

# Hot stage slag engineering as a method to improve slag valorisation options

Fredrik Engström, Yiannis Pontinikes, Daneel Geysen,  
Peter Tom Jones, **Bo Björkman** and Bart Blanpain

# Use of iron- and steelmaking slag in Europe and Sweden



## Sweden

2008: 1.3 million tonnes slag

External use: ~ 35 %

Landfilling: ~ 20 %

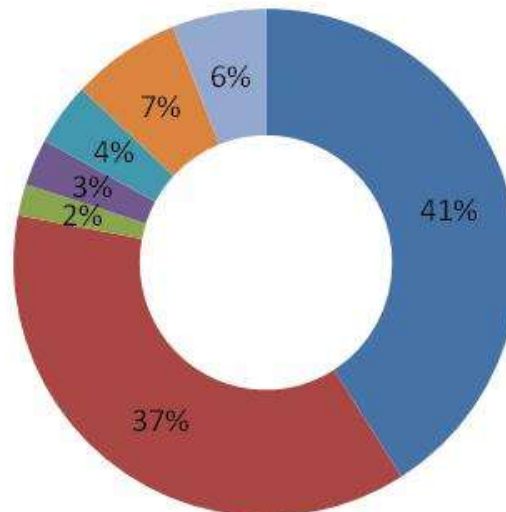
## Europe

2006: ~ 45 million tonnes slag

External use: ~ 80 %

---

## Europe



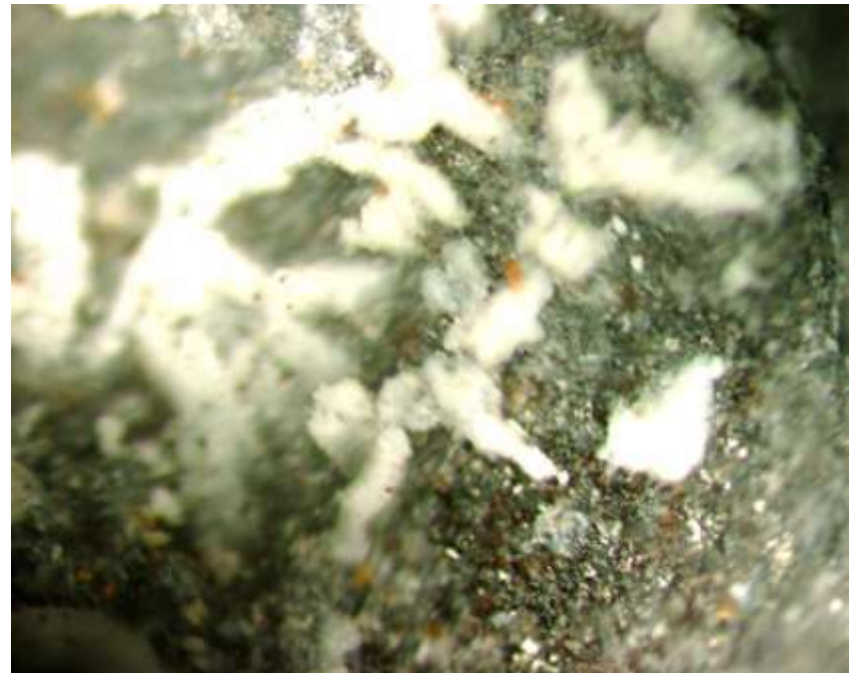
- road construction
- cement production
- fertilizer
- internal storage
- internal use
- final deposit
- other

# Obstacles



for use in external applications

- **Leaching of metals**
- **Volume expansion**
- **Disintegration**
- **Low volumes at each site**





# Reasons for low utilisation of steelmaking slag in Sweden

- Good access to high quality natural stone material
  - High availability of land for land filling
  - No criteria for use of slag in construction applications but materials compared with requirements for inert materials
- 

- 35 million tonne virgin material used in construction annually
- Focus from steel industry has been on use in road construction

