# A NOVEL METHOD FOR METAL RECOVERY FROM ZINC \& LEAD SLAGS <br> by <br> YANJUN ZHANG <br> B. Eng., Northeastern University, P. R. China, 1995 <br> A THESIS SUBMITED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE <br> in <br> THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES <br> DEPARTMENT OF METALS AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING 

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#### Abstract

Conventional zinc fuming from lead blast furnace slags cannot continue when zinc and lead contents are below 1.5-2.5 wt. \% and 0.1-0.5 wt. $\%$ respectively, because of solid iron formation, which also causes the formation of accretions, foaming of slag, and contamination of the fume. A new method, electroreduction, was developed in a previous study to recover the heavy metals zinc, lead, indium and germanium from final zinc fumer slag. A series of experiments was also conducted in this study using two types of fumer slag from COMINCO. Zinc content was $4.5 \mathrm{wt} \%$ in one slag and $1.5 \mathrm{wt} \%$ in another slag. Experimental data indicated that about $50 \%$ of the zinc and most of the lead could be removed from both slags by 90 minute of electrorefining.

Following the work on the fumer slags, a study was conducted on the potential to reduce lead and zinc directly from COMINCO's Kivcet slag (containing about $16 \mathbf{w t} \%$ zinc and $10 \mathrm{wt} \%$ lead) and potentially obviate the need for slag fuming. Metal recovery from the Kivcet slag was examined using the three methods used for the fumer slag study: holding at temperature to allow the divalent iron to reduce the metal ions into the gas phase; equilibration with a copper "getter"; and electroreduction into a liquid copper cathode using a graphite anode.

The presence of metallic lead and carbon in the Kivcet slag has a significant influence on the recovery of metal from the slag in subsequent processing. Holding of the slag at temperature permitted the recovery of much of the metallic lead as vapor and some small recovery of zinc as fume. When copper was used as a getter, more zinc and lead were recovered. In electrorefining, lead recovery was much higher than that in equilibrating with copper, but there was no obvious enhancement in zinc recovery. A series of experiments were also conducted in which the Kivcet slag was treated to remove some of the zinc and the lead and then was electro-refined three times. Zinc and lead contents in the final slag decreased to $5.9 \%$ and $0.3 \%$ respectively. Although most of the lead was recovered, further refining would still be required to capture the remaining zinc metal.


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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Kivcet slag is produced from the Kivcet process for lead production. There are two stages in the Kivcet process. The first one is an oxidation stage in which fine coal and metal sulfides in the feed burn to form a hot sulphur dioxide gas and the sulfides of lead and zinc are converted to oxides. The oxides, silica and limestone form a semi-fused slag. In the second stage, the lead and zinc oxides are reduced by a "coke checker", which floats on top of the molten slag. Lead bullion and zinc vapor are produced.

In the Kivcet smeiter of Trail Operations, Teck Cominco Limited (Trail, British Columbia, Canada), the metal oxides, especially zinc oxide, are not reduced completely in the second stage. Kivcet slag, a by-product of the Kivcet process, is an $\mathrm{FeO}\left(\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right)-\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ system containing $15 \sim 20 \%$ zinc and $5 \sim 11 \%$ lead. Trace elements such as antimony, arsenic, indium and germanium are also found in the slag.

Generally, this zinc-bearing lead slag is treated by fuming with coal. Regardless of the fuming method employed, the tail slag from zinc fuming furnaces still contains about $3 \%$ zinc and some significant amounts of lead and the trace elements.

Conventional zinc fuming from lead blast furnace slags cannot continue when zinc and lead contents are below 1.5-2.5 wt. \% and 0.1-0.5 wt. \% respectively, because of solid iron formation, which also causes the formation of accretions, foaming of slag, and contamination of the fume. ${ }^{1}$ A new method, electrorefining, was developed in a previous study by Fengxiang He, under the supervision of Professor Ray Meadowcroft, to recover metals from the tail slag. ${ }^{2}$ Robert Olson also did some experimental work. ${ }^{3}$ A series of experiments were
also conducted in this research with two kinds of fumer slag from COMICO. The experimental data indicated that approximately 50 percent of the zinc and most of the lead in the slag could be recovered by 90 minute of electrorefining.

This present work was designed to determine what would happen when Kivcet slag, containing much higher contents of zinc and lead than the fumer slag, is treated using the same processes. The slag is very similar in many respects to the fumer slag previously tested, but because of the much higher lead and zinc contents, its conductance should be larger than that of the fumer slag. The higher contents of ZnO and PbO also make Kivcet slag more corrosive.

## 2. THE SLAGS FROM COMINCO

COMINCO's integrated lead-zinc smelting complex is located at Trail, British Columbia, Canada. The complex is composed of Zinc Operations and Lead Operations (see Fig. 1). Zinc Operations is a typical roast-leach-electrowinning process. Lead Operations comprises a Kivcet flash smelter and a water-jacketed slag fuming process. Leach residues from the zinc plant, as well as lead concentrate, is treated in the Kivcet smelter and lead bullion is produced. The slag fuming process is employed to recover zinc from Kivcet slag, the by-product of the Kivcet smelter. The fume generated is collected and returned to the zinc plant.

COMINCO's Kivcet flash smelter and slag fuming process was completed in 1997 and started up. The smelter has a lead capacity of 120,000 tonnes per year. In addition, zinc production capacity has increased to 290,000 tonnes per year from 272,000 tonnes. The output of tailing slag from the slag fuming furnaces is 500-600 tonnes per day. ${ }^{4,5,6,7}$

The Kivcet slag and the fumer slag in this study were water quenched at about $1200{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to a particle size of less than 4 mm . According to the contents of zinc and lead, the tailing slag can be divided into two types: (1) high residue fumer slag, which is under-treated in the fumer and contains about $4.5 \%$ zinc, and (2) low residue fumer slag, which is over-treated and contains approximately $1.5 \%$ zinc. Table 1 shows slag analysis data (average of two separate samples of each slag) determined by IPL (International Plasma Lab Limited, Vancouver, B.C, Canada). The analyses shown are typical of the analytical deviation that was found in all of the experimental work. It can be seen that the slags is a $\mathrm{FeO}\left(\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right)-\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ system containing some significant amounts of zinc and lead. Basicity ( $\mathrm{B}=\mathrm{CaO} \% /\left(\mathrm{CaO} \%+\mathrm{SiO}_{2} \%\right)$ ) of the slags is $0.36 \sim 0.4$. The $\mathrm{Fe}^{2+} / \mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$ ratio is about 2.6 in Kivcet slag, 4 in high residue
fumer slag, and 48 in low residue fumer slag. Trace elements such as antimony, arsenic, indium and germanium are also found in the slags.


Fig. 1: The flow sheet of the Cominco's integrated zinc-lead operations

Table 1: Analysis of the slags from Cominco

| Slag <br> Type | Zn <br> $(\%)$ | Pb <br> $(\%)$ | Sb <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | As <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | Ge <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | In <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | Cu <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | $\mathrm{Fe}^{2+}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ <br> $(\%)$ | CaO <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ <br> $(\%)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| KIV | 15.8 | 10.2 | 3275 | 3027 | 162 | 366 | 3368 | 17.4 | 6.7 | 21.8 | 13.0 | 1.6 |
| HRFS | 4.5 | 1.1 | 1919 | 210 | 59 | 41 | 3803 | 28.3 | 6.9 | 30.4 | 18.6 | 2.8 |
| LRFS | 1.5 | 0.02 | 603 | 275 | 34 | $<5$ | 4037 | 30.8 | 0.6 | 30.0 | 19.5 | 3.4 |

Legend: KIV-Kivcet slag, HRFS-High residue fumer slag, LRFS-Low residue fumer slag

High residue fumer slag was characterized using SEM, EDX and XRD in a previous study. ${ }^{2}$ The results indicated that the slag particles were heterogeneous and the maximum dimension of most of them was less than 3 mm . The particles were very porous because of the waterquench operation. The slag was in a glassy state. Most of the iron was in the slag matrix as ferrous iron. Some of the iron existed in dendritic magnetite. There was also a little iron present as alloy.

Kivcet slag is very similar to fumer slag in many respects. But, because of the much higher lead and zinc contents, the conductance of Kivcet slag should be larger than that of fumer slag. The higher contents of ZnO and PbO also make Kivcet slag somewhat more corrosive.

Since the slag had been in contact with lead bullion and coke in the Kivcet smelter, an attempt was made to determine if the Kivcet slag sample contained metallic lead and carbon.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis indicated that there were numerous bright spots in most of the slag particles. Black spots and cracks were also found. Fig. 2 shows a SEM image of a slag particle that contains a number of bright spots, a black spot and some
cracks. A SEM image of a bright spot is shown in Fig. 3. Two bright spots were analyzed with EDX. The results shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 indicated that the bright spots contained about $80 \%$ lead with some arsenic, antimony, zinc, iron and copper, compared to a matrix reading of from $1.5 \%$ to $12 \%$ lead. Although the analysis of the bright spots could indicate lead oxide, $\mathrm{FACT}^{8}$ analysis suggests that any metal oxide would be present as the silicate in this very acidic slag. The bright spots are assumed therefore to be metallic lead alloy containing small amounts of the other metals. Previous analytical work at Cominco suggests that up to half of the lead in the slag is present as metallic lead. ${ }^{7}$ Fig. 6 shows a SEM image of a black spot. EDX analysis shown in Fig. 7, Fig. 8, Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 indicated that the black spot contained about $98 \%$ carbon and some zinc, lead, copper and iron.


