Is there a eutectic mixture of the halite daughter phase with sulphate± carbonate± phosphate± borate± fluoride in the hydrosaline melt inclusions from porphyry Cu-Au (±Mo) deposits in Metaliferi Mountains, Western Romania?

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Hydrothermal molten salt in SCWO (supercritical water oxidation) as a green solvation technology seems to be a good choice in hydrometallurgy, as long as hydrosaline melt inclusions are ubiquitous in porphyry Cu-Au-Mo, pegmatite, and skarn deposits worldwide. These inclusions contain, amongst others, a mixture of salt I and salt II types together with sulfides and oxides in an immiscible silicate rich mixture which polymerized in silicon-like clathrasils. The salt daughter phase shows retrograde solubility during heating at around 140°C in H₂O-NaCl-KCl system [1] and around 350°- 450°C in the hydrosaline melt inclusions (this study). During quenching, the former halite daughter phase renucleated as multiple solid nanoparticles coagulating in 2-3 subgrains recomposing in the end as a eutectic mixture. This behavior is also characteristic in H₂O-NaCl and H₂O-NaCl-Na₂SO₄ systems, in the SCWO experiments almost within the same temperature intervals, obviously because of the common ion effect [2], [3]. A deep eutectic between NaCl and CaSO4 was mentioned by [4] when studied the solubility of anhydrite in the H₂O-NaCl solutions (CaSO₄, up to 37 wt% at 1 bar). This means that our halite recorded temperature, in terms of NaCl wt.% equiv. would be lower, and this would change the fluid phase equilibria of the trapping P-V-T-X conditions.

References:

[1] Sublett, Gonzales & Bodnar (2018), Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 235, 173-188.

[2] Voisin, Erriguible & Aymonier (2019), J. of Supercritical Fluids, 152 -104567.

[3] Voisin, Erriguible & Aymonier (2020), Sci. Adv. 2020; 6: eaaz7770.

[4] Newton & Manning (2005), J.of Petrol., 46, 701-716.