

Development of Teaching Materials on Spontaneity of Chemical Reactions: Solid Divalent Metals with Aqueous Divalent Metal Cations using Theoretical and Microscale Experimental Approach

OP11(16:50-17:10, on July 26, 2025)

10th Network of Inter-Asian Chemistry Educators [NICE] Conference 2025, Yamagata

Tetsuo Nakagawa

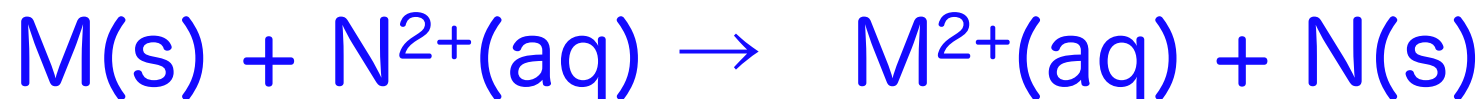
School of Life and Environmental Sciences,
Kobe College, JAPAN

Development of Teaching Materials by Handmade Well Plates

Solid Divalent Metal M

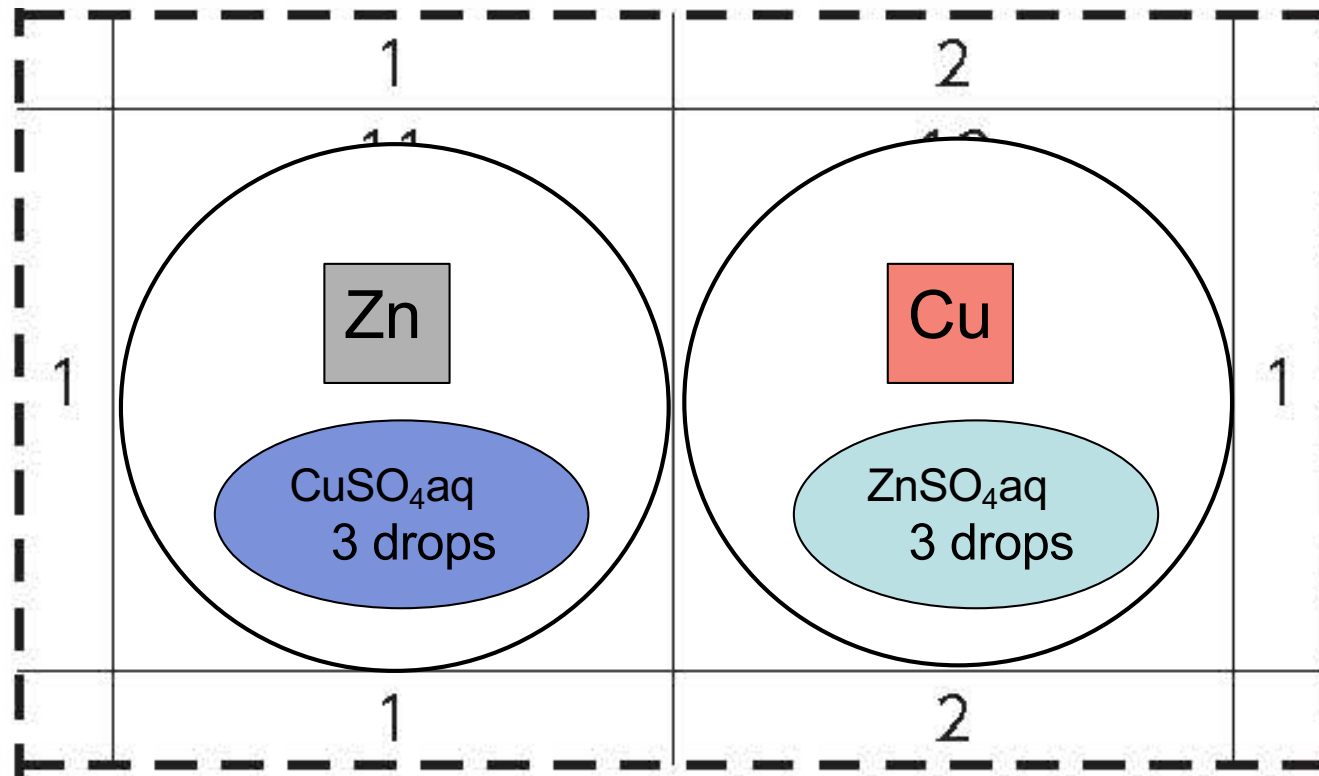
+ Aqueous Divalent Metal Cation N^{2+}

$M, N = \text{Cu, Zn and Mg}$



- $\text{Zn}(s)/\text{Cu}^{2+}(aq), \text{Cu}(s)/\text{Zn}^{2+}(aq)$
- $\text{Mg}(s)/\text{Zn}^{2+}(aq), \text{Zn}(s)/\text{Mg}^{2+}(aq)$
- $\text{Mg}(s)/\text{Cu}^{2+}(aq), \text{Cu}(s)/\text{Mg}^{2+}(aq)$

Microscale Experiments 1



Microscale Experiments 4

$\text{Zn(s)}/\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{aq}$ $\text{Cu(s)}/\text{Zn}^{2+}\text{aq}$



+

—

$\text{Mg}/\text{Zn}^{2+}\text{aq}$ $\text{Zn}/\text{Mg}^{2+}\text{aq}$



+

—

$\text{Mg}/\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{aq}$ $\text{Cu}/\text{Mg}^{2+}\text{aq}$



+

—

+: Reacted
