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" LOW TEMPERATURE LATENT HEAT STORAGE : RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE COMPOUNDS AT LOW TEMPERATURE (20 C - 30 C ).

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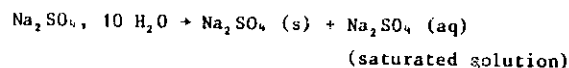
are presented in references ( 2) and ( 6). These facts are illustrated in figure 1 where the advantages of PCM over water (only sensible heat available), for low temperatures, are clearly outlined.

. MELTING AND COOLING PHENOMENA : illustration with two salt hydrates.

Thermodynamic behaviour of materials selected can be learned by examining the phase diagram, temperature versus composition, for salt hydrates. However as shown for the two following examples,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Glauber's salt) and  $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , actual fusion and solidification processes can be more complex than expected.

1) Melting and cooling of Sodium sulfate decahydrate.

Sodium sulfate decahydrate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) (Glauber's salt) received much attention as heat storage material. When melted at the temperature of  $32.4^\circ\text{C}$ , a peritectic decomposition reaction occurs (point P in phase diagram partly reproduced in figure 2) :



Because of the higher density of the solid  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , separation from the saturated solution happens and accumulation of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 (\text{s})$  is observed, as the temperature is raised over the melting point corresponding to P. When cooled, the same sample would have to freeze at the same temperature,  $32.4^\circ\text{C}$ . Two different known phenomena occur :

a) Supercooling.

Germes of crystals (embryos of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10 \text{H}_2\text{O} (\text{s})$ ) are not formed with a sufficient rate, or kinetics of development of crystallites from germes is too slow; both lead to a supercooling of the solution, under the phase transition temperature corresponding to equilibrium conditions.

b) Segregation.

Considering that there is no supercooling, when cooled at  $32.4^\circ\text{C}$ , the reversible peritectic reaction is not complete, because water diffusion through solid  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  suffers from kinetics limitations (depending upon scale of solid particles, formation of a crust at the interface solid-saturated solution, concentration gradients,...).

Finally considering several melting-freezing cycles, a larger quantity of inactive  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  is formed and does not recombine with water.

This evidently results in decreasing sharply the amount of actually available latent heat.

This phenomenon called segregation is very common for salt hydrates which present an incongruent melting phase-diagram, the solid segregating salt being either the anhydrous form or another hydrated form.

For the much studied Glauber's salt, many investigators claimed successful attempts in preventing gross segregation. Numerous techniques have been tried such as use of thickening agents (10), gellation (11) (13), chemical encapsulation (12) (13), mechanical stirring or shaking (14) (15) (16). However many disappointing experiences have been encountered (11) and new recent developments have not been tested for enough time, or reported as really operative for large scale applications.

Figure (3) redrawn from reference (11) show how important can be the segregation effect.

TABLE I

Compounds	Melting point or Solid-solid transition temperature °C	Heat of transition J.g <sup>-1</sup>
<u>1) Inorganic salts</u>		
LiCl	607	468
NaCl	800	476
KCl	770	360
NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	185	75
MgCl <sub>2</sub>	714	452
CaCl <sub>2</sub>	772	255
LiNO <sub>3</sub>	251	389
NaNO <sub>3</sub>	tr 276 f 310	46 188
KNO <sub>3</sub>	tr1 128 tr2 160 f 337	58 37 117
NaCH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub>	328	226
59 % LiCl-41 % KCl	352	243
44 % NaCl-56 % FeCl <sub>3</sub>	158	167
LiOH	471	876
<u>2) Salts Hydrates</u>		
MgCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	117	169
CaCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	29	191
Mg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	89	163
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> · 10 H <sub>2</sub> O	32,4	244
LiNO <sub>3</sub> · 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	30	296
Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> · 5 H <sub>2</sub> O	48	200
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> · 12 H <sub>2</sub> O	36,5	279
Ba(OH) <sub>2</sub> · 8 H <sub>2</sub> O	78	266
NaCH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> · 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	58	289

TABLE I (continued)

Compounds	Melting temperature or solid-solid transition temperature °C	Transition heat J.g <sup>-1</sup>
<u>3) Organic materials</u>		
p. chlorobenzoic acid	240	206
Acetic acid	17	201
Stearic acid	69	202
Naphtalene	80	148
Urea	133	251
paraffin	57	209
paraffin	62	209
Palmitic acid	64	185
Capric acid	36	153
Lauric acid	49	177
n-eicosane	37	247
67,1% Naphtalene		
32,9 Benzoic acid	67	123
66,6 % urea		
33,4 NH <sub>4</sub> Br	76	151
<u>4) Plastic crystals</u>		
penta-erythritol	tr 184 f 256	250 25
pentaglycerine	tr 86 f 195	161 28,5
neopentylglycol	tr 44 f 130	125 38
2amino-2methyl,1-3 propanediol	tr 89 f 102	240 28
2amino-2hydroxymethyl,1,3 propanediol	tr 138 f 167	284 25

Several large scale-applications have been realised with various configurations (32) (33) (35) (36) (37).

#### B. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF MULTI-COMPONENTS SYSTEMS RICH IN CALCIUM CHLORIDE.

For building applications and greenhouse developments there is a need for PCM, melting at temperatures in the range 18°C-25°C. The idea followed was to take Calcium Chloride hexahydrate as the basic component and to try several additives in order to get lower melting temperatures.

1) First trials concerned use of the "extra-water principle" (29) (38), but again a sharp decrease of expected latent heat is observed.

##### 2) Pseudo-Ternary system (CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 6 H<sub>2</sub>O), KCl, NH<sub>4</sub>Cl.

Following one scarce observation about two not-well defined compositions of (CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 6 H<sub>2</sub>O), NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, KCl mixture (39) we went through the exploration of this pseudo-ternary mixture.

Figure 7 shows the lines along which we were working, either with constant Calcium chloride hexahydrate ( $X \text{ CaCl}_2 = \text{Ct}$ ) or with constant ratio of number of moles of Potassium Chloride versus Ammonium Chloride ( $y = \text{Ct}$ ). Moreover, the worked area is within the estimated solubility limits of both anhydrous salts, indicated (not precisely known) on the figure. This system has been studied considering that (CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 6 H<sub>2</sub>O) was a perfectly definite phase.

Solutions are prepared from pure compounds (CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 H<sub>2</sub>O), KCl and NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, purchased from Carlo Erba. We first dissolved anhydrous salts KCl and NH<sub>4</sub>Cl in the necessary quantity of water (endothermic step) to prepare CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 6 H<sub>2</sub>O from the dihydrate CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 H<sub>2</sub>O (exothermic step). Neither nucleating agent, nor thickener are added. The solutions are then tested for their thermal performances by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). All the samples are taken out at a fixed temperature of 32°C, and rapidly frozen at -20°C. Calorimetric curves giving specific heat at constant pressure Cp, versus temperature are recorded on heating, at a slow rate, 2 or 3°C per hour. Integrated curve giving the enthalpy versus temperature are automatically obtained with the program associated with the calorimeter, a DSC 111 from SETARAM, further details are given in (38).

The results may be analysed following the evolution of the Cp curves, for the signals are closely related to the corresponding phase diagram. Figure (8) shows the evolution of Cp signals along one value of  $X \text{ CaCl}_2$ , 6 H<sub>2</sub>O constant, with varying  $y = n \text{ KCl} / n \text{ NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , ratios. As we may observe though, the Cp signals are quite different, the total amount of heat absorbed during melting is approximately constant, for y varying from 1.10 to 0.44, for  $X = .75$ .

The shape of the Cp curves allows some predictions about the possible existence of an eutectic valley. Around the composition of MU 131, the coalescence of the two peaks is not far from being complete. A more detailed investigation allowed us to locate a precise area on the pseudo-ternary diagram. On figure (9), corresponding to compositions indicated table II, we may precise further this point. We may observe the high sensitivity of Cp signals to slight changes of composition (these curves are highly reproducible). Moreover the melting temperatures, got from intersection of basis line with extrapolated tangent at the first inflexion point of Cp curves, give precisely 22,5°C, in all cases. When cycled, compositions corresponding to MU 124 or MU 125 give extended horizontal levels during melting, or crystallising steps, at least for the first cycles.

As we already mentioned, segregation may be soon observed after ten (or even less) cycles. Supercooling conditions are also easily met. This makes compulsory for industrial applications of long term to introduce diatomites as stabiliser. Solutions prepared with technic CaCl<sub>2</sub> and diatomites have been experimented as stable (40).