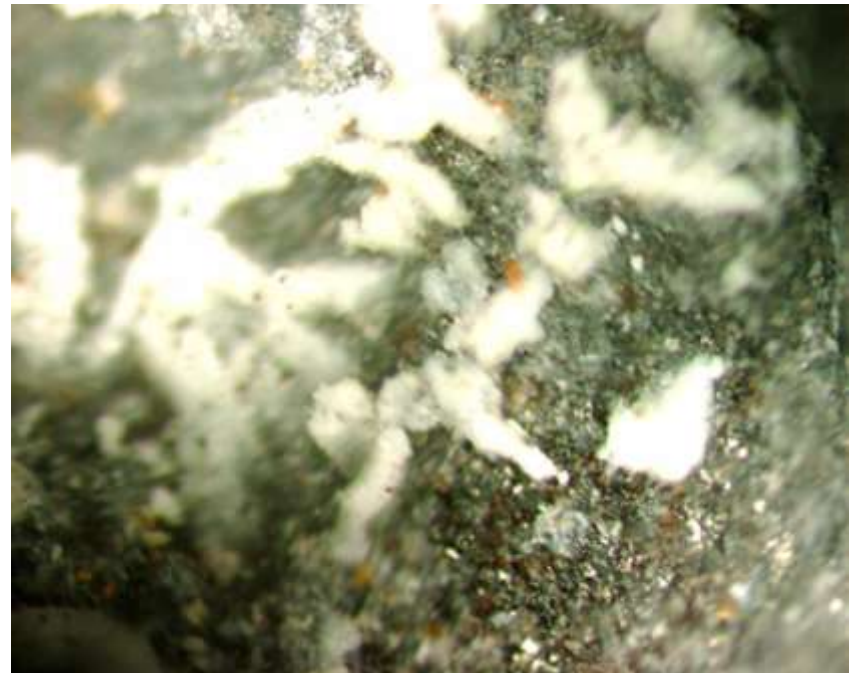


# Obstacles

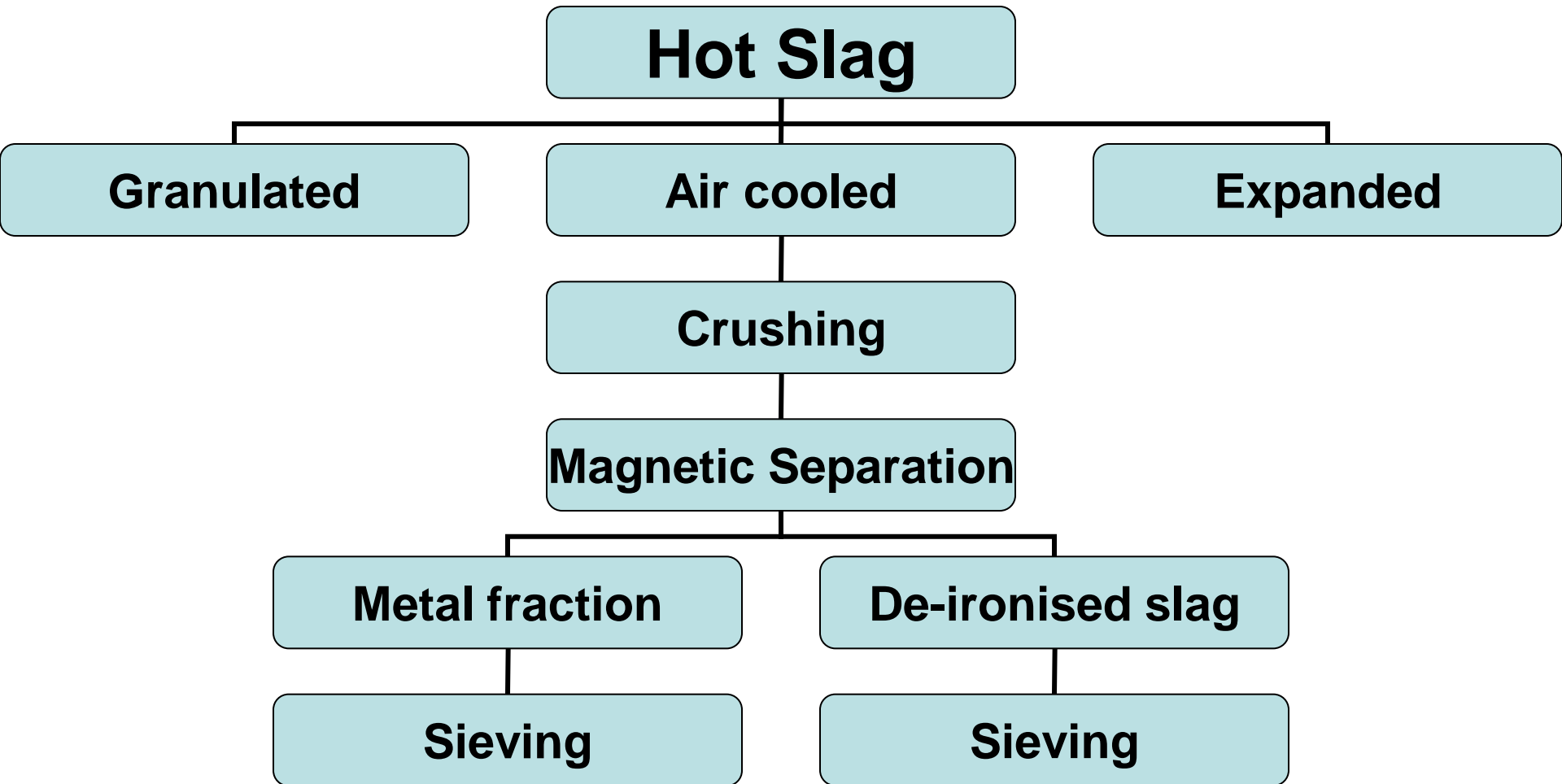


for use in external applications

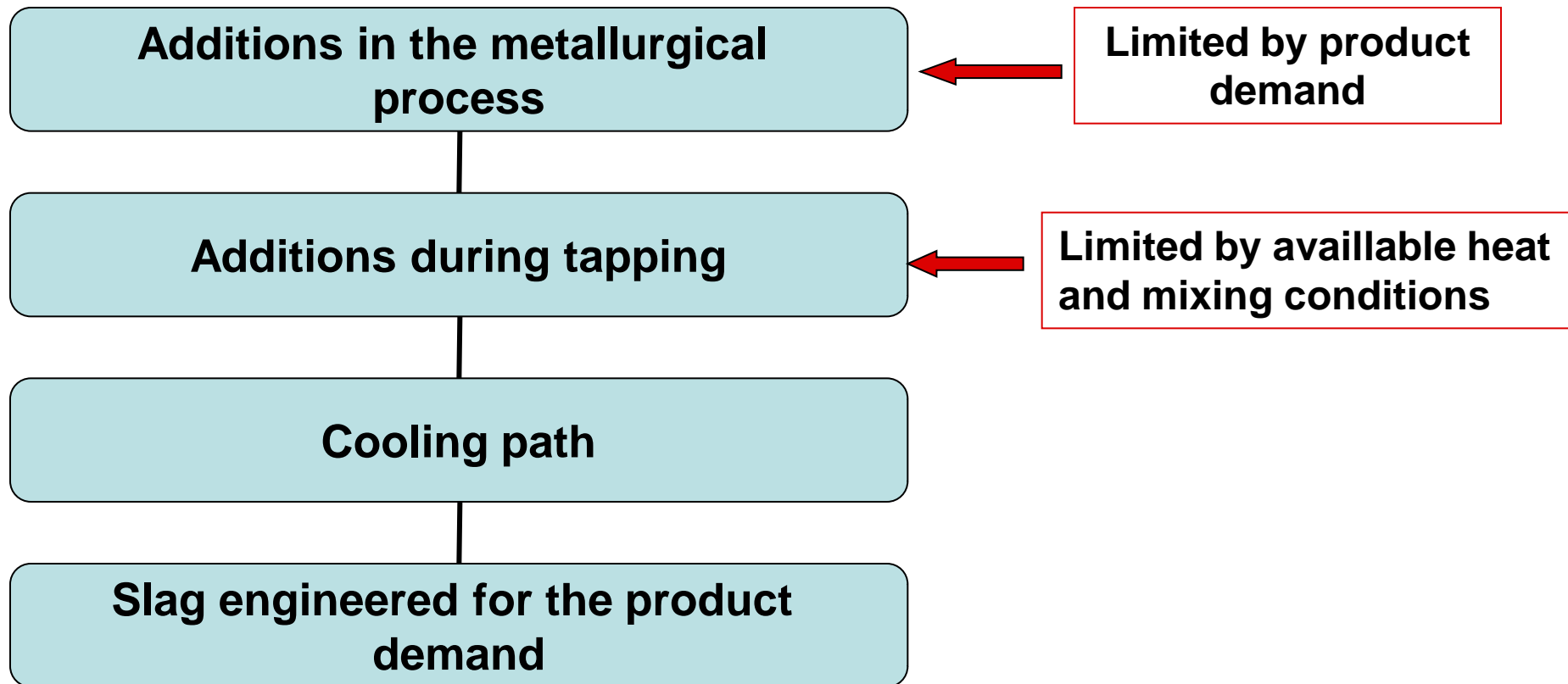
- **Leaching of metals**
- **Volume expansion**
- **Disintegration**
- **Low volumes at each site**



# Today's slag practice

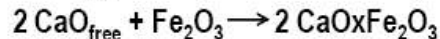
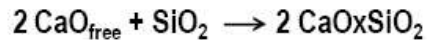
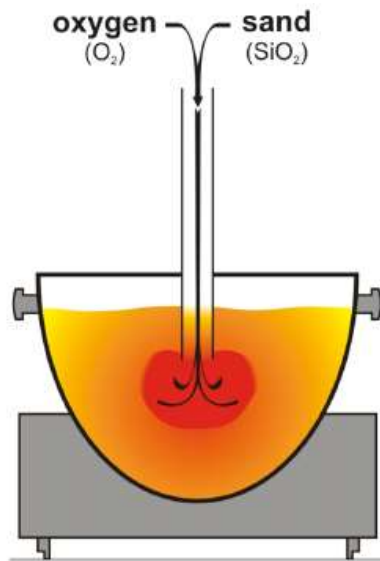


# Hot stage slag engineering



# Ways to eliminate free CaO and MgO

- Ageing in natural conditions during longer time
- Forced ageing through steam treatment
- Additions that react with CaO and/or MgO, e.g. additions of silica, waste glass etc.



by injection of sand and oxygen:

- additional heat is generated
  - to keep slag liquid
  - to heat up and dissolve the sand
- CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> is reduced
- free lime is dissolved and chemically bound

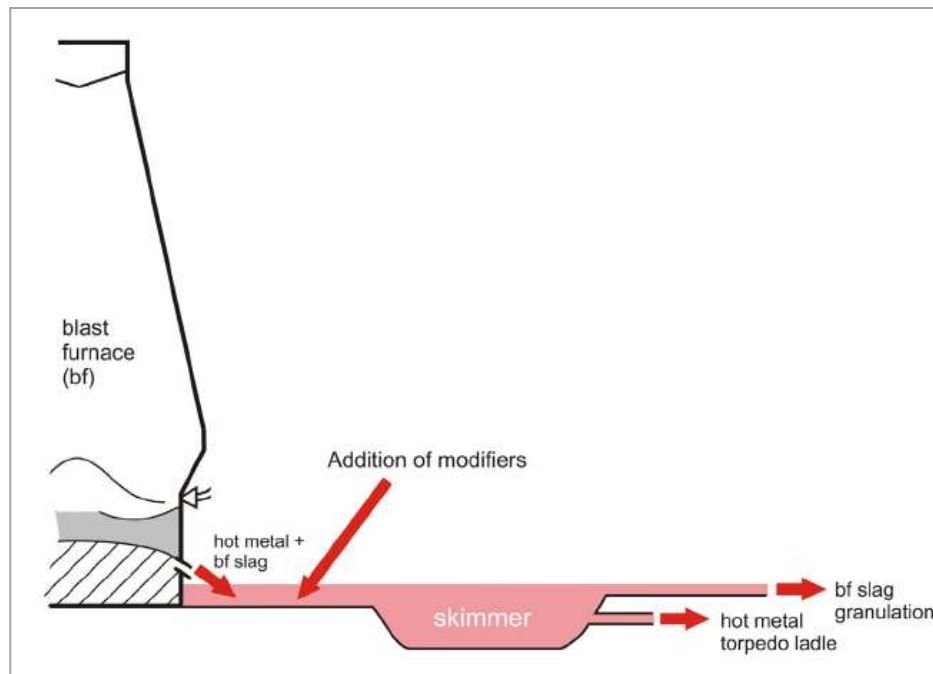
Kuehn et al and Drissen et al



# Modification of Blast Furnace Slag



To increase the hydraulic properties of GGBS lime was injected into the main runner. Increase of basicity from 1.1 to 1.4 gave 25% increase in compressive strength of mortar prisms. (Drissen and Mudersbach)