Fig. 2: SEM image of a Kivcet slag particle


Fig. 3: SEM image of a bright spot


|  | Concentration |
| :--- | :--- |
| Oxygen | $9.67 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Silicon | $0.13 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Sulfur | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Iron | $1.28 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Copper | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Zinc | $2.66 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Germanium | $2.80 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Arsenic | $2.26 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Antimony | $0.97 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Lead | $80.24 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |

Fig. 4: EDX analysis of one bright spot


|  | Concentration |
| :--- | :--- |
| Oxygen | $10.06 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Sulfur | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Calcium | $0.25 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Iron | $1.52 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Copper | $1.25 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Zinc | $2.68 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Arsenic | $3.43 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Antimony | $6.27 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Lead | $74.53 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |

Fig. 5: EDX analysis of another bright spot


Fig. 6: SEM image of a black spot


|  | Concentration |
| :--- | :--- |
| Carbon | $98.31 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Oxygen | $0.67 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Silicon | $0.02 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Calcium | $0.06 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Iron | $0.22 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Zinc | $0.21 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Lead | $0.51 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |

Fig. 7: Overall analysis of the black spot (with EDX)


|  | Concentration |
| :--- | :--- |
| Oxygen | $1.68 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Silicon | $0.40 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Sulfur | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Calcium | $4.02 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Iron | $23.51 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Copper | $34.29 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Zinc | $20.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Lead | $16.10 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |

Fig. 8: EDX analysis of Area-1 in the black spot


|  | Concentration |
| :--- | :--- |
| Carbon | $99.49 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Oxygen | $0.32 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Silicon | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Sulfur | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Calcium | $0.01 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Iron | $0.03 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Zinc | $0.04 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Molybdenum | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Lead | $0.10 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |

Fig. 9: EDX analysis of Area-2 in the black spot


|  | Concentration |
| :--- | :--- |
| Carbon | $99.69 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Oxygen | $0.15 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Silicon | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Sulfur | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Calcium | $0.00 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Iron | $0.02 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Copper | $0.07 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Zinc | $0.02 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |
| Lead | $0.04 \mathrm{wt} \%$ |

Fig. 10: EDX analysis of Area-3 in the black spot

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 3.1. The Kivcet Process

The Kivcet process, also called the Oxygen Flash Cyclone Electro Thermal Process, was developed by VNIITSVETMET Institute in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, under the supervision of Professor A. Sychev. The first commercial Kivcet unit was installed and operated at the Ust-Kamenogorsk Lead-Zinc Combinate (now Kazzinc J. St. Co.) in 1985. ${ }^{9}$

There are two stages in the Kivcet process. In the first stage, lead sulphide concentrate, zinc plant residues, recycle dust, silica, limestone, fine coal and moderately coarse coke are injected at the top of the reaction shaft along with oxygen. The sulfides of lead, zinc and other metals are converted to metal oxides while heating in a fine coal flame. The oxides, silica and limestone form a semi-fused slag, while the gas reaches up to $15 \%$ sulphur dioxide. Reactions in this stage are as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{C}(\mathrm{~s})+\mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{C}(\mathrm{~s})+1 / 2 \mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{S}+\mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbS}+3 / 2 \mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnS}+3 / 2 \mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbS}+2 \mathrm{PbO}=3 \mathrm{~Pb}+\mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})
\end{aligned}
$$

In the second stage, the lead and zinc oxides are reduced by a "coke checker", which floats on top of the molten slag. The lead oxide is converted to metal as bullion and zinc gas is
produced. The following reactions occur:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Pb}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{Pb}+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{C}+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})=2 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})
\end{aligned}
$$

The bullion passes through the molten slag layer under the coke checker and enters the electrothermal settler together with the zinc-bearing slag. In the electrothermal settler, the heat from the graphite electrodes keeps the bullion-slag bath in a molten state. The lighter slag continues to float to the surface and the heavier bullion sinks to the bottom of the settler. This separation enables them to be tapped separately from the furnace.

The bullion produced in the Kivcet furnace is treated further to remove copper, arsenic and antimony. It is then ready for electro-refining.

The slag from the Kivcet furnace is treated in a slag fuming furnace where the zinc in the slag vaporizes to form a zinc oxide fume, which is further treated in a oxide leaching plant to recover the zinc, indium, germanium and cadmium.

The hot sulphur dioxide gas (about $1200^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) from the reaction shaft is cooled in the waste heat boilers and then passes through the electrostatic precipitator. The final cleaned sulphur dioxide gas is piped to sulphuric acid plants.

### 3.2. Other Pyrometallurgical Lead and Zinc Processes

Other pyrometallurgical lead and zinc processes include the lead blast furnace (LBF) process, ${ }^{10}$ the Imperial Smelting Process (ISP), ${ }^{1,11}$ and the QSL process. ${ }^{12}$

The lead blast furnace is similar to the blast furnace for iron production. Solid sinter, heated coke and refinery skims are fed at the top of the furnace. Preheated air is blown in at the bottom. Molten lead and slag are tapped from the blast furnace into a settler where they are separated. Chemical composition of lead blast furnace slag is shown in Table 2. ${ }^{10}$ In the Imperial Smelting Process, the charge is a mixture of cold or warm sinter and hot coke. Molten lead and zinc vapor are produced. The zinc vapor is collected with condensers containing a liquid lead pool. Table $3^{1}$ shows the composition of the slag from the Imperial Smelting Process. The QSL smelter can be used to treat a wide range of lead-bearing materials, such as concentrates, battery paste, slag, $\mathrm{Pb} / \mathrm{Ag}$ residues, scrap and lead glasses. The main product is lead bullion. The final slag is iron silicate containing about $2 \%$ lead.

The slags from the above processes are very similar to the Kivcet slag. If these slags are treated with the methods in this study, the results should be similar to that of the Kivcet slag treatment.

Table 2: Analysis of typical LBF slag

| Element | Content (wt\%) |
| :--- | ---: |
| SiO 2 | 27.0 |
| CaO | 15.0 |
| Al 2 O 3 | 3.0 |
| MgO | 5.0 |
| Pb | 2.2 |
| Zn | 6.0 |
| Fe | 24.0 |
| Cu | 0.3 |

Table 3: Analysis of typical ISP slag

| Element | Content (wt\%) |
| :--- | ---: |
| FeO | $30 \sim 42$ |
| SiO 2 | $16 \sim 21$ |
| Al 2 O 3 | $5 \sim 10$ |
| ZnO | $5 \sim 10$ |
| PbO | $0.6 \sim 1$ |
| S | $1 \sim 3$ |

### 3.3. Pyrometallurgical Processes for Zinc-bearing Slags and Residues

Zinc-bearing slag from non-ferrous smelters, such as lead blast furnaces and Kivcet smelters, is usually treated by a fuming process because both melting and boiling temperatures of zinc are very low, only $419.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $907^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ respectively. In addition, lead melts at $327^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and boils at $1740{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The earliest experimental work on slag fuming was conducted in Australia by the Sulphide Corporation at Cockle Creek between 1906 and 1920. ${ }^{13}$ Commercial development of the process was made by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company and the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. in the 1920 's. ${ }^{14,15}$ The first slag-fuming furnace was installed at East Helena, U.S.A. in 1927 by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

At present, there are many commercial slag fuming processes in the world such as Waterjacketed fuming process, ${ }^{16,17,18}$ Enviroplas process, ${ }^{19,20}$ Ausmelt process, ${ }^{19}$ and Waelz kiln fuming process. ${ }^{21}$ In all the above processes, carbon or coal is used as reductant. Zinc and lead oxides are reduced to metallic zinc and lead, which vaporize to fume. The main difference among the above processes lies in heat transfer and furnace structure. Detailed information on the above slag fuming processes has been described in Fengxiang He's thesis. ${ }^{2}$

### 3.4. Properties of Zinc-Lead Slags

### 3.4.1. Activities of $\mathbf{Z n O}$ and FeO in Zinc-bearing Slags

Many researchers have studied activities of ZnO and FeO in zinc-bearing slag with several methods. ${ }^{22,23,24,25,26}$ Studies also have been done on the activity of zinc in the molten $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{Zn}$ Fe ternary system, activity measurements in liquid $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{Zn}-\mathrm{X}(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Ag}$, and Au$)$ ternary alloys and the equilibrium between $\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}-\mathrm{FeO}_{\mathrm{x}}$ slag and $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{Zn}-\mathrm{Fe}$ (iron-saturated) alloy. ${ }^{27,28}$ The results of these studies have been described in Fengxiang He's thesis. ${ }^{2}$ In summary, the activity coefficient of ZnO in $\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ "" FeO " slag increases with increasing slag basicity ( $\% \mathrm{CaO} /\left(\% \mathrm{CaO}+\% \mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right)$. It is nearly independent of zinc concentration.

When iron oxides and zinc oxide coexist in the slag, the activity coefficient of FeO depends on the mole fractions in the slag. It also increases with increasing slag basicity. For zinc blast furnace slag, FeO starts to be reduced when the concentration of ZnO is less than $3 \mathrm{~mol} \%$. ${ }^{1}$

### 3.4.2. Conductivity of Zinc-Lead Slags

Conductivity of zinc-lead slags is related closely to the specific conductivities of pure oxides and the ionic nature of the $\mathrm{FeO}-\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ system. It has been described in Fengxiang He's thesis. The results are summarized here.

The oxides can be divided into covalent and ionic groups. The important covalent oxides include $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{GeO}_{2}, \mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}, \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{5}$ and $\mathrm{As}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$. In these oxides, oxygen is bonded so as to form three-dimensional networks. In the liquid state, these oxides have very high viscosities of $10^{5} \sim 10^{7} \mathrm{cP}$ and very low specific conductances of $10^{-5} \sim 10^{-6} \mathrm{ohm}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The remaining metal oxides are more or less ionic. When liquid, they have viscosities of $10 \sim 50 \mathrm{cP}$ and specific conductances greater than $10 \mathrm{ohm}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Table $4^{29,30}$ shows specific conductances of some oxides near their melting points.

Table 4: Specific conductances of some oxides near their melting points

| Oxide | FeO | $\mathrm{Cr}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ | CaO | MgO | $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{ZrO}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{TiO}_{2}$ | PbO | $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Melting point $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ ) | 1370 | 2275 | 2580 | 2800 | 2050 | 2500 | 1650 | 900 | 1710 |
| Specific conductance <br> $\left(\mathrm{ohm}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | 122 | 65 | 40 | 35 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 0.9 | $10^{-5}$ |

The ionic nature of the " FeO "- $\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ system with $\mathrm{CaO} /\left(\mathrm{CaO}+\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right)$ ratios of $0.2 \sim 0.6$ has been studied by Dickson and Dismukes. ${ }^{31}$ The system conducts current by both ionic and nonionic mechanisms. Ionic conductance increases with increasing silica content. When FeO concentration is increased, both ionic and nonionic conductances increase. The increase in
ionic conductance is consistent with the increase in concentration of cations and ionic mobilities. The reason for the increase in nonionic conductance is p-type semi-conduction.

Anode current efficiency increases with decreasing FeO content because of the electrical conduction reactions ( $\mathrm{Fe}^{++}-\mathrm{e}=\mathrm{Fe}^{+++}$at the anode and $\mathrm{Fe}^{+++}+\mathrm{e}=\mathrm{Fe}^{++}$at the cathode). When FeO concentration is less than $40 \mathrm{wt} \%$, anode current efficiency is more than $90 \%$. It does not vary with temperature by any significant degree and gives a realistic measure of the degree of ionic conductance because the amount of oxygen gas produced at the anode is corresponded to the amount of metal produced at the cathode.