	$X \text{ CaCl}_2, 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$	$y = n \text{ KCl} / n \text{ NH}_4\text{Cl}$
MU 131	.750	.429
MU 124	.747	.399
MU 125	.740	.383
MU 126	.740	.445
MU 127	.759	.385

We have to underline how difficult it is to identify clearly what are exactly the solid phases in equilibrium, in the transition zone. Some experimental X-Ray work is still going on, with emphasis on avoiding moisture and following the materials through the melting phase-change transition (22,5°C - 25°C).

One way mentioned to avoid the segregation problem, or more correctly to slow it down, is to operate outside the precise peritectic composition. This has been quoted as "the extra-water principle" (17), and experimented several times (18) (19). A recommended composition (18) is 30 %  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  by weight ; starting with a mixture corresponding to the composition of point N on figure 2, and rising temperature will not give the peritectic decomposition precedently mentioned, at least for temperatures under  $40^\circ\text{C}$ . If we now undertake the reverse path, and cool the liquid which corresponds to point Q we should begin to nucleate the decahydrate when the temperature is that of M, and this salt is separating from the liquid ; at point N, we have the composition of the liquid solution given by R, and the amount of decahydrate cristallised may be calculated by the lever rule along RND. Unfortunately the amount of heat released is very strongly affected by departure from the peritectic composition (as much as 40 % for the first cycles).

## 2) Calcium chloride hexahydrate.

Figure (4) reproduces part of the phase diagram  $\text{CaCl}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ , showing the presence of two compounds  $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (hexahydrate A) and  $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (tetrahydrate B). The tetrahydrate is known under three allotropic forms, the stable one being the  $\alpha$ -variety. Broken lines represent metastable lines for the three tetrahydrate forms and the calcium chloride di-hydrate. The liquidus branches of hexahydrate and tetrahydrate ( $\alpha$ -allotropic form) join at a peritectic point P, which means that for a solid having the composition of A, if melted and then cooled we may observe formation of tetrahydrate B. Then as the density of B is higher than that of A, we should have the segregation phenomena.

As for the Glauber's salt problem, many studies concerning nucleation and suppression of segregation effects have been realised. Without nucleating agents, Calcium chloride hexahydrate may severely supercool. A variety of nucleating agents have been tested and may play a role in preventing supercooling (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25). Most of mentioned nucleating agents are naturally present in the technical calcium chloride. One of them, strontium chloride hexahydrate, is an epitaxial agent (crystal parameters very near to that of calcium chloride hexahydrate, which may explain its possible nucleating function), but as it is soluble in calcium chloride hexahydrate, it may also act as modifying the phase diagram (26). Large controversies exist on the exact rôle, and the true responsible for supercooling suppression (26) (27) (28).

As the peritectic composition is very near the composition of hexahydrate, this compound is often said as being "quasi-congruent melting". In fact this may only be obtained with additives which modify the phase diagram (26) to (28).

Among the most effective are strontium chloride hexahydrate and potassium chloride, which both affect the melting temperature and the relative position of peritectic and calcium chloride hexahydrate. However it is not completely sure that after many cycles, gradually increasing amounts of calcium chloride tetrahydrate are not formed. Another way of working is to use the "extra-water principle" as explained before, with some losses of latent heat, and a lowered melting temperature (29).

As for the glauber's salt, many thickening agents have been tried with very little or moderate success (see reference 2 for instance), except for one discovered in our laboratory (30). It consists in special kind of diatomaceous earth, "synedra" variety, with needle form along which arrays of holes-about 50 angstroms diameter, about 10 per array for 5000 Å length needle - are regularly disposed. The effectiveness of such stabilising agent has been clearly demonstrated and solar houses are equipped with and have been operating without problems for the last 4 years. The rôle of diatomites is not completely understood yet, but it is generally thought as being two fold:

- mechanical dispersion, though their distribution preventing any settling down of tetrahydrate, and then allowing its eventual redissolution, if ever formed.
- microporous properties, favoring preferential nucleation of hexahydrate and orienting the cristalline growth of this compound.

The composition of the mixture  $\text{CaCl}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  and diatomites, plus nucleating agents, has been patented (30) and the product is commercially sold under the name "Chliarolithe". Actually it is presented by the SOLVAY Chemical society under a ready-to-make mix (dehydrated mixture of  $\text{CaCl}_2$  + diatomites) in plastic bags of 25 kg, under the trade name of "Casotherm" (31).

The thermal performances of a moderately good sample of chliarolithe (a little excess of water) and pure calcium chloride hexahydrate (freshly prepared, and rapidly congelated at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ ) are compared in figure 5 (Cp versus temperature) and figure 6 ( $\Delta H$  versus temperature).

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3) Quaternary compositions with  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{KCl}$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ .

Results mentioned here were initiated by some observations related to experiments made with technical products, where the exact ratio of water to calcium chloride was not correctly adjusted to get the hexahydrate composition. repeated experiments, with lack of water up to 10 % of the molar composition were performed. Again, multiple forms of Cp signals - generally two peaks - are obtained, but within a narrow domain of compositions, we observed the probable formation of an eutectic compound, with a heat content of about 190 J/g, and a melting temperature of 23,9°C (41). Figure (10) shows the results obtained for a typical composition corresponding to  $n \text{ CaCl}_2 = .430$ ,  $n \text{ H}_2\text{O} = 2.44$ ,  $n \text{ KCl} = .040$  and  $n \text{ NH}_4\text{Cl} = .101$ . This composition has been tested for stability towards segregation. With a water deficit of 5,3 % compared to the hexahydrate composition, we could not trigger any undesirable tetrahydrate even by adding some external tetrahydrate germs

These facts cannot be interpreted correctly without a careful X-ray analysis of the solid phases. However, it seems that several liquidus surfaces of the (unknown) multi-component phase diagram may present intersections with low slopes, enabling the existence of local eutectics with temperatures very near to each other. This makes the necessary cristallographic work a very challenging one though not easy to perform.

4) Reciprocal solutions of hydrated calcium chloride with alkali and alkaline-earth nitrates.

As the results under this section are patent-pending, we can only underline the main facts observed.

Solutions, stabilised with diatomites and containing calcium chloride hexahydrate, alkali and/or alkaline-earth nitrates have been prepared and lead to reversible phase-change behaviour.

The Cp curves (figure 11) present generally two well defined peaks, corresponding to two different phases, with very near melting points. One of the phase can be characterised as an eutectic, and presents a melting temperature of  $19,7 \pm 0,5^\circ\text{C}$  (first peak). The AH content (figure 12) is around  $170 \text{ J.g}^{-1}$ .

These values are strongly dependent of the compositions, and a detailed examination will be published in a near future.

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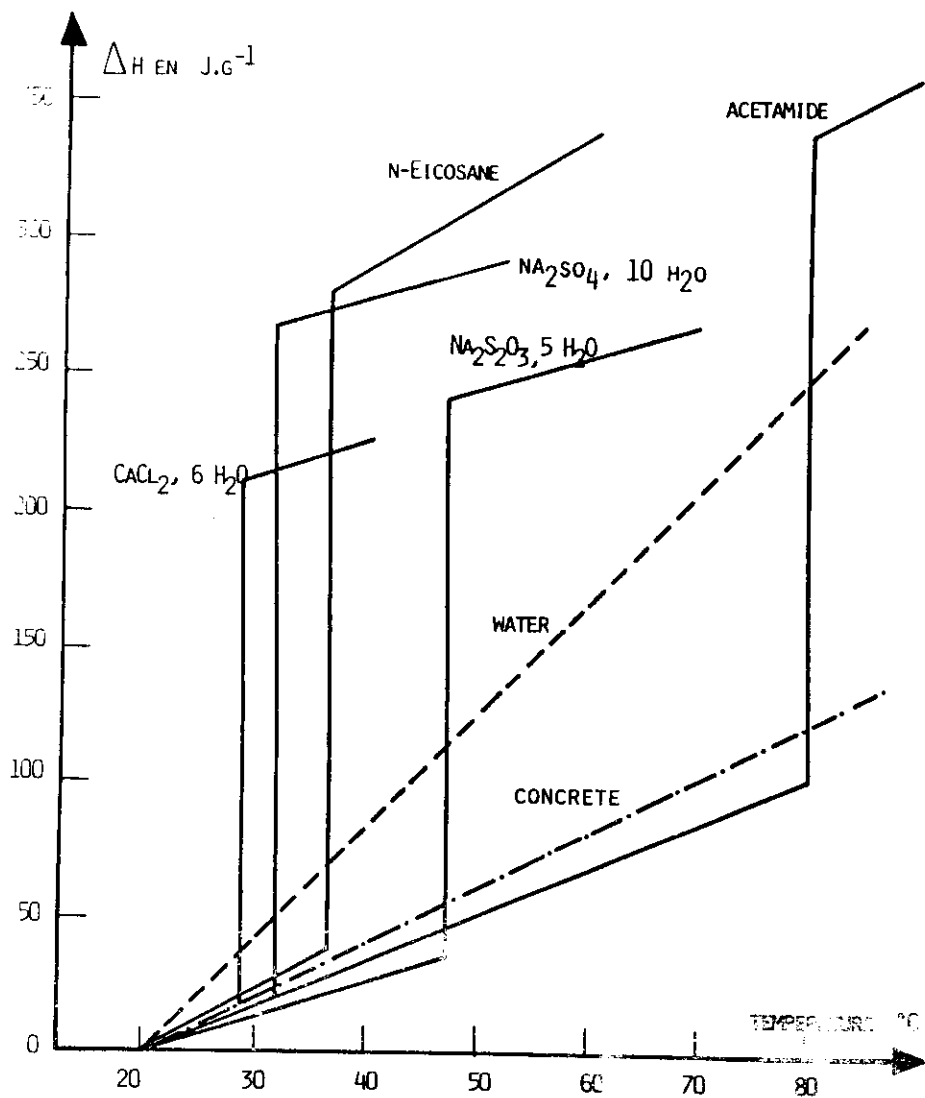


FIG. 1 . TOTAL HEAT CONTENT OF SOME MATERIALS REFERRED TO A BASIC TEMPERATURE OF 20°C.

