several organic and inorganic compounds is of the same order as for metallic glasses. Furthermore, in both cases a few points are clearly displaced at high values of  $m_T$  indicating either an inherent discrepancy between the two indexes or that the data used to compute them contain a fault, most likely the thermodynamic ones. This is suggested by considering the analogous plot shown in Fig. 6 where  $T_0$  has been substituted for  $T_k$  and most points are much closer to the correlation line.

Assuming a Gaussian distribution of energy minima in the PEL in association with the Adam-Gibbs expression of viscosity, eq. (4) [7], the  $m_T$  becomes

$$m_T = m_S - 1 = \frac{2T_k^2}{T_g^2 - T_k^2} \quad (12).$$

A comprehensive plot including the correlations expressed by eqs. (11) and (12) is shown in Fig. 7. Inspection of Fig. 7 provides further confirmation that metallic glasses conform to the general trend of glass formers and that all metallic glass formers classify among fragile-intermediate melts. The overall correlation for metallic glasses seems more satisfactory when employing eq. (12), however, the correlation curves are very close and, as already suggested for conventional glass-formers [7], we are not in the position of expressing a favour for either distributions also in view of the scatter displayed by several points. The correlation is improved by using  $T_0$  instead of  $T_k$  as already shown in Fig. 6 for both distributions.

We consider finally the strong correlation found by Wang, Angell and Richert between  $m$  (obtained experimentally from viscosity) and  $m_{calc}$ , obtained from their formula containing thermodynamic quantities and the glass transition temperature [6]

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by using  $q = T_g/T_m$ . The ratio  $q$  varies in the 0.5-0.75 range for all glass-formers therefore the above relation is only indicative and it is expected that  $m_T$  be a better metric for fragility than  $T_k/T_m$ .

$$m_{calc}=56T_g\Delta C_p(T_g)/\Delta H_m \quad (13).$$

Of the many compounds for which data are known, only a few deviate from the correlation shown in the insert of Fig. 8. Fig. 8 show the same plot for metallic glasses. Again the scatter is large for most of them, whereas some follow the general trend within the computed uncertainty. Note that the points displaying the larger scatter are the same which fell wide off the correlation line in Fig. 5.

Analysing the data of the insert, Angell suggested reasons for the deviation of some points such as the ring-chain equilibrium of Se near  $T_g$  and the effect of decaline being a *cis-trans* mixture. These influence either the thermodynamic or kinetic behaviour of the melt [6]. Similarly, a ring-chain equilibrium in the liquid state of sulphur, causes overlap of relaxation effects affecting the kinetic fragility of the melt with large deviation in the  $m$  index [29].

Following up this line of thought, the points referring to the metallic glasses which mostly deviate from the Angell's relation, should be explained by modifications of interactions in the liquid state [13]; however, until now there is no clear experimental confirmation of this in the literature. While it has been verified in several instances that the experimental  $C_p^s$  for metallic glasses are close to those obtained by the Neumann-Kopp's law of mixtures, the liquid  $C_p^l$  are peculiar for alloys and reflect the chemical interactions in mixing which may change as a function of temperature. A neat example is provided by the  $\text{Te}_{80}\text{Ge}_{20}$  alloy which is a metallic liquid above the melting point becoming a semiconductor in the undercooling regime. This transition gives rise to a peak in the specific heat of the liquid in between the melting point and the glass transition [30]. Clearly, the two difference quantities appearing in formula (13) refer to phases having different structure, i. e. a semiconducting liquid and the glass in the case of  $\Delta C_p(T_g)$ , and a metallic liquid and crystal phases in the case of  $\Delta H_m$ . Therefore, eq (13) becomes devoid of significance. Actually, using the data in [30] to evaluate the

kinetic  $m$  from the relative width of the temperature range of glass transition according to the Moyhnan method [31], the value of 44 is obtained which differs significantly from the 65 value of the computed  $m_{calc}$ .

A second case enforces this discussion. From viscosity data of the  $\text{Au}_{77}\text{Ge}_{13.6}\text{Si}_{19.4}$  glass-forming melt, the kinetic  $m$  was obtained in the 80 to 85 range [32]. Applying the formula (13),  $m_{calc}$  turns out to be 40. Here the discrepancy occurs because of posing the crystalline state as reference. The equilibrium state for the  $\text{Au}_{77}\text{Ge}_{13.6}\text{Si}_{19.4}$  metallic glass is a mixture of fcc Au and semiconducting Si-Ge solid solution [33] whereas the liquid and glassy phases are metallic in character. The  $\Delta H_m$  of the alloy is, therefore, much influenced by the high heat of fusion of the semiconductor phase. The related, although better glass-former,  $\text{Au}_{49}\text{Cu}_{26.9}\text{Ag}_{5.5}\text{Pd}_{2.3}\text{Si}_{16.3}$  metallic glass crystallizes almost entirely into metallic phases, a solid solution and three silicides [34]. The kinetic  $m$  obtained with the Moyhnan method is 45 and  $m_{calc}$  is of the order of 53.

