

## Research Article

# Effect of Mold Flux Containing $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$ on the Contents of Aluminum, Silicon, and Titanium in Incoloy825 Super Alloy

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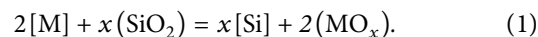
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The effect of mold flux containing  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  on the contents of aluminum, silicon, and titanium in Incoloy825 super alloy was investigated based on the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction experiment between mold flux and alloy. Firstly, the activity model of the  $\text{CaO-SiO}_2\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Na}_2\text{O-MgO-CaF}_2\text{-Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  slag system was established according to the ion and molecule coexistence theory (IMCT), and the calculation results show that with the increase of  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  content in the mold flux, the activity of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  decreases significantly and the activity of  $\text{SiO}_2$  decreases and gradually tends to 0. Secondly, thermodynamic calculations of the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction revealed that the main chemical reaction in this study system is  $[\text{Ti}] + (\text{SiO}_2) = [\text{Si}] + (\text{TiO}_2)$ . With the increase of  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  content in the mold flux, the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction is weakened and the oxidation of Al and Ti in steel is inhibited. Finally, the results of slag-steel reaction experiment show that the increase rate of Al content increases from 1.03% to 10.31%, the increase rate of Si content decreases from 55.95% to 31.25%, and the oxidation rate of Ti content decreases from 33.27% to 20.00% when  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  content in the mold flux increases from 0% to 15% and the slag-steel reaction for 40 mins.

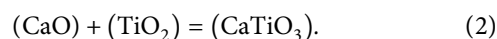
## 1. Introduction

Incoloy825 super alloy is a fully austenitic nickel-based alloy treated by Ti stabilization, which has good resistance to stress corrosion cracking, crevice corrosion, and pitting corrosion [1–3]. Therefore, Incoloy825 is used in corrosion-resistant and extremely hot environments, such as heat exchanger, turbine engine, turbine, nuclear power reactor core, and other important components [4–6].

At present, Incoloy825 is mainly smelted using the electroslag remelting (ESR) [7, 8], while it is difficult to use continuous casting for large-scale production. In general, the composition of the commonly used continuous casting mold flux is shown in Figure 1 in region A, its high content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  is prone to interfacial chemical reactions with the high content of Ti and Al in Incoloy825, as shown in (1). The reaction not only causes oxidation loss of Ti and Al but also leads to changes in the properties of the mold flux, which affects the continuous casting process [9–12].



In order to solve the abovementioned problems, researchers have proposed the use of low-reactive  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -based mold fluxes with  $\text{SiO}_2 \leq 10$  wt% (as shown in region B in Figure 1) for steel grades with serious slag-steel reaction [13–16]. However, the high activity of CaO in the mold fluxes tends to generate high melting point  $\text{CaTiO}_3$  with  $\text{TiO}_2$ , as shown in Eq. (2). The high melting point minerals will enhance the crystallization ability of the mold flux and affect the penetration of liquid slag into the gap between mold and primary billet shell, resulting in insufficient lubrication ability of the mold flux [17–19]. Therefore, Piao et al. reduced the crystallization temperature and critical cooling rate by adding BaO to the mold flux [20]. But, the liquidus temperature of Incoloy825 is 1646 K which is much lower than that of steel (1803 K), so this slag system is not suitable for Incoloy825 continuous casting production.



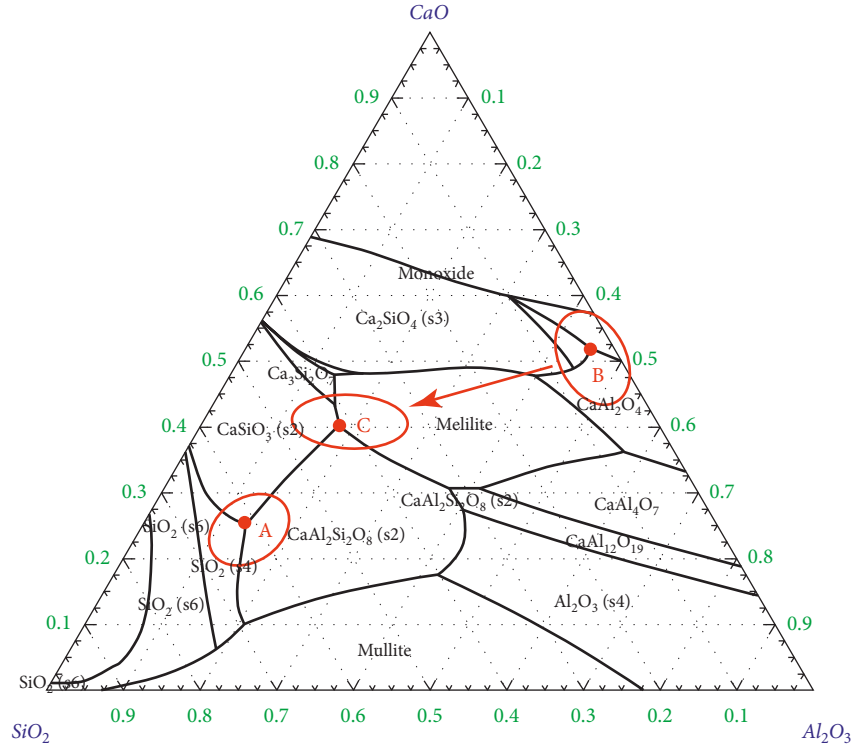
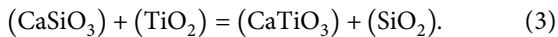


FIGURE 1: Phase diagram of CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

Aiming at the oxidation loss of Ti and Al in Incoloy825 and the lubrication problem in continuous casting process, a new type of mold flux based on region C in Figure 1 of CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-based mold flux was developed in this paper. The main precipitated phases in this region are melilite, CaAl<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, and CaSiO<sub>3</sub>, so the activity of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> is low and the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction is weak, which can control the oxidation loss of group elements in the steel. At the same time, the content of SiO<sub>2</sub> in mold flux is high, which can ensure the lubricating performance of the mold flux.

In order to further prevent the oxidation loss of Ti in steel, TiO<sub>2</sub> is often added to the mold flux [21–24]. However, when TiO<sub>2</sub> is added into the CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> system, CaSiO<sub>3</sub> will be transformed into CaTiO<sub>3</sub> [25, 26], as shown in Eq. (3), which will result in low effective activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> and increased activity of SiO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, the lower temperature of the continuous casting process will result in the preferential precipitation of CaTiO<sub>3</sub>, which has a higher melting point, and this will affect the lubricating ability of the casting agent. As a result, the addition of TiO<sub>2</sub> does not work as well as it should.