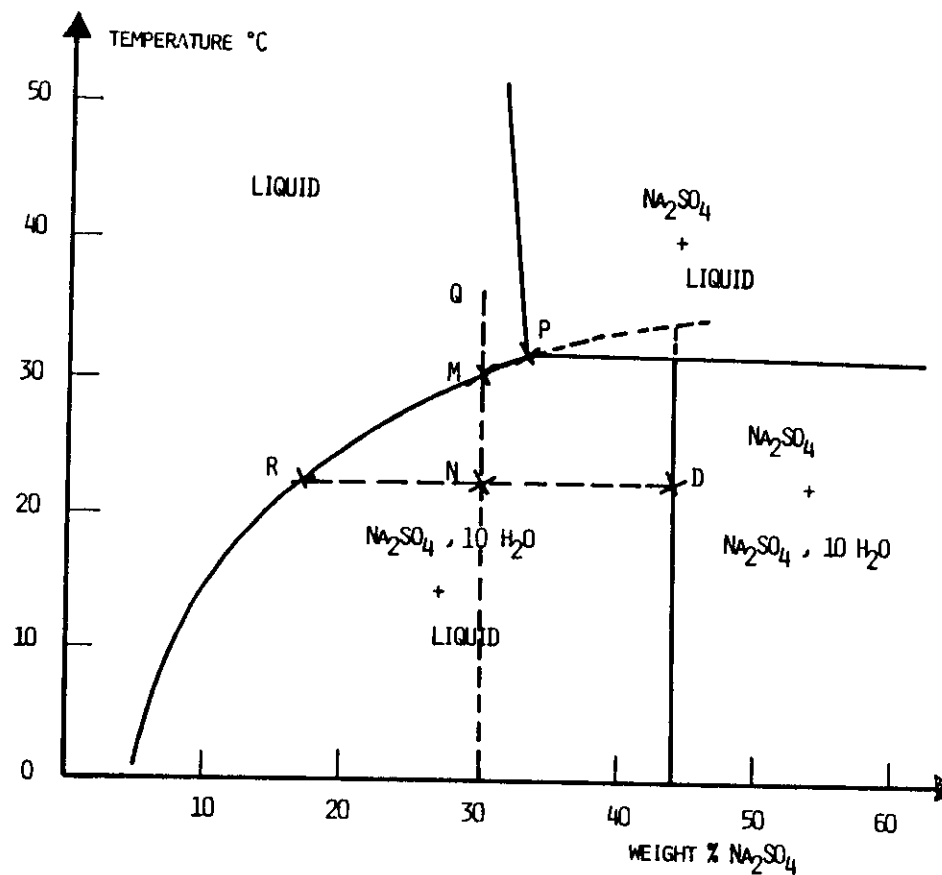


FIG 2. PART OF THE PHASE DIAGRAM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> - H<sub>2</sub>O .



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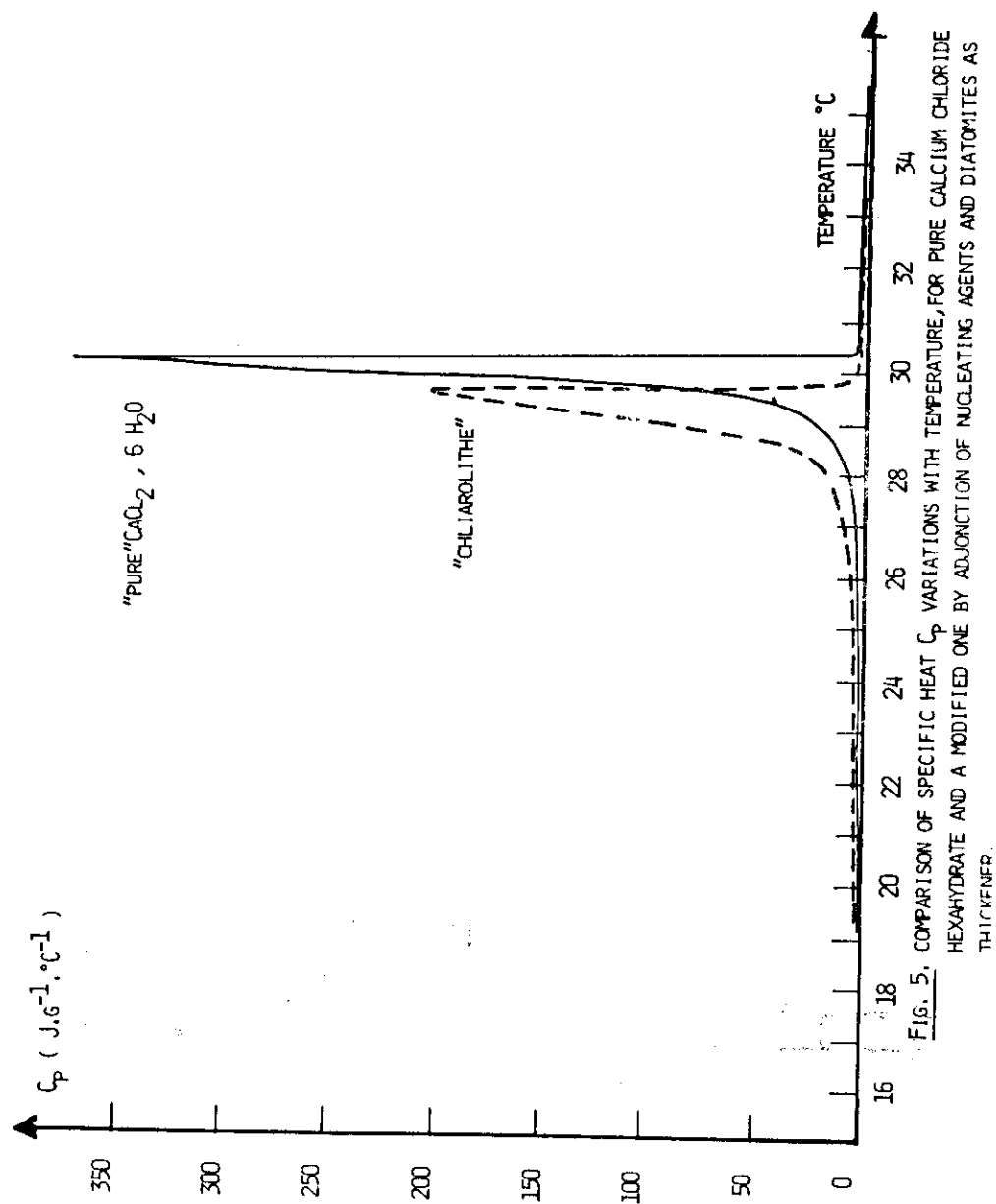


FIG. 5. COMPARISON OF SPECIFIC HEAT  $C_p$  VARIATIONS WITH TEMPERATURE, FOR PURE CALCIUM CHLORIDE HEXAHYDRATE AND A MODIFIED ONE BY ADDITION OF NUCLEATING AGENTS AND DIATOMITES AS THICKENER.