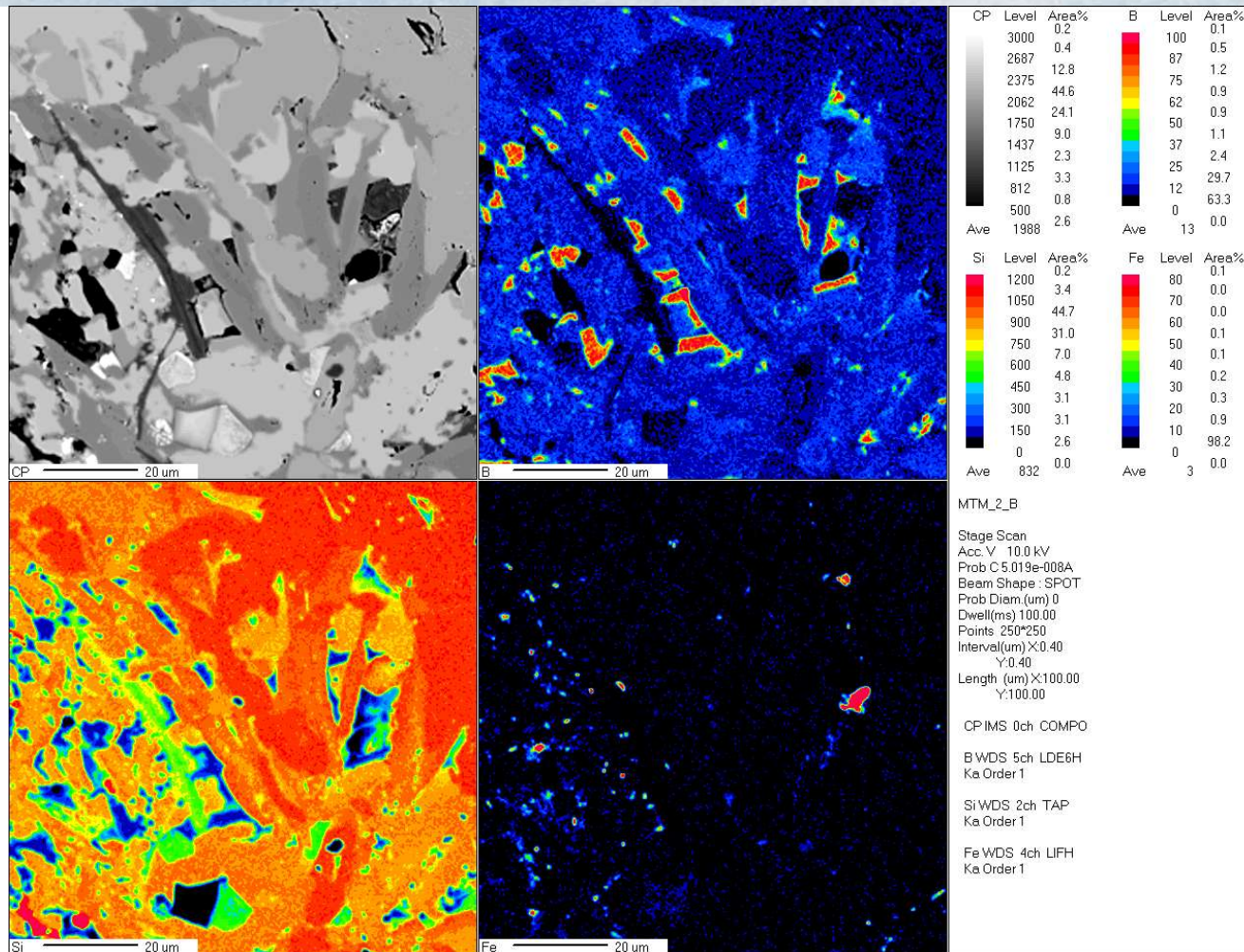


# Ways to eliminate disintegration due to $\beta$ to $\gamma$ transformation in C2S

## Additions to slag in hot stage

- Borates, 1-2 % as  $B_2O_3$ , Considerable distribution between phases present in the slag, studied by Durinck and Geysen et al
- The  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha'$  polymorphs have been reported to be stabilised by  $MgO$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $Fe_2O_3$ ,  $BaO$ ,  $K_2O$ ,  $P_2O_5$  and  $Cr_2O_3$ . The  $\beta$  polymorph by the addition of  $Na_2O$ ,  $K_2O$ ,  $BaO$ ,  $MnO_2$ ,  $Cr_2O_3$ . (Ghosh et al)
- Phosphates, 2% for an industrial slag, 0,3% at lab scale, needed to stabilize  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  C2S according to Yang et al
- Addition of silica (Sakamoto and Yang et al)
- Addition of non-ferrous fayalite slag (Kitamura et al)
- Quick cooling (Yang et al, Kriskova et al, Gautier et al)

# Elemental mapping for B, Si and Fe of an industrial slag sample, performed with a FEG-EPMA. Adapted from Geysen et al.



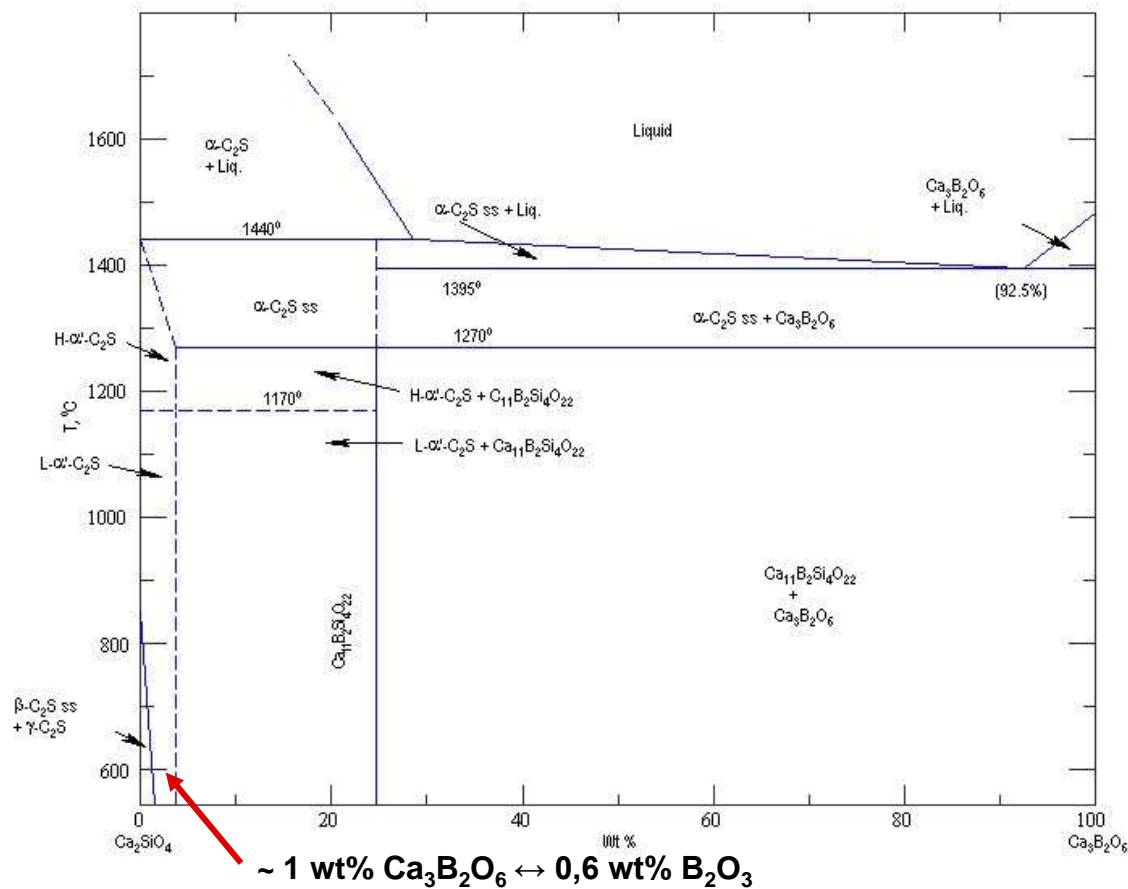
# Phase identification and B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content of an industrial slag sample. From Geysen et al