According to the above results on the specific conductivities of pure oxides and the ionic nature of the $\mathrm{FeO}-\mathrm{CaO}-\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ system, the total electrical conductances of the fumer slag and the Kivcet slag in this study are estimated to be approximately $0.5 \mathrm{ohm}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and 2.6 ohm ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ respectively. The Kivcet slag has a higher electrical conductance because it contains higher contents of zinc and lead oxides. The ionic conductances in the three slags account for more than $90 \%$.

### 3.5. The Hall-Heroult Process

Carbon is usually used as reductant in pyrometallurgical processes for metal production. But aluminum cannot be produced by this method. When alumina reacts with carbon, $\mathrm{Al}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{C}$, but not Al , is the primary product. All of the following reactions might occur:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 2 \mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}+3 \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Al}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{C}+2 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Al}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{C}+6 \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Al}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{3}+4 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}+2 \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{~g})+2 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}+3 \mathrm{C}=2 \mathrm{Al}(\mathrm{~g})+3 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Al}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{C}+\mathrm{C}=2 \mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{~g})+2 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Al}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{C}+3 \mathrm{C}=4 \mathrm{Al}(\mathrm{~g})+4 \mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})
\end{aligned}
$$

H. Davy was the first person who attempted to decompose alumina electrolytically. ${ }^{32}$ In 1807, he melted it with current from a battery. Some aluminum was reduced, but it alloyed with the iron leads. R. W. Bunsen and S. C. Deville produced aluminum electrolytically by using fused sodium-aluminum chloride, but it was not a practical process. The aluminum chloride was continually used up. It also volatilized from the molten salt. This resulted in an increase of sodium chloride content and thus raised the melting point of the electrolyte. Increasing the electrolyte temperature increased the volatilization losses.

Charles Martin Hall successfully solved the problem. On February 23, 1886, he electrolyzed a solution of alumina in molten cryolite $\left(\mathrm{Na}_{3} \mathrm{AlF}_{6}\right)$ and produced shining globules of aluminum at his home. ${ }^{32}$ The key of his invention was the discovery of a fused electrolyte which dissolved alumina in substantial quantities and possessed a higher stability than the alumina.

In addition, his technique had other advantages such as a reasonably low melting point, a low operating voltage of about 6 volts, and a specific gravity low enough to permit pure aluminum to sink through the electrolyte and be protected.

Paul L. T. Heroult applied for and was granted a French patent on the electrolysis of alumina in cryolite on April 23, 1886. On April 15, 1887, he got another French patent on a different process, which only produced aluminum alloys. ${ }^{32}$ Pure alumina in a carbon-lined furnace was fused electrothermally by heat from an electric current. A large carbon anode was suspended in the furnace. A layer of molten copper in the bottom of the furnace was used as cathode. Electrolytically reduced aluminum went into the molten copper to form an aluminum bronze alloy. The alloy could be tapped out of the bottom of the furnace. Copper and alumina were added at the top. Two years later, Heroult found that the furnace used for the aluminum bronze alloy could be employed in the alumina-cryolite process to produce pure alumina.

## 4. OBJECTIVES

The first purpose of this study is to reconfirm the feasibility of recovering the heavy metals $\mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Pb}$, In and Ge from final zinc fumer slags by an electrorefining technique which was developed in previous study. A series of experiments was conducted with two types of fumer slag from Cominco.

The second objective was to determine what would happen when Kivcet slag, containing much higher contents of zinc and lead than the fumer slags, is treated using the same processes. Kivcet slag is very similar in many respects to the fumer slag previously tested, but because of the much higher lead and zinc contents, its conductance should be higher than that of the fumer slag. The higher content of ZnO and PbO also made Kivcet slag more corrosive.

## 5. FACT CALCULATION ON THE KIVCET SLAG

The potential changes possible in this system were examined using thermodynamic calculations made with FACT software ${ }^{8}$. Table 5 shows the calculation results on 250 grams of Kivcet slag. Half of the lead in the original slag was assumed to be metallic. Carbon content was assumed to be $0.23 \%$, a value which was derived from some of the subsequent experimental data.

At $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, when the system pressure was set to 1 atmosphere, all of the carbon was converted to 0.21 grams of CO and 1.80 grams of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ at equilibrium, resulting in a CO pressure of 0.142 atmospheres and a $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ pressure of 0.773 atmospheres. About 0.19 grams of zinc and 0.32 grams of lead were also found in the gas phase, giving a zinc pressure of 0.056 atmospheres and lead pressure of 0.029 atmospheres. The activities of ZnO and PbO in the slag were 0.149 and 0.016 respectively. The metallic lead in the slag increased from 11.55 grams to 14.92 grams, indicating that very little vaporization of the liquid lead occurred and some lead oxide was reduced to liquid lead. The amount of FeO increased from 50.75 grams to 60.34 grams, while the weight of $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ decreased from 21.75 grams to 11.09 grams. Some $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was reduced to FeO . Although the $\mathrm{FeO} / \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ weight ratio was only about 5.4 at equilibrium, the ratio of FeO activity (0.498) to $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ activity (0.014) was as high as 35.6 , giving the divalent iron ion a reasonable reduction potential. These results suggest that there is considerable potential for the further loss of zinc and lead to the gas phase.

Table 5: Results of FACT calculation on the Kivcet slag

| 250g Kivcet Slag + Ar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gas phase |  |  |  |  | Liquid Slag |  |  |  |  | Liquid Lead |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Ar} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Zn} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \mathrm{Pb} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \hline \mathrm{CO} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{array}{l\|} \hline \mathrm{CO} 2 \\ \text { gram } \end{array}\right.$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{ZnO} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{PbO} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{FeO} \\ \text { activity } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \\ & \text { activity } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O} \\ \text { activity } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Pb} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Zn} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{Fe} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Cu} \\ \mathrm{gram} \end{gathered}$ |
| 0 | 0.19 | 0.32 | 0.21 | 1.80 | 0.149 | 0.016 | 0.498 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 14.92 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.19 |
| 40 | 2.64 | 6.84 | 0.15 | 1.88 | 0.137 | 0.023 | 0.471 | 0.017 | 0.000 | 4.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.06 |
| 80 | 3.71 | 10.38 | 0.12 | 1.93 | 0.131 | 0.024 | 0.452 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 120 | 4.18 | 11.03 | 0.10 | 1.97 | 0.127 | 0.022 | 0.435 | 0.024 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 160 | 4.54 | 11.47 | 0.08 | 1.99 | 0.124 | 0.020 | 0.423 | 0.027 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 200 | 4.83 | 11.82 | 0.07 | 2.01 | 0.122 | 0.019 | 0.413 | 0.030 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 250g Kivcet Slag + 200g Ar +100 g Crucible |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gas phase |  |  |  |  | Liquid Slag |  |  |  |  | Liquid Lead |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Ar} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Zn} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{Pb} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \mathrm{CO} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{CO} 2 \\ & \mathrm{gram} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{c\|} \hline \mathrm{ZnO} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{PbO} \\ \text { activity } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{FeO} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O} \\ \text { activity } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Pb} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Zn} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{Fe} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{Cu} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ |
| 200 | 1.15 | 4.31 | 0.04 | 2.06 | 0.057 | 0.014 | 0.238 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| $\mathbf{2 5 0 g}$ Kivcet Slag + 200g Ar + 100g Crucible + 150g Copper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gas phase |  |  |  |  | Liquid Slag |  |  |  |  | Liquid Copper |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Ar} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Zn} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{Pb} \\ \text { gram } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} \hline \mathrm{CO} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{CO} 2 \\ & \mathrm{gram} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{c\|} \hline \mathrm{ZnO} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{PbO} \\ \text { activity } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{c\|} \hline \mathrm{FeO} \\ \text { activity } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \\ & \text { activity } \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O} \\ \text { activity } \end{gathered}\right.$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Pb} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Zn} \\ \text { gram } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Fe } \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \mathrm{Cu} \\ \text { gram } \end{array}$ |
| 200 | 1.36 | 2.99 | 0.05 | 2.05 | 0.052 | 0.007 | 0.232 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 9.19 | 0.53 | 0.02 | 143.4 |

If argon was introduced into the above system at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the amount of metallic lead in the slag decreased sharply, while the weight of lead in the gas phase increased dramatically.

Activities of ZnO and FeO in the slag decreased, while $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ activity increased with the loss of Zn to the gas phase. When the amount of argon in equilibrium with the slag was set to 200 grams, almost all of the carbon was converted to $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$. The amount of lead in the gas phase at 11.82 grams was very closed to that ( 11.55 grams) of metallic lead in the original slag. The amount of PbO at equilibrium was almost equal to that in the original slag. The activity of

ZnO dropped to 0.122 and 4.83 grams of zinc went into the gas phase. At the same time, FeO activity decreased to 0.413 , while $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ activity increased to 0.030 . Clearly the divalent iron ion available in the slag can reduce zinc oxide. If the zinc and lead in the gas phase are removed continually, some zinc and lead in the slag can be recovered just by holding at temperature.

When a FACT analysis was done of slag heated to $1250{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in a fireclay crucible $\left(36 \% \mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right.$ and $57 \% \mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ ), 100 grams of the crucible were assumed to dissolve into 250 grams of the slag. In this case, activities of all the above oxides decreased as the total weight of the slag increased. When 200 grams of argon was introduced into the system, only 1.15 grams of zinc and 4.31 grams of lead went into the gas phase at equilibrium. The amount of PbO in the slag increased from 12.40 grams to 20.20 grams and no metallic lead was present in the slag. The amount of FeO increased to 66.92 grams, while that of $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ decreased to 3.78 grams. Apparently, some $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was reduced by metallic lead. Although the $\mathrm{FeO} / \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ wt $\%$ ratio increased to 17.7 , the ratio of FeO activity to $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ activity decreased to 12.5 because the dissolved crucible increased the $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ activity coefficient from 0.347 to 1.626 , while it decreased the FeO activity coefficient from 1.695 to 1.149. Divalent iron ions lost some of their reduction potential. The activity coefficients of ZnO and PbO were also decreased from 0.617 and 0.348 to 0.384 and 0.221 respectively. The dissolved crucible had significant influence on the metal recovery. On a commercial scale, where the surface to volume ratio of the slag is much lower, the ratio of dissolved refractory in the slag should be much lower and the influence will be smaller.

In the FACT analysis of the above system equilibrated with 150 grams of copper, the amount of zinc in the gas phase increased to 1.36 grams, while that of lead decreased to 2.99 grams.

At the same time, about 0.53 grams of zinc and 9.19 grams of lead were recovered into the liquid copper. The amount of lead oxide at equilibrium was very close to that in the original slag. Most of the metallic lead went into the liquid copper. Using copper, a greater quantity of zinc and lead can potentially be removed from the slag. Some $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was reduced to FeO by copper. The weight of the copper decreased by 6.6 grams and activity of $\mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ in the slag increased from 0 to 0.014 .