This paper innovatively proposes to add Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to the mold flux to form Ce<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> [27] and CeAlO<sub>3</sub> [28], which can effectively reduce the activity of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> and inhibit the chemical reaction at the slag-steel interface. In addition, the melting point of the main compound Ce<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (2043 K) [27] is 200 K lower than that of CaTiO<sub>3</sub> (2243 K) [26], which ensures the lubrication performance of mold flux. The research results will provide theoretical basis for low activity

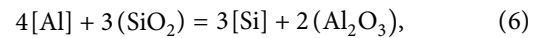
mold flux and have important theoretical significance for developing Incoloy825 continuous casting mold flux.

## 2. Thermodynamic Calculation of Slag-Steel Reaction

**2.1. Activity Calculation of Elements in Steel and Components in Slag.** As previously described, the equations for slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction of Ti and Al in Incoloy825 with CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-based mold flux are shown in Eq. (4), Eq. (6), and Eq. (8).



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G_1^\theta &= -3446.49 - 26.04T, \\ \Delta G_1 &= \Delta G_1^\theta + RT \ln K_1 = \Delta G_1^\theta + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{Si}} \cdot a_{\text{TiO}_2}}{a_{\text{Ti}} \cdot a_{\text{SiO}_2}} \\ \&9; &= \Delta G_1^\theta + RT \ln \frac{f_{\text{Si}} \cdot w[\text{Si}]_{\%}}{f_{\text{Ti}} \cdot w[\text{Ti}]_{\%}} + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{TiO}_2}}{a_{\text{SiO}_2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G_2^\theta &= -686233.57 + 112.20T, \\ \Delta G_2 &= \Delta G_2^\theta + RT \ln K_2 = \Delta G_2^\theta + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{Si}}^3 \cdot a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}^2}{a_{\text{Al}}^4 \cdot a_{\text{SiO}_2}^3} \\ \&9; &= \Delta G_2^\theta + RT \ln \frac{f_{\text{Si}}^3 \cdot w[\text{Si}]_{\%}^3}{f_{\text{Al}}^4 \cdot w[\text{Al}]_{\%}^4} + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}^2}{a_{\text{SiO}_2}^3}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G_3^\theta &= 675894.11 - 190.32T, \\ \Delta G_3 &= \Delta G_3^\theta + RT \ln K_3 = \Delta G_3^\theta + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{Al}}^4 \cdot a_{\text{TiO}_2}^3}{a_{\text{Ti}}^3 \cdot a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}^2}, \quad (9) \\ \&9; &= \Delta G_3^\theta + RT \ln \frac{f_{\text{Al}}^4 \cdot w[\text{Al}]^4}{f_{\text{Ti}}^3 \cdot w[\text{Ti}]^3} + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{TiO}_2}^3}{a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Delta G$  is the reaction Gibbs free energy,  $\Delta G^\theta$  is the standard reaction Gibbs free energy,  $K$  is the reaction equilibrium constant,  $a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$ ,  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$ , and  $a_{\text{TiO}_2}$  are the activities of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ , and  $\text{TiO}_2$  in slag,  $f_{\text{Al}}$ ,  $f_{\text{Si}}$ , and  $f_{\text{Ti}}$  are the activity coefficients of Al, Si, and Ti in steel, which can be calculated by Eq. (10), respectively, and the activity interaction coefficients are listed in Table 1.

$$\lg f_i = \sum (e_i^j w[\%j]). \quad (10)$$

According to the composition of Incoloy825 (Table 2) and equation (10), the activity coefficients and activity of components in steel can be calculated as,  $f_{\text{Al}} = 0.205$ ,  $a_{\text{Al}} = 0.020$ ,  $f_{\text{Si}} = 0.144$ ,  $a_{\text{Si}} = 0.048$ ,  $f_{\text{Ti}} = 0.746$ , and  $a_{\text{Ti}} = 0.753$ . The calculations show that  $a_{\text{Ti}}$  is much greater than  $a_{\text{Al}}$ , suggesting that Ti is more susceptible to oxidation than Al.

In order to better understand the role of  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  in mold flux,  $a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$  and  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$  of S0~S4 (Table 3) are calculated according to IMCT [34, 35]. On the basis of IMCT, the mole fraction of each oxide could be assigned as  $b_1 = n_{\text{CaO}}^o$ ,  $b_2 = n_{\text{SiO}_2}^o$ ,  $b_3 = n_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}^o$ ,  $b_4 = n_{\text{Na}_2\text{O}}^o$ ,  $b_5 = n_{\text{MgO}}^o$ ,  $b_6 = n_{\text{CaF}_2}^o$ , and  $b_7 = n_{\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3}^o$  to represent the chemical composition of the slag, and each of  $n_i^o$  could be expressed by (11). The relevant compounds and chemical reactions of the present slag are listed in Tables 4 and 5, respectively. The composition of mold fluxes is shown in Table 3.

$$n_i^o = \frac{n_i}{\sum n_i}. \quad (11)$$

According to the description of IMCT, the formulas for calculating the activity of (12) components are established as follows:

$$N_{\text{S1}} + N_{\text{S2}} + \dots + N_{\text{C40}} = \sum N_i = 1,$$

$$b_1 = (1/2N_{\text{S1}} + N_{\text{C1}} + 2N_{\text{C2}} + 3N_{\text{C3}} + N_{\text{C5}} + N_{\text{C6}} + N_{\text{C7}} + 3N_{\text{C8}} + 12N_{\text{C9}} + N_{\text{C22}} + 2N_{\text{C23}} + N_{\text{C24}} + N_{\text{C25}} + N_{\text{C26}} + 3N_{\text{C27}} + N_{\text{C28}} + N_{\text{C29}} + 2N_{\text{C30}} + 3N_{\text{C31}} + 3N_{\text{C32}} + 3N_{\text{C33}} + 11N_{\text{C34}}) \sum n_i,$$

$$b_2 = (N_{\text{S2}} + N_{\text{C1}} + N_{\text{C2}} + N_{\text{C3}} + 2N_{\text{C4}} + 2N_{\text{C10}} + N_{\text{C11}} + 2N_{\text{C12}} + N_{\text{C13}} + N_{\text{C14}} + N_{\text{C15}} + 2N_{\text{C22}} + 2N_{\text{C23}} + 3N_{\text{C24}} + 5N_{\text{C25}} + 3N_{\text{C26}} + 6N_{\text{C27}} + N_{\text{C28}} + 2N_{\text{C29}} + 2N_{\text{C30}} + 2N_{\text{C31}} + 2N_{\text{C32}} + 2N_{\text{C35}} + 4N_{\text{C36}} + 6N_{\text{C37}} + 5N_{\text{C38}} + 2N_{\text{C39}} + 6N_{\text{C40}}) \sum n_i,$$