Number	Phase	Total B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> wt%	Sample	Phase	Total B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> wt%
1	Merwinite	0.37	6	Spinel	< 0.1
2	Ca <sub>11</sub> Si <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>22</sub>	5.2	7	Cuspidine	1.83
3	Ca <sub>x</sub> S <sub>y</sub> B <sub>z</sub> Mg <sub>s</sub> O <sub>t</sub>	17.0	8	Cuspidine	1.45
4	MgO	0.35	9	Ca <sub>x</sub> Ti <sub>y</sub> Si <sub>z</sub> Mg <sub>s</sub> O <sub>t</sub>	0.44
5	Merwinite	0.31			

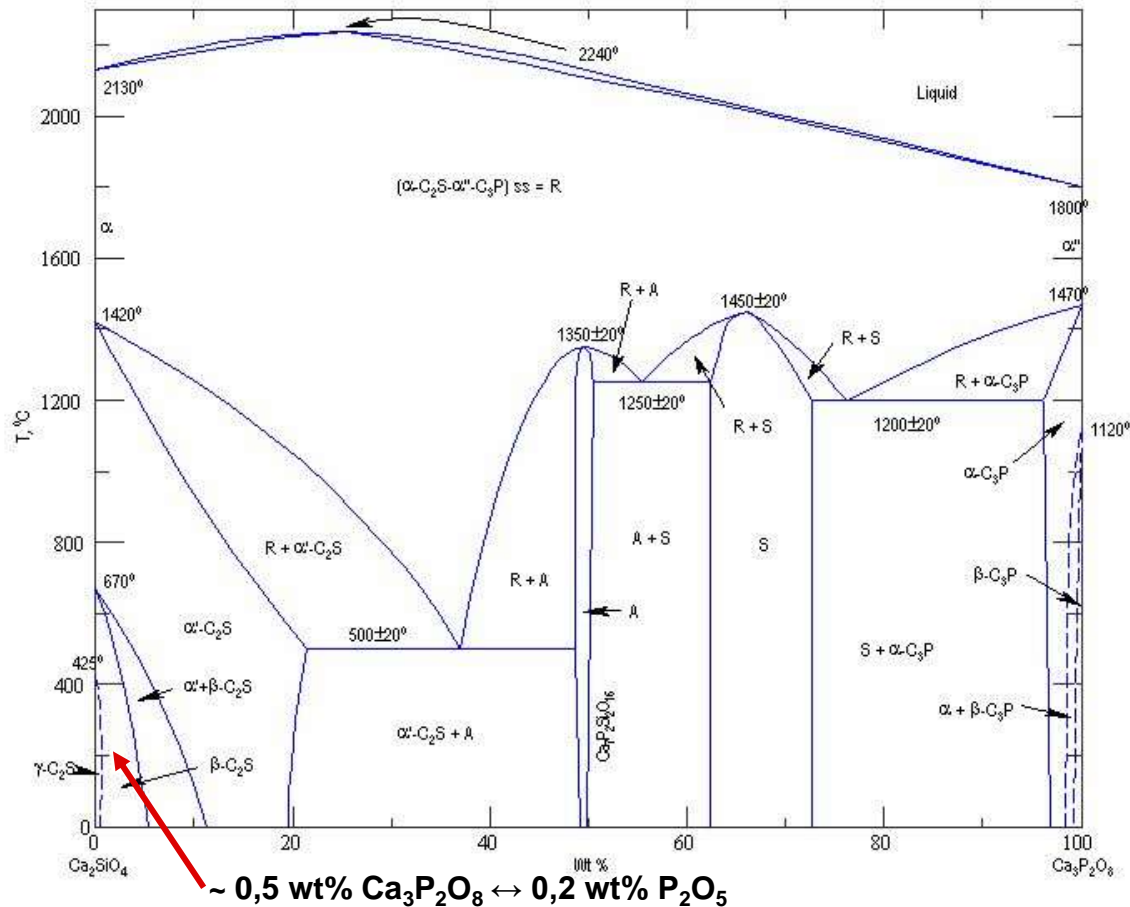


# System $\text{Ca}_2\text{SiO}_4$ – $\text{Ca}_2\text{B}_2\text{O}_6$



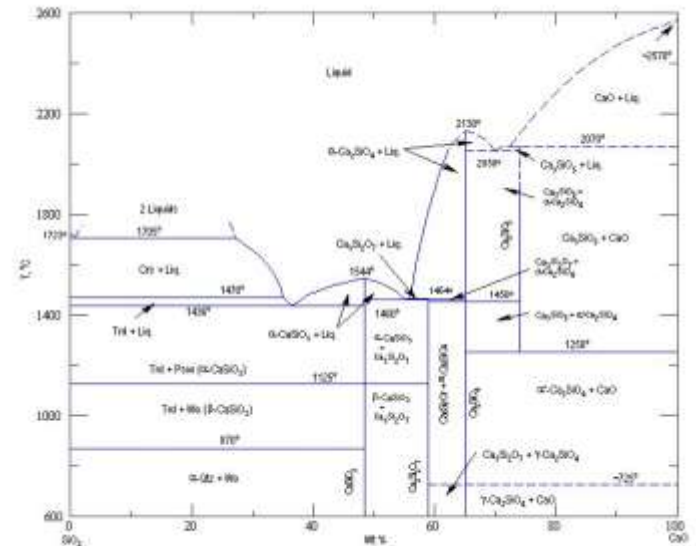
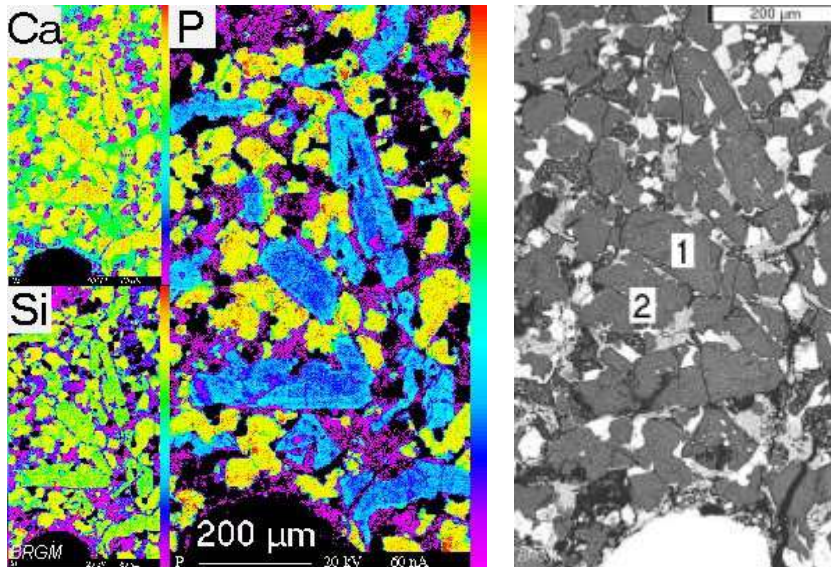