In the case of $0.1 \% \mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Pb}$ and Fe in a $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{Zn}-\mathrm{Pb}-\mathrm{Fe}$ melt, the ratio of Fe activity to Zn activity is apparently 296. Also, the Fe activity is 15 times higher than the Pb activity. There should therefore be a thermodynamic driving force for zinc and lead to enter the liquid copper without much iron.

## 6. EXPERIMENTAL

### 6.1. Experimental Apparatus

A schematic diagram of the experimental apparatus is shown in Fig.11. The detailed information on the different parts of the apparatus is given below.


Fig. 11: Schematic diagram of the experimental apparatus

## Induction Furnace

A self-constructed induction furnace (Fig.12) was employed to melt the slags. A graphite bushing (labeled ' $13^{\prime}$ 'in Fig. 12, $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}($ O.D. $) \times 33 / 4$ '(I.D.) $\times 9^{\prime \prime}$ (L), supplied by National Electrical Carbon Canada, Edmonton, AB, Canada) was used as the heating element of the furnace. This heating element combined with the MgO ring (labeled ' 7 ') and the alumina ring (labeled ' 14 '), separated the furnace into two chambers. The inner chamber was the place inside the graphite bushing, which was used as the working space for the crucible assembly. The outer chamber was the space between the graphite bushing and the refractory bucket (labeled ' 5 '), which served as insulation and graphite bushing protection.

A fireclay crucible (labeled ' 12 ') containing the slag was placed in a graphite cup (labeled ' 11 ') inside the inner chamber. In the cases of a leak of molten slag, a slag overflow from the crucible, and a melting of the crucible, the graphite cup could hold the molten materials to protect the furnace. A thermocouple was placed above the slag surface to measure the temperature. The outer chamber was filled with coarse alumina powder (labeled ' 6 '), which was used as an insulator. The average size of the alumina powder was about 2.1 mm .

Argon was introduced into the inner chamber through the three jets located in the bottom fiber plate (labeled ' 8 ') and one jet in the top refractory cover (labeled ' 1 ') to protect the bath from oxidation and to reduce the oxidation of the graphite bushing. A second stream of argon was introduced into the outer chamber through another three jets located in the bottom plate to protect the graphite bushing. Flow rate of the argon streams were controlled with a mass flow controller.

In the electroreduction trials, a graphite rod ( 10 mm in diameter) was used as the anode immerged into the liquid slag. The graphite anode was more mechanically stable than the platinum ring, which was used in the previous study ${ }^{2}$. Separate runs indicated that the extent of reaction between the graphite rod and the slag when no current was applied was negligible. The cathode is a liquid copper melt with a Mo electrode ( 0.8 mm in diameter), sheathed in alumina except where immersed in the copper. $\mathrm{FACT}^{8}$ calculation indicated that in the case of $0.1 \%$ zinc, lead and iron in a copper melt at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, iron activity was about 296 times and 15 times higher than zinc and lead activities respectively. In addition, at this temperature the solubility of Mo in Cu is negligible and no wear of the Mo electrode was noticed in any of the trials.

The electrodes were placed to the desired position with a XYZ Movement Controller. A computer-based data acquisition system (supplied by Keithley Instruments, Data Acquisition Division, Taunton, MA, USA) was employed to record voltage and current readings from the DC power supply. The data acquisition card could obtain data at different frequency and saved it in an ASCII format. This format data could be imported into Excel spreadsheets.

At the end of the experiment, a graphite shaft was used to push the graphite cup holding the crucible to the furnace top so that it could be removed from the furnace.


Fig. 12: Induction furnace (1) furnace cover, (2) top plate, (3) side support stands, (4) induction coils, (5) refractory bucket, (6) coarse alumina powder, (7) MgO ring, (8) bottom plate, (9) argon inlet tubes, (10) graphite shaft, (11) graphite cup, (12) fireclay crucible, (13) graphite bushing, (14) alumina ring

## Crucible

The crucible used was a fireclay material analyzing $36 \% \mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ and $57 \% \mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ with $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{TiO}_{2}$ as the major contaminants. This composition should be almost exactly half mullite $\left(\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right)$ and half silica. This material was chosen after trying a variety of refractory materials in the previous study on fumer slag. The slag is acidic, with a $\mathrm{CaO} / \mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ ratio less than 1, but it is not saturated with either $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ or $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$. Consequently, the slag dissolves any basic refractory within minutes but also attacks expensive quartz or alumina refractories very substantially. The cheaper fireclay used was also attacked by the fumer slag, but no more than alumina or quartz. Kivcet slag is similar to the fumer slag in this respect, but is more corrosive due to higher ZnO and PbO contents. In the analysis of results, the change in slag composition because of crucible erosion is considered and discussed.

The crucible is conical in shape, 118 mm in depth, with a diameter of 86 mm at the top and 56 mm at the bottom (see Fig. 13)


Fig. 13: Assembly of the crucible

## Fume Collection Device

A simple fume collection device was made to collect fume (Fig.14). A vacuum cleaner was used to produce a force. The off-gas entered a collector, which was made of glass. Then it passed through a filter and the particles in the gas were collected on a filter paper ( 8 um ).


Fig. 14: Schematic diagram of the fume collection device

### 6.2. METHODOLOGY

The experiments in this study can be divided into roughly 2 categories:

1. Metal recovery from the slags under different conditions
2. Electrical resistance measurement

### 6.2.1. Metal Recovery

At first, a series of runs were conducted with two fumer slags to confirm the results of the previous study. In that study, only limited chemical analysis had been done and the extent of reaction with the crucible was not apparent. This produced results that gave an apparent greater recovery of zinc but masked the differences between the different experimental techniques used. For this study, Cominco volunteered to pay for all the chemical analyses, including a reasonably complete element analysis of each slag sample and the ratio of $\mathrm{Fe}^{++}$to $\mathrm{Fe}^{+++}$. This permitted a much more detailed analysis of the experimental results.

The first fumer slag had a high residual content and reflected an inadequate processing in the fuming furnace. All metals of interest, zinc, lead, germanium and indium, were present at above average levels. The second fumer slag had a very low residual level, considerable below the normal average for this process. The analyses of these initial slags are given in Table 1. The trials with the two types of fumer slag were of three types:

1. Slag was heated at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. for 2 hours to determine if either zinc or lead would volatilize and to determine the extent of reaction with the crucible.
2. Slag (generally 250 grams) was melted with 150 grams of copper at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. to determine the extent of redistribution of $\mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{In}$ and Ge without use of voltage and to compare with results obtained from FACT analysis.
3. Slag (200-250 grams) and copper were melted and subjected to a voltage of 5 volts to determine if the cleaning of $\mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{In}$ and Ge from the slag was enhanced.

Next, Kivcet slag was treated using the same processes to see what would happen. Analysis of the original Kivcet slag is also shown in Table 1. As mentioned above, Kivcet slag is more corrosive than fumer slag. When substantial quantities of Kivcet slag were melted, it was necessary to add some amount of ground crucible to the starting slag powder to prevent the slag from eating through the crucible wall.

The runs using the Kivcet slag can be divided into the following groups:

- Melting Kivcet slag ( 250 or 500 grams) at 1250 oC for 2 hours to see if either zinc or lead could be recovered without using a reductant.
- Melting a charge-mixture ( 250 grams of Kivcet slag +25 grams of crucible powder) at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 90 minutes to determine how much zinc and lead can be recovered.
- Equilibrating 275 grams of the charge-mixture with 150 grams of copper at 1250 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 90 minutes to define the distribution of the recovered Zn and Pb .
- Melting the charge-mixture and copper at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with 5 volts applied to determine if metal recoveries would be enhanced.
- In an attempt to simulate a counter flow process, Kivcet slag was treated to remove some of the zinc and the lead and then was electro-refined with new
copper three times to determine the zinc and lead contents that could be reached.

In all experiments, the slag temperature was 1250 to $1270^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with about a $10-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ temperature difference between the slag and the thermocouple. Holding time at this temperature was 90 or 120 minutes. A slag sample was taken with a steel rod every 15 to 30 minutes. A fume sample was collected in some runs. A sample of the copper button was only taken after the run was finished and the slag was cooled to room temperature. The slag samples, the fume samples and the copper buttons were sent to IPL for chemical analysis.

### 6.2.2. Electrical Resistance Measurement

Firstly, a series of experiments were conducted to measure the electrical resistances of the liquid slags. As shown in Fig. 15, two graphite rods ( 10 mm in diameter) were immerged into the liquid slag at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The distance between the graphite rods was 2 cm . A voltage of about 1.4 volts was applied across the graphite rods for aboutl 0 minutes. Then the distance between the graphite electrodes was increased to 4 cm . The same voltage was applied for 10 minutes again. After that, the graphite rods were lifted out of the liquid slag and their tips contacted each other for 10 minutes with the same applied voltage. The voltage and the current in each step were recorded with the computer-based data acquisition system.

Next, the resistance of liquid copper at $1250{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was measured with a similar method to that in the slag resistance measurement. The graphite rods were replaced by two pieces of molybdenum wire ( 0.8 mm in diameter) sheathed in alumina except for the part contacting the liquid copper (see Fig.15).

Finally, the total resistance in electrorefining was measured. As shown in Fig.16, a graphite rod was immerged into the liquid slag and used as the anode. The tip of the graphite rod was 2 cm away from the slag-copper interface. A molybdenum electrode was immerged into the liquid copper. The distance between the molybdenum electrode tip and the slag-copper interface was also 2 cm . A voltage of 5 volts was applied across the graphite anode and the molybdenum electrode for about 10 minutes. The voltage and the current were recorded with the data acquisition system.


Fig. 15: Schematic diagram of slag and copper resistance measurement


Fig. 16: Schematic diagram of resistance measurement in electrorefining

## 7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 7.1. Metal Recovery

### 7.1.1 Metal Recovery from the Fumer Slags

Two types of fumer slag, high residual and low residual, were treated in the experiments. During all the runs, there was a reaction between the slag and the crucible that appeared to reach equilibrium after about one hour or less. Fig. 17 shows the change in CaO and $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ contents of the slag with time in slag reheating with no copper. The rate of change is decreasing with time. It is possible by using the CaO analysis to calculate the weight of the final slag. Fig. 18 indicates that an initial 250 grams of slag reaches a fairly uniform weight of 320 grams after over two hours of processing at temperature. The exact dilution factor was considered in all calculations of metal loss from the slag during processing.

