

Influence of H₂ fluid on the stability of MgSiO₃ enstatite in the upper mantle condition

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C-O-H fluids affect the phase relation and melting of silicate minerals in the mantle of the Earth. The mantle is expected to become progressively reduced with increasing depth, so that H₂ fluid is considered to exist in the deep mantle with H₂O fluids. In this study, influence of H₂ fluid on stability and phase relation of enstatite, which was the secondary most abundant mineral in the upper mantle, was examined using a laser heated diamond anvil cell.

In this presentation, we will report the results of MgSiO₃-H₂ system, which is non-iron-bearing system. After heating at 3.1-13.8 GPa and about 1500-2000 K, decomposition of enstatite and formation of forsterite (Mg₂SiO₄), periclase (MgO) and coesite/stishovite (SiO₂) were observed from XRD measurements. The presence of H₂ fluid were observed from Raman spectra even after the heating. Since the studied P-T range is in the stability field of orthoenstatite and high pressure clinoenstatite under dry condition, the decomposition reaction observed in the present study was presumably induced by H₂ fluid. Formation process of these silicate phases were evaluated by observation of quench texture of the recovered samples using SEM and TEM.

Keywords: enstatite, H₂ fluid, upper mantle, laser heated diamond anvil cell