# System $\text{Ca}_2\text{SiO}_4 - \text{Ca}_3\text{P}_2\text{O}_8$



~ 0,5 wt%  $\text{Ca}_3\text{P}_2\text{O}_8 \leftrightarrow 0,2 \text{ wt\% } \text{P}_2\text{O}_5$

# Phosphorus distribution in BOS slag

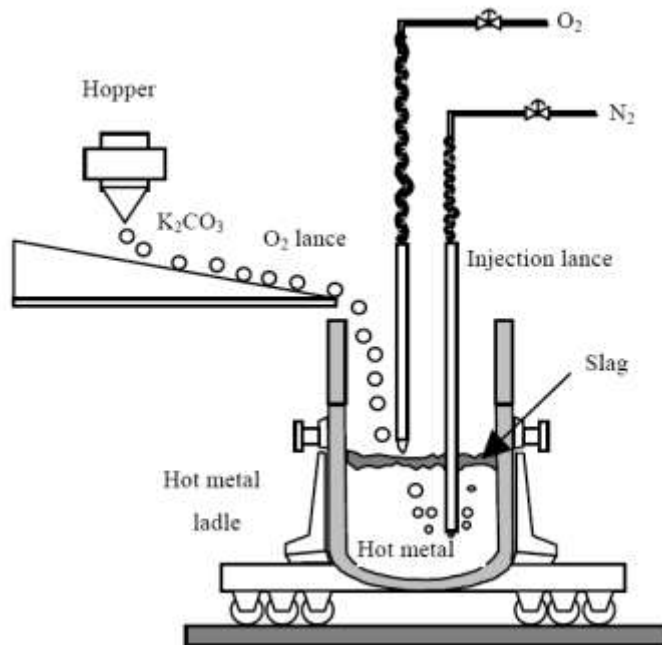


**P content in calcium silicates in BOF slag according to Bodéan et al**

% P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Rapid cooling	'Industrial' cooling (quantity)	Slow cooling (quantity)
Ca <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> (P+)	4.5	8.0 (+)	5.3 (++)
Decomposed Ca <sub>3</sub> SiO <sub>5</sub> (P-)		2.9 (++)	2.4 (+)

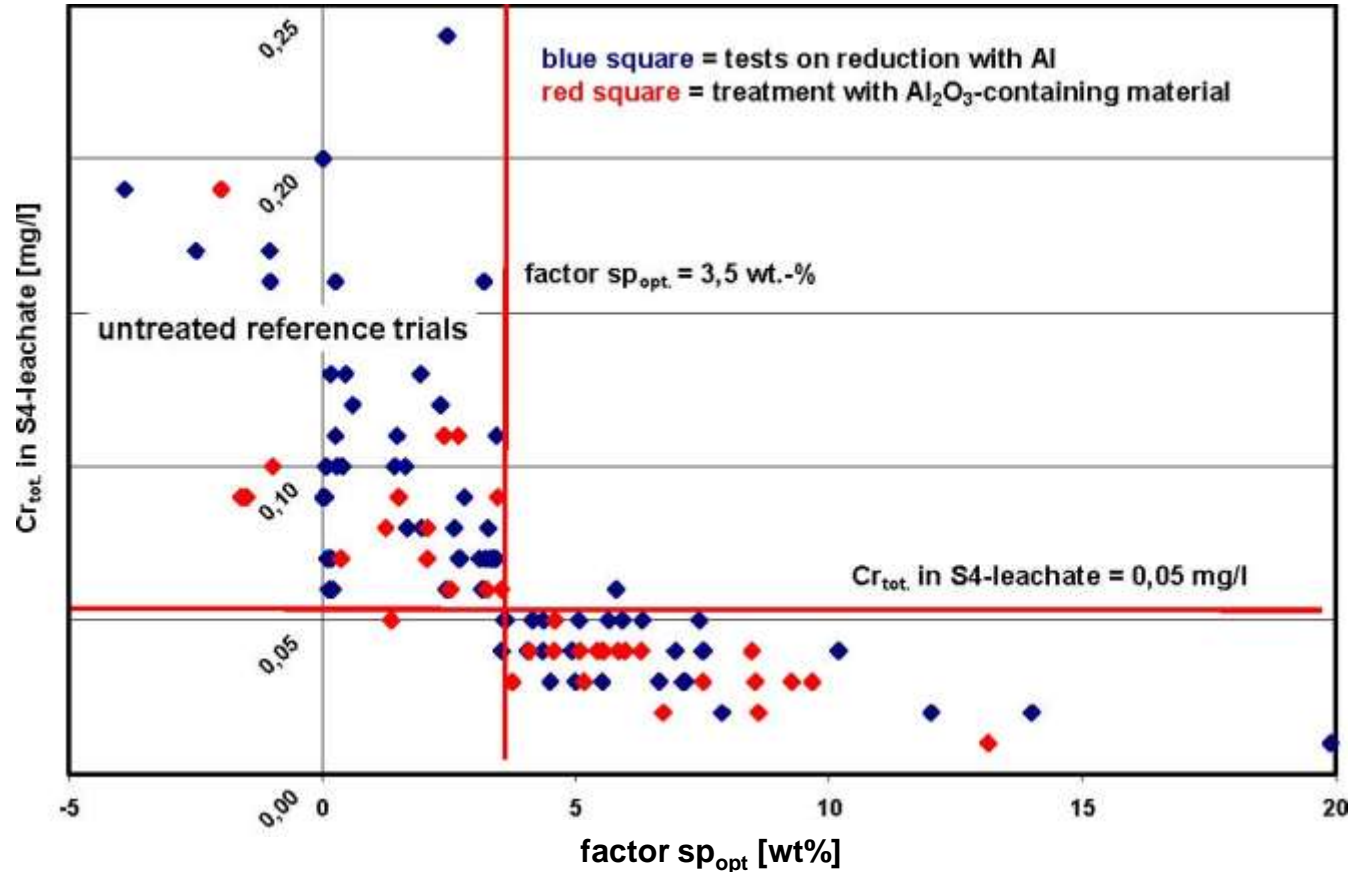
# Fused K-P-silicate fertilizer

Combined De-Si, De-P of hot metal and addition of Potassium Carbonate, to produce a fused K-P-silicate fertilizer at NKK according to Takahashi et al





# Leaching of chrome in terms of factor SP for pilot tests in an EAF when adding Al or Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, from Drissen et al



factor SP =  $0.2 \times \text{MgO} + 1.0 \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + n \times \text{Fe}_{total} - 0.5 \times \text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$   
Al injection practised at BGH Edelstahl Siegen (Stubbe et al)

# Ageing investigation (Engström)

## Materials included in the investigation

EAF 1 – EAF slag, low alloyed

EAF 2 – EAF slag, stainless steel

EAF 3 - EAF slag, high alloyed

Slag	CaO	SiO <sub>2</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
EAF 1	28.8	14.2	8.5	4.9	2.0
EAF 2	41.0	28.4	4.7	10.1	5.7
EAF 3	26.4	31.0	18.1	9.4	7.0



The slag were crushed 100% < 4mm

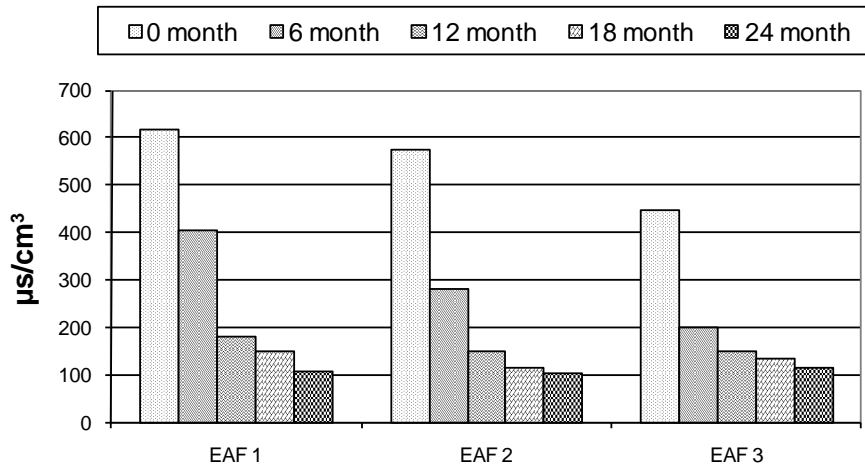
Fraction < 1 mm was excluded.