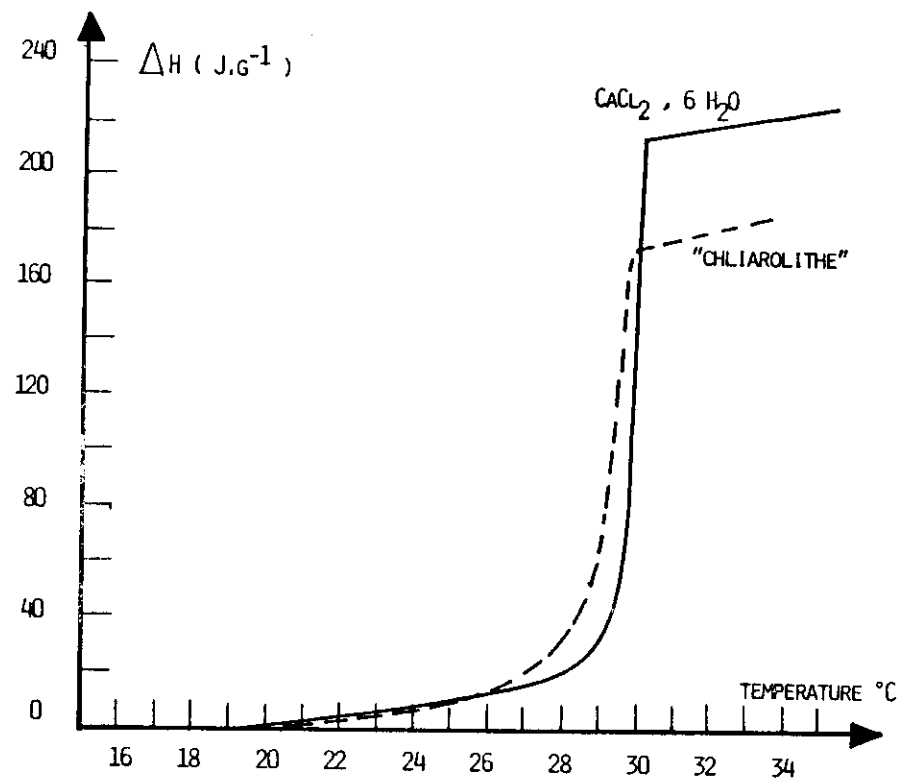


FIG. 6. COMPARED VARIATIONS OF LATENT HEAT OF MELTING FOR PURE CALCIUM CHLORIDE HEXAHYDRATE AND "CHLIAROLITHE", A MODIFIED CALCIUM CHLORIDE HEXAHYDRATE BY ADDING NUCLEATING AGENTS AND DIATOMITES AS THICKENER.

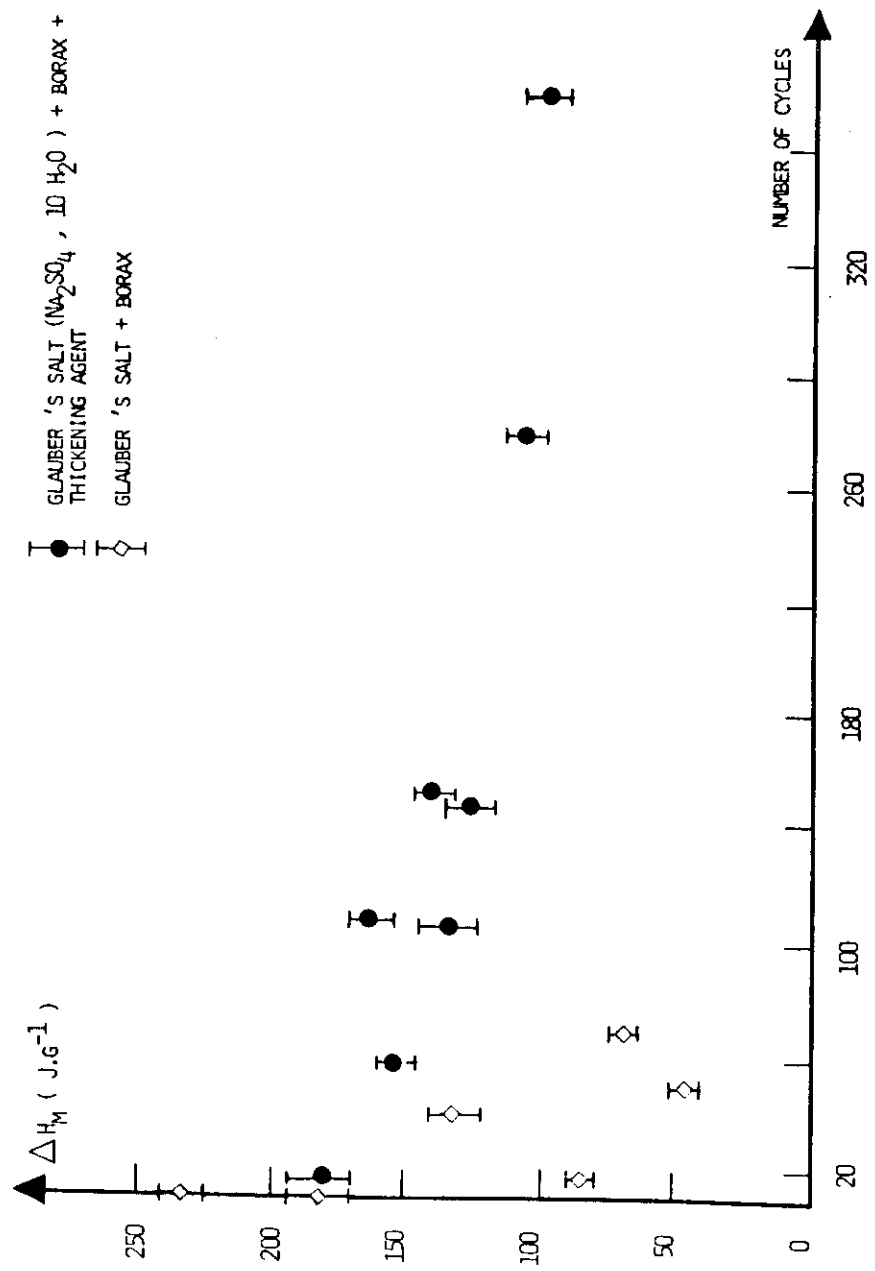


FIG. 3. DEGRADATION OF GLAUBER'S SALT WITH CYCLING, FROM REF (31).

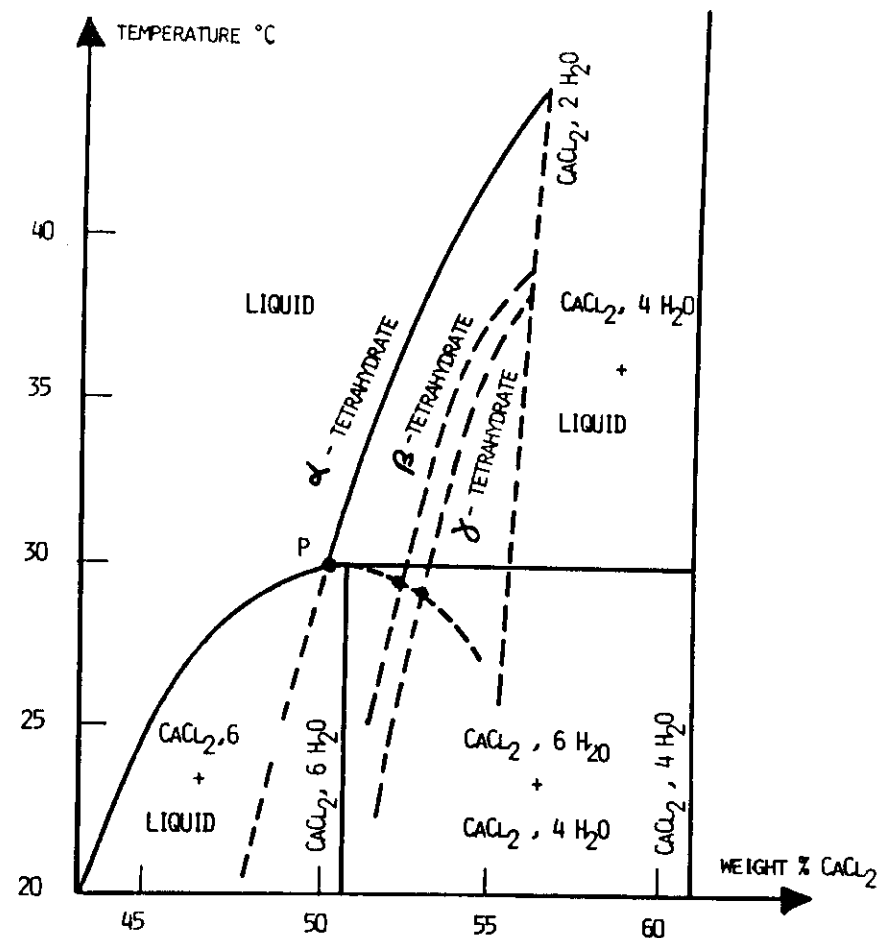


FIG. 4. PART OF THE PHASE DIAGRAM  $CaCl_2 - H_2O$

17.