The most important aspect of the crucible dissolution is the impact of the higher silica and alumina on the activity of the zinc and lead oxide in the slag. The FACT software suggests that the initial slag has a ZnO and PbO activity of 0.029 and 0.0037 respectively. After dissolution of the crucible to the values noted, these activities have been reduced to 0.015 and 0.0018 , a reduction of almost exactly fifty percent. Since the change in slag composition in an industrial system, with a much lower surface to volume ratio, would be much lower, it might be expected that the results reported below represent a worst case scenario.


Fig. 17: The change in CaO and $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ contents of fumer slags with time


Fig. 18: Increase in the weight of fumer slags with time

## Slag remelting with no copper

A number of runs were conducted at $1250{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ using 250 grams of fumer slag melted in a fireclay crucible. As soon as the slag melted, there was a substantial display of fume and the analysis of the slag altered considerable over a two hour period as shown in Fig. 19, that gives the apparent slag composition with time of duplicate runs with the high residual fumer slag. This graph is misleading in that it ignores the dilution effect of the crucible erosion. The actual percentage of the original zinc and lead that are removed is shown in Fig. 20, where this factor is considered. Surprisingly, roughly thirty percent of the zinc and fifty percent of the lead have been removed simply by allowing the slag to equilibrate at temperature. In these runs, the combined weight of zinc and lead vaporized from 250 grams of slag is calculated at roughly 4.2 grams. The weight loss of the slag and crucible, after correcting for sample weights, was 5.5 and 7.1 grams for the two runs shown. The fume collected from these runs, see Table 6, was a mixture of very white crystals with a yellow tinge, and small black glass particles. The latter were clearly small slag particles ejected into the gas phase during melting. The overall analysis of the fume indicated about 10-20 percent slag and over 80 percent lead and zinc oxides in roughly equal amounts. It should be noted that the Ge and In analyses of the fume were roughly 200 and 400 ppm respectively, indicating a recovery of these elements to the fume of over 10 percent.


Fig. 19: Analysis of $\mathbf{Z n}$ and $\mathbf{P b}$ in the high residual fumer slag, uncorrected


Fig.20: Zinc and lead loss by slag reheating-High residual

Table 6: Fume analysis - Fumer slag

| Slag type | Condition | $\mathrm{Zn} \%$ | $\mathrm{~Pb} \%$ | Ge ppm | In ppm |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| High <br> Residual | After heating | 23.0 | 36.5 | 206 | 360 |
|  | After heating with Cu | 32.3 | 27.5 | 179 | 50 I |
| Low <br> Residual | After heating | 31.4 | 12.8 | 647 | 481 |

When the low residual fumer slag was remelted, the lead removal was near zero and the zinc removal over 30 percent as shown in Fig. 21. The low lead removal is not surprising since the original content of lead in this slag was just over 0.03 percent. It is interesting to note that even though the zinc content in this slag is one-third that of the high residual fumer slag, the zinc removal is still substantial. The weight loss of the slag and crucible in these runs was lower than the high residual runs, being 1.9 and 3.6 grams for the duplicate runs. In the fume, the zinc to lead ratio was roughly $3 / 1$ and these two materials represented just over half of the fume. The initial analysis for In and Ge was very low in this slag and it appeared that all of these metals reported to the fume. However, at the $20-40 \mathrm{ppm}$ level, the analysis is not reliable enough to calculate the percent removal.

In the slag, the divalent iron ion is the only reductant present in a substantial amount. The reactions

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 2 \mathrm{Fe}^{++}+\mathrm{Zn}^{++}=2 \mathrm{Fe}^{+++}+\mathrm{Zn}(\text { gas }) \text { and } \\
& 2 \mathrm{Fe}^{++}+\mathrm{Pb}^{++}=2 \mathrm{Fe}^{+++}+\mathrm{Pb}(\text { gas })
\end{aligned}
$$

appear to take place readily in the first thirty minutes of melting. Analysis of the high residual fumer slag using FACT indicates that the pressure of Zn over the slag at melt-in should be 0.002 atmospheres and the pressure of $\mathrm{Pb}, 0.001$ atmospheres. These values drop to 0.0001 and 0.00007 respectively after crucible dissolution. Given the extent of the fume and the high loss of lead and zinc, these calculated values would appear to be a trifle low.


Fig.21: Zinc loss by slag reheating -Low residual

Since in the reduction of lead and zinc from the slag the electrical charge balance must be maintained, a calculation was made of the gram-ion equivalents of the major ionized species, zinc, lead, copper, and iron, both divalent and trivalent. The balance, shown in Table 7, was generally consistent, but the variability was high. The analysis for divalent and trivalent iron appears to be one of the less reliable ones and scatter in the results is quite large which is unfortunate when divalent iron is the major reductant in the slag. (An analysis was done on the initial slags to determine if there was residual carbon from the fuming process. The amount found was under 0.05 percent.)

Table 7: Ion equivalents in the fumer slags

| Slag type | Conditions | Cu | Zn | Pb | Fe | $\mathrm{I} * \mathrm{t} / 96487$ | Sum |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| High <br> Residual | As received | 0.015 | 0.343 | 0.026 | 2.753 |  | 3.137 |
|  | After heating | 0.008 | 0.257 | 0.013 | 2.819 |  | 3.096 |
|  | After heating with Cu | 0.037 | 0.268 | 0.004 | 2.908 |  | 3.217 |
|  | After electroreduction | 0.021 | 0.183 | 0.002 | 2.739 | 0.202 | 3.146 |
| Low <br> Residual | As received | 0.016 | 0.117 | 0.000 | 2.747 |  | 2.880 |
|  | After heating | 0.009 | 0.066 | 0.001 | 3.195 |  | 3.271 |
|  | After heating with Cu | 0.025 | 0.063 | 0.000 | 3.219 |  | 3.307 |
|  | After electroreduction | 0.029 | 0.057 | 0.000 | 2.660 | 0.148 | 2.895 |

## Slag remelting with copper with no current applied

A series of runs were made at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with no current applied using 250 grams of fumer slag with 150 grams of copper. The zinc and lead loss from the high residual fumer slag, shown in Fig. 22, indicates clearly the combined effect of fuming of the slag and the removal of zinc to the copper. After roughly sixty minutes, a relatively constant value appears to have been reached. At the end of the two runs shown, between 20 and 30 per cent of the zinc had been removed from the slag and over 80 percent of the lead. Had all of this zinc and lead reported to the copper, the copper should analyze 1.78 per cent zinc and 1.50 percent lead. The analysis of the copper is shown in Table 8. It is seen that the actual analyses for zinc and lead are roughly 0.3 and 1.0 percent respectively with an iron content of 0.11 percent. It would appear that roughly 80 percent of the zinc lost and 30 percent of the lead lost, or roughly 3.8
grams of metals, have reported to the fume. The actual weight loss to the fume in these runs averaged 3.5 grams with zinc and lead in the fume analyzing in the ratio of 2.5 to 1 (Table 6). Considering the vagaries of the analysis, the agreement is very good. The copper analysis of the slag after equilibration increased to 0.69 percent from 0.38 percent.

It can be seen that a small fraction of the indium reports to the copper in the high residual fumer slag case. However, the majority of both the indium and germanium report to the fume.


Fig. 22: Zinc and lead loss with copper getter-High residual

Table 8: Copper button analysis - Fumer slag

|  |  | Copper button composition |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Slag type | Condition | $\mathrm{Zn} \%$ | $\mathrm{~Pb} \%$ | $\mathrm{Fe} \%$ | Ge ppm | In ppm |
| High <br> Residual | After heating with Cu | 0.34 | 1.09 | 0.11 | $<5$ | 73 |
|  | After electroreduction | 1.77 | 0.81 | 0.90 | $<5$ | 59 |
| Low <br> Residual | After heating with Cu | 0.43 | 0.05 | 0.57 | 15 | 7 |
|  | After electroreduction | 0.64 | 0.04 | 2.5 | 67 | $<5$ |

Analysis of this system using FACT is difficult since the equilibrium volume of gas passing over the system is difficult to estimate. However, ignoring the gas phase, FACT suggests that the zinc, lead and iron content of the copper would be $0.10,0.81$ and 0.014 weight percent respectively and that the copper content of the final slag would be 2 percent. However, the zinc and lead vapor pressures would be the same as calculated for the no copper case and there would obviously be a significant loss of these metals to the fume. These calculated values are all substantially lower than the actual recoveries, indicating that the reduction potential in the system is greater than indicated by the apparent $\mathrm{Fe}^{++} / \mathrm{Fe}^{+++}$ratio. However, the actual electrical equivalence in Table 7 shows a reasonable balance.

FACT calculation indicated that at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ the activity coefficients for iron and zinc at infinite dilution in the copper melt were 19.9 and 0.077 respectively. Using the formula

$$
\mathrm{Zn}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{FeO}(\text { in slag })=\mathrm{Fe}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{ZnO}(\text { in slag }),
$$

it can be calculated that the ratio of zinc to iron in the copper should be:

$$
\frac{\% Z n}{\% F e}=28.5 \frac{a_{Z n O}}{a_{F e O}}
$$

If the activity coefficients of the oxides are assumed to be equal, the ratio of zinc to iron in the copper for this slag should be 3.9. Using the activity coefficients for ZnO and FeO from the FACT software for this slag composition ( 0.326 and 1.072 respectively), the ratio should be 1.03. The actual ratio, from Table 8 , is 3.1 .

Runs made with the low residual fumer slag also showed a substantial removal of zinc, in the order of 50 percent, as seen in Fig.23. The initial lead content was very low ( $0.03 \%$ ) but the final lead content also appeared to be lowered to about 0.01 percent. Of the roughly 1.8 grams of zinc that was removed from the slag (average of two runs), some 0.65 grams was recovered in the copper and over 1 gram was removed in the fume. This corresponds to the overall weight loss in the experiments. Copper loss to the slag was very low.


Fig.23: Zinc and lead loss with copper getter-Low residual

Analysis of this system using $\mathrm{FACT}^{8}$ suggested that, ignoring the gas phase, the copper would analyze 0.05 percent zinc and 0.02 percent iron and that the slag would increase to $1.6 \% \mathrm{Cu}$. Again the actual results would appear to indicate that the conditions in the experimental furnace are considerably more reducing than indicated by the initial $\mathrm{Fe}^{++} / \mathrm{Fe}^{+++}$ ratio. However, in this case, the ion equivalent balance (Table 7) is not good and it appears that a high percentage of divalent iron has been oxidized with very little material apparently being reduced.