—: Not Reacted

Theoretical 2

ΔH° , ΔG° and ΔS°

$$\Delta H^\circ = \sum \nu_p \Delta_f H_p^\circ - \sum \nu_r \Delta_f H_r^\circ$$

$$\Delta G^\circ = \sum \nu_p \Delta_f G_p^\circ - \sum \nu_r \Delta_f G_r^\circ$$

$$\Delta S^\circ = \sum \nu_p S_p^\circ - \sum \nu_r S_r^\circ$$

$\Delta_f H_i^\circ$: Standard Enthalpy of Formation

$\Delta_f G_i^\circ$: Standard Gibbs Energy of Formation

S_i° : Standard Entropy

ν_i : Stoichiometric Coefficient

$i = p, r$: Each Product and Reactant, respectively

Ref: *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, 100th,
CRC Press, 2019 (Data Sources)

Theoretical 3

	$\Delta H^\circ/\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta G^\circ/\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S^\circ/\text{J}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$
Zn(s)/Cu ²⁺ (aq)	-218.7	-212.6	-20.9
Cu(s)/Zn ²⁺ (aq)	218.7	212.6	20.9
Mg(s)/Zn ²⁺ (aq)	-313.0	-307.7	-17.1
Zn(s)/Mg ²⁺ (aq)	313.0	307.7	17.1
Mg(s)/Cu ²⁺ (aq)	-531.7	-520.3	-38.0
Cu(s)/Mg ²⁺ (aq)	531.7	520.3	38.0

$\Delta G^\circ < 0 \Rightarrow$ Reactions progress.

$\Delta G^\circ > 0 \Rightarrow$ Reactions do not progress.

$\Delta H^\circ < 0 \Rightarrow$ Driving Force (Exothermic).