18.

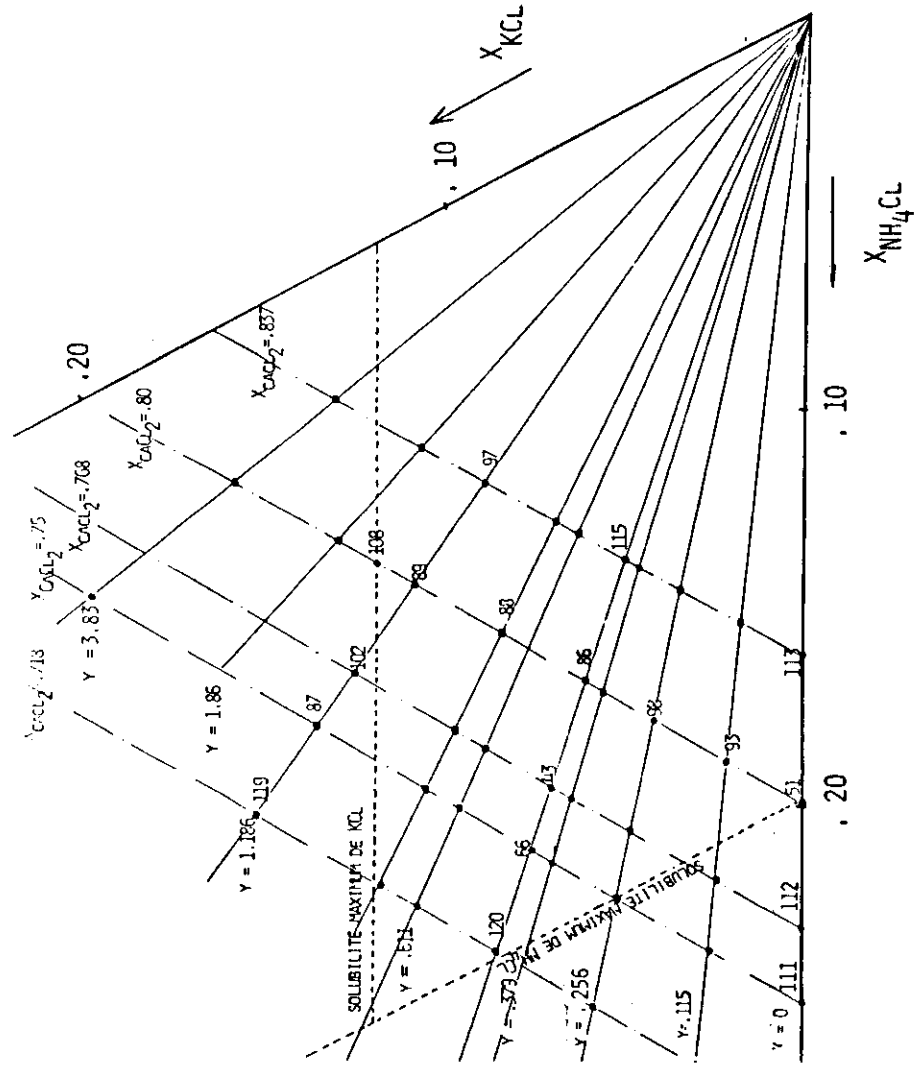


FIG. 7

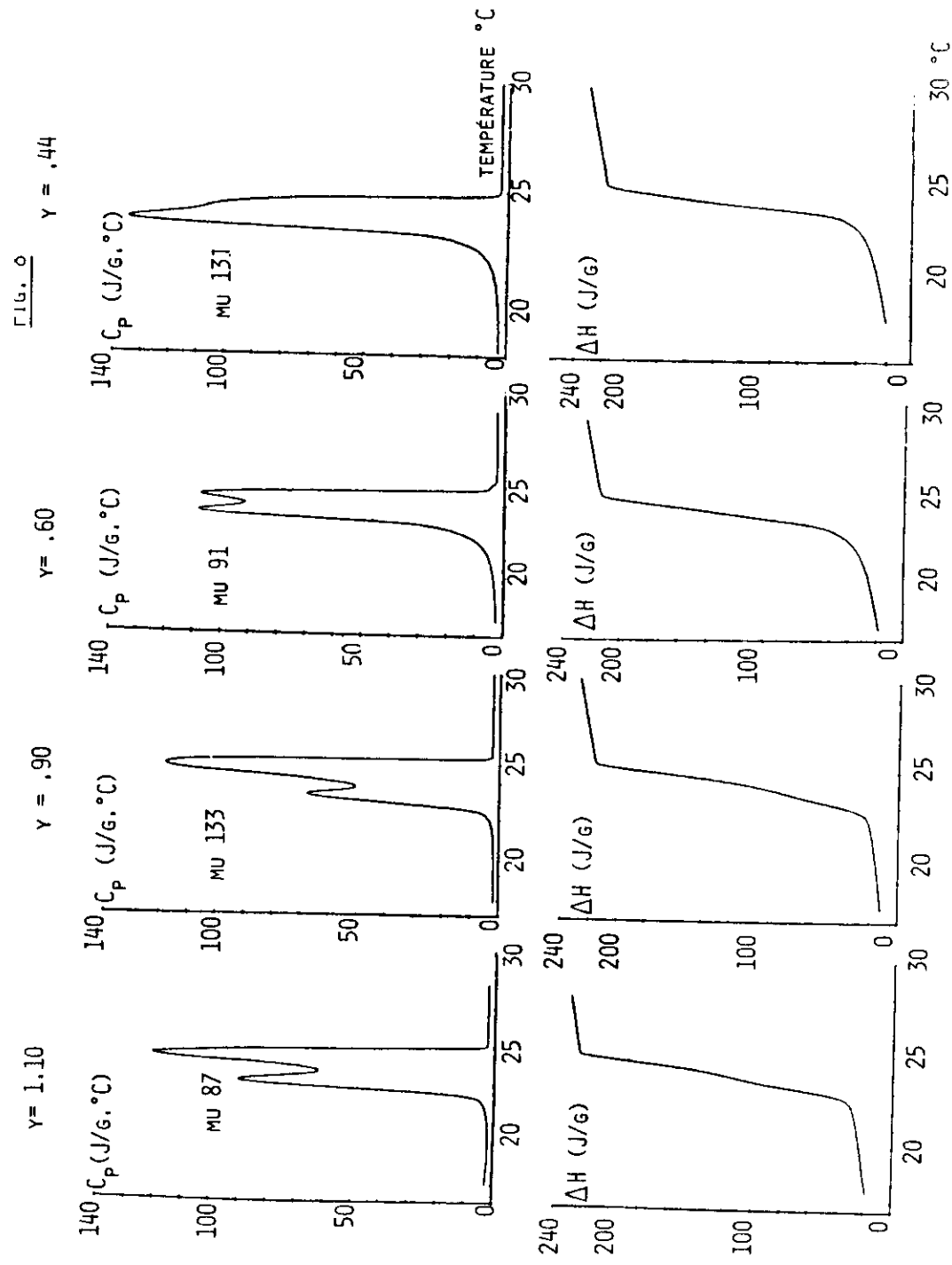


Fig. 9