It should finally be noted that fragile-to-strong transitions have been derived in computer studies of the PEL of liquid silica as a function of pressure leading to polyamorphism and peaks in the isochoric specific heat curves [35]. This concept has been generalized to various classes of glass-formers displaying increasing intermediate order by proposing that the location of the specific heat peak changes very substantially from well above the melting point in very strong melts, e. g. silica, to below the glass transition in fragile ones, e. g. organic substances [12]. Metallic glasses have not been considered to date in this picture, although a fragile-to strong transition has been inferred from the hysteretic behaviour of viscosity on heating and cooling the bulk glass-former  $\text{Zr}_{41.2}\text{Ti}_{13.8}\text{Cu}_{12.5}\text{Ni}_{10.0}\text{Be}_{22.5}$  between 907 K and 1300 K, and attributed to the destruction of medium- and short-range order in the liquid state [36]. A volume transition has been recently revealed by containerless undercooling similar melts using electrostatic levitation [37]. Clearly, careful determination of properties in alloys

forming metallic glasses can give more insight on kinetic and thermodynamic fragility. It is apparent that there cannot be a universal index of fragility. It must be recognized that they help in pointing out discrepancies in either the quality of data or the actual occurrence of structure modifications in the melt.

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, attention has been focussed on the study of the thermodynamic and dynamic properties of glass-forming metallic melts in constant comparison to organic and inorganic substances. We started by considering the specific heat capacity of the melt as the parameter that links the various thermodynamic quantities, attempting to correlate it to the fragility of the melt. In this respect, taking  $\Delta C_p$  proportional to  $1/T^n$ , functions of the relevant temperatures of the glass ( $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ ,  $T_k$  and  $T_0$ ) have been derived to verify such possible correlation. The points representative of alloys are better fitted by the  $T^{-1}$  function than the  $T^{-2}$  one. However, these provide only a very rough indication of the fragility behaviour of the liquid also in view of the experimental uncertainty which has been carefully evaluated for all metallic glasses by means of a critical assessment of literature data.

The kinetic index  $m$  of fragility has been considered versus the thermodynamic one  $m_T$  for metallic glasses by applying expressions derived from the PEL model assuming both a hyperbolic and a Gaussian distribution of energy minima. The two quantities correlated for all substances. For metallic glasses the correlation is more satisfactory if  $T_0$  instead of  $T_k$  is employed. Overall, metallic glasses classify among fragile-intermediate melts.

The Wang-Angell-Richert relationship (eq. 13) developed to compute  $m$  for organic and inorganic substances, was shown to hold for some metallic glasses. Deviation from it for other melts could be explained with hidden transitions in the undercooled regime and



variations in bonding (e. g. semiconducting in crystal and metallic in glass) providing suggestion for *ad hoc* experiments to verify them.

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## Figure Captions

Fig. 1. The specific heat of liquid and crystal phases of a glass-forming alloy and a representation of the integral between selected temperatures.

Fig. 2. Plot of the function of  $\Delta C_p$  proportional to  $T^{-1}$  versus the ratio of the average values of  $\Delta C_p$  at  $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ ,  $T_k$ . Errors bars are computed from typical available uncertainty of experimental quantities. For simplicity, in this and the following graphs each alloy listed in Tab. 1 will be identified only by means of number in parenthesis, while the organic and inorganic substances are not labelled and are used as [6] and can be identified in this article (see supplementary information online).

Fig. 3. Plot of the function of  $\Delta C_p$  proportional to  $T^2$  versus the ratio of the average values of  $\Delta C_p$  at  $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ ,  $T_k$ . Errors bars are computed from typical available uncertainty of experimental quantities.

Fig. 4. Plot of the function of  $\Delta C_p$  proportional to  $T^2$  versus the ratio of the average values of  $\Delta C_p$  at  $T_m$ ,  $T_g$ ,  $T_0$ . Errors bars are computed from typical available uncertainty of experimental quantities.

Fig. 5. Plot of the kinetic index  $m$  versus the thermodynamic  $m_T$  for metallic glasses. The black and red dashed lines refer to the expected linear relationship between  $m_S$  and  $m$ :  $m_S = m/17$  or  $m/15$  respectively. The insert reports the same plot for the organic and inorganic glass formers (see supplementary information online).

Fig. 6. Same as Fig. 5 but here  $T_0$  has been substituted for  $T_k$ . The insert reports the same plot for the organic and inorganic glass formers (see supplementary information online).

Fig. 7. Plot of the kinetic index  $m$  versus the  $T_g/T_k$  ratio for metallic, organic and inorganic formers glasses (see supplementary information online). The lines refer to the trend expressed by eqs. 11 and 12. The insert reports the same plot but here  $T_0$  has been substituted for  $T_k$ .

Fig. 8. Plot of the calculated  $m_{calc}$  from Angell with the measured  $m$  fragility index for metallic glasses. The insert reports the same plot for the organic and inorganic glass formers (see supplementary information online).

Tab. 1. Experimental data employed in this paper to compute quantities expressing liquid fragility.

**Supplementary information online.**

Tab. 1: The formula for the specific heat capacity of liquid and solid alloys and the corresponding references

Tab. 2: List of organic and inorganic substances from Ref [6] and corresponding references. The numbers are same as in [6].

Tab. 1.