Theoretical 4

Ideal solution model



$$\begin{aligned} G &= (1 \text{ mol} - \alpha) \Delta_f G_{\text{N}^{2+}}^\circ + \alpha \Delta_f G_{\text{M}^{2+}}^\circ \\ &\quad + RT[(1 \text{ mol} - \alpha) \ln (1 - \alpha/\text{mol}) + \alpha \ln (\alpha/\text{mol})] \\ &= G^\circ + RT[(1 \text{ mol} - \alpha) \ln (1 - \alpha/\text{mol}) + \alpha \ln (\alpha/\text{mol})] \end{aligned}$$

$i = \text{N}^{2+}(\text{aq}), \text{M}^{2+}(\text{aq}), a_i$: Activity, x_i : Mole Fraction

G : Gibbs Energy Change including Mixing

G° : Standard Gibbs Energy Change without Mixing

α : Extent of Reaction ($0 \text{ mol} \leq \alpha \leq 1 \text{ mol}$)

$\Delta_f G_i^\circ$: Standard Gibbs Energy of Formation

R : Gas Constant, T : Absolute Temperature

Theoretical 5

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G &= \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial \alpha} \right)_{T,P} \\ &= -\Delta_f G_{\text{N2}^+}^\circ + \Delta_f G_{\text{M2}^+}^\circ + RT \ln [(\alpha/\text{mol})/(1 - \alpha/\text{mol})] \\ &= \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln [(\alpha/\text{mol})/(1 - \alpha/\text{mol})]\end{aligned}$$

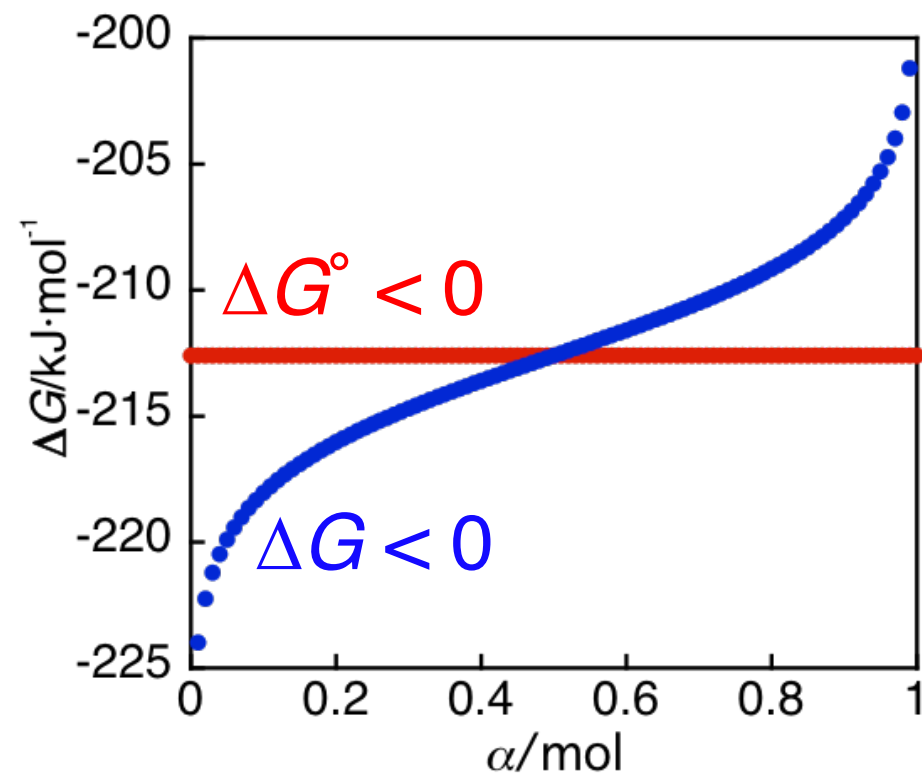
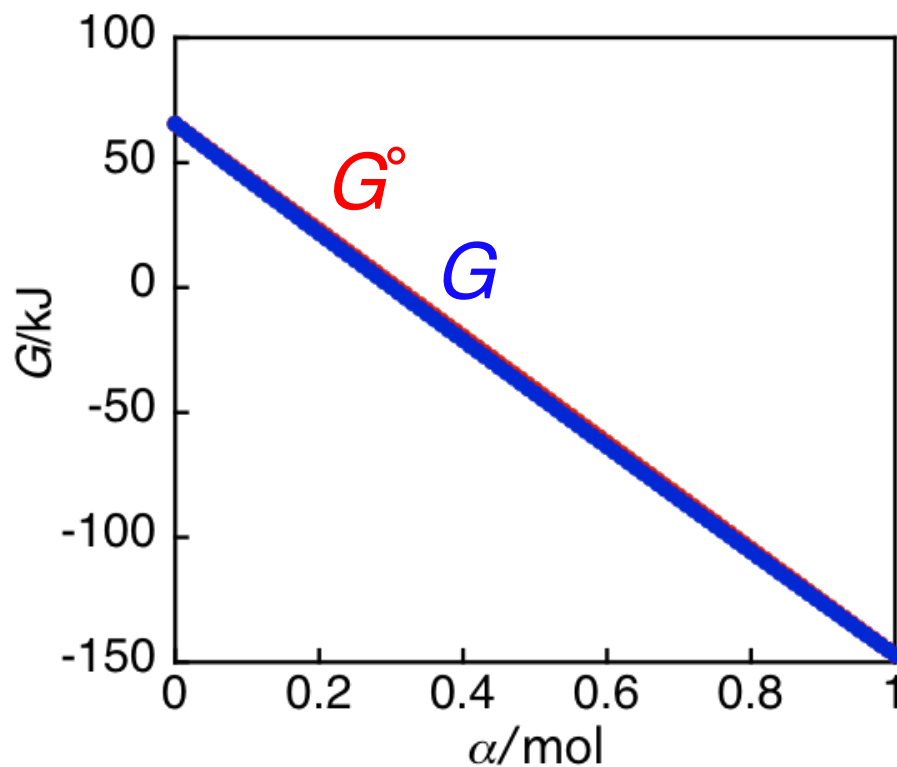
$\Delta_f G_i^\circ$: Standard Gibbs Energy of Formation