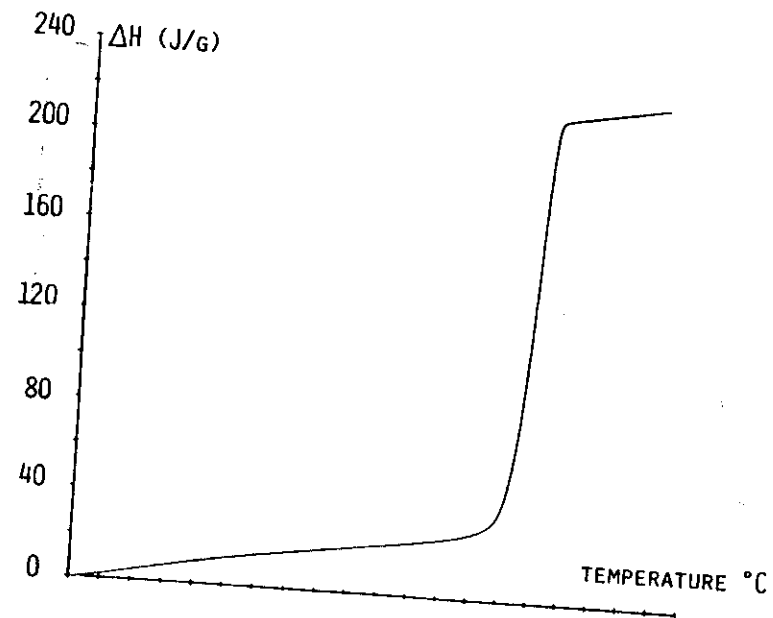
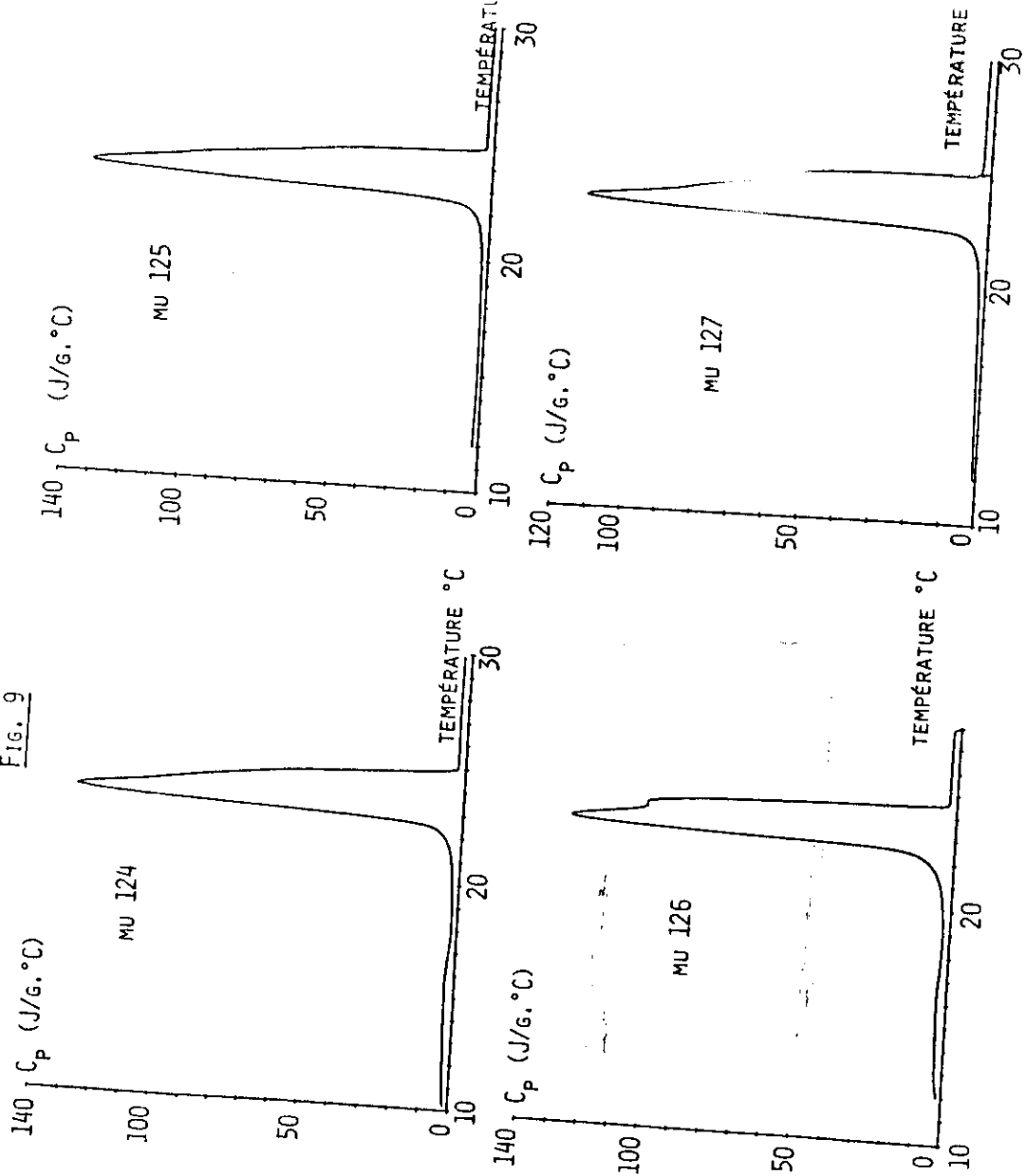
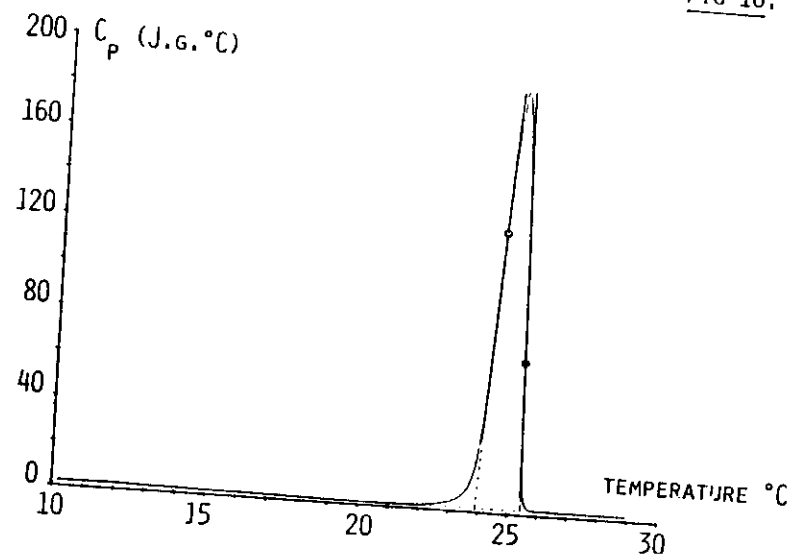


Fig 10.