	Alloys	$T_m[k]$	$T_g[k]$	$T_k[k]$	$T_0[k]$	$\Delta H_m$ [kJ/mol]	$\Delta C_p(T_g)$ [J/mol·K]	$m$	Refs.
(1)	Zr <sub>46</sub> (Cu <sub>4.5/5.5</sub> Ag <sub>1/5.5</sub> ) <sub>46</sub> Al <sub>8</sub>	1063	703	671	578	7,104	17,87	49	[15]
(2)	Zr <sub>46</sub> Cu <sub>46</sub> Al <sub>8</sub>	979	715	596	588	8,035	16,41	43	[15]
(3)	Zr <sub>41,2</sub> Ti <sub>13,8</sub> Cu <sub>12,5</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub> Be <sub>22,5</sub>	937	620	560	412	8,2	22,47	48	[4, 13, 16-17]
(4)	Zr <sub>52,5</sub> Cu <sub>17,9</sub> Ni <sub>14,6</sub> Al <sub>10</sub> Ti <sub>5</sub>	1072	675	638		8,2	19,83		[4, 18]
(5)	Zr <sub>57</sub> Cu <sub>15,4</sub> Ni <sub>12,6</sub> Al <sub>10</sub> Nb <sub>5</sub>	1091	682	664		9,4	20,82		[4, 18]
(6)	Zr <sub>44</sub> Ti <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub> Cu <sub>10</sub> Be <sub>25</sub>	921	620	504,5	366,6	9,3	19,99	39	[19]
(7)	La <sub>55</sub> Al <sub>25</sub> Cu <sub>10</sub> Ni <sub>5</sub> Co <sub>5</sub>	661	466	363	241,2	6,09	16,05	37	[4, 20-21]
(8)	La <sub>55</sub> Al <sub>25</sub> Cu <sub>10</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub>	662	467	332	254,7	6,84	14,77	35	[4, 20-21]
(9)	La <sub>62</sub> Al <sub>14</sub> Cu <sub>20</sub> Ag <sub>4</sub>	656	404	314	371	6,118	13,16		[22]
(10)	Cu <sub>47</sub> Ti <sub>34</sub> Zr <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>8</sub>	1114	673	537	500	11,3	14,26	59	[4, 13, 16, 17-19, 23]
(10)	Cu <sub>47</sub> Ti <sub>34</sub> Zr <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>8</sub>	1114	673	537	500	11,3	15,47	59	[4, 13, 16-18, 23]
(11)	Mg <sub>65</sub> Cu <sub>25</sub> Y <sub>10</sub>	730	411	320	261	8,65	14,63	45	[4, 13, 16-17, 24]
(11)	Mg <sub>65</sub> Cu <sub>25</sub> Y <sub>10</sub>	730	411	320	261	8,65	16,13	45	[4, 13, 16-17, 24]
(12)	Pd <sub>40</sub> Ni <sub>40</sub> P <sub>20</sub>	884	570	487	396	9,39	19,78	46	[4, 13, 16-17]
(13)	Pd <sub>40</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub> Cu <sub>30</sub> P <sub>20</sub>	798	578	497	418	6,82	21,34	63	[4, 13, 16]
(14)	Pd <sub>43</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub> Cu <sub>27</sub> P <sub>20</sub>	818	582	532	446	5,02	18,73	65	[13, 16-17]
(15)	Pd <sub>77,5</sub> Cu <sub>6</sub> Si <sub>16,5</sub>	1015	628	560	505	7,81	14,09	65	[16, 25]
(16)	Pt <sub>57,3</sub> Cu <sub>14,6</sub> Ni <sub>5,3</sub> P <sub>22,8</sub>	754	480	396	336	11,4	27,86		[13, 26]
(16)	Pt <sub>57,3</sub> Cu <sub>14,6</sub> Ni <sub>5,3</sub> P <sub>22,8</sub>	775	480	396	336	11,4	27,10		[13, 26]

(17)	$\text{Au}_{81,4}\text{Si}_{18,6}$	636	290	202		9,845	15,80		[27]
(18)	$\text{Au}_{77}\text{Ge}_{13,6}\text{Si}_{9,4}$	625	294	199	241,3	10,627	16,93	85	[8, 10, 27]

Fig. 1.