$$b_3 = (N_{\text{S3}} + N_{\text{C5}} + 2N_{\text{C6}} + 6N_{\text{C7}} + N_{\text{C8}} + 7N_{\text{C9}} + 3N_{\text{C10}} + N_{\text{C16}} + 3N_{\text{C17}} + 9N_{\text{C18}} + N_{\text{C19}} + N_{\text{C20}} + 11N_{\text{C21}} + N_{\text{C22}} + N_{\text{C23}} + 2N_{\text{C24}} + 3N_{\text{C33}} + 7N_{\text{C34}} + N_{\text{C35}} + N_{\text{C36}} + N_{\text{C37}} + 2N_{\text{C38}}) \sum n_i,$$

$$b_4 = (1/3N_{\text{S4}} + N_{\text{C11}} + N_{\text{C12}} + N_{\text{C13}} + N_{\text{C16}} + N_{\text{C17}} + N_{\text{C18}} + N_{\text{C25}} + N_{\text{C26}} + N_{\text{C27}} + N_{\text{C35}} + N_{\text{C36}} + N_{\text{C37}} + 2N_{\text{C38}} + N_{\text{C39}} + 6N_{\text{C40}}) \sum n_i,$$

$$b_5 = (1/2N_{\text{S5}} + N_{\text{C14}} + N_{\text{C15}} + N_{\text{C19}} + N_{\text{C28}} + N_{\text{C29}} + N_{\text{C30}} + N_{\text{C31}} + N_{\text{C39}} + 2N_{\text{C40}}) \sum n_i,$$

$$b_6 = (1/3N_{\text{S6}} + N_{\text{C32}} + N_{\text{C33}} + N_{\text{C34}}) \sum n_i,$$

$$b_7 = (1/7N_{\text{S7}} + N_{\text{C20}} + N_{\text{C21}}) \sum n_i.$$

(12)

The system of nonlinear equations from (12) is solved using MATLAB software, which allows the solution of  $N_{\text{S1}}$  to  $N_{\text{S7}}$ , that is, solving for the concentration of the action of each group element.

The addition of  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  to the mold flux has an important effect on  $a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$  and  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$  as shown in Figure 2. With the increase of  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  content in mold flux,  $a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$  decreases significantly and  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$  decreases and gradually tends to 0,

TABLE 1: Activity interaction coefficient  $e_i^j$  of the constituent in the present work.

$e_i^j$	Al	Cr	Cu	Mn	Mo	Ni	Si	Ti
Al	0.040 [29]	0.045 [29]		0.034 [29]		-0.0376 [30]		
Si	0.058 [30]	-0.021 [31]				-0.009 [32]	0.132 [29]	
Ti		0.025 [33]	0.014 [33]	-0.12 [33]	0.016 [33]	-0.0166 [33]		0.048 [31]

TABLE 2: Chemical composition of the Incoloy825 (mass percentage).

Al	Co	Cr	Cu	Mn	Mo	Ni	Si	Ti	Fe
0.096	0.44	20.62	1.95	0.46	3.1	41.74	0.336	1.01	Bal.

TABLE 3: Chemical composition of slag samples in each experimental heat (mass percentage).

Sample	CaO	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	CaF <sub>2</sub>	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
S0	30	30	15	5	10	10	0
S1	30	30	15	5	10	10	5
S2	30	30	15	5	10	10	10
S3	30	30	15	5	10	10	15
S4	30	30	15	5	10	10	20

indicating that the reactivity of both Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> in the mold flux is weakened.

This is because Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is able to form compounds such as CeAlO<sub>3</sub> and Ce<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub>, respectively [27, 28], reducing the activity of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, when the content of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the mold flux is 20%,  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$  approaches 0.

**2.2. Thermodynamic Analysis of Slag-Steel Reaction.** In order to investigate the effect of adding Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to mold flux on the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction,  $a_{\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3}$ ,  $a_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$ , and  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$  are calculated by IMCT and  $f_{\text{Al}}$ ,  $f_{\text{Si}}$ , and  $f_{\text{Ti}}$  in steel were brought into Eq. (6), Eq. (9), and (2) to obtain the reaction Gibbs free energy of Eq. (4), Eq. (6), and Eq. (8). The composition of steel and mold fluxes is shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively, and the calculation results are shown in Figure 3.

As shown in Figure 3, Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> component is added to the mold flux, and  $\Delta G_1$  is the minimum compared with  $\Delta G_2$  and  $\Delta G_3$ . Therefore, the main slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction is  $[\text{Ti}] + (\text{SiO}_2) = [\text{Si}] + (\text{TiO}_2)$ , and the secondary reactions are the following:  $4[\text{Al}] + 3(\text{SiO}_2) = 3[\text{Si}] + 2(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$  and  $3[\text{Ti}] + 2(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3) = 4[\text{Al}] + 3(\text{TiO}_2)$ . The reason is that  $a_{\text{Ti}}$  is much greater than  $a_{\text{Al}}$ , so Ti in steel is more susceptible to oxidation. With the increase of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content in mold flux,  $\Delta G_1$ ,  $\Delta G_2$ , and  $\Delta G_3$  gradually increase, of which  $\Delta G_1$  increases the most. This is because Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the mold flux is combined with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub>, which reduces the activities of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> and weakens the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction and inhibits the oxidation loss of Ti and Al in steel.

It can be seen from Figure 3 that CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-based slag system will inevitably cause the oxidation of Al and Ti in steel, and the TiO<sub>2</sub> generated into the mold flux will lead to a change in the trend of each reaction. In order to better understand the trend of each reaction at the slag-steel interface, the influence of different TiO<sub>2</sub> contents on the slag-

steel interfacial chemical reaction was calculated, where the calculation results of S0 slag system are shown in Figure 4.