The material was well distributed

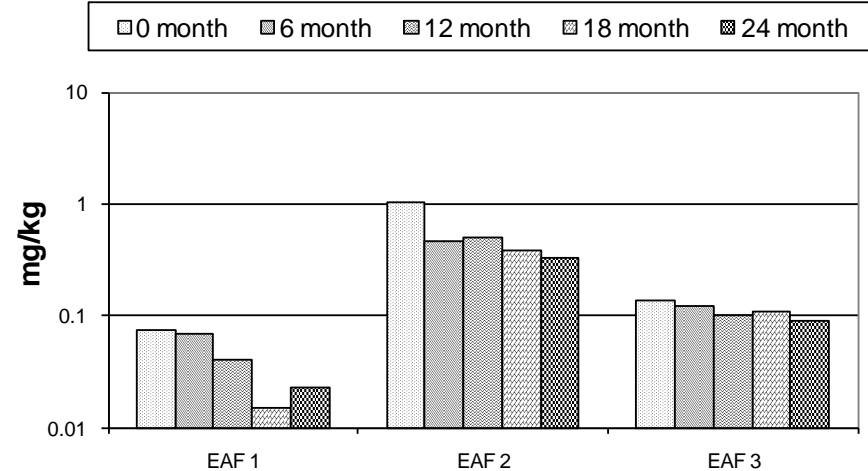
# Total leachability and leachability of Cr (Engström)



## Electrical conductivity



## Cr leaching

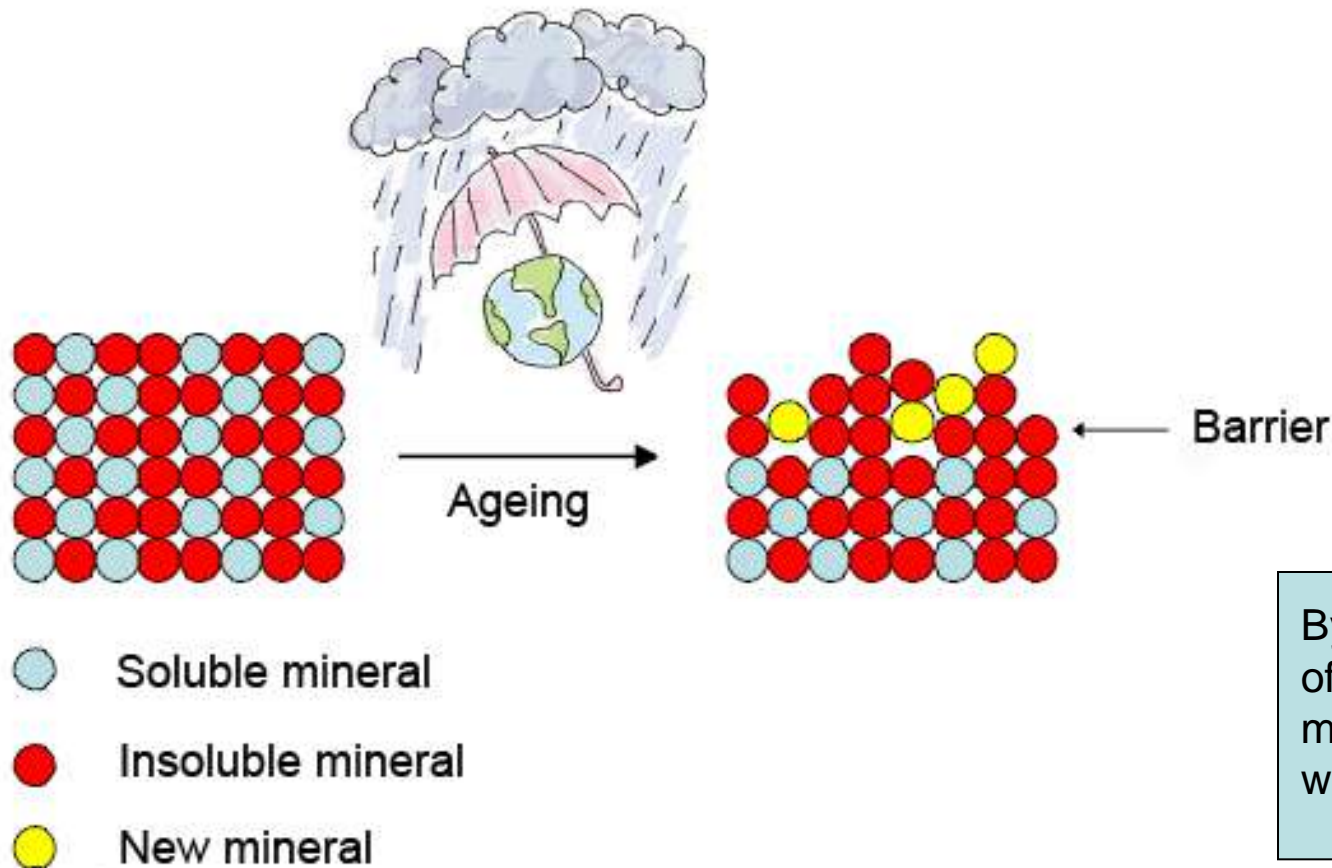


% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 2.0

5.7

7.0

# Summarising reactions taking place (Engström)



By forming a barrier, of new and insoluble minerals, the leaching will decrease

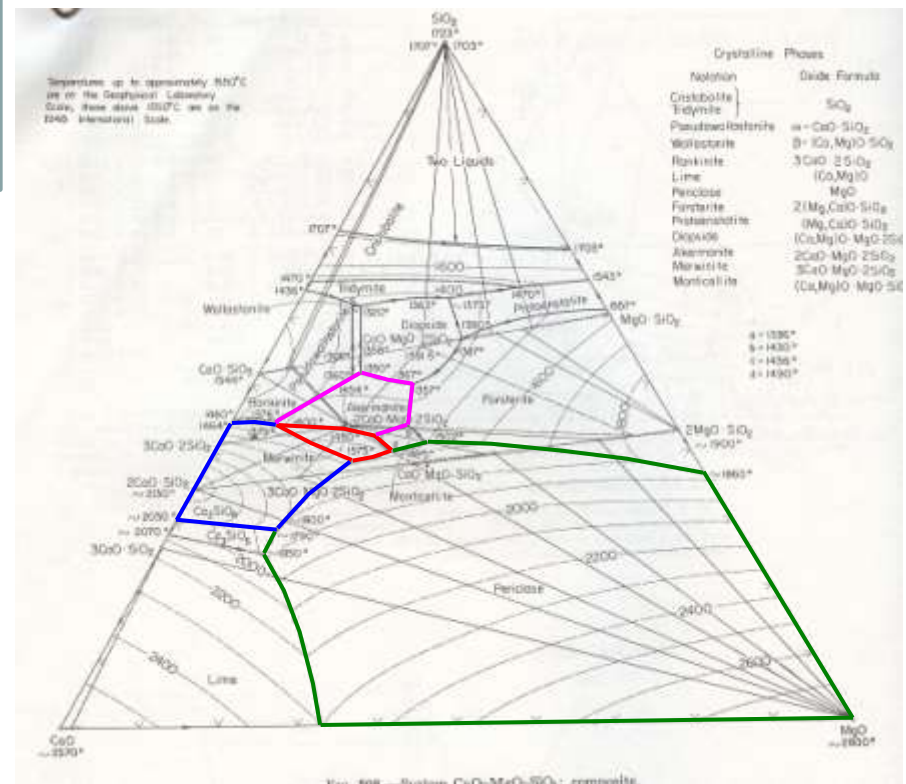


# Individual mineral solubility and distribution of elements on phases important (Durinck, Engström)

If different slag minerals dissolved differently how will that influence the leaching of e.g. Cr?