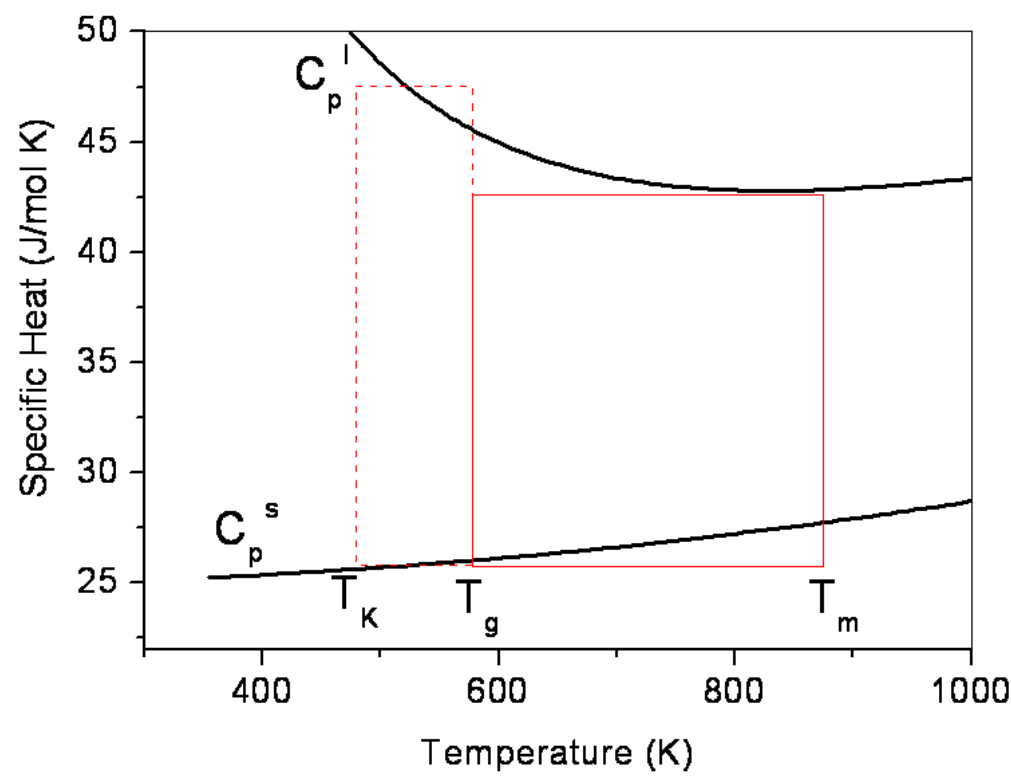


Fig. 2.

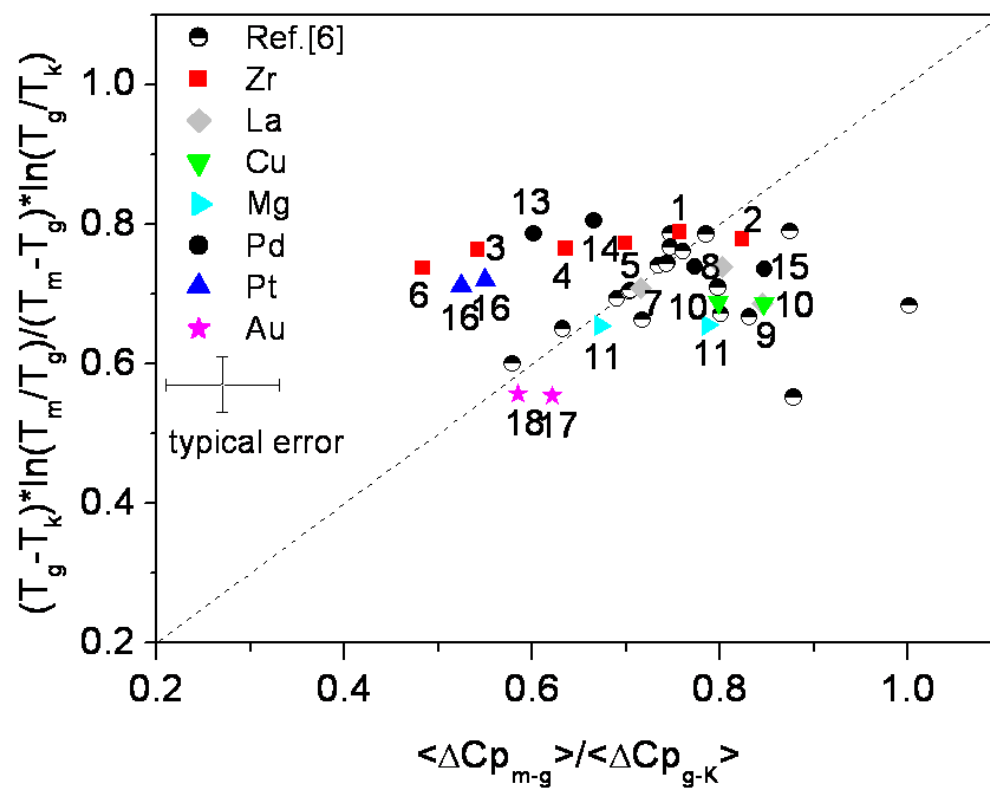


Fig. 3.