As shown in Figure 4, when  $w(\text{TiO}_2)$  is less than 0.5%,  $\Delta G_1$  and  $\Delta G_3$  increase rapidly, and when  $w(\text{TiO}_2)$  is more than 0.5%,  $\Delta G_1$  and  $\Delta G_3$  increase slowly and gradually tend to equilibrium. This is due to the fact that TiO<sub>2</sub> generated by slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction causes a significant increase in the activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> and the interfacial chemical reactions of Eq. (4) and Eq. (8) are inhibited. However, there is no TiO<sub>2</sub> in the interfacial chemical reaction of Eq. (6), but with the increase of TiO<sub>2</sub> content in the mold flux, the mass percentage of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> in the mold flux is changed, which makes Eq. (9) change to some extent, so  $\Delta G_2$  decreases slightly. When  $w(\text{TiO}_2)$  is 3%, at this time  $\Delta G_3$  is 0, the reaction Eq. (10) reaches an equilibrium state, and  $\Delta G_1$  and  $\Delta G_2$  are close. The slag-steel interfacial chemical reactions are the following:  $[\text{Ti}] + (\text{SiO}_2) = [\text{Si}] + (\text{TiO}_2)$  and  $4[\text{Al}] + 3(\text{SiO}_2) = 3[\text{Si}] + 2(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$ . However, when more TiO<sub>2</sub> components are added to the protective slag, TiO<sub>2</sub> will combine with CaO to form CaTiO<sub>3</sub>. On the one hand, the actual activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> in the mold flux is small; on the other hand, the binding ability of CaO with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> is reduced, which makes the activity of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> increase, which is not conducive to reducing the oxidation of Al and Ti in steel.

### 3. Experiment and Results of Slag-Steel Reaction

**3.1. Experimental Process.** To simplify the desulfurization kinetic model, the following assumptions are needed: in order to further study the effect of the content of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in mold flux on the changes of Al, Si, and Ti contents of Incoloy825 alloy, the slag-steel experiments of Incoloy825 and mold flux with different Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents were carried out. The Incoloy825 used in the experiment was smelted in a 25 kg vacuum induction furnace, and the ingots were cut into small pieces by wire cutting. The surface of the sample

TABLE 4: Expression of structural units, their mole numbers, and mass action concentrations in 100 g CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Na<sub>2</sub>O-MgO-CaF<sub>2</sub>-Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> slags based on IMCT.

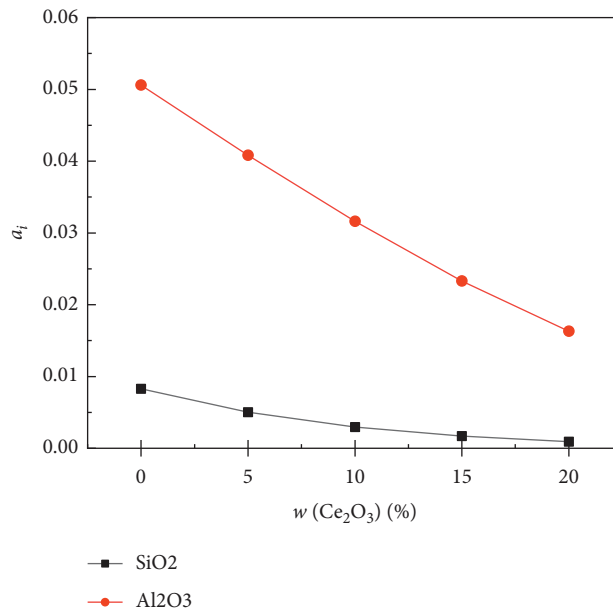
Item	Structural units (ion or molecule)	Mole number of structural units $n_i$	Mass action concentration of structural units $N_i$
Simple ion (5)	Ca <sup>2+</sup> +O <sup>2-</sup>	$n_{S1} = n_{Ca^{2+}} = n_{O^{2-}}$	$N_{S1} = N_{CaO} = 2n_{S1} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sup>+</sup> +O <sup>2-</sup>	$n_{S4} = 2n_{Na^+} = n_{O^{2-}}$	$N_{S4} = N_{Na_2O} = 3n_{S4} / \sum n_i$
	Mg <sup>2+</sup> +O <sup>2-</sup>	$n_{S5} = n_{Mg^{2+}} = n_{O^{2-}}$	$N_{S5} = N_{MgO} = 2n_{S5} / \sum n_i$
	Ca <sup>2+</sup> +2F <sup>-</sup>	$n_{S6} = n_{Ca^{2+}} = 2n_{F^-}$	$N_{S6} = N_{CaF_2} = 3n_{S6} / \sum n_i$
	2Ce <sup>2+</sup> +3O <sup>2-</sup>	$n_{S7} = 2n_{Ce^{3+}} = 3n_{O^{2-}}$	$N_{S7} = N_{Ce_2O_3} = 5n_{S7} / \sum n_i$
Simple molecule (2)	SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{S2} = n_{SiO_2}$	$N_{S2} = N_{SiO_2} = n_{S2} / \sum n_i$
	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{S3} = n_{Al_2O_3}$	$N_{S3} = N_{Al_2O_3} = n_{S3} / \sum n_i$
Complex molecule (40)	CaO · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C1} = n_{CaO \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C1} = N_{CaO \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C1} / \sum n_i$
	2CaO · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C2} = n_{2CaO \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C2} = N_{2CaO \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C2} / \sum n_i$
	3CaO · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C3} = n_{3CaO \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C3} = N_{3CaO \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C3} / \sum n_i$
	3CaO · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C4} = n_{3CaO \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C4} = N_{3CaO \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C4} / \sum n_i$
	CaO · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C5} = n_{CaO \cdot Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C5} = N_{CaO \cdot Al_2O_3} = n_{C5} / \sum n_i$
	CaO · 2Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C6} = n_{CaO \cdot 2Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C6} = N_{CaO \cdot 2Al_2O_3} = n_{C6} / \sum n_i$
	CaO · 6Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C7} = n_{CaO \cdot 6Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C7} = N_{CaO \cdot 6Al_2O_3} = n_{C7} / \sum n_i$
	3CaO · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C8} = n_{3CaO \cdot Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C8} = N_{3CaO \cdot Al_2O_3} = n_{C8} / \sum n_i$
	12CaO · 7Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C9} = n_{12CaO \cdot 7Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C9} = N_{12CaO \cdot 7Al_2O_3} = n_{C9} / \sum n_i$
	3Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C10} = n_{3Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C10} = N_{3Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C10} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C11} = n_{Na_2O \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C11} = N_{Na_2O \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C11} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C12} = n_{Na_2O \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C12} = N_{Na_2O \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C12} / \sum n_i$
