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## Investigation of Heat Recovery Methods from Molten Salts with Phase Change

By

### Bharanidharan Rajasekaran

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies through the Department of Mechanical, Automotive, and Materials Engineering in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Applied Sciences at the University of Windsor

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

2020

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# Investigation of Heat Recovery Methods from Molten Salts with Phase Change

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### DECLARATION OF CO-AUTHORSHIP/ PREVIOUS PUBLICATION

#### I. Co-Authorship

I hereby declare that this thesis incorporates material that is result of joint research, as follows: Chapter 3, 4 and 5 of the thesis was authored by Bharanidharan Rajasekaran under the supervisions of Professor Ofelia A. Jianu. In all cases, the key ideas, primary contributions, experimental designs, data analysis, interpretation, and writing were performed by the author, and the contribution of the co-author was primarily through the feedback on refinement of ideas and editing of the manuscript.

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Thesis Chapter	Publication title/full	Publication status*
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	Thermodynamic	International Journal
	Properties of Molten	of Hydrogen Energy
	Salts Evaluated by	
	EMF Measurements	
	with Application to	
	Thermochemical	
	Cycles for Hydrogen	
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Chapter 5	Numerical Thermal	Submitted to
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## ABSTRACT

In the present times there is a progressive surge in the energy requirements for industrial and domestic purposes, hence it is imperative to harvest energy from renewable sources. In addition to serving as a sustainable source of energy, these energy sources prove to be indispensable in the mitigation of the greenhouse effects.

In the past several decades, various methods and processes for utilizing renewable energy sources have been developed and continue to be improved. Hydrogen holds the highest energy density compared to any common fuel. Along with its abundance and lightweight nature hydrogen is more eco-friendly during utilization and can be produced via sustainable methods that do not pollute our planet. Through extensive research, numerous methods for extracting hydrogen are identified. Among them, a promising one is the thermochemical copper-chlorine (Cu-Cl) cycle, which is a clean hydrogen production method. As the Cu-Cl cycle is a relatively novel concept, it has been found that it is not well-defined in thermophysical and material properties for its specific application and thus predisposing it to approximation and assumptions from published data.

In the Cu-Cl cycle, heat can be recovered from molten cuprous chloride (CuCl) and it is then reacted with aqueous hydrochloric acid (HCl) in stoichiometric proportions to produce the anolyte for the  $H_2$ production step of the cycle. However, the lack of precise thermophysical properties on CuCl heavily hinders the detailed investigations of heat recovery from the molten salt as it cools from 450°C to 90°C. A new method is developed to determine the thermophysical property of CuCl and silver chloride (AgCl) as the molten salts are changing phases to solid. This is achieved by correlating electrochemistry data with thermal data. A model that predicts the specific heat capacity during phase change process is developed based on the existing electromotive force (EMF) and thermal data from literature. The developed model shows the EMF derived specific heat capacity values of AgCl and CuCl are similar with a slight offset since they have similar EMF's at higher temperatures. A numerical method is adopted for estimating the amount of heat that could be recovered during quenching process by analyzing the interactions between CuCl droplets with the nitrogen  $(N_2)$ . These interactions are modeled numerically in COMSOL Multiphysics for various droplet sizes of CuCl and AgCl with the developed specific heat model. The heat recovery analysis shows that after quenching, the average internal temperature of the droplet does not change significantly with droplet diameter and quenching height.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION OF CO-AUTHORSHIP/ PREVIOUS PUBLICATION ii
BSTRACTv
CKNOWLEDGEMENTSvi
IST OF FIGURESx
IST OF TABLESxi
IST OF APPENDICESx
IST OF ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLSxv
IOMENCLATURExvi
Chapter 1 - Introduction
1.1 Background and Motivation
1.2 Objectives
1.3 Literature Review
1.3.1 Hydrogen production methods
1.3.2 Thermochemical Copper Chlorine cycle (Cu-Cl) cycle
1.3.3   Heat Recovery in the Copper-Chlorine Cycle   1.3.3
1.3.4Heat Transfer and Solidification of Droplet14
1.3.5Description of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl)18
1.3.6 Description of Silver Chloride (AgCl)

1.4	The	sis Outline1	8
Chapter	: 2 - M	Iethods to Determine Thermophysical Properties2	20
2.1	Intro	oduction2	20
2.2	Met	hodology2	20
2.2	.1	Quantum Mechanics Approach2	20
2.2	.2	Thermal Measurements2	25
2.2	.3	Electro-Magnetic Force Method2	:6
2.2	.4	Summary of Methodology2	27
2.3	Lite	rature of Thermophysical Properties of AgC12	28
2.3	.1	Heat Capacity of AgCl	28
2.3	.2	Other Properties: Thermal Conductivity, Density, Viscosity	1
2.4	The	rmophysical Properties of CuCl	3
2.4	.1	Heat Capacity of CuCl	3
2.4	.2	Other Properties: Thermal Conductivity, Density, Viscosity	4
Chapter	: <b>3 -</b> H	eat Capacity Results of AgCl and CuCl	7
3.1	Moc	delling of Heat Capacity of AgCl	7
3.2	Moc	delling Specific Heat Capacity of CuCl4	0
Chapter	:4-H	eat Recovery Study4	3
4.1	Intro	oduction4	3
4.2	Free	e Fall4	4
4.3	Assı	umptions4	4

4.4 Numerical model	45
4.4.1 Momentum Equation:	46
4.4.2 Energy Equation:	47
4.5 Results and Discussion	48
4.5.1 Free fall	48
4.5.2 Phase Change in AgCl and CuCl Droplet	49
4.6 Validation of Computational Results	53
4.7 Heat Recovery	55
Chapter 5 - Summary and Conclusion	57
5.1 Findings and Results	57
5.2 Recommendations and Future Work	57
BIBLIOGRAPHY	59
APPENDICES	73
VITA AUCTORIS	74

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. U.S primary energy consumption by energy source, 2019 [2]
Figure 2. Schematic model of a working fuel cell [8]4
Figure 3. Global demand of pure hydrogen from 1975 to 2018 [23]5
Figure 4. Current policy support for hydrogen deployment, 2018 [23]6
Figure 5. Sources of hydrogen production [32]7
Figure 6. Stoichiometric chart of Cu-Cl cycle11
Figure 7. Solubility difference of CuCl in binary and ternary systems [75]14
Figure 8. Droplet suspended on a thermocouple junction [88]
Figure 9. Levitation of droplet using magnetic field [94]16
Figure 10. Electrostatic levitation of a Titanium-Zirconium-Nickel alloy [95]17
Figure 11. Physics fields (adopted from [109])21
Figure 12. Quantum leap of electrons due to excitation and emission of quanta [111]22
Figure 13. Model of atomic structure [108]
Figure 14. Structure of Solids (a) Crystalline, (b) Amorphous [116]23
Figure 15. Temperature dependence on molar heat capacity for different solids [116]24
Figure 16. Variation of specific heat capacity of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature.
Data adopted from [131], [132], [134]–[138]
Figure 17. Electromotive force (EMF) of AgCl as function of temperature. Data extracted from
literatures [142], [146], [147], [149]–[152]
Figure 18. Variation of Density of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature
Figure 19. Variation of thermal conductivity of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature

Figure 20. Variation of dynamic viscosity of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature...32

Figure 21. Variation of specific heat capacity of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of temperature.
Data adopted from[161], [162], [164]–[166]
Figure 22. Electromotive force (EMF) of CuCl as function of temperature. [167]–[169]34
Figure 23. Variation of density of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of temperature[170]35
Figure 24. Variation of thermal conductivity of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of
temperature[170]35
Figure 25. Variation of dynamic viscosity of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of
temperature[170]
Figure 26. Variation of specific heat capacity of AgCl and CuCl with temperature derived from EMF
sources
Figure 27. Consolidated specific heat capacity of AgCl as function of temperatures from EMF and
thermal sources[130]–[132], [134]–[138]
Figure 28. Comparison of EMF between AgCl and CuCl as function of temperature. AgCl data
adopted from [167]40
Figure 29. Consolidated specific heat capacity of CuCl as function of temperatures from EMF and
thermal sources [161], [162], [164]–[166]41
Figure 30. 2D Model Geometry of the model with droplet and $N_2$ domain with their inflow and
outflow directions
Figure 31. Velocity and distance travelled by the AgCl droplet with respect to time various radiuses,
R (0.0025m, 0.005m, 0.01m)
Figure 32. Velocity and distance travelled by the CuCl droplet with respect to time for various
radiuses, R (0.0025m, 0.005m, 0.01m)
Figure 33. Temperature distribution of $N_2$ and droplet (AgCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.0025m
Figure 34. Temperature distribution of $N_2$ and droplet (AgCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.005m

Figure 35. Temperature distribution of $N_2$ and droplet (AgCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.01m
Figure 36. Temperature distribution of $N_2$ and droplet (CuCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.0025m
Figure 37. Temperature distribution of $N_2$ and droplet (CuCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.005m
Figure 38. Temperature distribution of $N_2$ and droplet (CuCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.01m
Figure 39. Variation of average heat transfer coefficient with time
Figure 40. Temperature increase of water by CuCl droplets for the quenching height of 10cm56

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Best suited specific heat estimation model for approximate temperature 1	anges. (*
approximate temperature)	28
Table 2. Thermal properties of AgCl	
Table 3. Values of A, B, C, D, E and F in the AgCl specific heat capacity equation 16	
Table 4. Values of A, B, C, D, E and F in the CuCl specific heat capacity equation 15	41
Table 5. Geometric dimensions and thermophysical properties of the model	46

# LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Temperature increase of water by CuCl droplets for the quenching height of 20cm .....73 Appendix 2. Temperature increase of water by CuCl droplets for the quenching height of 30cm .....73

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS

BTU	British thermal units
SI	International System of Units
AgC1	Silver Chloride
CuCl	Cuprous Chloride / Copper (I) Chloride
SnO <sub>2</sub>	Tin (IV) Oxide
ZnO	Zinc Oxide
MgO	Magnesium Oxide
$CeO_2$	Cerium (IV) Oxide
$Ce_2O_3$	Cerium (III) Oxide
HC1	Hydrochloric acid
CNL	Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
EMF	Electro motive force
CAD	Computer Aided Design
FEA	Finite Element Analysis
ARC	Accelerating Rate Calorimetry
ADC	Adiabatic Pressure Dewar Calorimetry
DSC	Differential Scanning Calorimeter

# NOMENCLATURE

C <sub>p</sub>	Specific heat
g	Gravitational acceleration
Н	Enthalpy
k	Thermal conductivity
L	Latent heat
V	Velocity
р	pressure
R <sub>d</sub>	Radius of the droplet
t	Time
Т	Temperature
q	Heat flux
F <sub>g</sub>	Force due to gravity
Fz	Drag force
ρ	Density
μ	Dynamic viscosity
ν	Kinematic viscosity
α	Thermal diffusion coefficient
Nu	Nusselt number
Re	Reynolds number
Pr	Prandtl number
ω	Angular velocity

h	Planks constant
λ	Wavelength
m	Mass
R	Universal gas constant
Е	Electro motive force
F	Faraday's constant
n	Number of free electrons
Ν	Number of droplets

### Subscripts

i	Initial
m	Melting
С	Critical
d	Droplet
g	Gravity

### Chapter 1 - Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Motivation

Energy is the fundamental driving force for all the living and the nonliving things. It can also be defined as the ability to do work. The energy is ubiquitous and is found in several forms such as light, heat, electrical and gravitational energy. After intense research scientists have concluded that energy could never be created nor destroyed, it can only be transformed from one form to another [1]. This is known as the law of conservation energy or the First Law of Thermodynamics. Energy can be grouped into two general types: the potential energy (stored energy) and the kinetic energy (working energy). The most common examples of stored energy are fossil fuels, batteries, biofuels, etc. Fossil fuels and batteries are good examples for energy in stored form that occurs naturally and artificially. Both potential and kinetic energy can be transformed into one another. For example, car uses gasoline, a type of fossil fuel, to run. Here, the car converts the energy from gasoline to mechanical form using engine.