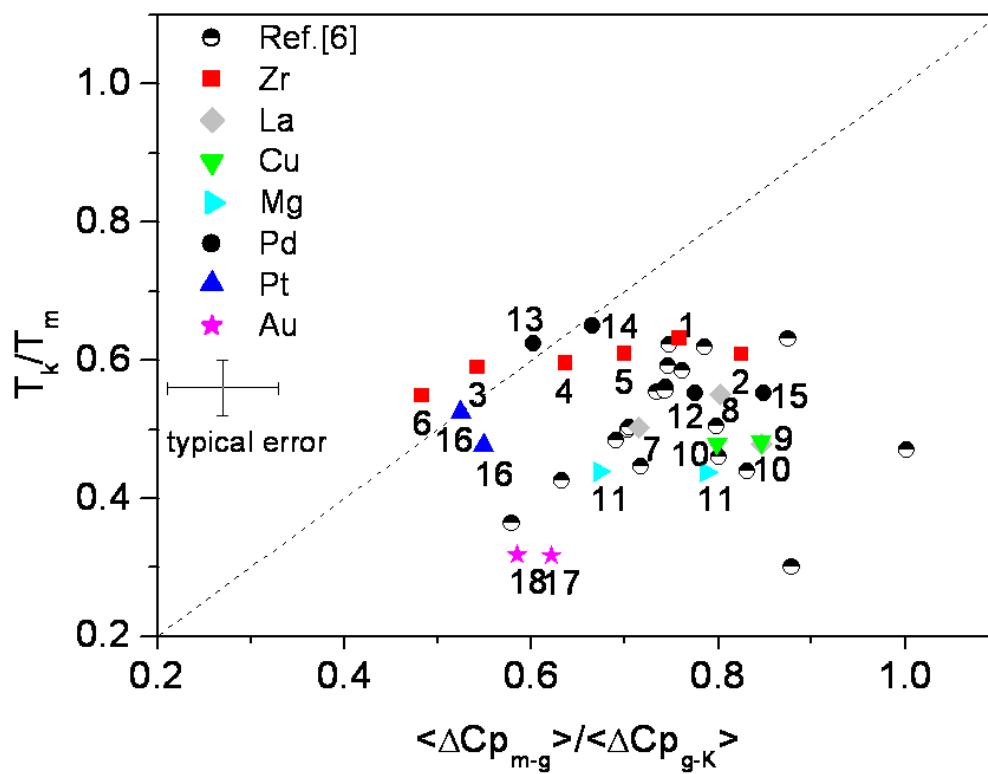


Fig. 4.

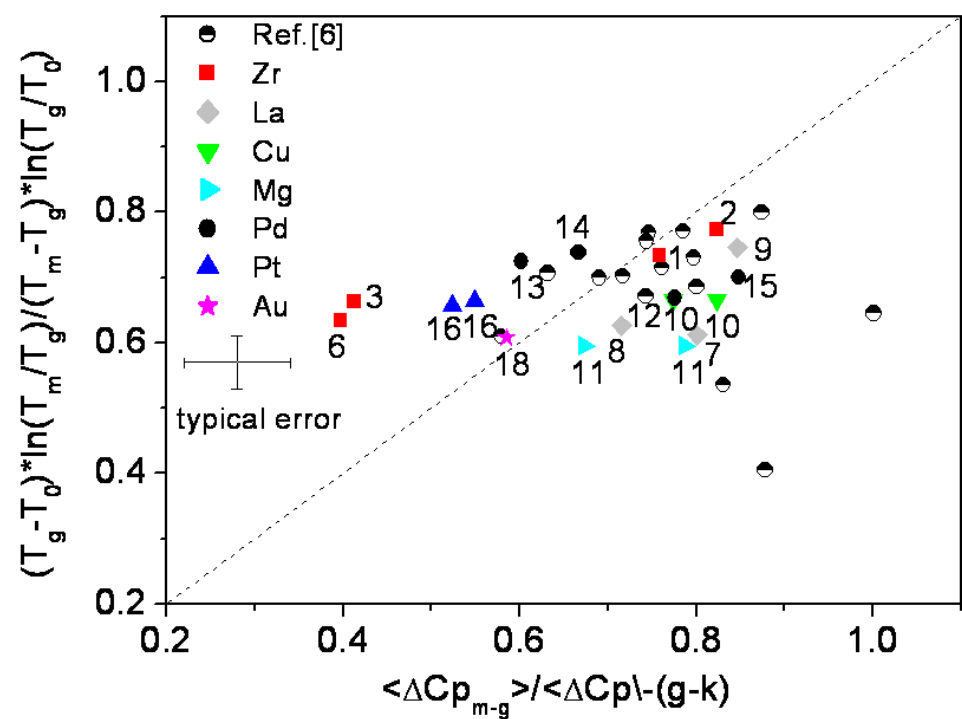


Fig. 5.

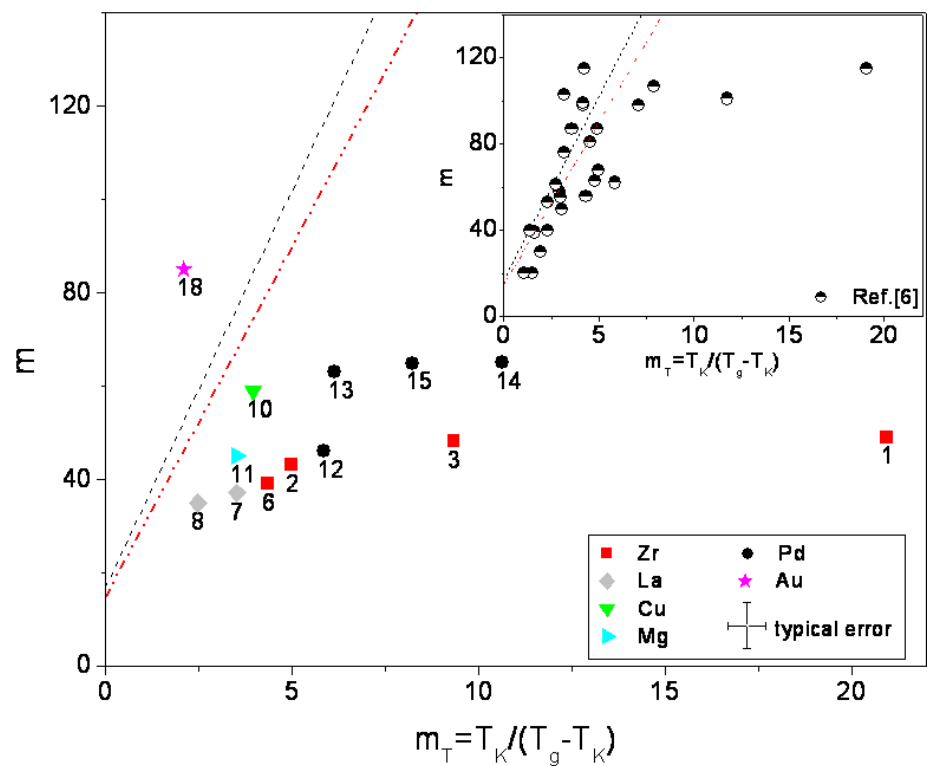




Fig. 6.