	2Na <sub>2</sub> O · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C13} = n_{2Na_2O \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C13} = N_{2Na_2O \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C13} / \sum n_i$
	MgO · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C14} = n_{MgO \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C14} = N_{MgO \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C14} / \sum n_i$
	2MgO · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C15} = n_{2MgO \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C15} = N_{2MgO \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C15} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C16} = n_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C16} = N_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3} = n_{C16} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · 3Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C17} = n_{Na_2O \cdot 3Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C17} = N_{Na_2O \cdot 3Al_2O_3} = n_{C17} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · 9Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C18} = n_{Na_2O \cdot 9Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C18} = N_{Na_2O \cdot 9Al_2O_3} = n_{C18} / \sum n_i$
	MgO · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C19} = n_{MgO \cdot Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C19} = N_{MgO \cdot Al_2O_3} = n_{C19} / \sum n_i$
	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C20} = n_{Ce_2O_3 \cdot Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C20} = N_{Ce_2O_3 \cdot Al_2O_3} = n_{C20} / \sum n_i$
	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 11Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$n_{C21} = n_{Ce_2O_3 \cdot 11Al_2O_3}$	$N_{C21} = N_{Ce_2O_3 \cdot 11Al_2O_3} = n_{C21} / \sum n_i$
	CaO · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C22} = n_{CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C22} = N_{CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C22} / \sum n_i$
	2CaO · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C23} = n_{2CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C23} = N_{2CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C23} / \sum n_i$
	2Na <sub>2</sub> O · CaO · 3SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C24} = n_{2Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 3SiO_2}$	$N_{C24} = N_{2Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 3SiO_2} = n_{C24} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · CaO · 5SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C25} = n_{Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 5SiO_2}$	$N_{C25} = N_{Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 5SiO_2} = n_{C25} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · 2CaO · 3SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C26} = n_{Na_2O \cdot 2CaO \cdot 3SiO_2}$	$N_{C26} = N_{Na_2O \cdot 2CaO \cdot 3SiO_2} = n_{C26} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · 3CaO · 6SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C27} = n_{Na_2O \cdot 3CaO \cdot 6SiO_2}$	$N_{C27} = N_{Na_2O \cdot 3CaO \cdot 6SiO_2} = n_{C27} / \sum n_i$
	CaO · MgO · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C28} = n_{CaO \cdot MgO \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C28} = N_{CaO \cdot MgO \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C28} / \sum n_i$
	CaO · MgO · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C29} = n_{CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C29} = N_{CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C29} / \sum n_i$
	2CaO · MgO · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C30} = n_{2CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C30} = N_{2CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C30} / \sum n_i$
	3CaO · MgO · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C31} = n_{3CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C31} = N_{3CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C31} / \sum n_i$
	3CaO · 2SiO <sub>2</sub> · CaF <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C32} = n_{3CaO \cdot 2SiO_2 \cdot CaF_2}$	$N_{C32} = N_{3CaO \cdot 2SiO_2 \cdot CaF_2} = n_{C32} / \sum n_i$
	3CaO · 3Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · CaF <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C33} = n_{3CaO \cdot 3Al_2O_3 \cdot CaF_2}$	$N_{C33} = N_{3CaO \cdot 3Al_2O_3 \cdot CaF_2} = n_{C33} / \sum n_i$
	11CaO · 7Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · CaF <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C34} = n_{11CaO \cdot 7Al_2O_3 \cdot CaF_2}$	$N_{C34} = N_{11CaO \cdot 7Al_2O_3 \cdot CaF_2} = n_{C34} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 2SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C35} = n_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2}$	$N_{C35} = N_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2} = n_{C35} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 4SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C36} = n_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 4SiO_2}$	$N_{C36} = N_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 4SiO_2} = n_{C36} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 6SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C37} = n_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 6SiO_2}$	$N_{C37} = N_{Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 6SiO_2} = n_{C37} / \sum n_i$
	2MgO · 2Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C38} = n_{2MgO \cdot 2Al_2O_3 \cdot SiO_2}$	$N_{C38} = N_{2MgO \cdot 2Al_2O_3 \cdot SiO_2} = n_{C38} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · MgO · 4SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C39} = n_{Na_2O \cdot MgO \cdot 4SiO_2}$	$N_{C39} = N_{Na_2O \cdot MgO \cdot 4SiO_2} = n_{C39} / \sum n_i$
	Na <sub>2</sub> O · 2MgO · 6SiO <sub>2</sub>	$n_{C40} = n_{Na_2O \cdot 2MgO \cdot 6SiO_2}$	$N_{C40} = N_{Na_2O \cdot 2MgO \cdot 6SiO_2} = n_{C40} / \sum n_i$