Fossil fuels are crude oil or petroleum made of hydrocarbons, which are compounds of hydrogen and carbon. For centuries fossil fuels served as a primary source for energy. Even today, more than 80 percent of the energy needs are fulfilled by fossil fuels [2]. These stored energies are harvested using machineries for satisfying our energy consumption. The process of burning fossil fuels causes several grave issues such as toxic gas emissions, air pollution, acid rain, ozone depletion, climate change, global warming etc. Moreover, the fossil fuels being an exhaustible source of energy, the society face the impending scarcity of these energy sources in the next semi-centennial [3]. In speculating this scarceness, various countries have at present incentivised their scientists to improvise their technologies to utilise renewable sources of energy. Renewable sources of renewable energy are those which can be replenished in a short span of time and thus do not deplete altogether. Sources of renewable energy are the sun, tides, wind and geothermal energy from which energy can be extracted directly or through indirect methods. The extracted energy needs to be stored in an easily accessible manner. Batteries are most common method of storing the extracted energy. Hydrogen is a promising alternative, which can be used as an energy carrier. Due to its abundance and eco friendly nature makes it a suitable energy carrier in the quest to create a sustainable world.

Our planet serves water as a rich source of hydrogen and the thermochemical copper-chlorine (Cu-Cl) cycle shows promising potential for large scale hydrogen production. The Cu-Cl cycle uses cuprous

chloride (CuCl) salt and hydrochloric acid (HCl) for hydrogen production. One of the step in that process involves, cooling of CuCl salt from around 530°C to 90°C. Many researchers are investigating different methods for recovering the energy released during the cooling process of CuCl [4].

Thermophysical properties such as specific heat, density, dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity are prerequisite for any type of heat recovery study. But the thermophysical properties of CuCl are not well defined across the temperature range desired. So, the heat recovery analysis performed based on existing thermophysical properties would be inaccurate. Hence, the outcome of this thesis is to develop techniques to determine the thermophysical properties of CuCl. As specific heat plays a vital role in heat recovery study, the main focus is to model the specific heat capacity variation across a wide temperature range. After analyzing several heat recovery methods, a new method was developed to recover the energy effectively and it was analyzed numerically in COMSOL Multiphysics [5] using the developed specific heat model.

### 1.2 Objectives

This research is performed to analyze the thermal energy recovery within the thermochemical Cu-Cl cycle. Integration of the heat recovery with copper chlorine cycle is also investigated to further improve the overall efficiency of the cycle. The first objective is to determine the potential spots for excessive heat loss and analyze different methods to recover the heat. Upon studying the literature, it is revealed that the major part of the heat can be recovered during the solidification process of molten cuprous chloride (CuCl), hence this thesis is focused on recovering heat from molten CuCl.

The specific goals of this work include:

- To determine the stoichiometric proportions of CuCl, HCl and H<sub>2</sub>O.
- To determine the thermophysical properties of CuCl.
- To analyze the effective heat recovery method for cooling of CuCl.
- To analyze the cooling process a CFD model, developed using the commercial software COMSOL Multiphysics.
- To investigate the effect of cooling by varying the diameter of the CuCl droplet.
- To investigate the amount of heat recovered by quenching the CuCl droplets.

### 1.3 Literature Review

The most common problems associated with the renewable energy is the availability of power, quality of power, resource locations, storage and cost issues. For example, though solar energy harvesting is the most popular method, it has the disadvantage that electricity can be generated only during the

daytime thus the energy output is also dependent on its location and climate conditions of that day. Each renewable method has its own set of shortages and all the different methods may not be applicable in every location.



Figure 1. U.S primary energy consumption by energy source, 2019 [2] Note: Sum of components may not equal to 100% because of independent rounding

In contrast to fossil fuels, most of the renewable energies are not in a stored from hence, conversion and storage are necessary steps. Storing the energy is another significant challenge and batteries are primarily used for storing the electricity generated from the renewable sources. High capacity batteries are predominantly built from rare earth minerals and also possess the risk of potential toxicity when the emissions of battery chemicals are exposed into the aquatic ecosystem. So, the energy storage in batteries cannot be considered a long-term solution.

Another promising alternative fuel is hydrogen. Hydrogen is one of the most abundant element in this universe and one of the cleanest forms of fuel, as it produces water when it is consumed by fuel cell [6], [7], which is a device that converts chemical potential energy into electrical energy. In a fuel cell hydrogen is passed at the anode (negative terminal) where the catalysts splits hydrogen into protons (positively charged particles) and electrons (negatively charged particles), as shown in Figure 2 [8]. The separated protons are passed through a porous electrolytic membrane while the electrons are forced through a circuit generating heat and electricity. The electrons, protons and oxygen meet at the cathode (positive terminal) to produce water molecules. Since there are no moving parts, the fuel cells operate very silently and with high reliability. There are several different configurations in fuel cells, however, all fuel cells operate on the similar methodology.



Figure 2. Schematic model of a working fuel cell [8]

Hydrogen's eco-friendliness, lightweight nature and high energy density (nearly 2.5 times higher than the any of the conventional fuels) makes it one of the best energy carriers of the future [9]–[12]. These attributes make hydrogen an alluring fuel option for applications like transportation and electricity generation. Adopting hydrogen as an energy carrier will be the crucial driving force for increased demand in the future. However, currently most of the world's hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels through some type of reforming process [13], [14]. A sustainable, low cost and large-scale method is essential to meet the future needs of hydrogen with lower carbon footprint. There are several eco-friendly methods to produce hydrogen, such as electrolysis, thermochemical water decomposition using renewable sources like solar energy, wind energy, nuclear energy and geothermal energy.

Though electrolysis of water is simpler and seems to be a compelling option, it may not be currently feasible as it needs higher energy input and the overall efficiency is typically about 24% while thermochemical water splitting cycle using nuclear heat can achieve upto about 50% on heat input to hydrogen efficiency [15], [16]. Due to higher overall efficiency many thermochemical water decomposition cycles exhibits significant potential for large scale hydrogen production [17]. Over the past few decades, several thermochemical cycles for hydrogen production were developed among those the copper-chlorine cycle is most promising method because of its lower temperature requirements (around 550°C) and higher efficiency of the cycle [15], [18], [19]. Different hydrogen production methods and their effectiveness are explored more in Section 1.3.1.

Hydrogen will play an important role as an energy carrier of the future. As the hydrogen has a wide variety of applications it may be used as a replacement for almost all the current fossil fuel applications with an added advantage of eco-friendly by-products. Several studies show that, hydrogen can be used as fuel in energy systems to obtain mechanical, thermal and electrical energy, more efficiently than fossil fuels [20].

Public perception of hydrogen is negatively influenced due to its history of bad incidents. A good example would be the Hindenburg disaster, a fatality occurred in 1937 wrongly attributed to hydrogen, that is still in the mind of the society [21]. Despite the public perception, hydrogen is as safe as any other fuel if handled properly [22]. However, hydrogen cannot be found in its elemental form in nature, so it must be extracted from hydrogen-rich compounds.

As of 2018, the global demand for pure hydrogen is about 74 megatons (Figure 3), of which it is primarily used for ammonia production and conversion of heavier crude oils to lighter liquid fuels [23], [24]. The rapid growth in demand is primarily due to decreased availability of lighter crude oils which do not require much hydrogen for the conversion of gasoline whereas heavier crude oils require substantial amounts of hydrogen for gasoline conversion.



Figure 3. Global demand of pure hydrogen from 1975 to 2018 [23].

Another contributing factor for the hike in hydrogen fuel demand could be to the adaptation of the sustainable development goals by several countries set by the United Nations in 2015, where various novel policies and incentives that enhances hydrogen fuel technology is currently one of the top priorities [25].

Support from governments stimulates many companies to invest more on hydrogen technology. Several manufacturers are involved in the development of low-cost fuel cells which could result in hydrogen becoming a primary fuel for the entire transportation industry (Figure 4). This will result in excessive demand for hydrogen, nearly one to two orders of magnitude of current hydrogen demands within the next few decades [26].



Figure 4. Current policy support for hydrogen deployment, 2018 [23]

#### 1.3.1 Hydrogen production methods

Hydrogen can be extracted from diverse range of resources, such as biomass, natural gas, nuclear power, and renewable power like wind and solar. Nuclear energy provides a heat source which can be used for hydrogen production. Multiple methods for extracting hydrogen from water and heat are being studied. To be used for the production of hydrogen, the nuclear reactor must supply the heat under conditions that satisfy the requirements of the hydrogen production cycle [24]. Newer technologies are being developed for converting and storing the renewable energy sources in the form of  $H_2$  [27]. At present around 48% of hydrogen is produced by steam methane reforming of natural gas, 18% from coal gasification and 4% through electrolysis of water (Figure 5) [7], [13], [14], [28]–[31].



Figure 5. Sources of hydrogen production [32]

#### 1.3.1.1 Steam reforming:

Today, hydrogen is derived mainly from the steam reforming of natural gas. Steam reforming is an energy-intensive low-pressure endothermic process requiring heat input at high temperature. The input of natural gas is used as a reduced chemical supply of hydrogen and burned to produce heat to drive the cycle at temperatures up to 900°C [33]. Though steam reforming and coal gasification has high operational efficiency and low production costs, its by-products heavily contribute to the global warming other environmental problems. When a nuclear reactor provides the necessary heat, the amount of natural gas required for steam reform may be significantly reduced. The Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute is currently preparing to demonstrate hydrogen output by steam reforming the natural gas with the heat input provided by its HTTR (High-Temperature Engineering Test 9 Reactor) [33]. In Japan and other high-cost natural gas would cost less than natural gas alone [33].

#### 1.3.1.2 Electrolysis:

Production of hydrogen using electrolysis is a mature technology. It is not currently competitive for the large-scale production of hydrogen, except in the regions with lower electricity costs. The long-term use of electrolysis for large-scale hydrogen output depends on the nature of the electrical grid, the capital cost of the electrolysis, and other factors [24]. Present capital costs are expected to be close to \$600 / kW, while others predict future capital costs may be close to \$300 / kW. The efficiencies of traditional alkaline electrolyzers are 70–85% and the efficiencies of proton-exchange-membrane electrolyzers are estimated to be 80–90% [24]. There is a significant trade-off between the cost of capital and output [26]. The peak electric demand in many developed countries is twice the minimum requirement. Consequently, low-cost, off-peak electricity in such jurisdictions is often available. Electrolysis can be feasible, provided that effective, low-cost electrolysis systems and local hydrogen storage and distribution systems are successfully developed.

#### 1.3.1.3 Thermochemical cycle:

The thermochemical water decomposition cycle exhibits significant potential for alternative process for hydrogen extraction from water, as this is closed cyclic process with higher yields without any harmful effects to the environment [34]–[39]. In this cycle water is decomposed into hydrogen and oxygen using heat energy or combination of heat and electrical energy.

$$H_2 O(l) \to H_2(g) + \frac{1}{2} O_2(g)$$
 (1)

In the past various thermochemical water splitting cycles were investigated, using different energy sources. Abanades et al. [40] investigated the production of solar hydrogen from a two-step thermochemical cycle based on a redox reaction of  $SnO_2/SnO$ . Steinfeld [41] proposed a thermochemical cycle based on a Zn / ZnO redox reaction. Galvez et al. [42] investigated a two-step solar thermochemical process based on a redox reaction of MgO/Mg. Abanades and Flamant [43] demonstrated the feasibility of a solar thermochemical cycle, based on a CeO<sub>2</sub> / Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> cycle, at a laboratory scale. Huang and Raissi [44] examined the thermochemical process of sulfur-iodine, in which solar energy is used to decompose sulphuric acid.