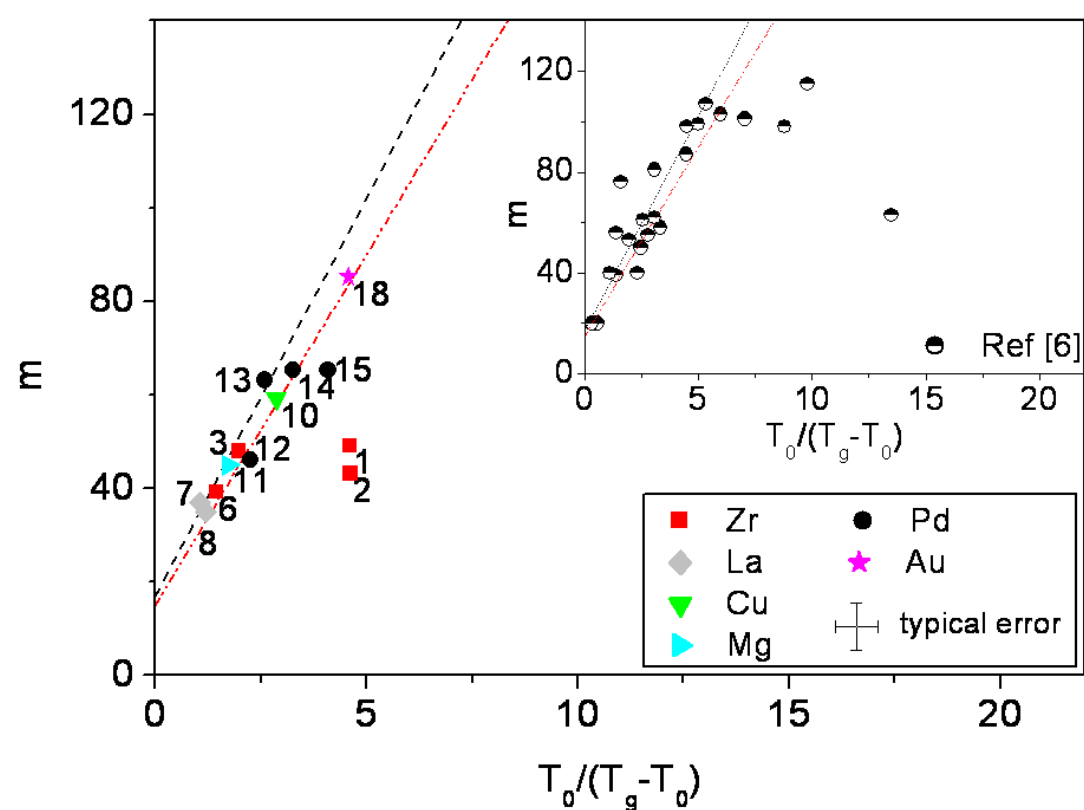


Fig. 7.