TABLE 5: Chemical reaction formulas of possibly formed complex molecules.

Reaction	$\Delta G_i^0$ (J/mol)	Reference	$N_i$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (CaO \cdot SiO_2)$	-21757 - 36.82T	34	$N_{C1} = K_{C1} N_1 N_2$
$2(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (2CaO \cdot SiO_2)$	-102090 - 24.27T	34	$N_{C2} = K_{C2} N_1^2 N_2$
$3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (3CaO \cdot SiO_2)$	-118826 - 6.69T	35	$N_{C3} = K_{C3} N_1^3 N_2$
$3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(SiO_2) = (3CaO \cdot 2SiO_2)$	-236814 + 9.62T	35	$N_{C4} = K_{C4} N_1^3 N_2^2$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) = (CaO \cdot Al_2O_3)$	59413 - 59.41T	34	$N_{C5} = K_{C5} N_1 N_3$

TABLE 5: Continued.

Reaction	$\Delta G_i^\theta$ (J/mol)	Reference	$N_i$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(Al_2O_3) = (CaO \cdot 2Al_2O_3)$	$-16700 - 25.52T$	34	$N_{C6} = K_{C6}N_1N_3^2$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 6(Al_2O_3) = (CaO \cdot 6Al_2O_3)$	$-22594 - 31.80T$	34	$N_{C7} = K_{C7}N_1N_3^6$
$3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) = (3CaO \cdot Al_2O_3)$	$-21757 - 29.29T$	34	$N_{C8} = K_{C8}N_1^3N_3$
$12(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 7(Al_2O_3) = (12CaO \cdot 7Al_2O_3)$	$617977 - 612.12T$	34	$N_{C9} = K_{C9}N_1^{12}N_3^7$
$3(Al_2O_3) + 2(SiO_2) = (3Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-4354 - 10.47T$	34	$N_{C10} = K_{C10}N_2^2N_3^3$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot SiO_2)$	$-299349 + 55.32T$	36	$N_{C11} = K_{C11}N_2N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + 2(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-279094 + 23.19T$	36	$N_{C12} = K_{C12}N_2^2N_4$
$2(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (2Na_2O \cdot SiO_2)$	$-517220 + 124.22T$	36	$N_{C13} = K_{C13}N_2^2N_4^2$
$(Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (MgO \cdot SiO_2)$	$23849 - 29.71T$	34	$N_{C14} = K_{C14}N_2N_5$
$2(Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (2MgO \cdot SiO_2)$	$-56902 - 3.35T$	34	$N_{C15} = K_{C15}N_2^2N_5^2$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) = (Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3)$	$-247971 + 44.6T$	36	$N_{C16} = K_{C16}N_3N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + 3(Al_2O_3) = (Na_2O \cdot 3Al_2O_3)$	$-282626 + 35.28T$	36	$N_{C17} = K_{C17}N_3^3N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + 9(Al_2O_3) = (Na_2O \cdot 9Al_2O_3)$	$-295918 + 25.18T$	36	$N_{C18} = K_{C18}N_3^9N_4$
$(Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) = (MgO \cdot Al_2O_3)$	$-18828 - 6.28T$	34	$N_{C19} = K_{C19}N_3N_5$
$(2Ce^{3+} + 3O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) = (Ce_2O_3 \cdot Al_2O_3)$	$-60241 - 14.19T$	37	$N_{C20} = K_{C20}N_3N_7$
$(2Ce^{3+} + 3O^{2-}) + 11(Al_2O_3) = (Ce_2O_3 \cdot 11Al_2O_3)$	$49332 - 80.56T$	37	$N_{C21} = K_{C21}N_3^{11}N_7$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) + 2(SiO_2) = (CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-13816 - 55.26T$	36	$N_{C22} = K_{C22}N_1N_2^2N_3$
$2(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) + (SiO_2) = (2CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot SiO_2)$	$-61961 - 60.29T$	36	$N_{C23} = K_{C23}N_1^2N_2N_3$
$2(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 3(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 3SiO_2)$	$-672020 + 62.8 T$	36	$N_{C24} = K_{C24}N_1N_2^3N_4^2$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 5(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 5SiO_2)$	$-443841 + 63.84T$	36	$N_{C25} = K_{C25}N_1N_2^5N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + 2(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 3(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot 2CaO \cdot 3SiO_2)$	$-607293 + 125.68T$	36	$N_{C26} = K_{C26}N_1^2N_2^3N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + 3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 6(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot 3CaO \cdot 6SiO_2)$	$-837543 + 219.7T$	36	$N_{C27} = K_{C27}N_1^3N_2^6N_4$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (SiO_2) = (CaO \cdot MgO \cdot SiO_2)$	$-124683 + 0.77T$	35	$N_{C28} = K_{C28}N_1N_2N_5$
$(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(SiO_2) = (CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-80 - 51.88T$	34	$N_{C29} = K_{C29}N_1N_2^2N_5$
$2(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(SiO_2) = (2CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-73638 - 63.29T$	34	$N_{C30} = K_{C30}N_1^2N_2^2N_5$
$3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + (Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(SiO_2) = (3CaO \cdot MgO \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-205016 - 31.80T$	34	$N_{C31} = K_{C31}N_1^3N_2^2N_5$
$3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(SiO_2) + (Ca^{2+} + 2F^-) = (3CaO \cdot 2SiO_2 \cdot CaF_2)$	$-255180 - 8.2T$	34	$N_{C32} = K_{C32}N_1^3N_2^2N_6$
$3(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 3(Al_2O_3) + (Ca^{2+} + 2F^-) = (3CaO \cdot 3Al_2O_3 \cdot CaF_2)$	$-44492 - 73.15T$	38	$N_{C33} = K_{C33}N_1^3N_3^3N_6$
$11(Ca^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 7(Al_2O_3) + (Ca^{2+} + 2F^-) = (11CaO \cdot 7Al_2O_3 \cdot CaF_2)$	$-228760 - 155.8T$	38	$N_{C34} = K_{C34}N_1^{11}N_3^7N_6$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) + 2(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2)$	$-370572.02 + 9.98T$	36	$N_{C35} = K_{C35}N_1^2N_3N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) + 4(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 4SiO_2)$	$-440860 + 101.36T$	36	$N_{C36} = K_{C36}N_1^4N_3N_4$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Al_2O_3) + 6(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 6SiO_2)$	$-425604 + 19.38T$	36	$N_{C37} = K_{C37}N_1^6N_3N_4$
$2(Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 2(Al_2O_3) + 5(SiO_2) = (2MgO \cdot 2Al_2O_3 \cdot 5SiO_2)$	$-14422 - 14.81T$	34	$N_{C38} = K_{C38}N_2^5N_3^2N_5^2$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + (Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 4(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot MgO \cdot 4SiO_2)$	$-306210 - 1.2T$	36	$N_{C39} = K_{C39}N_1^4N_4N_5$
$(2Na^+ + O^{2-}) + 2(Mg^{2+} + O^{2-}) + 6(SiO_2) = (Na_2O \cdot 2MgO \cdot 6SiO_2)$	$-312061 - 33.06T$	36	$N_{C40} = K_{C40}N_2^6N_4N_5^2$

FIGURE 2: Influence of (w) (Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) on the activity of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub>.

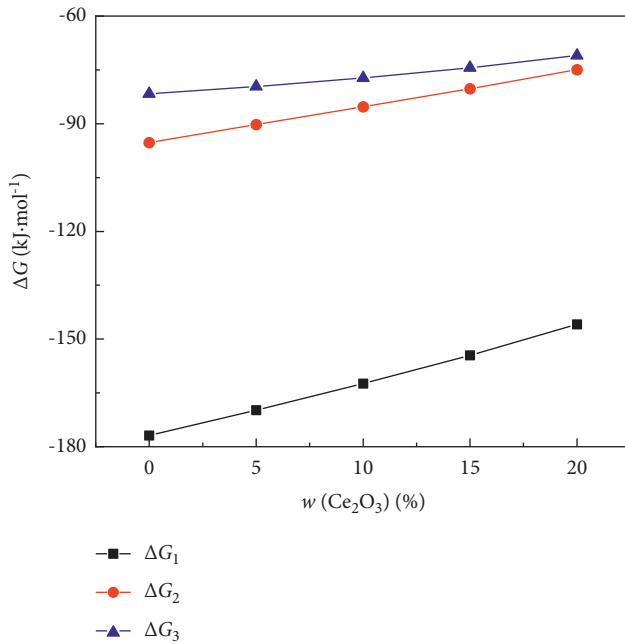


FIGURE 3: Gibbs free energy of the slag-steel interface chemical reaction with different  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  contents.