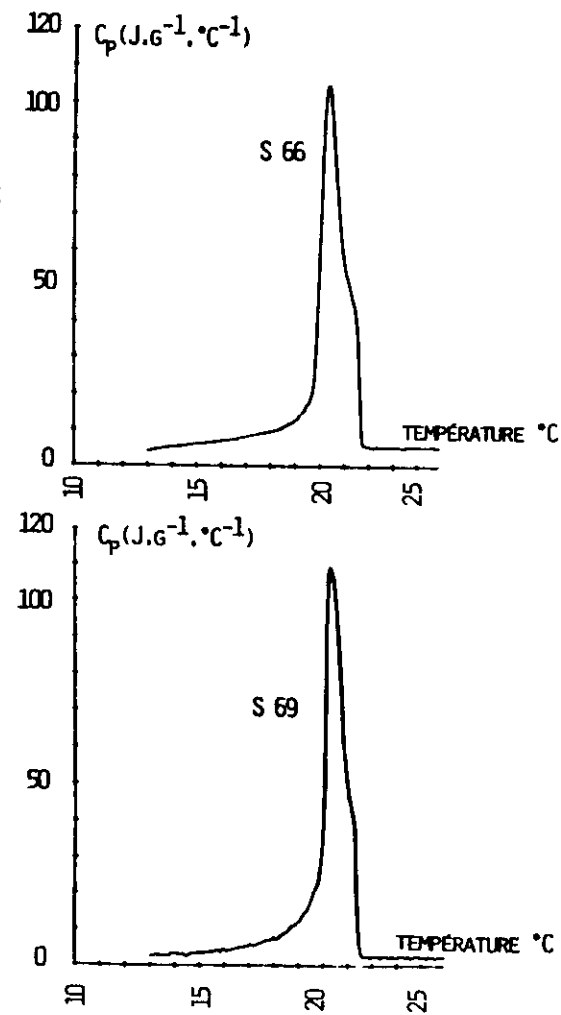
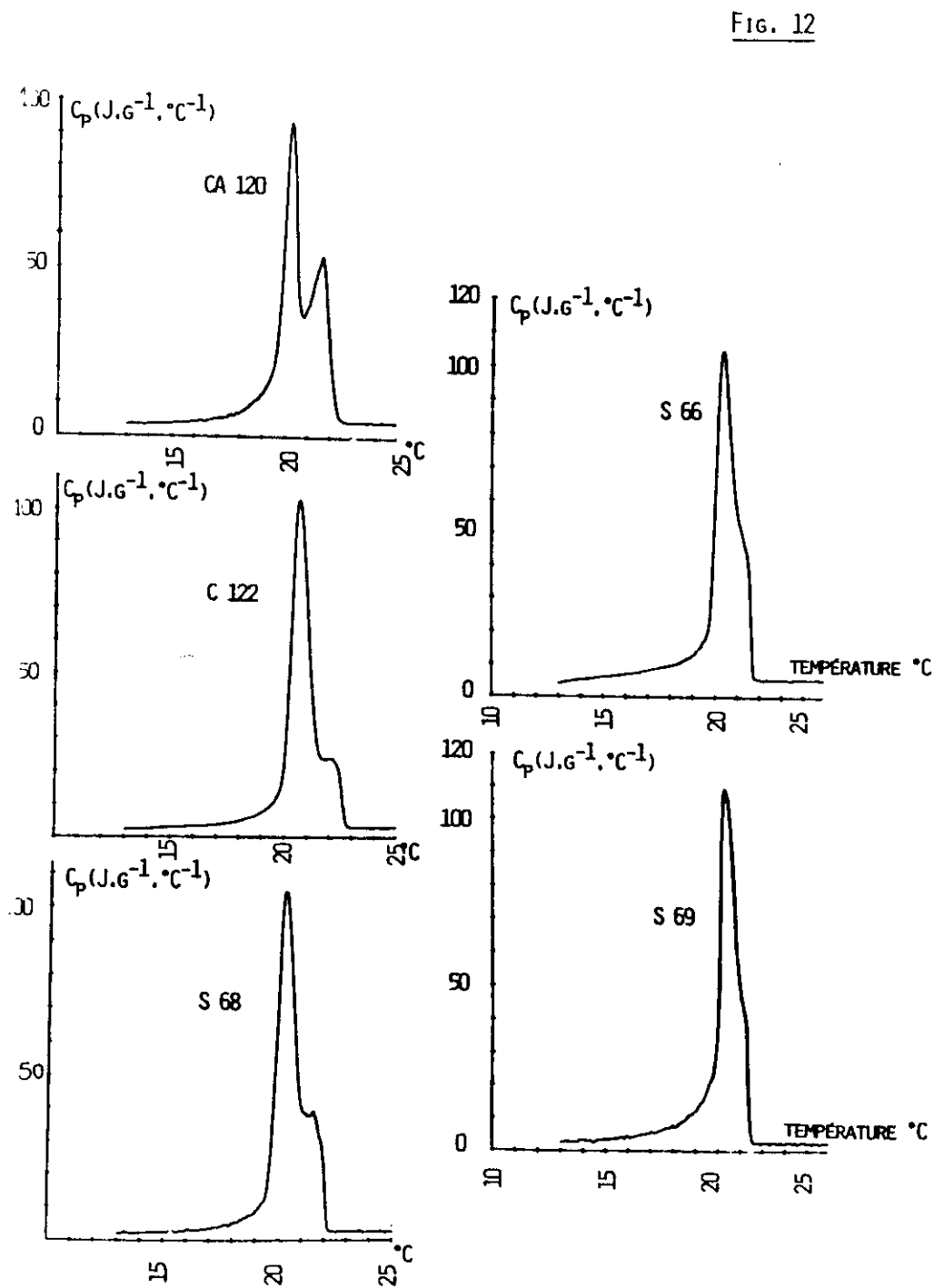
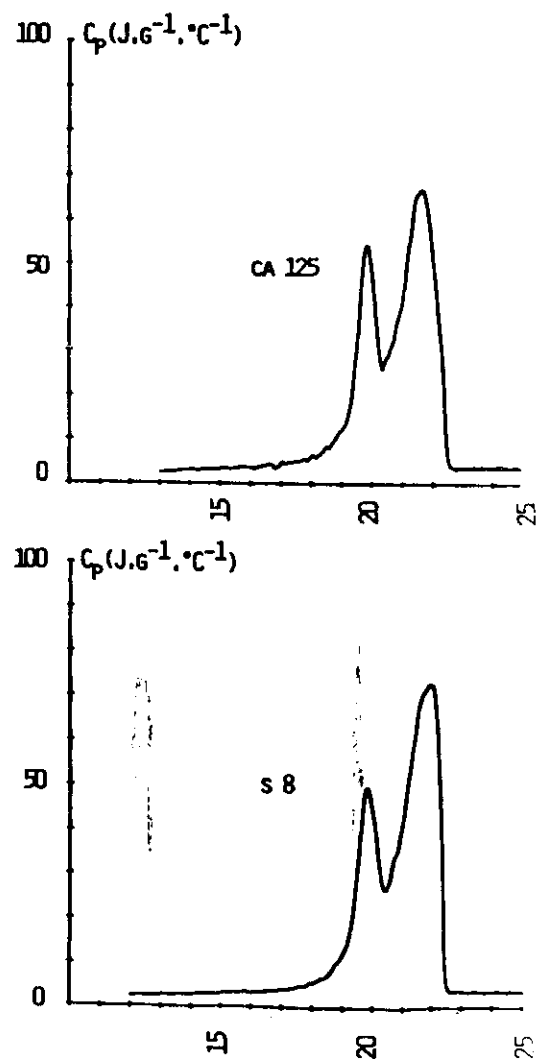
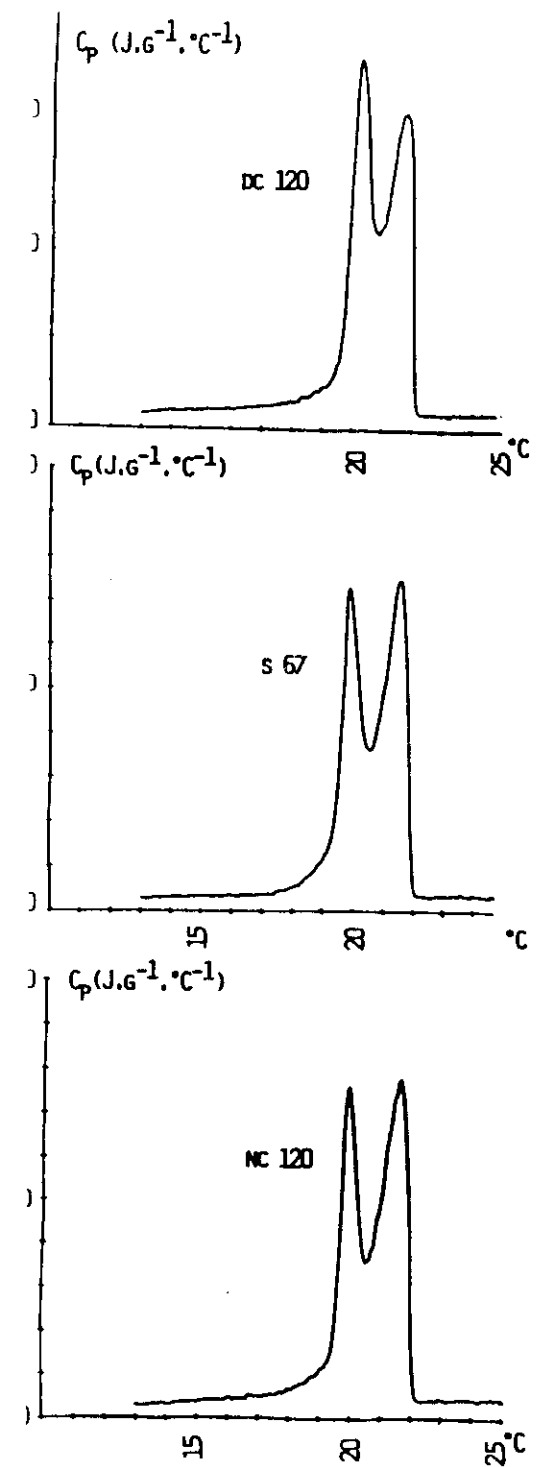