## Slag Remelting with Copper with 5 volts Applied

In this series of runs, 5 volts was applied across the electrodes shown in Fig. 12 and the results were collected as in the previous series. A typical curve of current and voltage versus time is shown in Fig. 24. In all cases, after a very brief lag, the current reached a high point and then slowly decreased, presumably as the mobile ions in the slag were depleted. The curve for zinc loss in the high residual fumer slag is compared to zinc loss with no voltage in Fig. 25. After the initial melt in, it is seen that the zinc loss is greater at all times for the case in which current is applied. In this case, a sample was also taken of the slag after the crucible and slag had cooled in contact with the copper. As seen, there was a marked reversion of zinc into the slag after the voltage was removed, indicating that the voltage had indeed created a new equilibrium. The iron and zinc contents of the copper buttons recovered after the runs were much higher than those from the runs with no voltage and the ratios of zinc to iron were much lower. The lead content of the copper was lower with voltage applied, even though the lead removal from the slag was marginally higher with voltage applied as seen in Fig. 26. The electrical equivalence of the slag after treatment is seen in Table 7 where the contribution
of current times time has been considered along with the valence change of the elements. It appears that the contribution of the applied voltage is significant but not as impressive as hoped


Fig. 24: Typical Current-Voltage-Time record


Fig. 25: Comparison of zinc recoveries - High residual electroreduction


Fig. 26: Comparison of lead recoveries - High residual electroreduction

Electroreduction of the low residual fumer slag didn't give a positive benefit. The loss of zinc from the slag, shown in Fig. 27, was perhaps marginally improved but the difference is certainly within the limits of analysis.


Fig. 27: Comparison of zinc recoveries - Low residual electroreduction

Considering the coulombs passed in the electroreduction of the two slags, it can be calculated that the current efficiency for the high residual fumer slag case was 95.6 percent and for the low residual case was 90.1 percent. This is very similar to the values predicted by Dickson and Dismukes ${ }^{31}$ for slags with a low basicity.

## Comparison of the results in this study and in previous study

Table 9 shows the zinc content in the high residual fumer slag before and after 90 minutes of treatment in this study and in the previous study. Zinc concentration dropped to $2.4 \sim 2.6 \%$ after melting with and without copper in this study. This agrees with the result of about $2.5 \%$ in the previous study. However, $\mathrm{wt} \%$ of zinc decreased to a lower level of $1.93 \%$ after electrorefining 90 minutes in this study. Actual zinc recovery (about 47\%) was higher than those ( $20 \sim 35 \%$ ) in the runs with no current applied, indicating that the current enhanced the removal of zinc from the slag. In the previous study the effect of the current on zinc recovery from the high residual fumer slag was not clear. A possible reason was that the slag analysis was not accurate enough. However, in the case of a synthetic slag (Slag1, $\mathrm{ZnO} \%=4.33$ ) in the previous study ${ }^{2}$, a voltage of 5 volts decreased the zinc content to a lower level (about $0.8 \%$ ) than those (1.3-1.5\%) with no voltage applied.

Table 9: Zinc content in high residual fumer slag
before and after treatment ( 90 minutes)

|  | In this study | In the previous study |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Original high residual fumer slag | $4.5 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| After melting without Cu | $2.42 \%$ | About $2.5 \%$ |
| After equilibrating with Cu | $2.57 \%$ | About $2.5 \%$ |
| After electrorefining | $1.93 \%$ | About $2.5 \%$ |

In the case of low residual fumer slag in this study, about $55 \%$ of the zinc was recovered by electrorefining. Zinc concentration in the slag decreased to about $0.55 \%$ and stabilized at this level. No experiment was conducted with low residual fumer slag in the previous study. But in the electroreduction runs using another synthetic slag ( $\mathrm{Slag} 2, \mathrm{ZnO} \%=1.98$ ), which was similar to low residual fumer slag, it was found that zinc could not be removed from the slag when its content was lowered to about $0.45 \%$. The results in both studies are similar.

Analysis of the copper buttons in the runs using high residual fumer slag in this study indicated that (1) with current passing, more zinc and iron were deposited in the copper melt than without current applied, and the concentration of zinc was nearly double that of iron; (2) lead, germanium and indium can also be collected in the copper melt, and there was no significant difference for their concentration in the cases with and without current passing (Table 8). This agrees well with the result in the previous study. In the runs using low residual fumer slag in this study, the current also enhanced the thermodynamic driving force for removal of zinc and iron to the copper melt. However, iron content was much higher than that of zinc because the $w t \%$ of zinc in the slag was quite low.

Fume was observed in all runs in both studies. The main contents of the fume were zinc and lead oxides in roughly equal amounts. Concentrations of germanium and indium in the fume were much higher than those in the slag.

In the electrorefining runs in both studies, voltage increased slightly during the whole melting period, while current increased a little in the first several minutes and then decreased slowly. In this study, current efficiency was calculated based on the difference in the total ion equivalents of zinc, lead, iron (divalent and trivalent) and copper in the slag before and after
treatment. The calculation results of more than $90 \%$ was higher than that ( $68 \%$ ) in the previous study, in which the current efficiency was calculated according to the zinc concentration difference in the slag and the iron concentration difference in the copper before and after treatment.

### 7.1.2. Metal Recovery from the Kivcet Slag

## Melting Kivcet Slag

A series of runs was conducted using different amounts of slag. The slag dissolved some of the silica and alumina in the fireclay crucible at high temperature. In the case of 250 grams of original slag, silica content in the slag increased to $34.6 \%$ (average of two runs, see Fig. 28) after 120 minutes. At the same time, CaO concentration decreased to $10.2 \%$ and slag basicity dropped to 0.23 . The amount of Ca in the slag was assumed to be stable. Slag weight calculations based on Ca analysis indicated that an apparent equilibrium between the slag and the crucible was reached after about 75 minutes (see Fig. 29). The weight of final slag generally increased by about $30 \%$.


Fig. 28: Change of $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ and CaO contents in the Kivcet slag


Fig. 29: Increase of slag weight with time - Kivcet

Black fume was observed over the furnace when the temperature reached about $1100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. This fume contained some fine slag, which was ejected into the gas phase during heating and melting. After 30 minutes, the black fume was replaced by gray fume, a mixture of zinc and lead oxides. Significant amounts of white and yellow powders were found on the brick used as a furnace cover. Overall analysis (see Table 10) indicated that the powder contained about $28 \%$ zinc and $26 \%$ lead. The $\mathrm{Ge}, \mathrm{In}, \mathrm{Sb}$ and As concentrations in the fume fell in a range of 350 to 12500 ppm , indicating a fair recovery of these elements to the gas phase.

Table 10: Analysis of the fume - Kivcet

| $\mathbf{Z n}(\%)$ | Pb (\%) | As (ppm) | Sb (ppm) | In (ppm) | Ge (ppm) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28.4 | 26.1 | 12443 | 4104 | 832 | 350 |

In an initial run using 500 grams of slag, a leak of molten slag occurred and some liquid material entered the graphite cup. After that run, ground crucible powder was added to the slag mixture to prevent potential leakage.

## Melting a Charge- Mixture Without Copper

To make a charge-mixture with the composition shown in Table 11, 250 grams of Kivcet slag were mixed with 25 grams of crucible powder. The charge-mixture was heated to $12500^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and held at this temperature for 90 minutes. The weight of final slag increased to 358 grams (average of two runs), indicating that crucible dissolution still occurred. But the crucible stayed intact and no molten slag entered the graphite cup. This slag weight increase was considered in the calculation of metal recoveries.

Table 11: Analysis of the charge-mixture and the final slags

|  | $\mathbf{Z n}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathbf{P b}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathbf{S b}$ <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | $\mathbf{A s}$ <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | $\mathbf{I n}$ <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | $\mathbf{G e}$ <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | $\mathbf{C u}$ <br> $(\mathrm{ppm})$ | $\mathbf{F e}^{2+}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathbf{F e}^{3+}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathbf{S i O}_{2}$ <br> $(\%)$ | $\mathbf{C a O}_{(\%)}$ <br> $\left(\% \mathbf{A l}_{2} \mathbf{O}_{3}\right.$ <br> $(\%)$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Original | 14.0 | 8.4 | 2616 | 2141 | 653 | 121 | 3177 | 14.5 | 6.6 | 26.4 | 12.0 | 3.5 |
| After <br> holding without Cu | 9.9 | 5.3 | 1664 | 1196 | 421 | 35 | 2156 | 14.8 | 4.6 | 37.2 | 9.5 | 10.7 |
| After <br> holding with Cu | 9.5 | 5.0 | 1703 | 971 | 391 | 51 | 5553 | 14.3 | 3.8 | 35.6 | 9.4 | 11.2 |
| After <br> electrorefining | 10.7 | 3.6 | 1083 | 598 | 365 | 53 | 8459 | 16.6 | 2.3 | 35.3 | 11.0 | 9.7 |

In the slag, some of the metallic lead vaporized directly to the fume. Zinc and lead oxides were reduced by carbon to their metals, which also reported to the fume. During the period from melt-in to 90 minutes, the amount of trivalent iron ions decreased, while that of divalent iron ions increased. Some $\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was reduced to FeO . Possible reactions were:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{l})=\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{FeO}+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}+\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{l})=\mathrm{FeO}+\mathrm{PbO}
\end{aligned}
$$

Metal recoveries in Fig. 30 indicated that chemical equilibrium was reached after 60 minutes. About $8.4 \%$ of the zinc and $20.5 \%$ of the lead (average) were removed at the apparent equilibrium. These recoveries were lower than those to be expected commercially since the activities of the zinc and lead oxides have been reduced by the addition of crucible material. After 90 minutes, zinc and lead contents in the slag decreased from $14.0 \%$ and $8.4 \%$ to $9.9 \%$ and $5.3 \%$ respectively (see Table 11). About 3.0 grams of zinc and 4.0 grams of lead reported to the fume. The total weight loss of the two metals was very closed to the overall weight loss of 10.2 grams. The difference was likely the weight of fine slag ejected during melting.

The total ion equivalents in the slag were calculated using the analysis received from IPL and assuming that all of the metals of interest in the slag were in the ionic state. When the charge was heated from room temperature to $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the total ion equivalents at melt-in, assuming all ionic metals, was 3.90. After melt-in, the total ion equivalents decreased as shown in Fig.31. Since in any reaction, the charge balance must be maintained, it is clear that the metallic lead and the carbon in the slag are involved and are influencing the charge balance calculation. If it is assumed that half of the original lead present is metallic, the weight of
carbon required to give an equal charge balance is 0.58 grams or $0.23 \%$ of the Kivcet slag.