Xinxin and Kaoru [45] researched the Sulfur-Iodine (S-I) cycle for nuclear-powered hydrogen production. Liberatore et al. [46] addressed the energy and economic evaluation of an industrial plant for hydrogen production through a thermochemical process of sulfur-iodine. The thermochemical cycle 's efficiency alone was around 34%, based on higher heat value. If this value is correlated with the output of electrical energy, including solar plant efficiency, the overall heat-to-hydrogen efficiency

was 21%. Graf et al. [47] explored the feasibility of sustainable development of hydrogen by solar energy and thermo-chemical cycles. The commercial electrolysis was compared with a metal oxide-based cycle and a hybrid sulfur cycle, and a sensitivity analysis was conducted for various cost scenarios.

Granovskii [48] presented a comparative performance assessment of the combined system by means of thermal and hydrogen production efficiencies including a supercritical water-cooled nuclear reactor and a chemical heat pump. The combined process can provide high temperature heat to a thermochemical water splitting cycle or hydrogen production.Lewis [15], [18], [19] examined alternate thermochemical cycles in hydrogen production. Their findings showed that with regard to energy-efficient engineering the copper-chlorine cycle is chemically viable and feasible. Dincer and Balta [49] discussed several possible hybrid cycles for the development of nuclear-based hydrogen production. The copper-chlorine cycle has proved to be a highly promising method for the production of hydrogen using nuclear energy.

Rosen [16] has documented recent developments in the thermochemical cycles of hydrogen production, using non-fossil sources of energy such as nuclear or solar. Numerous developments have been made on the sulfur-iodine cycle, and it has been shown that the copper-chlorine cycle has considerable potential due to lower heat supply temperature requirements compared with most other thermochemical processes which leads to lesser material demands for construction. Moreover, the thermochemical copper chlorine (Cu-Cl) has good kinetics for hydrogen and oxygen generation reactions compared to other similar chemical cycles. This Cu-Cl cycle has been recognized as the most promising cycle for thermochemical hydrogen production by the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) [50].

### 1.3.2 Thermochemical Copper Chlorine cycle (Cu-Cl) cycle

The thermochemical Cu-Cl cycle is identified as a promising clean hydrogen production method and a viable solution to producing fuel in large quantities. A sequence of reactions are performed in the thermochemical Cu-Cl cycle to achieve the overall splitting of water into  $H_2$  and oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>). This cycle typically forms a closed loop with water as the only input material and  $H_2$  and  $O_2$  as products. The cycle decomposes water into  $H_2$  and  $O_2$  using intermediate copper and chloride compounds, and all the intermediate chemicals produced are recycled in a closed internal loop on a continuous basis [4], [51]. The chemical reaction steps of thermochemical Cu-Cl cycle are detailed in Figure 6, where steps 7, 8, 9 are intermediate steps of the cycle.

The Cu-Cl cycle has three variants, depending on the number of key chemical reactions: three steps, four steps, and five steps. Naterer et al [17], [36]–[39], [50] and Lewis et al [15] have extensively researched on the working and feasibility of Cu-Cl cycle. The Cu-Cl cycle shown in Figure 6 is a four-step cycle adopted from Naterer's work with a change in step 7 (intermediate step).

Step 1:

$$2\operatorname{CuCl}(aq) + 2\operatorname{HCl}(aq) + 32.4\operatorname{H}_2O(l) \xrightarrow{363 \text{ K}} 2\operatorname{CuCl}_2(s) + 32.4\operatorname{H}_2O(l) + \operatorname{H}_2(g)$$
(2)

The electrolysis of CuCl / HCl is the first step in the four step Cu-Cl thermochemical cycle for hydrogen production. During the electrochemical reaction oxidation of copper(I) chloride (CuCl) occurs in the presence of hydrochloric acid (HCl) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O) to produce hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) and copper (II) chloride (CuCl<sub>2</sub>). The Cu(I) ion at the anode is oxidized to Cu (II), and the hydrogen ion at the cathode is reduced.

Step 2:

$$2\operatorname{CuCl}_{2}(aq) + 32.4\operatorname{H}_{2}O(l) \xrightarrow{573\mathrm{K}-673\mathrm{K}} 2\operatorname{CuCl}_{2}(s) + 32.4\mathrm{H}_{2}O(g)$$
(3)

Second step of the cycle is drying. Aqueous  $CuCl_2$  leaving the electrolysis cell is dried to create  $CuCl_2$  particles, which are then transferred to the hydrolysis unit (Step 3) and reacted with superheated steam to produce solid copper oxychloride,  $CuO \cdot CuCl_2$  and hydrogen chloride gas.

Step 3:

$$2\operatorname{CuCl}_2(s) + \operatorname{H}_2\operatorname{O}(g) \xrightarrow{648K} \operatorname{CuOCuCl}_2(s) + 2\operatorname{HCl}(g)$$
(4)

At step 4 of this cycle the CuCl is regenerated by decomposition of CuO·CuCl<sub>2</sub> at 530°C in the decomposition reactor. The regenerated CuCl is in the molten state, which after being cooled to 90°C will be dissolved in aqueous HCl to form the anolyte solution of the electrolysis step 1 [3], [4]. The temperature of molten CuCl obtained from the decomposition reactor ranges from 430°C to 530°C.

Step 4:

$$\operatorname{CuOCuCl}_{2}(s) \xrightarrow{723\mathrm{K}-803\mathrm{K}} 2\operatorname{CuCl}(l) + \frac{1}{2}O_{2}(g)$$
(5)



Figure 6. Stoichiometric chart of Cu-Cl cycle.

Several variants of copper-chlorine cycles were contrasted with different number of steps and grouping methods, and Wang et al [52] addressed major features of the cycles with different number of steps. Serban et al. [53] has provided a detailed kinetic analysis of the hydrogen and oxygen production reactions during the Cu-Cl process. Balta et al. [49] proposed a four-step Cu-Cl process of energy and exergy analysis, coupled with a geothermal source for hydrogen production. From the perspective of heat quantity, thermal efficiency and related engineering challenges, Wang et al. [54] compared the sulfur-iodine and copper-chlorine thermochemical cycles. Ghandehariun et al. [55] has analyzed a solar plant coupled with a Cu-Cl plant to produce hydrogen at three locations across Canada. The results demonstrated the feasibility of the solar thermochemical Cu-Cl cycle as a promising and efficient way to generate hydrogen on a large scale.

Naterer [17], [36], [39], [51] discussed Canadian developments in the nuclear-based processing of hydrogen via the Cu-Cl process. Orhan [56] researched the development of nuclear-based hydrogen using sea or brackish water using a hybrid cycle of Cu-Cl. Coupling of the Cu-Cl cycle with a desalination plant was analyzed in this study. Various desalination processes were examined to determine the most suitable option for the Cu-Cl cycle. Their tests are beneficial in developing and improving coupled systems. Orhan [57] has provided the cost analysis of a Cu-Cl thermochemical plant and the authors examined the cost sensitivity as a function of plant efficiency, capacity factor, and percentages of each cost variable. Zamfirescu [58] has studied the thermophysical properties of the copper compounds in the Cu-Cl cycle. Ozbilen [59] used life cycle assessment to present the environmental impacts of the Cu-Cl. Ferrandon [60] has studied the hydrolysis of CuCl<sub>2</sub> into CuO·CuCl<sub>2</sub> and HCl using a spray reactor. It was shown that, due to improved mass transfer, a counter-current flow reactor results in a substantially higher yield of CuO·CuCl<sub>2</sub> compared to a cocurrent flow. Naterer [61] analyzed the Cu-Cl cycle for the evaporative drying of aqueous copper (II) chloride (CuCl<sub>2</sub>) droplets. Before entering a flash evaporator to generate solid CuCl<sub>2</sub>, an aqueous  $CuCl_2$  stream leaving an electrochemical cell was preheated to 150°C. The results showed that, compared to evaporative drying in the spray drying process, the benefits of flashing the solution to improve drying were relatively small. Naterer [50] presented the thermal architecture of the oxygenproducing reactor for decomposing copper oxychloride into oxygen gas and molten cuprous chloride. Wang [62] examined the scale-up design problems in the copper-chlorine cycle for the hydrogen, oxygen, and hydrolysis reactors. In order to identify possible performance improvements in the cycle, Orhan [63] has researched various design schemes for the overall copper-chlorine cycle and its components.

### 1.3.3 Heat Recovery in the Copper-Chlorine Cycle

In the copper-chlorine cycle, heat recovery is crucial for the efficient performance and overall cycle viability [32], [44], [49]. Naterer [50] analyzed the heat requirements of different stages of the five-step copper-chlorine cycle. The authors analyzed the heat absorption and emission between the steps of the Cu-Cl cycle in order to recover as much heat as possible and to reduce the cycle's net heat supply. It has been shown that if all of the heat emitted is recovered within the cycle, the cycle output would increase significantly [50].

Jaber [64] studied heat recovery out of molten CuCl. A direct contact heat exchanger was proposed and the convective heat transfer in a counter-current spray flow between molten CuCl droplets was evaluated. The results showed that full heat recovery can be achieved with a diameter of the heat exchanger of 0.13 m and heights of 0.6 and 0.8 m for a droplet diameter of 1 and 0.5 mm respectively.

Zamfirescu explored the possibility of using copper(I) chloride as working fluid in a new vaporcompressed high-temperature heat pump. It has been shown that CuCl can be used as a working fluid in a vapor compression heat pump, and the copper-chlorine cycle oxygen reactor can be connected to the CuCl heat pump system.

Rabbani [65] presented a heat exchanger design which recovers heat from oxygen gas exiting the copper-chlorine cycle oxygen reactor. The best possible pathway for the recovering heat from oxygen was also investigated on the basis of energy and exergy. Most heat recovery inside the Cu-Cl cycle can be accomplished by cooling molten CuCl, exiting the cycle at around 530°C at the oxygen reactor. Since CuCl's melting point is around 430°C, the solidification takes place as molten CuCl cools. Ghandehariun [4] used pinch analysis to determine the maximum recoverable heat from CuCl. Based on existing industrial process on molten materials, Ghandehariun [4], [66]–[68] extensively studied heat recovery from molten salts for several configurations and found that direct contact using steam or air as coolant to be the most favorable method.

Manan et al [69] carried out an experiment on quenching CuCl directly into HCl at room temperature on different configurations and reported that quenching in HCl was not favorable due its vapor formation as it could enter the decomposition reactor, causing safety concerns. O'Connor [70], Linstrom and Mallard [71], Fritz and Konigsberger [72], Jianu et al. [73]–[75] comprehensively researched the dissolution of CuCl and developed correlations of ternary system in Cu-Cl cycle. The CuCl was found to be predominantly immiscible in water in the absence of HCl, as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7. Solubility difference of CuCl in binary and ternary systems [75]

Based on Ghandehariun, Manan [69] and Jianu's findings, the best way to recover maximum heat is to quench CuCl directly in water with inert  $N_2$  atmosphere. Quenching is a process where a hot material is soaked into a cold fluid and let the material cool rapidly, thus increasing the temperature of the cold fluid. Here water is used as a cold fluid and molten CuCl as hot material. Since the temperature of the step 1 (Figure 6) needs to be around 90°C. The molten CuCl is directly quenched into the water, obtained from step 7, and the quenched water is used in the electrolysis step as shown in Figure 6. The amount of water for quenching is calculated based on the stoichiometric proportion in step 3. The quenching process of molten CuCl involves liquid to solid phase change since the temperature of molten CuCl is close to its phase change temperature. The quenching in water is necessary as gaseous HCl from the hydrolysis reactor (step 3 in Figure 6) is added forming the aqueous HCl solution required for CuCl dissolution. By recovering heat during quenching of CuCl, the thermal efficiency of the cycle is increased making the cycle a suitable hydrogen production method [64], [66].