FIG. 12

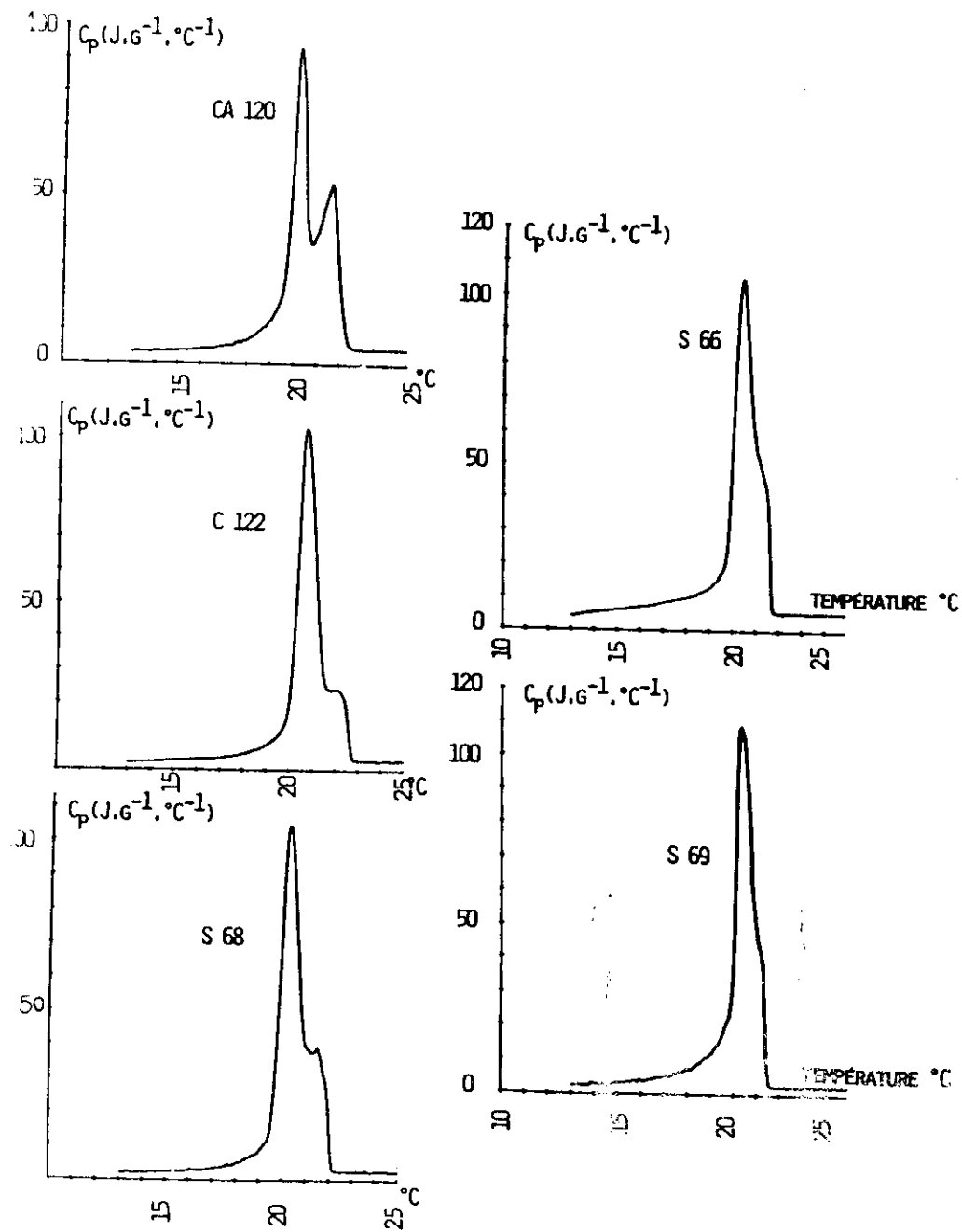


FIG. 13

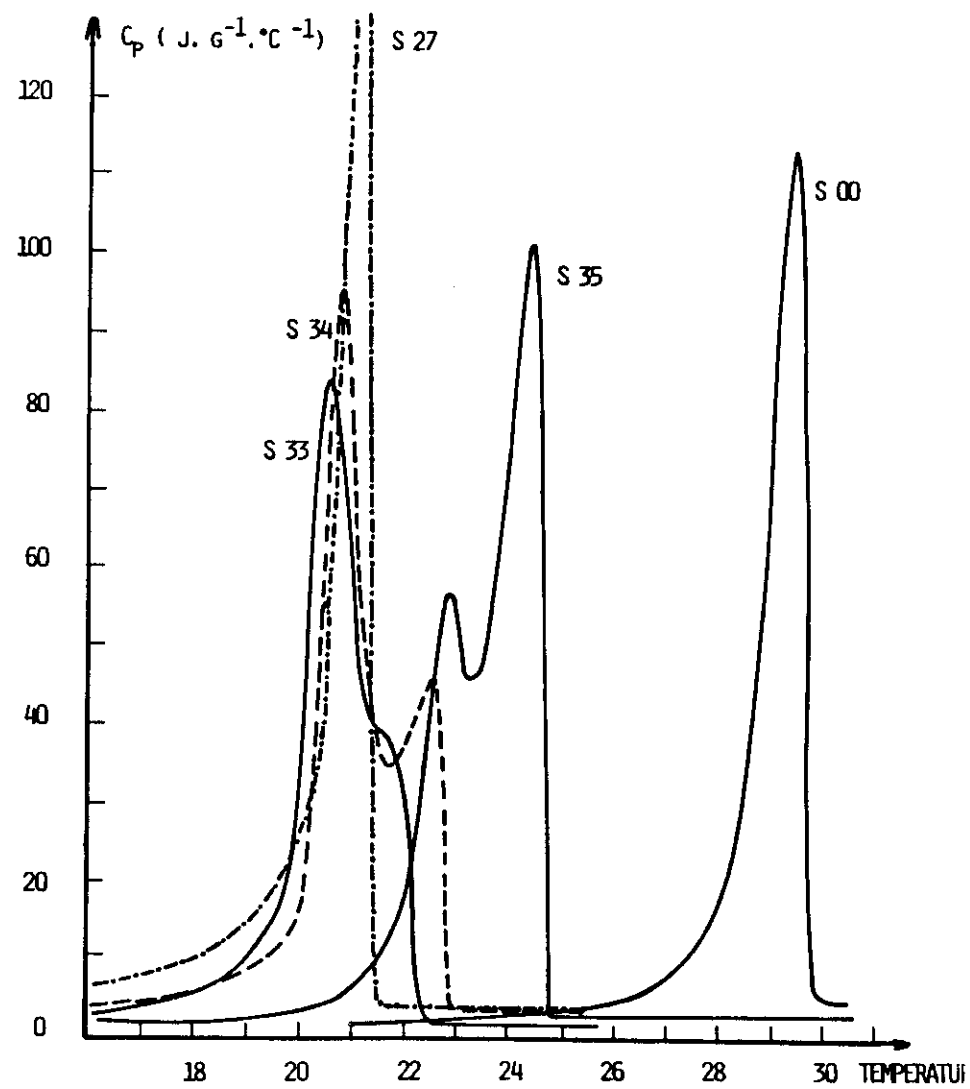
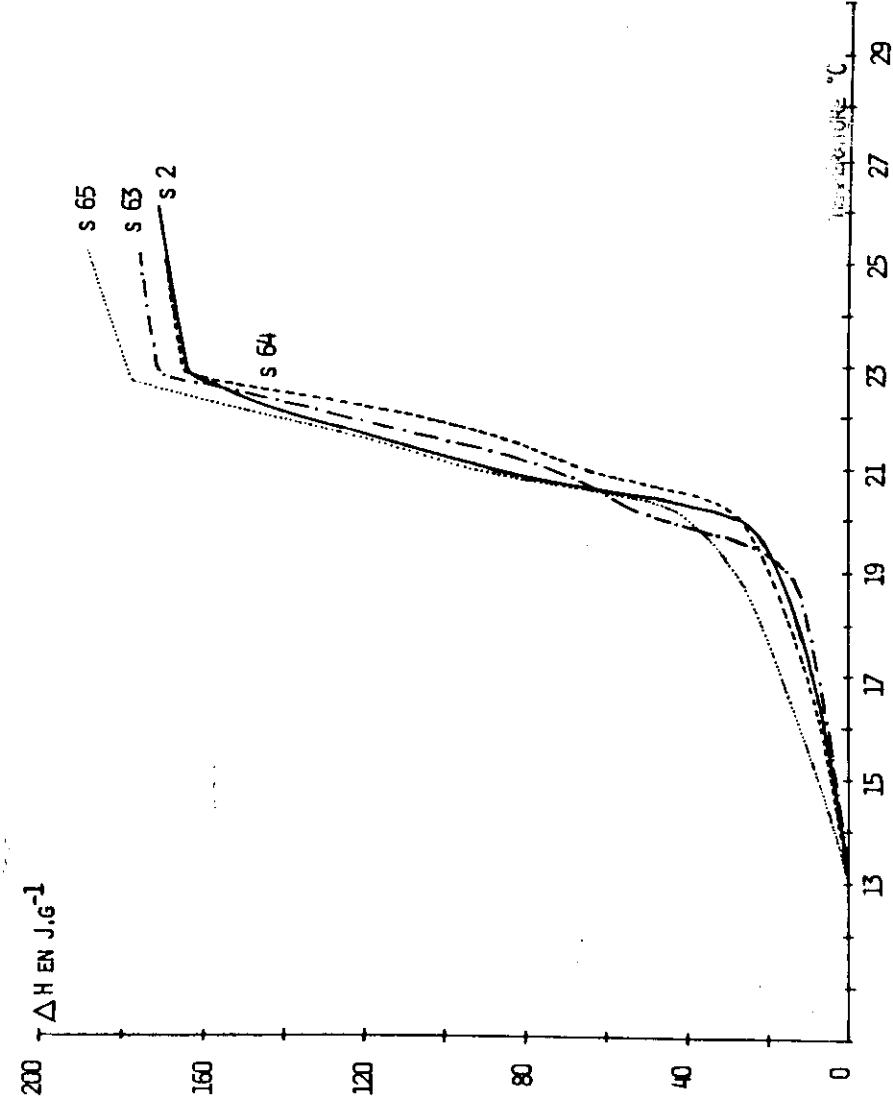




FIG. 14



11