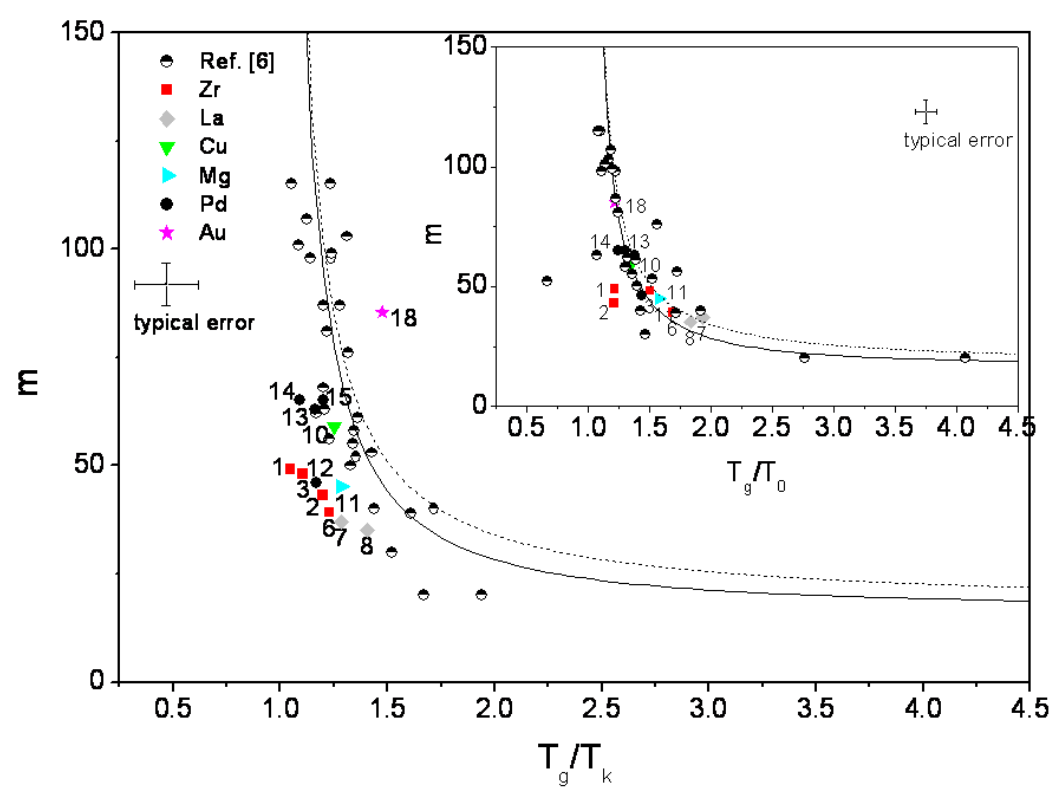
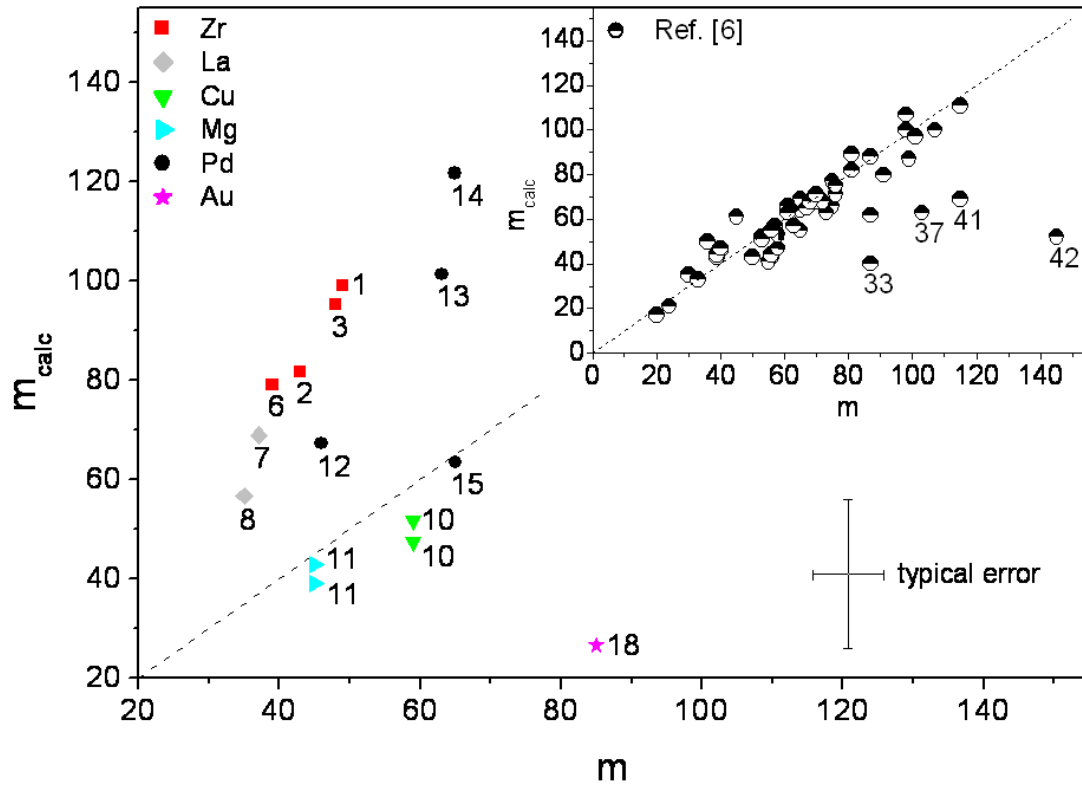


Fig. 8.



Supplementary information

Tab. 1

Alloys	$C_p$ [J/mol K]	Refs.
(1) $Zr_{46}(Cu_{4.5/5.5}Ag_{1/5.5})_{46}Al_8$	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0,000504) \cdot T + 8,0089 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,01348 \cdot T + 5,931 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[15]
(2) $Zr_{46}Cu_{46}Al_8$	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0,00166) \cdot T + 5,59 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,01268 \cdot T + 4,6084 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[15]
(3) $Zr_{41,2}Ti_{13,8}Cu_{12,5}Ni_{10}Be_{22,5}$	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.008597) \cdot T + 21,611 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0092197 \cdot T + 7,5841 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[13]
(4) $Zr_{52,5}Cu_{17,9}Ni_{14,6}Al_{10}Ti_5$	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.00861) \cdot T + 16,8 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[18]