#### 1.3.4 Heat Transfer and Solidification of Droplet

Determining the transition of temperature of a solidifying droplet is vital for the heat recovery process. Modelling solidification of a droplet by itself is a convoluted process and it becomes more complex with introduction of forced convection. In the past, the forced convection heat transfer rate has been studied for a number of process configurations. The Nusselt number for the sphere immersed in a stationary infinite media in a steady state is 2 [76]. A functional dependency on Reynolds and Prandtl numbers were analyzed [76].

Richardson [77] proposed that the transfer of heat from the sphere can be seen as two parallel processes. The contribution to the Nusselt number should be of the form  $Re^{1/2}Pr^{1/3}$  in the laminar boundary layer region, whereas in the wake region the contribution should be of the form  $Re^{2/3}Pr^{1/3}$  [77]. The final form of equation for the Nusselt number was found with the work of Vliet and Leppert [78] and the supporting data of Kramers [79]:

$$Nu = 2 + \left(0.4Re^{\frac{1}{2}} + 0.06Re^{\frac{2}{3}}\right)Pr^{\frac{2}{5}} \left(\frac{\mu_{\infty}}{\mu_{s}}\right)^{1/4}$$
(6)

This correlation is valid for  $3.5 < \text{Re} < 7.6*10^4$ , 0.71 < Pr < 380 and  $1 < \frac{\mu_{\infty}}{\mu_s} < 3.2$ . In some special cases Ranz and Marshall [80] correlations were used for modelling the convective heat and mass transfer of spheres.

When a droplet breaks away from the feeding system, it may oscillate in shape, and the formation process may cause some internal motion. As the droplet accelerates, the shear stress on the surface generates internal circulation and the aerodynamic forces tend to distort the droplet's shape. In the Ranz-Marshall [80] correlation, Yao and Schrock [81] suggested a transient correction factor which is responsible for the effects of vibration and droplet shape distortion as it falls. Two different methods were proposed by the authors for modeling heat transfer inside a droplet, one by assuming a uniform temperature within the droplet and the other by solving the equation for internal heat conduction. Due to the internal mixing within the droplet results in a uniform temperature inside it. The contributions of drop distortion and internal resistance are difficult to account for precisely. However, Yao and Schrock 's [81] estimated empirical method provides precise predictions for water droplets with diameters varying from 3 mm to 6 mm. A numerical model was developed by Argyropoulos and Melissari [82] to describe the transport phenomena involved when a melting sphere is immersed in a moving fluid. This model was used to estimate the melting times of different spheres submerged in fluids with different Prandtl numbers. A dimensionless heat transfer correlation was proposed over a sphere for forced convection, and the findings were compared with experimental data for liquid metals and water. Analysis of a droplet's solidification is of considerable significance in the spray crystallisation study. spray crystallisation is a process of solidification of liquid by atomization in relatively cold atmosphere [83]. This process is mainly used for powdering materials such as metals, pharmaceuticals, food products and artificial snow [84]-[87]. Free flight and levitation are the two

common techniques for studying single droplets. In the free flight study droplet is allowed to free fall and the observations are made at different droplet heights by measuring appropriate variables. In the case of levitation study, droplet remains constant as the fluid around it flows past it.



Figure 8. Droplet suspended on a thermocouple junction [88].

Techniques for levitation can be either non-intrusive or intrusive. Intrusive approaches include either hanging a droplet on a thin mesh or plate, or on a thermocouple junction. The suspension of droplets on the thermocouple junctions was widely used in earlier studies (Figure 8) [87], [89], [90]. In the non-intrusive technique droplets are levitated using electrostatic, electromagnetic or aerodynamic forces, as shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10 [91]–[93]. Unlike intrusive method, the non-intrusive method can replicate actual conditions since there is no interference in any form. Though non-intrusive technique has significant advantage over intrusive method, non-intrusive technique is not often preferred because of its limited application and expensive experimental setups.



Figure 9. Levitation of droplet using magnetic field [94].



Figure 10. Electrostatic levitation of a Titanium-Zirconium-Nickel alloy [95].

Several investigations were carried out in the field of solidification in the processes of atomization [96], [97]. Liu et al. [98] investigated interactions between droplet and gas in spray atomization of tantalum-tungsten (Ta-2.5W) alloy with nitrogen as gas. To simulate the flow and heat transfer phenomena of the rapid solidification of droplets in the spray cone, a simple two-dimensional (2D) flow model and a lumped parameter formulation based on the modified Newton's cooling law was developed. The concentration of droplets in the atomization gas was presumed to be sufficiently diluted, so that interactions between droplets are ignored. The gas flow was not solved but the gas velocity distribution was assumed to have an exponential correlation.

In an atomization process for powder production, Zeoli et al [99], [100] developed a numerical model which combines both a cooling process and break-up in a single computation. FLUENT, a commercial software, was used for computing the gas flow. The evaluations showed that the droplets during the gas atomization have very similar profiles. It was found that the in-flight distance was a major factor affecting the atomization and solidification processes of droplets.

In another study, Li et al [101] developed a simulation method for predicting the solidification of gasatomized droplets of Sn-5% Pb (on a mass basis). The model predicts the nucleation mode, the time and duration of recalescence (a temporary rise in temperature during cooling of a metal caused by a change in crystal structure), the undercooling, the duration of the post-recalescence plateau, and the solid fraction at the end of recalescence. During solidification they assumed a uniform droplet temperature and followed the model DiVenuti [102] suggested for droplet temperature variation. Unlike the current research, the aim of all these works was to solidify instead of heat recovery.
Several studies have been reported on spray tower heat exchangers, regarding heat and mass transfer characteristics between continuous and dispersed phases. Song et al. [92] developed a analytical solution for a simple model with direct contact heat transfer between two immiscible liquids. Jaber et al. [64], [103] developed a model with molten CuCl and analysed the droplet flow and heat transfer in a counter-current spray flow heat exchanger.

# 1.3.5 Description of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl)

The thermophysical properties of CuCl are essential for studying heat recovery methods to improve performance and efficiency of the thermochemical Cu-Cl cycle [104], [105]. The transition temperature of CuCl is reported as 703K [106]. The CuCl in the solid phase is in the form of  $\gamma$ - cubic structure until it reaches 683K, and as a  $\beta$  - hexagonal crystal from 683K to its melting point [50], [58]. These structures influence the specific heat capacity (c<sub>p</sub>) of the molten salt, hence playing a crucial role in the heat transfer study. However, the lack of precise thermophysical properties on CuCl heavily hinders the detailed investigations of heat recovery from molten CuCl. In this thesis, a new method is developed to determine the thermophysical property of CuCl and silver chloride (AgCl) as the molten salts are changing phases to solid. This is achieved by correlating electrochemistry data with thermal data. A model that predicts the specific heat capacity during phase change process is developed in this thesis based on the existing electromotive force (EMF) and thermal data from literature.

## 1.3.6 Description of Silver Chloride (AgCl)

To develop new model EMF data is essential. Due to the lack of literature data on CuCl, an alternate material AgCl was chosen for this study since it exhibits similar structure to CuCl and thermophysical data is available in literature. Moreover, AgCl and CuCl both have the same face-centered cubic crystal (fcc) structure like NaCl and they also belong to the same group in the periodic table. The solid to liquid phase transition temperature of AgCl is 728K [106]. Even though the melting point temperature varies considerably with CuCl, for the purpose of validating the methodology AgCl is well suited.

## 1.4 Thesis Outline

The thesis is laid out in six chapters.

Chapter 2 contains the literature review of the thermophysical properties and discuss about different methods of determining the properties.

Chapter 3 details the results of the thermophysical properties obtained from different methods.

Chapter 4 is based on heat recovery study CuCl. It details about the numerical analysis and the CFD model developed in COMSOL Multiphysics and the overview of governing equations for the numerical study and discusses the simulated results in detail.

Chapter 5 presents the conclusion with the findings of the research summarized and provides recommendations for future work.

# Chapter 2 - Methods to Determine Thermophysical Properties

## 2.1 Introduction

For any scientific analysis, material and thermophysical properties are mandatory. Thermophysical properties are strongly dependent on molecular and atomic structure. Thermophysical properties comprise of thermal conductivity, specific heat capacity, latent heat of fusion, viscosity and the coefficient of linear thermal expansion. Specifically, in the heat recovery study the specific heat capacity data plays a crucial role in determining the amount of energy that could be recovered. So, this chapter is mainly focused on methods of determining specific heat capacity and their existing literature data of AgCl and CuCl.

## 2.2 Methodology

Behaviour of materials varies drastically at different temperature ranges, therefore, it would be inaccurate to use a single method to determine the specific heat capacities at different temperatures. The variation in specific heat capacity with temperature has to be modelled using distinctive physical approaches at different temperatures. At very low temperatures specific heat capacity is modelled using Debye's model. For the temperatures beyond melting point, specific heat capacity is determined using Gibbs-Helmholtz relation. Mainly calorimetry data is used for the temperature range from 298K till the solid to liquid phase change temperatures.

## 2.2.1 Quantum Mechanics Approach

To understand quantum mechanics, it is necessary to grasp the fundamentals of classical mechanics and know how it differs from quantum mechanics. In the early twentieth century, the word classical mechanics was coined to describe the method of mathematical physics started by Isaac Newton and other contemporary seventeenth-century workers, building upon Johannes Kepler 's earlier astronomical theories [107]. At initial stage of the development of classical mechanics, it was commonly referred as Newtonian mechanics since most of the physical concepts and mathematical methods were invented and employed by Newton himself [108]. Newton proposed three laws of motion, the law of inertia, law of acceleration and the rule of action and reaction, and thereby laid the foundations for classical mechanics. Both the second and third laws of Newton were given adequate scientific and mathematical treatment hence distinguishes them from earlier attempts to explain similar phenomena, which were either incomplete, incorrect, or given little accurate mathematical expression [107], [108]. Also, Newton was the first to formulate correct scientific and mathematical relations for gravity in Newton's law of universal gravitation. The combination of Newton's laws of motion and gravitation offers the most comprehensive and accurate explanation of classical mechanics.



Figure 11. Physics fields (adopted from [109])

In general, classical mechanics is applicable to larger objects with lower velocity whereas in quantum mechanics describes the behaviour of subatomic particles at the nanoscopic level, as shown in Figure 11. It is theorised that at the subatomic level energy can only be released and absorbed in discrete indivisible units called quanta [110]. This means electrons have fixed orbits around the nucleus of the atom as their energy comes in discrete amounts. When the electron gets excited or de-excited they absorb or emit a specific quanta of energy which means they leap from one orbit to another without inhabiting the space in between - this is called the quantum leap, as shown in Figure 12. In essence there are places within the atom that the electron will likely be and other places where they will not since energy is being absorbed and released in discrete units.



Figure 12. Quantum leap of electrons due to excitation and emission of quanta [111]



Figure 13. Model of atomic structure [108]

A famous experiment in quantum physics named the double slit experiment revealed that electrons display both particle and wave-like behaviour [113]. To get a perspective, sound is a good example of wave (a form of vibrations or oscillations). Similarly, an electron behaves like a wave in fixed orbits as shown in Figure 13.

Louis de Broglie hypothesized that all particles should also exhibit such a duality [114], as represented in Equation (7), which means every object in this world should posses wave nature. But in reality, we do not observe the wave nature in any of the objects, because wavelength is inversely proportional to the mass. The greater the mass, the shorter will be the wavelength,  $\lambda$ , which is given by Eq. 7:

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{mv} \tag{7}$$

where  $\lambda$  is the wavelength, h is planks constant, m is the mass of a particle, v is the velocity. Since electrons' mass is very small, its wavelength is in the order of 10<sup>-10</sup>m, whereas larger objects such as a baseball will have a wavelength of around 10<sup>-36</sup>m.