ΔG : Gibbs Energy Change including Mixing

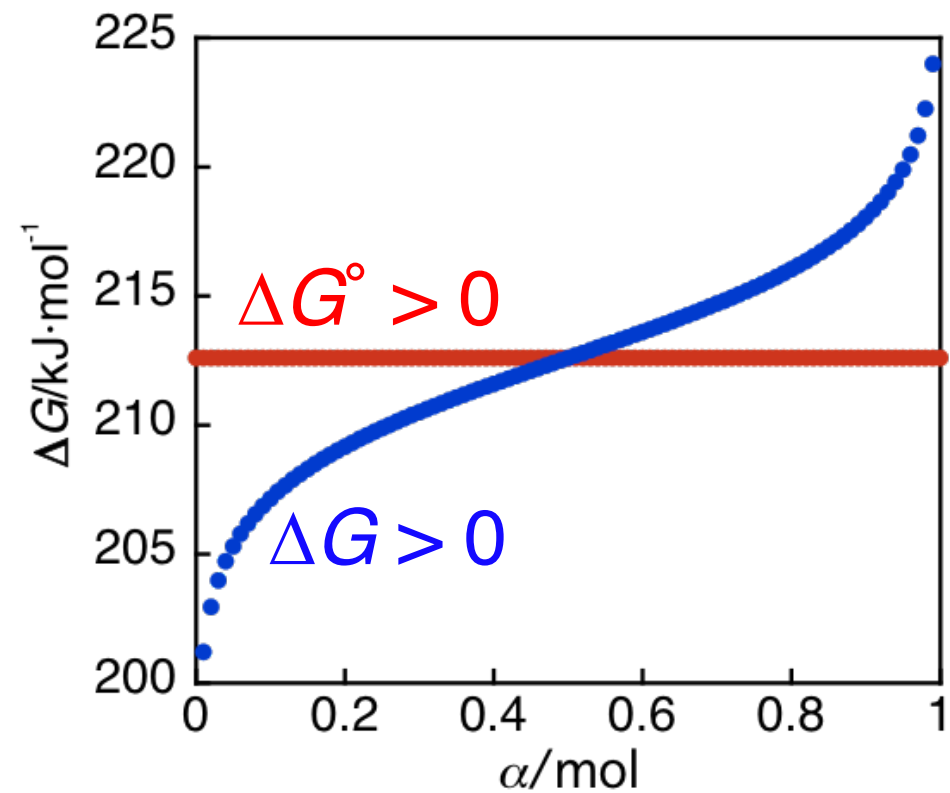
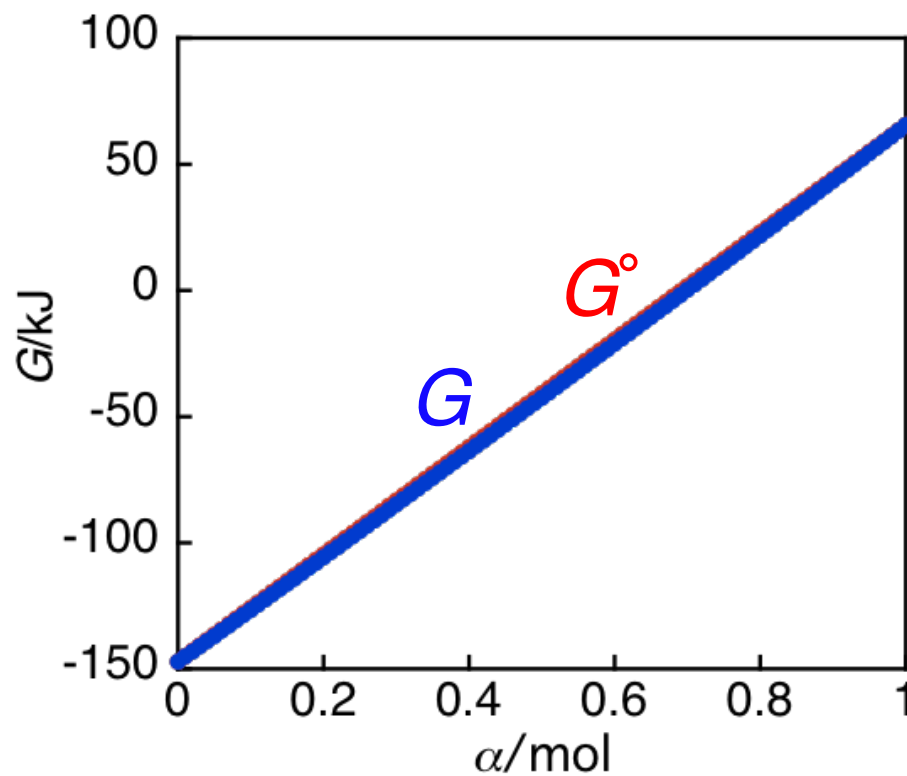
ΔG° : Standard Gibbs Energy Change without Mixing

α : Extent of Reaction ($0 \text{ mol} \leq \alpha \leq 1 \text{ mol}$)

Theoretical 6



Theoretical 7



Theoretical 8

at Chemical Equilibrium,

$$\Delta G = \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln [(\alpha_e / \text{mol}) / (1 - \alpha_e / \text{mol})] = 0$$

$$\therefore \Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln [(\alpha_e / \text{mol}) / (1 - \alpha_e / \text{mol})] = -RT \ln K$$

α_e : Extent of Reaction at Chemical Equilibrium
(0 mol $\leq \alpha \leq$ 1 mol)

K : Equilibrium Constant

Conclusions

The microscale experiment teaching materials on the reactions of solid divalent metals [Cu(s), Zn(s) and Mg(s)] with aqueous divalent metal cations [Cu²⁺(aq), Zn²⁺(aq) and Mg²⁺(aq)] have been developed using low-cost handmade well plates.

The ΔG° values obtained from thermodynamical calculations are consistent with the results of microscale experiments.