		$C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0112 \cdot T + 6,43 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	
(5)	Zr <sub>57</sub> Cu <sub>15,4</sub> Ni <sub>12,6</sub> Al <sub>10</sub> Nb <sub>5</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.00302) \cdot T + 8,37 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0133 \cdot T + 6,32 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[18]
(6)	La <sub>55</sub> Al <sub>25</sub> Cu <sub>10</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub>	$\Delta C_p = 3,44 \cdot 10^{-2} \cdot T + 1,46 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2} - 36,63 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[4]
(7)	La <sub>55</sub> Al <sub>25</sub> Cu <sub>10</sub> Ni <sub>5</sub> Co <sub>5</sub>	$\Delta C_p = 2,62 \cdot 10^{-2} \cdot T + 1,69 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2} - 18,13 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[4]
(8)	La <sub>62</sub> Al <sub>14</sub> Cu <sub>20</sub> Ag <sub>4</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.00869) \cdot T + 3,04 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,024739 \cdot T + 7,54 \cdot 10^5 \cdot T^{-2}$	[22]
(9)	Cu <sub>47</sub> Ti <sub>34</sub> Zr <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>8</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.00089) \cdot T + 6,82 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0156 \cdot T + 2,83 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[18]
(9)	Cu <sub>47</sub> Ti <sub>34</sub> Zr <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>8</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.0007882) \cdot T + 6,842 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0154050 \cdot T + 3,4744 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[13]
(10)	Mg <sub>65</sub> Cu <sub>25</sub> Y <sub>10</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0,005651) \cdot T + 16,338 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0190070 \cdot T + 1,2264 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[13]
(10)	Mg <sub>65</sub> Cu <sub>25</sub> Y <sub>10</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0,0038) \cdot T + 1,02 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0137 \cdot T + 1,80 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[24]
(11)	Pd <sub>40</sub> Ni <sub>40</sub> P <sub>20</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.0007092) \cdot T + 4,4605 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0143050 \cdot T + 4,1169 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[13]
(12)	Pd <sub>40</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub> Cu <sub>30</sub> P <sub>20</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.0097270) \cdot T + 26,704 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$ $C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0113450 \cdot T + 6,0421 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	[13]
(13)	Pd <sub>43</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub> Cu <sub>27</sub> P <sub>20</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.00549) \cdot T + 18,948 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[13]

	$C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0118960 \cdot T + 5,091 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	
(14) Pt <sub>57,3</sub> Cu <sub>14,6</sub> Ni <sub>5,3</sub> P <sub>22,8</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0.00193) \cdot T + 6,738 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T^2$	[13]
	$C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0053340 \cdot T + 5,9730 \cdot 10^6 \cdot T^{-2}$	
(14) Pt <sub>57,3</sub> Cu <sub>14,6</sub> Ni <sub>5,3</sub> P <sub>22,8</sub>	$C_p^s = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + (-0,0044622) \cdot T + 0,000011977 \cdot T^2$	[26]
	$C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0056268 \cdot T + 5764840 \cdot T^{-2}$	
(15) Au <sub>81,4</sub> Si <sub>18,6</sub>	$\Delta C_p = 28,6186 - 53,7640 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot T + 3,2949 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot T^2$	[27]
	$\Delta C_p = 32,5264 - 63,0822 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot T + 3,4141 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot T^2 + 1,3004 \cdot 10^{-2} /$	
(16) Au <sub>77</sub> Ge <sub>13,6</sub> Si <sub>9,4</sub>	$T + 2,5188 \cdot 10^{-4} / T^2$	[27]
	$C_p^s = 19,10828 + 0,0119199 \cdot T$	
(17) Pd <sub>77,5</sub> Cu <sub>6</sub> Si <sub>16,5</sub>	$C_p^l = 3 \cdot 8,3142 + 0,0154568 \cdot T + 2382079,822 \cdot T^{-2}$	[25]

Tab. 2

	Materials	Refs.
1	GeO <sub>2</sub>	[6, 8, 28, 38-39]
2	BeF <sub>2</sub>	[6]
3	Methanol	[6, 40-41] [42]
4	n-propanol	[6,40, 41]
5	ZnCl <sub>2</sub>	[6, 40, 44]
6	Butyronitrile	[6, 40]
7	Ethylene glycol	[6, 40, 43]
8	Ethanol	[6, 40, 43]
9	m-xylene	[6]

10	Glycerol	[6, 40, 43]
11	3-bromopentane	[6-7, 43]
12	m-cresol	[6]
13	2-methylpentane	[6, 19, 43]
14	$\beta$ -D-fructose	[6, 43]
15	Phenolphthalein	[6, 40, 43]
16	Indomethacin	[6]
17	2-methyltetrahydrofuran	[6-7] [43]
18	Hydrochloro-thiazide	[6]
19	Griseofulvin	[6]
20	1,3,5-tri- $\alpha$ -naphthylbenzene	[6, 43]
21	Diethylphthalate	[6, 43]
22	Probucol	[6]
23	9-bromophenanthrene	[6]
24	Phenobarbital	[6]
25	D-glucose	[6, 40]
26	Maltitol	[6]
27	Glibenclamide	[6]
28	Salol	[6, 40, 43]
29	m-toluidine	[6, 40]
30	Flopropione	[6]

31	o-terphenyl	[6, 40, 43]
32	$\alpha$ -phenyl-cresol	[6]
33	Selenium	[6, 40, 43]
34	Triphenylethene	[6]
35	Sorbitol	[6, 40]
36	$\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	[6, 40]
37	Toluene	[6, 40, 43]
38	Sucrose	[6, 40]
39	$\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	[6, 40-41, 45]
40	Propylene carbonate	[6, 40, 42]
41	Triphenyl phosphite	[6, 40]
42	cis-/trans-decalin	[6]
43	$\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$	[6]
44	$\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$	[6]
45	2-methyl-1-propanol	[6]
46	$\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$	[6, 40]
47	m-fluorotoluene	[6]
48	Ethylbenzene	[6, 43]
49	3-methylpentane	[6]
50	n-butene	[6, 40]
51	Isopropylbenzene	[6]

52	Xylitol	[6]
53	PMS	[6, 40]
54	Li-acetate	[6, 40]
55	1-2 propandiol	[7, 40]
56	$\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$	[7, 40]
57	$\text{SiO}_2$	[8, 28, 38, 46]