Erwin Schrodinger developed wave equation to describe the wave mechanics of the electron [115]. As a result. The model of an atom being comprised of electrons revolving around a nucleus similar to how planets revolve around a star in no longer valid. Instead an electron is modeled as a cloud of probability density that represents regions where the electron can be found.

Quantum mechanics serves as a foundation for the condensed matter physics (CMP). CMP explores the fundamental properties of matter in its condensed state at macroscopic and microscopic level, by analyzing the interactions of large number of atoms and electrons in both crystalline and amorphous materials. Crystalline materials have atoms positioned on a repeating three-dimensional lattice whereas the atoms in the amorphous materials are not arranged in regular fashion, as shown in Figure 14. Lattice vibrations are the vibrations of the atoms inside a crystal. The quantum mechanical treatment of lattice vibrations is called phonons i.e. energy in the lattice vibrations can be quantized and these packets of vibrational energy are called phonons.



Figure 14. Structure of Solids (a) Crystalline, (b) Amorphous [116]

In 1819, Dulong and Petit [117] experimentally found that the heat capacities of many solids are around 3R, where R is the universal gas constant. This was in agreement with classical statistical theory of Boltzman, where the specific heat capacity is measured with the modes of vibrations with quadratic potential and kinetic energy terms [118]. When Weber and Dewar [119] measured the heat capacities of diamond over a wide range of temperature, they found that at very high temperature the specific heat capacity reaches the Dulong and Petit limit but at low temperature specific heat

systematically drops to low values indicating that it may approach zero. This study helped them to conclude that specific heat capacity is a function of temperature. Boltzman theory was unable to explain the variation of specific heat capacity at low temperatures.

In 1906, Einstein attempted to solve this by considering these vibrations at the atomic lattice as phonons with plank's quantum theory which states that the energy of the oscillator is quantized which must be an integer multiple  $\hbar\omega$  [120]. Where  $\hbar$  is  $h/2\pi$ , h is the planks constant and  $\omega$  is angular frequency of oscillator. Einstein assumed that atoms in the solids are identical and are uncoupled oscillators vibrating at the same frequency. Even though Einstein's model could capture the essential physics of specific heat, due to his assumptions, it was unable to predict the accurate variations of specific heat at very low temperatures. In reality, oscillators were not vibrating at the same frequency instead they were vibrating at a spectrum of frequencies [121]. Debye [121] used this assumption to model the specific heat capacity and determined that specific heat capacity is proportional to T<sup>3</sup>. This model's limit is given by Debye's temperature ( $\theta_D$ ). Debye's model follows the Dulong-Petits [117] law at high temperatures. Debye's model only works for the materials at low temperature in their condensed state. As anharmonic vibrations start to appear, Debye's model becomes invalid.



Figure 15. Temperature dependence on molar heat capacity for different solids [116]

During heat addition at very low temperature, the atoms in the crystals tend to vibrate harmonically. From the Dulong-Petits law at high temperatures, the specific heat capacity should remain constant (Figure 15). But due to the imperfections in the crystal, the atoms in the solid starts vibrating anharmonically, which leads to thermal expansion and increase in specific heat capacity. A profound study on anharmonic vibrations within the solids may lead to accurate prediction of specific heat capacity and thermal expansion.

## 2.2.2 Thermal Measurements

The general method to measure specific heat capacity is using calorimetry. In this process the amount of heat absorbed or released is measured with calibrated object as reference. When two bodies at different temperatures are placed in physical contact, the heat is transferred from high to low temperature body. By law of conservation of energy, heat lost by hot body is gained by the cold body. Specific heat capacity of the hot body is calculated based on the known calibrated cold body.

There are several types of calorimeters namely, adiabatic calorimeter, reaction calorimeter, bomb calorimeter, calvet-type calorimeter, constant-pressure calorimeter, differential scanning calorimeter (DSCs), and isothermal titration calorimeter [122].

An adiabatic calorimeter [122] does not release heat to surroundings, and it works under zero heat exchange conditions. This is mainly used to measure the enthalpy change in the system during crystallization, mixing, dilution, or some other form of energy changing process. Since enthalpy calculation in a system involves consideration of both the kinetic and thermodynamic loss of heat measurements, adiabatic calorimeters are usually more robust than many other types and can be used in explosion-prone systems. There are two common forms of adiabatic calorimeters: adiabatic pressure dewar calorimeter (ADC) and accelerating rate calorimeter (ARC). ADC calorimeters can operate at lower pressures and are scalable up to one liter [122].

Reaction calorimeters [122] can be used to capture both endothermic and exothermic changes occurring during the reaction. Common types of reaction calorimeters are heat balance, constant flux, heat flow, and power compensation colorimeters [122]. It is a real-time non-destructive and non-invasive technique that is safe for scaling up and for the hazardous process.

Bomb calorimeters [122] are robust and are generally made out of steel. This type of colorimeter is used for estimating enthalpy of combustion in a reaction. During the reaction phase, these calorimeters can withstand the explosive effects of both the induced pressure and the exothermic release. These calorimeters operate by using a substitution method to calculate the enthalpy of combustion, where the heat extracted from the sample is assessed against the heat release of a known norm. Inside the calorimeter, the heat emitted is absorbed and the temperature change is measured [122].

Calvet-type calorimeters [122] are commonly used to calculate the changes in enthalpy during sublimation reactions and to evaluate material behavior. Constant pressure calorimeters are one of the

simplest forms and it measures the enthalpy change of a solution reaction while maintaining constant pressure [122].

DSCs [122] are a common class of calorimeters and used both in industrial and academic applications. By calculating the heat emitted from a sample, DSCs measure the enthalpy change in the endothermic and exothermic process. DSCs are widely used for measuring latent heat of melting, the heat of fusion, reaction energy, reaction temperature of polymeric materials [122].

In calorimetry it is very difficult to study the specific heat capacity beyond materials solid-liquid phase change. Since the phase change process has significant influence on the specific heat capacity determinations, a different approach has to be used in which effect of the phase change is minimal. The science of electrochemistry can be used for exploring the specific heat capacity in the phase change.

#### 2.2.3 Electro-Magnetic Force Method

Electrochemistry mainly focuses on the chemical reactions that involves the movement of electrons. These electron movements are otherwise called electricity, that can be produced by the transfer of electrons from one element to another in a reaction known as the redox (reduction and oxidation) reaction. These redox reactions can be either endothermic (heat absorption) or exothermic (heat rejection) Robert Mayer [123] was the first to point out that there is a relation between chemical and electrical energy. Helmholtz [124], [125] speculated that the all the chemical energy lost reappeared in the electrical form. Later investigations by Raoult [124], Thomsen [124] and Braun [124] showed experimentally that the electrical energy may be either greater or less than the heat of chemical reaction. Gibbs and Helmholtz [124], [125] theoretically came to the same conclusion. Helmoltz called that portion of whole heat energy which can be transformed into electrical energy as free energy and the portion which cannot be transformed as bound energy. Total energy is the sum of free energy and bound energy. Gibbs-Helmholtz relation is represented in Equation (8):

$$E = \frac{H}{nF} + T\frac{dE}{dt}$$
(8)

where E is the emf (mV), F is the Faraday's constant (C/mol), H is the heat of reaction (J, amount of heat added or removed during a chemical reaction), n is the valance ion and T is the absolute temperature. It is observed that if  $\frac{dE}{dt} = 0$  or T =0, then nfE = H in other words electrical energy

produced is equal to the heat energy absorbed from the surroundings. If  $\frac{dE}{dt} > 0$  or the temperature coefficient is positive, then the electrical energy is greater than the heat of reaction. If  $\frac{dE}{dt} < 0$  or temperature coefficient is negative, then heat of reaction is greater than electrical energy.

$$H = nF\left(E - T\frac{dE}{dt}\right) \tag{9}$$

Mellenchamp [124] experimented with simple concentration cells, made up of various solutions for which the heats of dilution (enthalpy change) was determined, and were investigated with reference to the application of the Gibbs-Helmholtz equation.

Barieau [126] details some misconceptions on Gibbs-Helmholtz relation was caused due to incorrect cell reactions by Lewis and Randall [127]. According to Lewis and Randall [127], Gibbs-Helmholtz relation was not applicable for the electromotive cells with concentration changing with temperature. Barieau [126] states with confidence that Gibbs-Helmholtz relation is directly applicable for any reversible galvanic cells as the Gibbs-Helmholtz equation is derived from very general principles involving the relationship between isothermal entropy change and corresponding temperature coefficient of reversible work. Gibbs Helmholtz relation is used for determining the emf, and since it is related to heat of reaction it can be used to determine H when emf and temperature are known. The other forms of Gibbs-Helmholtz equation and the relation between H and specific heat capacity are given by Equation (9), (10) and (11) [128]:

$$\left[\frac{\partial \left(\frac{\Delta G}{T}\right)}{\partial T}\right]_{p} = \frac{-\Delta H}{T^{2}}$$
(10)

$$\left[\frac{\partial\Delta H}{\partial T}\right]_p = \Delta C_p \tag{11}$$

Estimating specific heat capacity using this method is best suited for the temperatures from the solid to liquid phase transition point. This technique fails below the solid to liquid phase transition temperature as the mobility of ions is heavily hindered as it changes its phase from liquid to solid.

## 2.2.4 Summary of Methodology

Each of the above methodologies has its own set of limitations and they are well suited at specific temperature ranges. As discussed earlier, determining specific heat using Debye's model is well suited at lower temperatures, and it fails as soon as the anharmonic vibrations starts to appear. Debye's model limit is given by Debye's temperature and it varies with material to material.

Calorimetry method can be applied for a wide temperature range as it just involves heat exchange between two bodies. Though several new types of calorimetery and data analysis techniques are developed estimating specific heats using calorimetry at phase transition is extremely difficult and it bound have more errors [129].

In the case of EMF method, due to hindrance of mobility of ions in the solid state calculating specific heat in the solid state is not possible. This Gibbs-Helmholtz relation works well on and above solid to liquid phase transition temperature. Approximate temperature range and best suited model for estimating specific heat is listed in the Table 1.

Table 1. Best suited method to estimate specific heat at approximate temperature ranges. (\* approximate temperature)

Temperature (K)	Best suited model for estimating c <sub>p</sub>
0 – 298*	Debye's model
298* – Phase transition temperature	Calorimetry
On and above phase transition temperature	Calorimetry and emf method

# 2.3 Literature of Thermophysical Properties of AgCl

## 2.3.1 Heat Capacity of AgCl

In the case of AgCl, Berg [130] used calorimetry to determine the  $c_p$  up to 20 K, which agrees well with Eastman and Milner's [131] data as a function of temperature to 292 K. Harteck and Clusius [132] also reported on  $c_p$  under 20 K. The Debye's temperature of AgCl is 280 K [133]. Maqsood [134] concluded that at below 5 K,  $c_p$  follows the Debye's T<sup>3</sup> law and flattens out as it reaches near room temperature. Akdere [135] performed classical molecular dynamics simulation for calculating the temperature dependence of molar heat capacities on AgCl by using constant volume-energy (NVE) and constant pressure-temperature (NPT) models at both solid and liquid phases. NVE estimates are in accord with Rycerz's [136] differential calorimetry data. Kubashewski [137] and Pankratz [138] heat capacities data have some discrepancies near the melting point region as shown in Figure 16. Reynolds and Laskar [139] speculated that the excess increase of specific heat capacity in silver halides at high temperatures is due to the defects in the crystal structure. Laskar [140], [141] extensively studied the enthalpies and diffusivity of silver halides and compared them with Kobayashi's [141] experimental work. The author also studied how the defects in the crystal structure affects the Gibbs free energy.