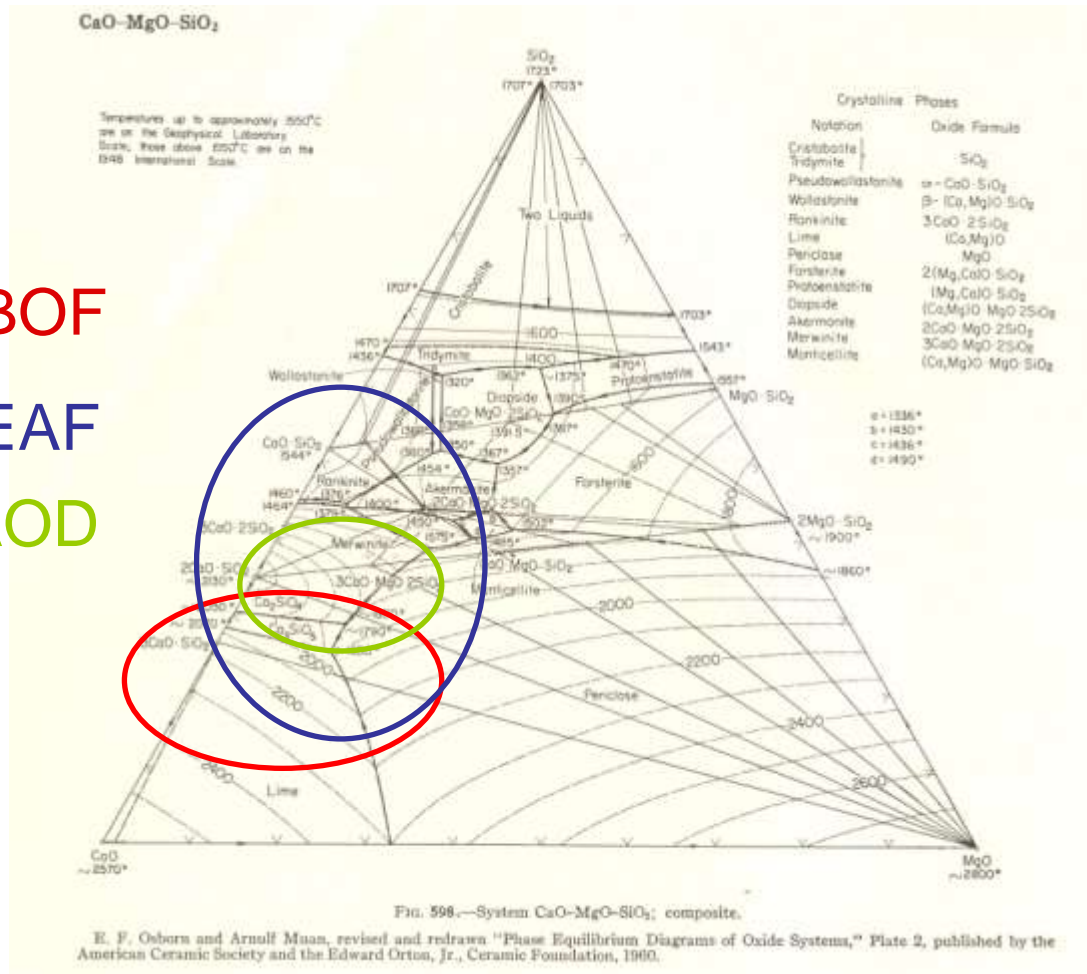
## Dissolves chromium

Merwinite	Yes
Akermanite	No
$\gamma\text{-Ca}_2\text{SiO}_4$	No
MgO	Yes
Gehlenit	No
$\text{Ca}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_5$	Yes
$3\text{CaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	No



# Syntheses of slag minerals (Engström)

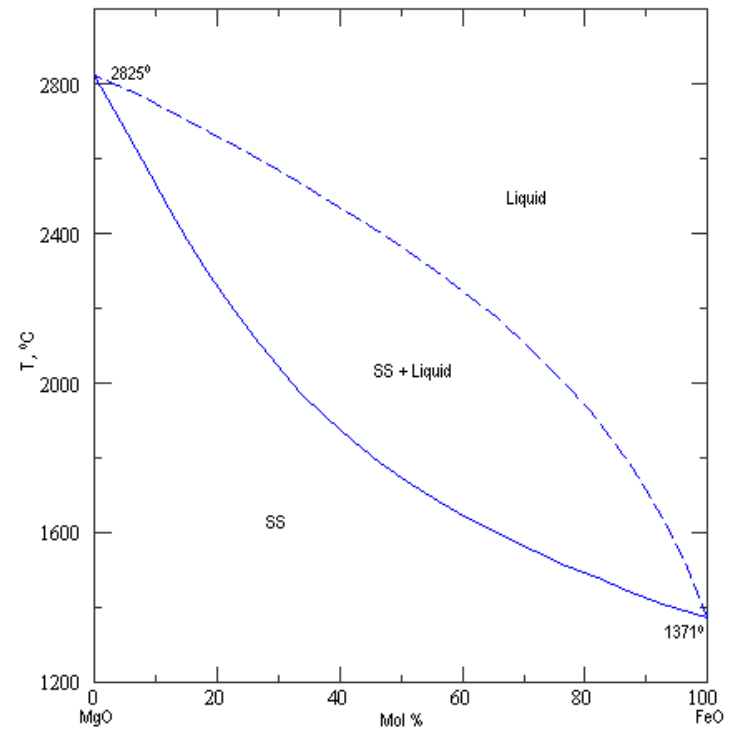
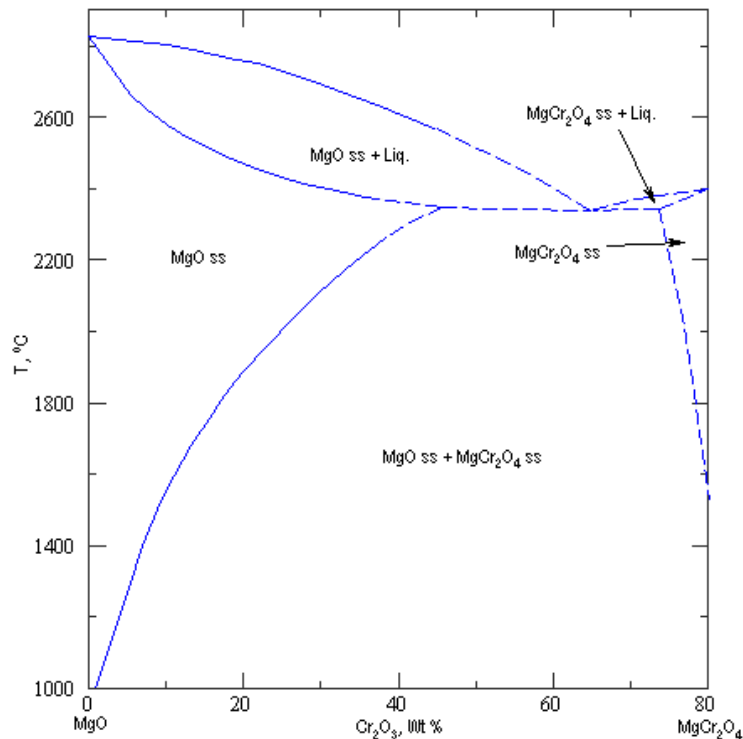
BOF  
EAF  
AOD



## Six common slag minerals!

Mayenite	$\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$
Merwinite	$\text{Ca}_3\text{MgSi}_2\text{O}_8$
Akermanite	$\text{Ca}_2\text{MgSi}_2\text{O}_7$
Gehlenite	$\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7$
Ingesonite	$\gamma\text{-Ca}_2\text{SiO}_4$
Tricalcium alum.	$\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$