Fig. 30: Metal recoveries in the holding runs without copper - Charge mix


Fig. 31: Decrease in ion equivalents during different melting period and moles of electrons introduced in electrorefining - Charge mix

## Equilibrating With Copper

When 275 grams of the charge-mixture were melted with 150 grams of copper, the recovered zinc and lead reported to both the fume and the copper button. Reactions (1) to (7) were still possible, as well as the reactions:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{l})=\mathrm{Pb}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Zn}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Pb}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{Zn}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{PbO}+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})=\mathrm{Pb}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \\
& \mathrm{ZnO}+2 \mathrm{Cu}=\mathrm{Zn}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O} \\
& \mathrm{PbO}+2 \mathrm{Cu}=\mathrm{Pb}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})+\mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O} \\
& \mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}+2 \mathrm{Cu}=2 \mathrm{FeO}+\mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{O}
\end{aligned}
$$

After about 75 minutes, slag reduction, shown in Fig. 32, reached an apparent equilibrium at which about $10 \%$ of the zinc and $23 \%$ of the lead were recovered. A slightly higher metal recovery was obtained by using a copper getter.

Again, the total ion equivalents after melt-in decreased in a similar manner to the runs without copper (see Fig. 31). After 90 minute of melting, the total ion equivalents in the final slag was 0.27 lower than that in the original charge. The amount of carbon calculated to be in the slag, after considering metallic lead, was similar to that in holding without copper.


Fig. 32: Metal recoveries in the holding runs with copper - Charge mix

The weight of the copper button increased by 1.5 grams (average) with the composition shown in Table 12. The lead concentration at 1.4\%, although lower than the result of FACT calculation ( $6 \%$ ), was about 4 times higher than that of zinc and 133 times higher than that of iron. The copper loss to the slag was also lower than calculated above, only about 1.3 grams compared to the FACT calculation of 6.6 grams. As discussed earlier, the FACT calculation is sensitive to the amount of argon gas available to and in equilibrium with the system. In the experimental work, although the total volume of argon used was measured, the fraction in equilibrium with the system was not.

Table 12: Analysis of the copper buttons - Charge mix

| Conditions | $\mathbf{P b}$ <br> $\mathbf{( \% )}$ | $\mathbf{Z n}$ <br> $\mathbf{( p m m})$ | $\mathbf{S b}$ <br> $(\mathbf{p p m})$ | $\mathbf{A s}$ <br> $(\mathbf{p p m})$ | $\mathbf{I n}$ <br> $\mathbf{p p m})$ | $\mathbf{G e}$ <br> $\mathbf{( p p m})$ | $\mathbf{F e}$ <br> $(\mathbf{p m})$ | $\mathbf{C u}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Holding with copper | 1.4 | 3143 | 492 | 512 | 214 | $<5$ | 105 | Remainder |
| Electrorefining | 5.6 | 7731 | 2283 | 2195 | 404 | $<5$ | 742 | Remainder |

Zinc and lead balances shown in Table 13 indicated that, after 90 minutes, about 3.8 grams of zinc $(9.8 \%)$ reported to the fume, while only 0.5 grams of zinc ( $1.3 \%$ ) entered the copper button. However, the amount of lead in the fume ( 3.0 grams) was only slightly higher than that ( 2.1 grams) in the copper button. Although zinc activity in the copper melt is very low at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, as indicated by the FACT calculation, both melting and boiling temperatures of zinc are very low, only $419.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $907^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ respectively, resulting in much more zinc in the fume. The melting point of lead is only $327^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Its boiling point, however, is $1740^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. In addition, the lead activity at this concentration in the copper melt is also quite low. The total weight of the two metals in the fume was 6.8 grams, corresponding to an overall weight loss of 12 grams in the experiments.

Table 13: Zinc and lead balance in holding with copper and electrorefining - Charge mix

| Holding with copper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total |  | In the fume |  | In the copper |  | In the slag |  |
|  | Grams | \% | Grams | \% | Grams | \% | Grams | \% |
| Zinc Balance | 38.4 | 100 | 3.8 | 9.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 34.1 | 89.0 |
| Lead Balance | 23.1 | 100 | 3.0 | 13.0 | 2.1 | 9.2 | 18.0 | 77.8 |
| Electrorefining |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total |  | In the fume |  | In the copper |  | In the slag |  |
|  | Grams | \% | Grams | \% | Grams | \% | Grams | \% |
| Zinc Balance | 38.4 | 100 | 3.4 | 8.8 | 1.2 | 3.2 | 33.8 | 88.0 |
| Lead Balance | 23.1 | 100 | 2.9 | 12.8 | 8.9 | 38.5 | 11.3 | 48.7 |

## Electrorefining with 5 volts

In the electroreduction runs, 275 grams of the charge-mixture and 150 grams of copper were melted and subjected to a voltage of 5 volts for 90 minutes. Similar to the electroreduction of fumer slags, the voltage increased slightly during the whole electrorefining period, while the current increased a little in the first five minutes and then decreased slowly (see Fig. 33).


Fig. 33: Typical potential and current in electrorefining - Charge mix

In electrorefining, all of the reactions noted above might occur, as well as the half-cell reactions:

Cathode

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{Zn}^{++}(\text {in slag })+2 \mathrm{e}^{-}=\mathrm{Zn}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu}) \\
& \mathrm{Pb}^{++}(\text {in slag })+2 \mathrm{e}^{-}=\mathrm{Pb}(\text { in } \mathrm{Cu})
\end{aligned}
$$

Anode

$$
\mathrm{C}_{\text {(graphite rod) }}+\mathrm{O}^{2-}=\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})+2 \mathrm{e}^{-}
$$

and the electronic conduction reactions:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{Fe}^{+++}+\mathrm{e}^{-}=\mathrm{Fe}^{++} \\
& \mathrm{Fe}^{++}-\mathrm{e}^{-}=\mathrm{Fe}^{+++}
\end{aligned}
$$

Zinc and lead were still being removed from the slag after 90 minutes. About 3.4 grams of zinc had reported to the fume. This was nearly 3 times that ( 1.2 grams ) in the copper button. However, the amount of lead in the fume at 3.0 grams was only about one third of that (8.9 grams) in the copper (see Table 13). The total weight of the zinc and lead in the fume was 6.4 grams, with an overall weight loss of 12.1 grams. Metal recoveries were compared with those in equilibrating with copper (see Fig. 34). The voltage applied clearly enhanced lead recovery However, the effect on zinc recovery was not significant.


Time in minutes at $\mathbf{1 2 5 0} \mathbf{C}$

Fig. 34: Comparison of metal recoveries in electrorefining and equilibrating with copper - Charge mix

The weight of the copper button increased to 158.9 grams (average) with the composition shown in Table 12. Concentrations of lead, zinc, iron and the trace elements were much higher than those with no current applied, indicating a significant effect of the current. The copper loss was also quite low, only 2.1 grams.

As shown in Fig. 31, the moles of electrons per minute introduced decreased continually over the 90 minute period, although the voltage increased a little. Because of the metallic lead and carbon in the slag mentioned above, the decrease in the total ion equivalents from melt-in to 60 minutes was larger than the moles of electrons supplied. After 90 minutes, the total ion equivalents of the recovered $\mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Fe}, \mathrm{As}$ and Sb in the copper button, after being adjusted by that of the copper loss, was 0.12 , very closed to the total amount of the electrons introduced ( 0.13 moles).

If the Kivcet slag was equilibrated with copper at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 90 minutes and then 5 volts was applied, zinc and lead continued to be removed from the slag. There was, however, no sharp change in metal recovery at the time when the voltage was applied. Fig. 35 shows the zinc and lead recoveries in this case.


Fig. 35: Reduction of Kivcet slag in the electrorefining runs in which 5 volts was applied after 90 minutes

## Repeat Treatment of Kivcet Slag

Kivcet slag was treated to remove some of the zinc and the lead. The slag produced contained $9.8 \%$ zinc and $2.3 \%$ lead. The slag basicity at 0.23 was similar to that of the final slags in Kivcet slag melting. After the treatment, there should be no metallic lead and carbon present in the slag produced.

This produced slag was electro-refined with new copper and 5 volts three times ( 90 minutes each time). The increase in slag weight from crucible erosion was less than $5 \%$ in each run
and the effect of the newly dissolved crucible in each run was very small. After three treatments, although zinc and lead concentrations dropped to $5.9 \%$ and $0.3 \%$ respectively, metal recoveries in the third treatment were still high at about $20 \%$ of the zinc and $50 \%$ of the lead present after the second run (Fig. 36). Most of the lead in the slag was removed but the zinc content was still quite high. Further refining would still be required to recover the remaining zinc.

As shown in Fig. 37, the decrease in total ion equivalents was roughly equal to the moles of electrons supplied with some error particularly in the first sample taken. Total ion equivalents of the recovered metals $(\mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Pb}$ and Fe$)$ in the copper buttons in the first, second and third run were $0.22,0.16$ and 0.08 respectively, corresponding to $0.20,0.17$ and 0.12 moles of electrons supplied in the three runs respectively.

Zn Recovery
(Electrorefining 3 times)


Pb Recovery
(Electrorefining 3 times)


Fig. 36: Metal recoveries from the slag during electrorefining 3 times


Fig. 37: Drop of ion equivalents and electrons (moles) supplied during electrorefining 3 times

### 7.2. Electrical Resistance Measurement

## Slag Measurement

At $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, two graphite rods were immersed into the liquid slag. The distance between the graphite rods was 2 cm or 4 cm . When a voltage was applied across the graphite rods, we can write following equations:

$$
\begin{align*}
& R_{\text {total - slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}=R_{\text {slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}+2\left(\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-1 }}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {graphlitc }}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {cuntlat- }-2)}\right)  \tag{i}\\
& \mathrm{R}_{\text {total - slag }(4 \mathrm{~cm})}=\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag }(4 \mathrm{~cm})}+2\left(\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-1 }}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {graphite }}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-2 }}\right)  \tag{ii}\\
& \mathrm{R}_{\text {slag }(4 \mathrm{~cm})}-\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}=\mathrm{R}_{\text {total-slag }(4 \mathrm{~cm})}-\mathrm{R}_{\text {total-slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})} \tag{iii}
\end{align*}
$$

where: $R_{\text {total -slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}$ - the total resistance when the distance between the graphite electrodes was 2 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {total -slag }(4 \mathrm{~cm})-\text { the total resistance when the distance between the graphite electrodes }}$ was 4 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag (2cm) }}$ - the slag resistance when the distance between the electrodes was 2 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag (4cm) }}$ - the slag resistance when the distance between the electrodes was 4 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {graphite }}$ - the resistance of a graphite electrode
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-1 }}$ - the contact resistance between a graphite electrode and a wire from the power supply
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-2 }}$ the contact resistance between a graphite electrode and the liquid slag

The total resistances, $\mathrm{R}_{\text {total-slag (2cm) }}$ and $\mathrm{R}_{\text {total-slag (4cm), }}$ can be calculated using the voltage and the current readings. The results, shown in Fig.38, Fig. 39 and Fig. 40 indicated that, when the
distance between the electrodes was increased from 2 cm to 4 cm , the total resistance increased by only 0.012 ohm (average) for the high residual fumer slag, 0.004 ohm for the low residual fumer slag, and 0.027 ohm for the Kivcet slag. In a measurement for the low residual fumer slag, the total resistance decreased with increasing the distance between the electrodes (see Fig.39). This group of data was not used in the above calculation. The increase in the total resistance was assumed to be equal to $\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}$. When the distance between the electrodes was 2 cm , the ratio of the distance to the section area was similar to that of the slag zone in electrorefining. Therefore, $\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag (2cm) }}$ was also assumed to be the slag resistance in electroreduction.