Figure 16. Variation of specific heat capacity of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature. Data adopted from [131], [132], [134]–[138]

Figure 16 illustrates the specific heat data at different temperatures collected from various literature sources. Though literature data are pretty much consistent both before and after the solid to liquid phase transition temperature, including additional data sets to the exiting will result in accurate model of  $c_p$ . As discussed in previous section, Gibbs-Helmholtz relation can be implemented to acquire more data sets on  $c_p$ , specifically beyond the solid to liquid phase transition temperature. Variation of EMF with temperature is necessary for applying Gibbs-Helmholtz relation.

#### 2.3.1.1 Literature study of EMF variation of AgCl

Initial literature study for extracting EMF variation data set showed that most of the EMF studies related to AgCl are performed on binary or ternary solutions of AgCl. Only those studies which had the results with AgCl mole fraction as one was only considered and they are listed below.

Wilde [142] used the electronic commutator technique, for accurate EMF prediction, and developed a relation between the enthalpy and temperature for fused halides. Metz [143] measured the EMF of the halides in non-isothermal conditions and combined them with the isothermal data to derive the EMF values of the silver halides. Mari and Terzaghi [144] studied the EMF variations of the halides in a mixture of nitrogen, chlorine atmosphere at different pressures. Pelton [145] and Panish [146], [147] conducted several experiments with various mixtures of alkali chlorides and silver chloride at different mole fractions and studied the effect of composition on EMF at different temperatures. Pelton [145] developed a semiquantitative method for the dual bonding model in which ionic and covalent silver coexist. Guion [148] conducted similar experiments like Panish but with ternary solutions and developed a relation between EMF and temperature.



Figure 17. Electromotive force (EMF) of AgCl as function of temperature. Data extracted from literatures [142], [146], [147], [149]–[152]

Pelloux [153] also followed a similar approach in which a completely oxygen-free environment was maintained by using a chlorine atmosphere. Markov and Kuzyakin [154] studied the temperature dependence of the thermopotential of the cell for different silver halides. Senderoff and Mellors [155], [156] experimental EMF data agrees well with Salstrom [151], Sterns [150] and Janz [157] data which led him to believe that data calculated by Hamer [152] from Brewer's [158] data were similar at low temperatures (773K) but at very high temperatures (1173K) it was off by 15mV. Based on the work presented in the literature review section, the EMF data has been extracted across these studies and plotted against the temperature as shown in Figure 17. In the solid state there are only two data sets reported from Panish [146], [147] and Hamer [152] and the EMF increases rapidly as the temperatures

fall below the phase transition temperature 727 K. The data sets from Figure 17 are curve fitted and used for modelling the variation of specific heat with temperature, explored in detail in Section 3.1.

#### 2.3.2 Other Properties: Thermal Conductivity, Density, Viscosity

The solid to liquid phase transition temperature of AgCl is 727 K. For AgCl, the thermal conductivity (k) is given by Equation (12) and (13) for the temperature ranges 77 K< T <727 K and 727 K< T <900K respectively [134].

$$k_{AgCl} = 296T^{-1} \tag{12}$$

$$k_{AgCl} = ((2.7187e - 08)T^2) - 0.00011153T + 0.24499$$
(13)

The dynamic viscosity (µ) of AgCl is given by Equation (14) [157], [159], [160].

$$\mu_{AaCl} = A + BT + CT^2 + DT^3 \tag{14}$$

where A= 6.91305, B=-0.447411E-02, C=-6.49368E-06, D=5.41584E-09. The variation of density, thermal conductivity and viscosity with temperature are plotted in Figure 18, 19 and 20 for AgCl.



Figure 18. Variation of Density of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature



Figure 19. Variation of thermal conductivity of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature



Figure 20. Variation of dynamic viscosity of Silver Chloride (AgCl) as a function of temperature

# 2.4 Thermophysical Properties of CuCl

#### 2.4.1 Heat Capacity of CuCl

The CuCl exhibits  $\gamma$ - cubic structure and  $\beta$  - hexagonal crystal for the temperatures below and above 683 K. Influence of these structures on  $c_p$  of the molten salt plays a crucial role in the heat transfer study. At very low-temperature specific heat variation was studied by Vardeny [161] using the quantum mechanics model. Chase [162] used Shomate's equation to describe the specific heat capacity, but it does not show  $c_p$  variation during the  $\gamma$ - $\beta$  transition. Further studies by Chase [162] give the enthalpy change of CuCl, which is comparable to the values stated by Zamfirescu [58] and Avsec et al [163]. Data reported by Knacke [164] and Avsec [163] falls close in regard to the enthalpy and  $\gamma$ - $\beta$  transition but they have a discrepancy in specific heats in the  $\beta$  and liquid phase of CuCl, as in Figure 21. Zamfirescu [58] discussed the thermophysical properties of CuCl in detail and developed an equation for specific heat capacity however, the results were concluded only from Knacke's [164] hence results and are not validated.



Figure 21. Variation of specific heat capacity of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of temperature. Data adopted from[161], [162], [164]–[166]

#### 2.4.1.1 Literature study of EMF variation of CuCl

Similar to AgCl, most of the EMF literature studies on CuCl are with binary or ternary solutions of CuCl. Unlike AgCl, most of those studies did not include the EMF findings with mole fraction of CuCl as 1. A study conducted by Glazltzoglou [167] [168] included the EMF variation for pure CuCl, as shown in Figure 22. During the experimentation of high temperature batteries, Sudworth [169] experimentally measured the EMF variation with temperature for CuCl.



Figure 22. Electromotive force (EMF) of CuCl as function of temperature. [167]-[169]

## 2.4.2 Other Properties: Thermal Conductivity, Density, Viscosity

Zamfirescu [58] reported that CuCl is considered a molecular liquid above its melting point. Due to the absence of experimental data, the low temperature molecular liquid's empirical relations are used for both dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity for CuCl as given in Equation (15) and (16):

$$\mu_{CuCl} = 0.365 \exp\left(-6.95 + \frac{1418}{T}\right) \tag{15}$$

$$k_{CuCl} = \frac{0.19(1 - T_r)^{0.38}}{T_r^{1/6}}$$
(16)

where  $T_r$  is the reduced temperature ( $T_r = T/T_c$ ) and  $T_c$  is the critical temperature. The variation of density, thermal conductivity and viscosity with temperature are plotted in Figure 23, 24 and 25 for CuCl.



Figure 23. Variation of density of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of temperature[170]



Figure 24. Variation of thermal conductivity of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of temperature[170]



Figure 25. Variation of dynamic viscosity of Cuprous Chloride (CuCl) as a function of temperature[170]

# Chapter 3 - Heat Capacity Results of AgCl and CuCl

# 3.1 Modelling of Heat Capacity of AgCl

The EMF values in Figure 17 was curve fitted using least square method and the curve is used to determine the enthalpy using Equation (9), (10) and (11). The calculated enthalpy values agree well with the values reported by Janz [157]. The  $c_p$  is calculated from the evaluated enthalpy values using Equation (9) and with the reference data from Table 2. The computed specific heat capacity data has been plotted against temperature as shown in Figure 26. There is a steep increase in specific heat below the melting point. This is due to the hindrance in mobility of ions in the solid state.



Figure 26. Variation of specific heat capacity of AgCl and CuCl with temperature derived from EMF sources

Table 2. Thermal properties of AgCl

Description	Values
Melting point	727 [K]
Heat capacity at 298 [K][171]	50.8 [J/molK]
$\Delta$ H at 728 [K] (Form thermal sources)[157]	25.55 [kcal/mole]
EMF at 728 [K][157]	0.9132 [V]
$\Delta H_{EMF}$ at 728 [K] (Derived from EMF)[157]	25.98 [kcal/mole]

During an electrochemical process, silver ions and chlorine ions migrate and get deposited on the respective electrodes. The mobility of the ions rely upon the material properties and temperature of the material [172], [173]. As the AgCl changes its phase from liquid to solid, the ionic mobility is heavily hindered. The effect of this phenomenon is reflected well, in Figure 26, in the form of uncharacteristic behavior of  $c_p$  as the temperature goes low. A similar effect can be observed where the EMF increases rapidly as the temperature abates below the melting point. So, the EMF derived  $c_p$  values have been neglected due to erratic behavior of  $c_p$  in the solid-state. The  $c_p$  values beyond the melting point show a downtrend and slowly stabilizes to a constant value. Though the values reported in other literature and this study vary around 5 J/molK the trend is analogous to the literature where values remain almost constant after the melting point [136], [138], [164]. This variation could be due to the errors involved in the EMF measurement in the literature that ranges from 0.5mV to 3mV, which translates to approximately 1 to 4J/molK in  $c_p$ . Moreover, the EMF data extracted from the literature uses different techniques for experiments.

The data from Figure 16 has been combined with the EMF derived  $c_p$  values of AgCl from Figure 26 and shown in Figure 27 with error bounds. Along with the calculated values of  $c_p$  in solid-state from Figure 26, some values from the simulated data sets of NPT and NVE were also neglected due to drastic variations, especially near the melting point regions. The compiled data has been curve fitted using the least square method, and the curve is defined using Equation (17) and the corresponding coefficients are tabulated in Table 3.

In Matlab, the norm of residuals represents the goodness of the fit, where a smaller value indicates a better fit than a larger value. The residual values of the developed heat capacity model for AgCl varies from 0 to 40 at different temperatures, which is an acceptable considering the inconsistency between various literature sources.



Figure 27. Consolidated specific heat capacity of AgCl as function of temperatures from EMF and thermal sources[130]– [132], [134]–[138]

$$c_p = AT^5 + BT^4 + CT^3 + DT^2 + ET + F$$
(17)

Table 3. Values of A, B, C, D, E and F in the AgCl specific heat capacity equation (17)

Temperature[K]	Coefficient					
remperature[K]	Α	В	С	D	Ε	F
T < 28.39	5.9E-06	-3.9E-04	8.4E-03	-4.2E-02	7.4E-02	-1.6E-02
28.39 < T < 284.4	7.7E-12	-1.6E-08	1.2E-05	-4.4E-03	7.6E-01	-1.8E+00
284.4 < T < 727		2.1E-09	-4.0E-06	2.7E-03	-7.6E-01	1.3E+02
727 < T < 900				1.9E-04	-3.3E-01	2.1E+02

# 3.2 Modelling Specific Heat Capacity of CuCl

The EMF data for CuCl is presented by Glazltzoglou [167]. On comparing the EMF values of AgCl and CuCl, the slopes of the lines defined by the data look nearly parallel with some offset as shown in Figure 28. The angle between the curve fitted line of AgCl and CuCl is  $1.96^{\circ}$ . Since the angle between the curve fitted lines is relatively small, both the lines are assumed to be parallel to each other. As CuCl and AgCl EMF values follow a linear trend, their  $c_p$  values will also follow a similar trend and their offset is determined using the reference from Linde [166], as shown in Figure 26. Linde's [166] specific heat data is used for reference as it is the only data set that is comparable with specific heat values calculated using Debye's model by Slack [165] and Vardney [161], as shown in Figure 29.