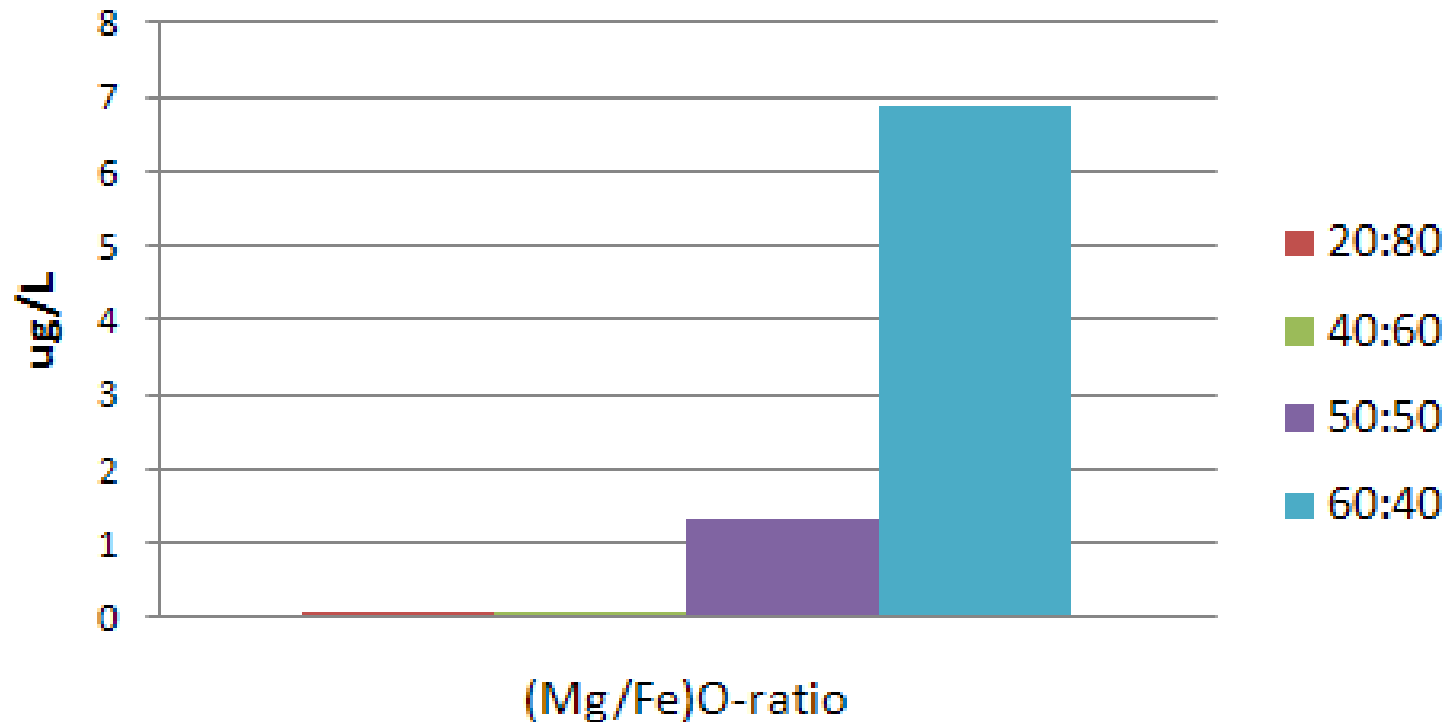
# The systems $\text{MgO-Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{FeO-MgO}$



# Chromium leaching as a function of (Mg:Fe)O composition (Engström)



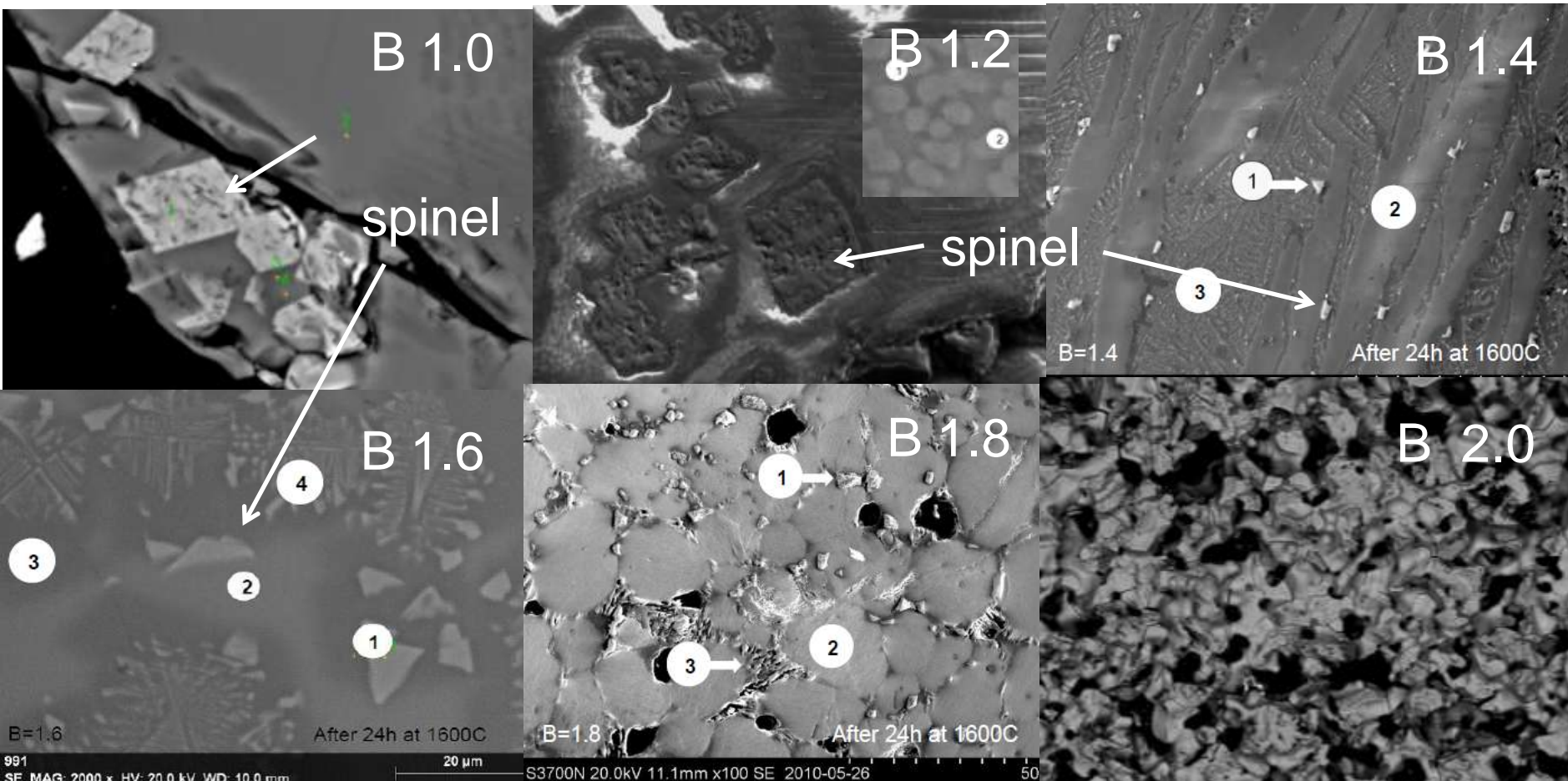
## Cr leaching as a function of wustite (ss)





# Mineralogical composition at equilibrium conditions for slags in the system $\text{CaO-MgO-SiO}_2\text{-Cr}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ studied at KTH in collaboration with Luleå University of Technology

## Effect of the basicity at 1600 °C





## Landfill cover field test at the Hagfors landfill, together with the Swedish steel industry

vegetation

plant stratum

protection stratum

Drainage, EAF slag

head stratum, 50 EAF slag and 50%  
ladle slag

equalisation

- Field studies
- Carbonisation is studied
- Future studies may involve,  
carbonisation of individual minerals



# Conclusions



- Hot stage engineering of slag, although limited attention so far, is a subject of increasing interest
- Increased effort to market slag as products will necessitate increased focus on quality control, e.g. involving hot stage engineering of the slag properties
- By hot stage adjustment of slag composition, new more value added products will be achievable
- As both steel and slag become products at a steel plant, it will increase the motivation to optimize the production from the viewpoint of the quality of both products
- At least from our perspective it is still very much left to do regarding utilisation of possible hydraulic or pozzolanic properties of slag



**Thanks for your attention**

Questions