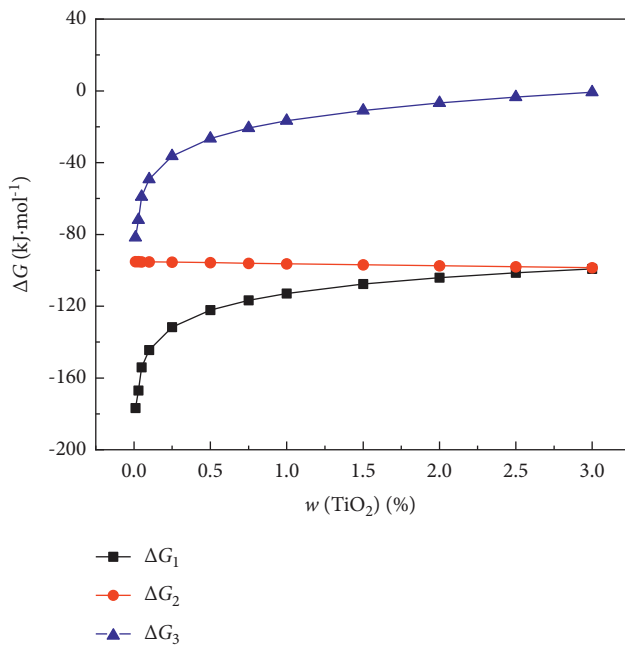


FIGURE 4: Gibbs free energy of the slag-steel interface chemical reaction with different  $\text{TiO}_2$  contents for S0.

was angularly ground to remove the oxide from its surface to ensure the accuracy of the experiment. The compositions are shown in Table 2.

According to Figure 1(c), the  $\text{CaO-SiO}_2\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -based mold fluxes were designed, and the appropriate fluxes were added. Using analytical grade  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (instead of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ),  $\text{CaF}_2$ , and  $\text{Ce}_2\text{C}_3\text{O}_9$  (instead of  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$ ) as raw materials (purity >99%),  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ , and

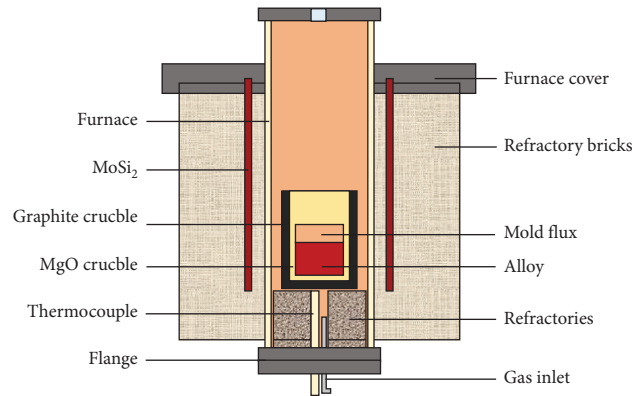


FIGURE 5: Schematic diagram of the experimental resistance furnace.

$\text{Ce}_2\text{C}_3\text{O}_9$  powders were calcined in a muffle furnace at 873 K for 2 h to remove moisture. The chemical compositions of mold flux used in the experiment are shown in Table 3.

A vertical  $\text{MoSi}_2$  resistance furnace was used to carry out slag-steel reaction equilibrium experiment. The schematic diagram of the experimental device used is shown in Figure 5. The furnace body is made of corundum tubes with an inner diameter of 90 mm and a length of 1000 mm. The temperature of the furnace is measured by a B thermocouple (Pt-30% Rh/Pt-6% Rh), and the temperature deviation can be kept within 2 K in the temperature uniform zone (100 mm).

The experimental process is as follows: first, 500 g of treated Incoloy825 was put into  $\text{MgO}$ -crucible, which was covered with graphite crucible, and then put into a  $\text{MoSi}_2$  resistance furnace, and argon (purity is 99%) was introduced at a flow rate of 1 L/min. Then, the temperature of the resistance furnace was raised to 1693 K at 5 K/min, and the constant temperature was maintained for about 30 mins to ensure the complete melting of the alloy in the furnace. Appropriately increased argon flow rate to ensure the atmosphere environment in the furnace during sampling, and the molten steel was sucked by a quartz tube with an inner diameter of 6 mm and recorded as 0 #. Finally, 100 g slag was added to the surface of the molten metal. After the slag was melted for 10, 20, 30, and 40 minutes, respectively, samples 1 # to 4 # were extracted from the molten metal, and a certain amount of slag samples was dipped at the same time. The cooled steel samples and slag samples were put into sample bags and marked with serial numbers.

**3.2. Experimental Results and Discussion.** Figure 6 shows the changes of Al, Si, and Ti in Incoloy825 with time during the experiment. The mold fluxes with different  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$  contents have great influence on the contents of Al, Si, and Ti in Incoloy825. As shown in Figures 6(a)-6(d), the Al content is basically unchanged for 20 mins before the reaction and slightly increases for 20 mins to 40 mins after the reaction. The change of Al content in S4 slag system is most obvious,