Figure 28. Comparison of EMF between AgCl and CuCl as function of temperature. AgCl data adopted from [167]

Similarly to AgCl, the EMF derived  $c_p$  values beyond the solid to liquid phase transition point is considered for CuCl. This EMF derived  $c_p$  data set is combined with the  $c_p$  values determined using thermal sources and Debye's model to form a hybrid model, as shown in Figure 29. This data set has been curve fitted using least square method and characterized using Equation (18) and their respective

coefficients are given in Table 4. The residual values of the heat capacity model developed for CuCl range from 0 to 60 at different temperatures, which is appropriate despite the discrepancies between different sources in the literature.

$$c_p = AT^6 + BT^5 + CT^4 + DT^3 + ET^2 + FT + G$$
(18)

Table 4. Values of A, B, C, D, E and F in the CuCl specific heat capacity Equation (18)

Temperature [K]	Coefficient						
	Α	В	С	D	Ε	F	G
1< T<20	-6.4E-06	1.5E-02	-1.1E+01	2.9E+03			
20 <t<135.4< td=""><td>4.9E-09</td><td>-1.8E-06</td><td>-1.1E-03</td><td>4.9E-01</td><td>3.0E-01</td><td></td><td></td></t<135.4<>	4.9E-09	-1.8E-06	-1.1E-03	4.9E-01	3.0E-01		
135.4 <t<700< td=""><td>-1.1E-14</td><td>3.0E-11</td><td>-3.8E-08</td><td>1.7E-05</td><td>-4.9E-03</td><td>7.8E-01</td><td>3.8E+00</td></t<700<>	-1.1E-14	3.0E-11	-3.8E-08	1.7E-05	-4.9E-03	7.8E-01	3.8E+00
700 <t<850< td=""><td>-6.4E-06</td><td>1.5E-02</td><td>-1.1E+01</td><td>2.9E+03</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<850<>	-6.4E-06	1.5E-02	-1.1E+01	2.9E+03			



Figure 29. Consolidated specific heat capacity of CuCl as function of temperatures from EMF and thermal sources [161], [162], [164]–[166]

Since the Equation (17) and (18) consists of higher-order terms, it is strongly suggested to use the appropriate coefficients for the respective temperature bounds. The data should not be extrapolated beyond  $\pm 5$ K. In Figure 29, there is a discrepancy between thermally determined and Debye's model in the temperature range of 285K to 400K. Similarly, the EMF derived  $c_p$  values show a significant downtrend when compared to the thermally determined  $c_p$ , which is constant beyond the melting point of CuCl. This could be due to the usage of imprecise reference for the EMF derived specific heat capacity offset. These anomalies are difficult to analyze due to the lack of sufficient consistent data.

# Chapter 4 - Heat Recovery Study

## 4.1 Introduction

The heat recovery is process of retrieving the energy that was spent on some object or material or on a process. In most cases only a part of the energy can be recovered, as it is practically impossible to retrieve all the energy spent. Here, as in Figure 6, the temperature of the first reaction step must be around 90°C. The temperature of the CuCl produced by decomposing the CuO·CuCl<sub>2</sub>, at step 4, is at 530°C which is cooled by quenching in a water bath. As CuCl is being highly reactive in the presence of oxygen, forming more stable complexes, the quench cell is purged with an inert N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere to ensure an oxygen-free environment. As the molten CuCl enters the quench cell, it thermally interacts with N<sub>2</sub>. These interactions between N<sub>2</sub> and the droplet is modelled numerically using COMSOL Multiphysics. The main objective of this model is to estimate the amount of energy in the form of heat that can be recovered from the droplet by analyzing the amount of heat lost by droplet to its surroundings during a free-fall.

The FEA process begins with a computer-aided design (CAD). In this, a model/geometry (1D,2D, or 3D) is developed along with the knowledge of material properties and the applied loads and constraints. In FEA a larger system/model is subdivided into smaller finite elements and a set of governing partial differential equations are solved in two or three space variables. The process of subdividing the model into smaller domains is called meshing. The accuracy of the FEA results is directly related to the mesh size used in the model. As the mesh is refined, i.e. as the elements are made smaller and smaller, the FEA solution of the model will approach a true solution.

Calvet [174] numerically studied the phase change process of a PCM by intensifying the effective thermal conductivity of the PCM using COMSOL Multiphysics [5]. Jalal [175] used COMSOL Multiphysics to study the forced convection cooling on packaged vents. Mayank [176] examined the effect of conduction on a PCM in a spherical and cylindrical vessel during a phase change process using COMSOL Multiphysics with a fixed temperature boundary. Azad [177] performed both numerical and experimental studies to investigate the effects of heating temperature on phase change of a PCM with natural convection. Eduard [178] analysed the temperature gradients inside a the PCM capsules using energy equation model and their results were validated with the experimental results. Nabeel [179] performed analytical, numerical and experimental investigations for thermal energy storage by melting and ensuing convection of PCM in various shaped enclosures. After profound

analysis of above studies, a new numerical model is developed to examine the CuCl and  $N_2$  interactions.

# 4.2 Free Fall

From Newtonian physics, any object that moves under the sole force of gravity is called free fall. Generally, the term free fall is used more loosely for example ball falling due to gravity is called as a free-falling ball. But in reality, the air acts a resistance and creating an opposing drag force which means that ball is not in free fall. For the sake of simplicity, here the droplets are termed as free-falling droplet even though droplet experiences the opposing drag force caused by N<sub>2</sub>. Any object that accelerates only due to gravity reaches a maximum velocity called terminal velocity ( $V_{terminal}$ ) and the velocity remains constant thereafter. The object reaches its maximum velocity when the objects drag force (D) equals to its weight (W) ie. net force (F) becomes zero.

$$F = D - W \tag{19}$$

$$D = \frac{C_d \rho v^2 A}{2} \tag{20}$$

$$W = mg \tag{21}$$

$$v_{terminal} = \sqrt{\frac{2mg}{C_d \rho A}}$$
(22)

where m is mass of the object (kg), g is the gravitational acceleration (m/s<sup>2</sup>), C<sub>d</sub> is the coefficient of drag,  $\rho$  is the density of the medium through it falls (kg/m<sup>3</sup>) and A is the frontal area (m<sup>2</sup>).

## 4.3 Assumptions

The following assumptions are made to simplify the numerical model and reduce computation time:

- 1.  $N_2$  is considered to be an ideal incompressible fluid, as the numerical simulation is primarily focused on evaluating heat interactions between  $N_2$  and the droplet.
- 2. To reduce the complexity the shape of the droplet is assumed to be spherical and its shape does not change with time. Also, it is assumed that the bubble retains its spherical shape and any forces acting on the bubble will not deform it since the outer layer solidifies swiftly.
- 3. To have consistent thermophysical properties throughout the simulation, the droplet is presumed to be homogeneous and will be a function of temperature both in its molten and solid-state.
- 4. A preliminary study with varying density and constant volume revealed that approximate change in mass is less than 2% for the desired time range. The volume change will be the same as mass

change, as the volume is proportional to the mass. As the volume change is negligible, moving mesh method in COMSOL Multiphysics is not applied here which could lead to undesired results and it is computationally expensive. Abiding by the law of mass conservation, the density is taken as an average value between solid and liquid phases.

5. According to the conservation of mass as in Equation (23), mixing within the droplet is caused by density changes with respect to time.

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla . \left( \rho u \right) = 0 \tag{23}$$

However, since the density is taken as constant due to insignificant volume change in the droplet the internal velocity (u) becomes zero as in Equation (23), thereby no mixing within the droplet.

#### 4.4 Numerical model

A 2D axisymmetric geometry is adopted to model the interactions between droplet and  $N_2$ , as shown in Figure 30 An axisymmetric approach was selected to reduce the finite element calculations during simulation. The droplet is placed in the center of the  $N_2$  domain where  $N_2$  enters at the bottom and exits at the top of the domain. The basic measurements of the domain are tabulated in Table 5.



Figure 30. 2D Model Geometry of the model with droplet and  $N_2$  domain with their inflow and outflow directions.

To simulate a free-falling droplet,  $N_2$  is made to flow relative to the fixed droplet. The relative acceleration of  $N_2$  is calculated using Equation (16).

$$a_d - \frac{F_z + F_g}{m_d} = 0 \tag{24}$$

where  $a_d$  is the acceleration of the droplet as it is free-falling through the  $N_2$  atmosphere in m/s<sup>2</sup>,  $F_g$  is the force due to gravity on the droplet in Newtons,  $F_z$  is the net drag force caused by  $N_2$  on the droplet which is calculated computationally. Drag force is a resistive force caused by the motion of droplet in  $N_2$ . This drag force acts in the opposite direction of the upstream fluid. During the run time of the simulation, at every time step, the resistive force experienced by the droplet on its surface is calculated on each node of the model and then aggregated to form the net drag force ( $F_z$ ).

Description	Name	Value
Radius of droplet	R <sub>d</sub>	0.005 [m]
Width of the domain	width	0.01 [m]
Height of the domain	height	0.03 [m]
Initial temperature of the droplet (AgCl)	$T_{i,d}$	740 [K]
Temperature of the N <sub>2</sub>	$T_{\mathrm{f}}$	298.15 [K]
Density of CuCl	$ \rho_{CuCl} $	4038.075 [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]
Melting point of CuCl	$T_{m,CuCl}$	700 [K]
Latent heat of CuCl	L <sub>m,CuC1</sub>	71.51587[J/g]
Density of AgCl	$ ho_{AgCl}$	5179[kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]
Melting point of AgCl	$T_{m,AgCl}$	727 [K]
Latent heat of AgCl	$L_{m,AgC1}$	92105 J/kg

Table 5. Geometric dimensions and thermophysical properties of the model

#### 4.4.1 Momentum Equation:

The Nitrogen is treated as Newtonian fluid, then the incompressible form of Naiver-Stokes equation in a coordinate free representation, is expressed as in Equation (25).

$$\frac{D\vec{V}}{Dt} = \vec{g} - \frac{\nabla P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{V}$$
(25)

 $\vec{V}$  is the velocity of the N<sub>2</sub> in (m/s),  $\vec{g}$  represents the gravitational acceleration (m/s<sup>2</sup>), v represents the kinematic viscosity (m<sup>2</sup>/s),  $\rho$  is the density of the N<sub>2</sub> (kg/m<sup>3</sup>), P represents the pressure and V<sub>∞</sub> is the free stream velocity (close to the terminal velocity of the droplet). The walls of the droplet are taken as a no slip boundary. For a stationary wall that means that V = 0 and V = V<sub>∞</sub> at infinity. As there is no mixing inside the droplet, naiver-stokes equation is applied only for N<sub>2</sub> domain.

## 4.4.2 Energy Equation:

For modelling the interactions between the droplet and the  $N_2$ , the energy equation is applied for both the droplet and  $N_2$  domain. The conservation of energy is expressed as

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \rho C_p u. \nabla T + \nabla . q = 0$$
<sup>(26)</sup>

$$q = -k\nabla T \tag{27}$$

where  $\rho$  is the density and  $C_p$  is the thermal capacity. The thermal conductivity k describes the relationship between the heat flux vector q and the temperature gradient  $\nabla T$  in  $q = -k\nabla T$ , which is Fourier's Law of heat conduction. As it was determined that there is no mixing inside the droplet, energy change due to the viscous dissipation can be neglected. As the droplet does not react with N<sub>2</sub>, for the numerical simulation, the boundaries of the droplet can be treated as a wall, which implies that only heat transfer occurs across the boundaries of the droplet and there is no mass transfer across it. Rate of conduction in the droplet and the rate of convection by the N<sub>2</sub> are equal at the boundaries of the droplet.

$$\dot{Q}_{Conduction} = \dot{Q}_{Convection} \tag{28}$$

$$-k(T)\frac{\partial T}{\partial r} = h(T_{s} - T_{\infty})$$
(29)

Reynolds number is a non-dimensional number, and it is used to categorize the fluids flow patternbased viscosity and velocity and it is given by Equation (30):

$$Re = \frac{\rho dV}{\mu} \tag{30}$$

where  $\rho$  is the density of the nitrogen, d is the diameter of the droplet, V is the velocity and  $\mu$  is the viscosity of the fluid. If the Re < 2300 then the fluid flow is considered to be laminar, in which the fluid particles travel in parallel layers, each of which has a constant velocity but is in motion relative to its neighboring layers [180].

Since this analysis is for a lab scale quench cell model, the total height of the quench cell is less than 50m. Based on the initial analysis, the Reynolds number was found be well below 2300 for the lab scale model. Hence, the flow of nitrogen is taken as laminar.