Fig.38: Total electrical resistance in slag measurement - High residual fumer slag


Fig.39: Total electrical resistance in slag measurement - Low residual fumer slag


Fig.40: Total electrical resistance in slag measurement - Kivcet slag

According to Equation (i), we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{\text {contact }-1}+R_{\text {graphite }}+R_{\text {contact-2 }}=1 / 2\left(R_{\text {total }- \text { slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}-R_{\text {slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}\right) \tag{iv}
\end{equation*}
$$

The left side of Equation (iv) was named anode resistance ( $\mathrm{R}_{\text {anode }}$ ) in electrorefining. The calculation result indicated that $\mathrm{R}_{\text {anode }}$ was 0.150 ohm (average). This result can be confirmed by a measurement. When the two electrodes were lifted out of the liquid slag and their tips contacted each other with the voltage applying, the total resistance of the circuit was 0.264 ohm. In other words, the following equation is true:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-1 }}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {graphite }}+1 / 2 \mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-3 }}=0.132 \mathrm{ohm} \tag{v}
\end{equation*}
$$

where: $\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-3 }}$ - contact resistance between the two electrodes

The result in Equation (v) is a little smaller than that calculated using Equation (iv). A possible reason is that the value of $1 / 2 R_{\text {contact-3 }}$ is smaller than that of $R_{\text {contact- } 2 \text {. }}$

## Copper Measurement

In the copper measurement using two molybdenum electrodes, we can write the following equation:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mathrm{R}_{\text {total- }-\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})}=\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})}+2\left(\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-4 }}+\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Mo}}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {contat- }-5}\right)  \tag{vi}\\
& \mathrm{R}_{\text {total }-\mathrm{Cu}(4 \mathrm{~cm})}=\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(4 \mathrm{~cm})}+2\left(\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-4 }}+\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Mo}}+\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-5 }}\right) \tag{vii}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(4 \mathrm{~cm}))}-\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})}=\mathrm{R}_{\text {total }-\mathrm{Cu}(4 \mathrm{~cm})}-\mathrm{R}_{\text {total }-\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})} \tag{viii}
\end{equation*}
$$

where: $\mathrm{R}_{\text {total }-\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})-}$ the total resistance when the distance between the molybdenum electrodes was 2 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {total }-\mathrm{Cu}(4 \mathrm{~cm})}$ - the total resistance when the distance between the molybdenum electrodes was 4 cm
$R_{C u(2 \mathrm{~cm})}$ - the copper resistance when the distance between the molybdenum electrodes was 2 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(4 \mathrm{~cm})}$ - the copper resistance when the distance between the molybdenum electrodes was 4 cm
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Mo}_{0}}$ - the resistance of a Mo electrode
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-4 }}$ - the contact resistance between a molybdenum electrode and a wire from the power supply
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-5 }}$ - the contact resistance between a Mo electrode and the liquid copper

Again, the total resistances were calculated using the voltage and the current readings. The results shown in Fig. 41 indicated that, when the distance between the Mo electrodes was increased from 2 cm to 4 cm , the total resistance increased by 0 ohm in one measurement and 0.053 ohm in another measurement. The resistivity of copper at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (about $24 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{ohm}$ m ) ${ }^{33}$ and the ratio of the distance to the section area in case of " 2 cm copper zone" (about 25 $\mathrm{m}^{-1}$ ) suggest that $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})}$ is approximately $6 \times 10^{-6}$ ohm.

Using Equation (vi), we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{R}_{\text {contact-4 }}+\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Mo}_{0}}+\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{contact}-5}=1 / 2\left(\mathrm{R}_{\text {total }-\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})}-\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{Cu}(2 \mathrm{~cm})}\right) \tag{ix}
\end{equation*}
$$

The left side of Equation (ix) was called cathode resistance ( $\mathrm{R}_{\text {cathode }}$ ) in electrorefining. The calculation result indicates that $\mathrm{R}_{\text {cathode }}$ is about 0.377 ohm .


Fig.41: Total electrical resistance in copper measurement

## Electrorefining Measurement

In electrorefining, we can write

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{\text {total -eletro }}=R_{\text {anode }}+R_{\text {slag(eletro) }}+R_{\text {interface }}+R_{\text {Cu(electro) }}+R_{\text {cathode }} \tag{x}
\end{equation*}
$$

where: $\mathrm{R}_{\text {total -eletro }}$ - the total resistance in electrorefining
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag(eletro) }}$ - the slag resistance in electrorefining
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {interface }}$ - the resistance of the slag-copper interface
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {Cu(electro) }}$ - the copper resistance in electrorefining

The total resistance, $\mathrm{R}_{\text {total-eletro, }}$ can be calculated using the voltage and the current readings. $\mathrm{R}_{\text {anode }}$ and $\mathrm{R}_{\text {cathode }}$ have been defined in the slag and copper measurements. $\mathrm{R}_{\text {slageletro) }}$ is equal to $\mathrm{R}_{\text {slag }(2 \mathrm{~cm})}$ as mentioned above. In electrorefining, the ratio of the distance to the section area in the copper zone is about $10 \mathrm{~m}^{-1}$ and the copper resistance, $\mathrm{R}_{\text {Cu(electro), }}$ is almost zero. Having the above data, we can calculate the resistance of the slag-copper interface and determine voltage distribution in electrorefining. The results shown in Table 14 indicated that the resistances of the slags in electrorefining were very low. Most of the total voltage focused on the anode (about $15 \%$ ), the slag-copper interface ( $40 \sim 50 \%$ ) and the cathode ( $30 \sim 40 \%$ ).

Table 14: Voltage distribution in electrorefining

| High Residual Fumer Slag |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Item | Resistance |  | Voltage |  |
|  | Ohm | . \% | Volts | \% |
| Total | 1.107 | 100 | 5.000 | 100 |
| Anode | 0.150 | 14 | 0.678 | 14 |
| Slag | 0.013 | 1 | 0.059 | 1 |
| Slag-copper interface | 0.567 | 51 | 2.561 | 51 |
| Copper | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 |
| Cathode | 0.377 | 34 | 1.703 | 34 |
| Low Residual Fumer Slag |  |  |  |  |
| Item | Resistance |  | Voltage |  |
|  | Ohm | \% | Volts | \% |
| Total | 1.001 | 100 | 5.000 | 100 |
| Anode | 0.150 | 15 | 0.749 | 15 |
| Slag | 0.004 | 0 | 0.020 | 0 |
| Slag-copper interface | 0.470 | 47 | 2.348 | 47 |
| Copper | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 |
| Cathode | 0.377 | 38 | 1.883 | 38 |
| Kivcet Slag |  |  |  |  |
| Item | Resistance |  | Voltage |  |
|  | Ohm | \% | Volts | \% |
| Total | 0.975 | 100 | 5.000 | 100 |
| Anode | 0.150 | 15 | 0.771 | 15 |
| Slag | 0.027 | 3 | 0.138 | 3 |
| Slag-copper interface | 0.421 | 43 | 2.157 | 43 |
| Copper | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 |
| Cathode | 0.377 | 39 | 1.933 | 39 |

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

Metal recovery from COMINCO's fumer slags and Kivcet slag under different conditions was tested in this study. Voltage distribution in electrorefining was also roughly defined. The following conclusions have been drawn.

## Metal Recovery from the Fumer Slags

- Even heating without copper, some zinc, lead and trace elements indium and germanium could be removed from the fumer slags. The main contents in the fume
i were zinc and lead oxides. Some trace elements ( $\mathrm{In}, \mathrm{Ge}$ ) were also found.
- When copper was used as a "getter", a higher lead recovery was obtained from high residual fumer slag. However, zinc recovery from both fumer slags was not improved. Some zinc and lead were recovered from the slags to the copper melt.
- In electrorefining, zinc and lead recoveries from high residual fumer slag were enhanced by the voltage applied. But the effect of current on metal recovery from low residual fumer slag was not noticeable. About $50 \%$ of the zinc and most of the lead were removed from the fumer slags by 90 minute of electroreduction. The zinc in the fumer slag could not be removed when its content was lower than about $0.5 \mathrm{wt} \%$.


## Metal Recovery from the Kivcet Slag

- FACT calculation indicated that the Kivcet slag has a significant self-reduction
potential. Metal recovery from the Kivcet slag will be influenced dramatically by the dissolution of the fireclay crucible.
- Simple holding of the charge-mixture (Kivcet slag was mixed with the crucible powder at a crucible/slag weight ratio of $1 / 10$ ) at $1250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ permits some zinc, lead and trace elements such as $\mathrm{Sb}, \mathrm{As}, \mathrm{In}, \mathrm{Ge}$ to be recovered. The main content of the fume was zinc and lead oxides.
- When copper was used as a "getter", zinc and lead recoveries were a little higher than those in holding without copper. About half of the recovered lead entered the copper, while most of the reduced zinc vaporized to fume.
- Lead recovery using electrorefining was improved over equilibration with copper. However, zinc recovery was not noticeable enhanced.
- Kivcet slag was treated to remove some of the zinc and the lead and then was electrorefined 3 times. Most of the lead was recovered. However, zinc concentration was still as high as $6 \%$. Further treatment would be required.
- The experimental results were biased by the dissolution of the acidic crucible. Kivcet slag is very corrosive. A significant amount of the fireclay crucible dissolved into the slag at high temperature. Slag weight generally increased by $30 \%$. Recoveries in an industrial system, where the activities of the principal metal oxides would be higher, would be expected to be better than those reported.


## Voltage Distribution in Electrorefining

The resistances of the slags in electrorefining were very low. Most of the total voltage focused on the anode (about $15 \%$ ), the slag-copper interface ( $40 \sim 50 \%$ ) and the cathode ( $30 \sim 40 \%$ ).

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## APPENDIX-2: ANALYSIS OF THE FUME SAMPLES














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