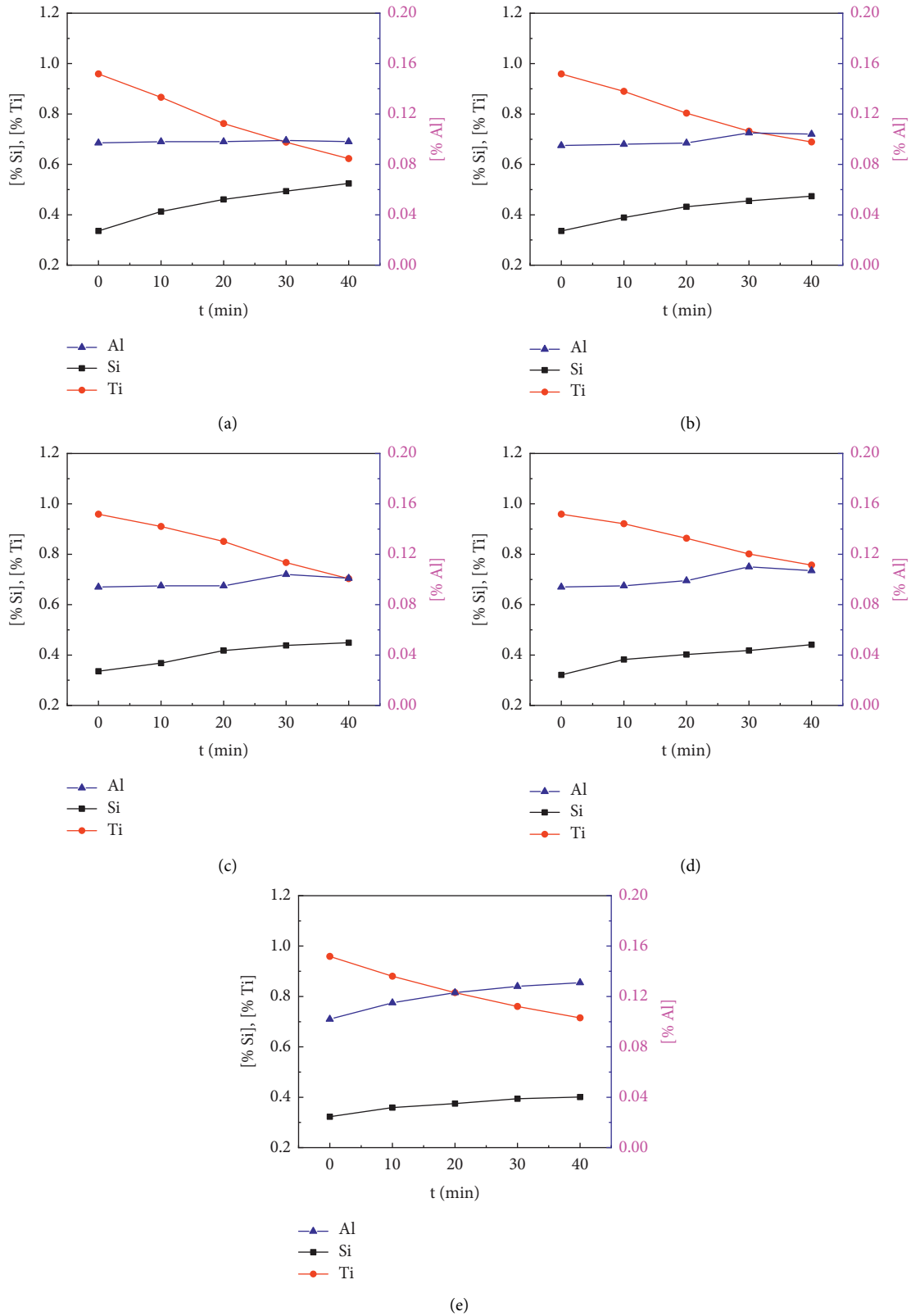


FIGURE 6: Changes of Al, Si, and Ti contents with time in Incoloy825: (a) S0, (b) S1, (c) S2, (d) S3, and (e) S4.

as shown in Figure 6(e), and the increase rate of Al content in steel is from 1.03% to 35.05%. Eq. (6) and Eq. (8) are carried out synchronously, where the content of Al maintains a

dynamic equilibrium. As the activity of  $\text{SiO}_2$  decreases, the reactivity of Eq. (6) becomes weaker, so the concentration of Al increased with time.



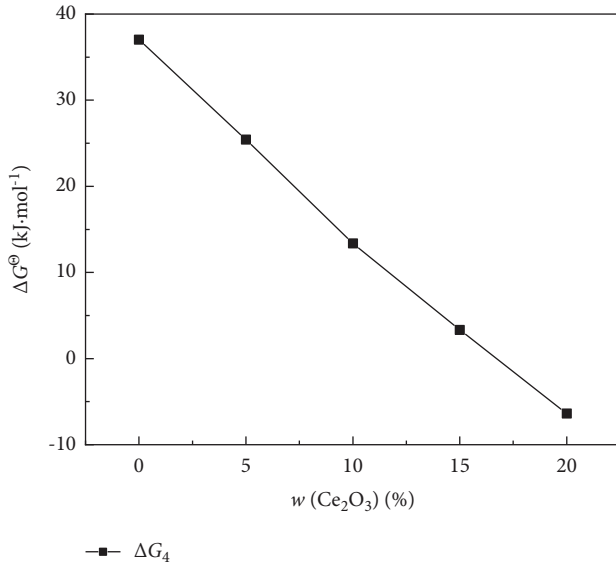
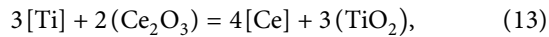


FIGURE 7: Gibbs free energy of the slag-steel interface chemical reaction with different Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents.

It can be seen from Figures 6(a)-6(e) that with the increase of slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction time, the content of Si in steel gradually increases and the content of Ti gradually decreases. The increase rate of Si content is from 55.95% to 19.35%, and the decrease rate of Ti content is from 33.27% to 20.00% when the increase of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content in the mold flux and the slag-steel reaction for 40 mins. The minimum oxidation loss of Ti appeared in slag S3 because the activity of Ti in steel will reduce the stable Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the mold flux, as shown in Eq. (13). The  $a_{\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3}$  and Ce contents in IMCT are brought into (14), and the calculated results are shown in Figure 7.



$$\Delta G_4^\theta = 755431.34 - 188.79T,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G_4 &= \Delta G_4^\theta + RT \ln K_4 = \Delta G_4^\theta + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{Ce}}^4 \cdot a_{\text{TiO}_2}^3}{a_{\text{Ti}}^3 \cdot a_{\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3}^2} \\ &= \Delta G_4^\theta + RT \ln \frac{f_{\text{Ce}}^4 \cdot w[\text{Ce}]_{\%}^4}{f_{\text{Ti}}^3 \cdot w[\text{Ti}]_{\%}^3} + RT \ln \frac{a_{\text{TiO}_2}^3}{a_{\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3}^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

With the increase of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content in mold flux, ΔG<sub>4</sub> decreases gradually. When w(Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) is more than 15%, ΔG<sub>4</sub> is less than 0. At this time, Eq. (13) has a chemical reaction at the slag-steel interface. The reaction will lead to the oxidation of Ti and decrease the content of Ti in steel, so the content of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in mold flux should be less than 15%.

#### 4. Conclusions

The effect of mold flux containing Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on the contents of aluminum, silicon, and titanium in Incoloy825 super alloy was studied. The results are as follows:

- (1) The activity model of CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Na<sub>2</sub>O-MgO-CaF<sub>2</sub>-Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> slag system was established based on the ion and molecule coexistence theory. The calculation results show that with the increase of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content in the mold flux, the activity of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> decreases significantly and the activity of SiO<sub>2</sub> decreases and gradually tends to 0.
- (2) In the present study system, the main slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction is as follows: [Ti] + (SiO<sub>2</sub>) = [Si] + (TiO<sub>2</sub>), and the secondary reactions are as follows: 4[Al] + 3(SiO<sub>2</sub>) = 3[Si] + 2(Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and 3[Ti] + 2(Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) = 4[Al] + 3(TiO<sub>2</sub>).
- (3) The results of slag-steel reaction experiment show that the increase rate of Al content increases from 1.03% to 10.31%, the increase rate of Si content decreases from 55.95% to 31.25%, and the oxidation rate of Ti content decreases from 33.27% to 20.00% when Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content in the mold flux increases from 0% to 15% and the slag-steel reaction for 40 mins.
- (4) With the increase of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content in the mold flux, the slag-steel interfacial chemical reaction is weakened, and the oxidation loss of Ti and Al in steel is inhibited. When the content of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in mold flux is more than 15%, the following chemical reaction will occur at the slag-steel interface: 3[Ti] + 2(Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) = 4[Ce] + 3(TiO<sub>2</sub>), which will aggravate the oxidation loss of Ti in steel, so the content of Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the mold flux should be less than 15% [36-38].

#### Data Availability

<https://syics.neu.edu.cn/>.

#### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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