

## FOREWORD

*If the knowledge is  
undigested or simply wrong,  
more is not better.*

The Solubility Data Series is a project of Commission V.8 (Solubility Data) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). The project had its origins in 1973, when the Analytical Chemistry Division of IUPAC set up a Subcommission on Solubility Data under the chairmanship of the late Prof. A.S. Kertes. When publication of the Solubility Data Series began in 1979, the Committee became a full commission of IUPAC, again under the chairmanship of Prof. Kertes, who also became *Editor-in-Chief* of the Series. The Series has as its goal the preparation of a comprehensive and critical compilation of data on solubilities in all physical systems, including gases, liquids and solids.

The motivation for the Series arose from the realization that, while solubility data are of importance in a wide range of fields in science and technology, the existing data had not been summarized in a form that was at the same time comprehensive and complete. Existing compilations of solubility data indeed existed, but they contained many errors, were in general uncritical, and were seriously out-of-date.

It was also realized that a new series of compilations of data gave educational opportunities, in that careful compilations of existing data could be used to demonstrate what constitutes data of high and lasting quality. As well, if the data were summarized in a sufficiently complete form, any individual could prepare his or her own evaluation, independently of the published evaluation. Thus, a special format was established for each volume, consisting of individual data sheets for each separate publication, and critical evaluations for each separate system, provided sufficient data from different sources were available for comparison. The compilations and, especially, the evaluations were to be prepared by active scientists who were either involved in producing new data, or were interested in using data of high quality. With minor modifications in format, this strategy has continued throughout the Series.

In the standard arrangement of each volume, the Critical Evaluation gives the following information:

(i) A text which discusses the numerical solubility information which has been abstracted from the primary sources in the form of compilation sheets. The text concerns primarily the quality of the data, after consideration of the purity of the materials and their characterization, the experimental method used, the uncertainties in the experimental values, the reproducibility, the agreement with accepted test values, and, finally, the fitting of the data to suitable functions, along with statistical tests of the fitted data.

(ii) A set of recommended data, whenever possible, including weighted averages and estimated standard deviations. If applicable, one or more smoothing equations which have been computed or verified by the evaluator are also given.

(iii) A graphical plot of the recommended data, in the form of phase diagrams where appropriate.

The Compilation part consists of data sheets which summarize the experimental data from the primary literature. Here much effort is put into obtaining complete coverage; many good data have appeared in publications from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, or in obscure journals. Data of demonstrably low precision are not compiled, but are mentioned in the Critical Evaluation. Similarly, graphical data, given the uncertainty of accurate conversion to numerical values, are

compiled only where no better data are available. The documentation of data of low precision can serve to alert researchers to areas where more work is needed.

A typical data sheet contains the following information:

- (i) list of components: names, formulas, Chemical Abstracts Registry Numbers;
- (ii) primary source of the data;
- (iii) experimental variables;
- (iv) compiler's name;
- (v) experimental values as they appear in the primary source, in modern units with explanations if appropriate;
- (vi) experimental methods used;
- (vii) apparatus and procedure used;
- (viii) source and purity of materials used;
- (ix) estimated error, either from the primary source or estimated by the compiler;
- (x) references relevant to the generation of the data cited in the primary source.

Each volume also contains a general introduction to the particular type of system, such as solubility of gases, of solids in liquids, etc., which contains a discussion of the nomenclature used, the principles of accurate determination of solubilities, and related thermodynamic principles. This general introduction is followed by a specific introduction to the subject matter of the volume itself.

The Series embodies a new approach to the presentation of numerical data, and the details continue to be influenced strongly by the perceived needs of prospective users. The approach used will, it is hoped, encourage attention to the quality of new published work, as authors become more aware that their work will attain permanence only if it meets the standards set out in these volumes. If the Series succeeds in this respect, even partially, the Solubility Data Commission will have justified the labour expended by many scientists throughout the world in its production.

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