The thermophysical properties are essential for any numerical analysis. Since the droplets are made of AgCl or CuCl, its thermophysical properties such as specific heat, thermal conductivity, dynamic

viscosity explored in the chapter 2.3 and 2.4 can be utilised. The initial conditions and the constant density of CuCl, AgCl are presented in Table 5.

## 4.5 Results and Discussion

#### 4.5.1 Free fall

Initially, the droplet's acceleration is equal to the gravitational acceleration. The acceleration of the droplet affected due to the buoyant and drag force. The buoyant forces are neglected since the volume of the droplet is small hence the buoyant force is negligible compared to the drag force and force of gravity. The coefficient of drag ( $C_D$ ) being a function of velocity, the drag force initially decreases and remains constant after the terminal velocity. Ghandehariun [66]–[68] evaluated the drag force by assuming  $C_d$  to be a constant, whereas the drag force calculated computationally in this manuscript is a function of velocity, the computation.



Figure 31. Velocity and distance travelled by the AgCl droplet with respect to time various radiuses, R (0.0025m, 0.005m, 0.01m)

The droplet velocity and the distance travelled by the droplet are determined using Equation (24) and the results are shown in Figure 32. As illustrated in Figure 32, the terminal velocity and the distance travelled by the droplet increases considerably for both AgCl and CuCl as the velocity is proportional to the mass of the droplet. Slight deviation in the terminal velocity of the droplets in Figure 31 and 32 is effectuated by numerical instabilities. Since the variations is less than 2% these deviations are neglected.



Figure 32. Velocity and distance travelled by the CuCl droplet with respect to time for various radiuses, R (0.0025m, 0.005m, 0.01m)

#### 4.5.2 Phase Change in AgCl and CuCl Droplet

Figure 33 - 38 illustrate the temperature distribution of the droplet and the N<sub>2</sub> domain. The color spectrum for the legends for each figure is given on the right-hand side. (Note: The maximum and minimum values of the color spectrum for the legends varies for each figure).

From the below figures, it is obvious that the temperature distribution inside the droplet are not radially symmetric for both AgCl and CuCl. As the droplet free falls, the outer most layer of the droplet starts to solidify as soon as it reaches its liquid to solid phase change temperature. The interface that

separates the solid and liquid propagates radially inwards as the solidification occurs. The asymmetric nature of the temperature distribution in the droplet is due to the varying heat transfer rates within the droplet. The heat transfer rates are higher at the lower end of the droplet due to higher velocity of  $N_2$  whereas at the upper end of the droplet the heat transfer rates are slower due to the reduced velocity and recirculation of  $N_2$  above the droplet. Because of this, lower end of the droplet is has lower temperature compared to the upper end. The heat transfer rates between  $N_2$  and the droplet steadily increases until the droplet reaches its terminal velocity after which it remains almost constant.

The initial temperature of the AgCl and CuCl droplets are 740K and 723K respectively. When comparing the AgCl and CuCl droplets of identical diameter, say Figure 33 and 36, it is evident that the change from liquid to solid phase occurs much faster in AgCl compared to CuCl. The AgCl's higher thermal conductivity, almost double compared to CuCl at their respective phase change temperatures, increases the thermal diffusivity of AgCl significantly which in turn increases the heat transfer rates of AgCl. The lower thermal diffusivity of CuCl facilitates energy retention which can be used for heat recovery.



Figure 33. Temperature distribution of  $N_2$  and droplet (AgCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.0025m



droplet radius of 0.01m



Figure 36. Temperature distribution of N2 and droplet (CuCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.0025m



Figure 37. Temperature distribution of  $N_2$  and droplet (CuCl) domain with droplet radius of 0.005m



Thermal diffusivity is the measure of heat transfer rate within a body. It describes how heat disperses throughout an object or a body. It is given by

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{\rho c_p} \tag{31}$$

Where k is the thermal conductivity,  $\rho$  is the density and  $c_p$  is the specific heat capacity of the material. From the above figures, for the same material, it is apparent that the phase change process is much slower as the diameter of the droplet increases. Since the heat transfer rate is proportional to the radius of the droplet, larger droplets will have higher heat transfer rates. Though the heat transfer rates are greater for larger droplets it takes longer to cool due to the higher energy content in large droplets compared to smaller ones.

## 4.6 Validation of Computational Results

The convection coefficient of heat transfer, h ( $W/m^2K$ ), is a quantitative characteristic of convective heat transfer between a fluid medium and the surface (wall) of a solid object [181], and it is given by Equation (32):

$$h = \frac{\dot{q}}{(T_s - T_f)} \tag{32}$$
where  $\dot{q}$  is the heat flux (W/m<sup>2</sup>), T<sub>s</sub> is the temperature at the outer surface of the droplet, T<sub>f</sub> is the temperature of the nitrogen. Since the velocity of the nitrogen varies continuously the heat transfer coefficient (h) is a function of time and position. So, the variation of average heat transfer coefficient with time, is computed along the droplet's surface from the simulated results in COMSOL and that is illustrated in .



Figure 39. Variation of average heat transfer coefficient with time

The heat transfer coefficient can also be estimated using empirical Nusselt number relations. As discussed earlier in Section 1.3.4, there are different forms of Nusselt number relations. Though Equation (6) is a more accurate form Nusselt number relation for flow over a sphere, that cannot be applied for this model as  $\frac{\mu_{\infty}}{\mu_s}$  is less than 1. So, the Ranz Marshal [80] Nusselt number relation given in Equation (33) is adopted:

$$Nu = 2 + 0.6Re^{0.5}Pr^{0.33} \tag{33}$$

where Re is the Reynolds number and Pr is the Prandtl number. This correlation is valid for  $1 < \text{Re} < 10^4$  and 0.6 < Pr < 380.

$$Nu = \frac{hl}{k} \tag{34}$$

where l is the characteristic length (for sphere l = diameter), k is the thermal conductivity of the fluid in the boundary layer, (W/mK). The heat transfer coefficient calculated using empirical relation is compared, with the numerically computed h in Figure 39. Both the numerical and theoretical model follow same trend across the temperatures. As heat transfer coefficient is inversely proportional to the diameter, smaller droplets have larger heat transfer coefficient. This trend can be seen both in theoretical and numerical model.

#### 4.7 Heat Recovery

The error between the numerical model and theoretical model varies considerably across temperature range. The errors are very significant for the time steps between 0 to 1s, especially for the larger droplets in the numerical model. This could be because, initially for the larger droplets the velocity of the N2 varies significantly between the lower and top end of the droplet, which directly influences the heat transfer rate and in turn the heat transfer coefficient. Since the variation of h is significant, it heavily influences the average heat transfer coefficient at the initial time steps.

The quenching height in a quench cell is defined as the distance between the droplet's contact with the water surface and the droplet's origin, distance which the droplet will travel in free-fall. The quenching process will increase the temperature of the water as the required temperature for the step 1 (Figure 6) is around 90°C. The rise in temperature of the water, from 80°C, is determined using the Equation (35). The effective temperature of the droplet is evaluated from the simulated results at the droplets contact point with the water surface. The effective temperature is taken as constant for all the droplets for the specific quenching height. The number of droplets (N) is calculated based on the stoichiometric proportions and droplet volume. By maintaining stoichiometric proportions of CuCl, the number of droplets (N) will be a rational number in most cases. To determine the accurate final temperature of the volume. For example, the N for the droplet with a radius of 0.0025m is 370.8740. The volume of the last droplet is taken as 0.8740 of the other droplets. The specific heat capacity and effective temperature of that droplet is assumed to be the same as the other droplets for the diameter considered. Figure 40 illustrates the raise in temperature of the water from 353K, quenching height of

10cm, for three different droplet diameters. Appendix 1 & 2 show the temperature rise in water for the quenching height of 20cm and 30cm respectively.



Figure 40. Temperature increase of water by CuCl droplets for the quenching height of 10cm

$$m_w C_{p,w} \Delta T = m_d C_{p,d} \Delta T \tag{35}$$

From Figure 40, it is apparent that the final temperature of the droplet is increasing with the increase in droplet diameters, but the variation is not significant. This is mainly due to the smaller quenching height and the phase change process. Generally, on increasing the quenching height should lower the final temperature of the droplet, but this is not true in this case because as the droplet cools it enters the phase change process and the temperature of the droplet will remain almost constant during the phase change process. So, the average temperature of the droplet will drop initially and will remain almost the same up to 2m of quenching height. Hence, the final temperature of the water does not vary considerably between different quenching heights.

### Chapter 5 - Summary and Conclusion

### 5.1 Findings and Results

The specific heat capacity of monocrystalline AgCl and CuCl as a function of temperature has been determined using different physical approach at different temperature range. For the temperatures ranging from 0- 280K ( $\theta_D$ ),  $c_p$  values were calculated using Debye's model, which treats the vibrations in the atomic lattice as phonons. From 280K to the melting point,  $c_p$  data was extracted from the thermal experiments and simulations from the literature. For the temperatures beyond the melting point, the  $c_p$  is calculated from EMF values using Gibbs-Helmholtz relation which then combined with the thermal experimental values to form a hybrid data set. The EMF values of AgCl and CuCl were very similar, hence their EMF derived specific heat capacity values are also similar with a slight offset. This method of extracting thermophysical data from electrochemistry can be extended to other salts. This study shows that salts with similar EMF values can be grouped together, and a single specific heat capacity model can be developed.

Quenching the molten CuCl in water was identified to be best method for recovering heat. For both AgCl and CuCl, the terminal velocity and the distance traveled by the droplets during the quenching process is significantly greater for the droplets with larger diameter.

The AgCl and CuCl droplets of three different diameters were numerically modeled in COMSOL Multiphysics and their thermal interactions with  $N_2$  were studied. It was determined that for AgCl the heat transfer rates are significantly higher compared to CuCl for the identical droplet diameters, since AgCl has higher thermal diffusivity.

Based on the simulated numerical model, heat recovery analysis on quenched CuCl droplets shows the final temperature of the water increases from 353K to 372K. The water's final temperature does not change significantly with droplet diameter and the quenching height, due to the salt's phase change from liquid to solid.

#### 5.2 Recommendations and Future Work

As the thermophysical properties is the fundamental of heat recovery study, it becomes essential to have accurate variation of thermophysical properties with temperature. Though the specific heat capacity model developed here for CuCl provides a better representation of  $c_p$  compared with the

current literature, its accuracy can be improved with more consistent specific heat capacity and EMF data sets.

As explored in the thesis, specific heat capacity can be determined using various techniques such as Debye's model, calorimetry study and Gibbs Helmholtz relation. Since the heat recovery is primarily occurs during the liquid to solid phase transition of the CuCl, it is recommended to explore the thermophysical properties at the phase transition temperatures. As the specific heat variation plays a vital role on the heat recovery study, exploring specific heat variation with temperature takes higher precedence compared to other thermophysical properties.

Most effective way for estimating the specific heat variation with temperature in the liquid to solid phase transition temperature is by employing Gibbs Helmholtz relation. EMF data sets are necessary for this method. Conducting electrochemical experiments on CuCl to determine EMF will help in modelling the specific heat. Moreover, electrochemical experiments are relatively easier than other high temperature calorimetry experiments. Study of anharmonic vibrations can help us explore the specific heats at lower temperatures and around room temperatures.

Experiments on free falling molten CuCl droplets with high speed shadow imager might help us to get a better understanding on phase change process of CuCl along with accurate droplets shapes. A numerical model, similar to the one discussed in this thesis, can be developed to study the intricate details involved and can be validated with the experimental study.

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# **APPENDICES**



Appendix 1. Temperature increase of water by CuCl droplets for the quenching height of 20cm



Appendix 2. Temperature increase of water by CuCl droplets for the quenching height of 30cm

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