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Speciation of P in and partitioning between aqueous fluids and silicate melts to upper mantle temperatures and pressures

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Evidence from high-grade metarphic terranes suggest that phosphorus solubility and solution mechanisms in silicate melts and aqueous fluids depend on composition resulting from a range of possible P-bearing structural complexes. The structure of phosphorus-bearing, H2O-saturated silicate melts, silicate-saturated aqueous fluids, and silicate-rich single phase (supercritical) liquids has been characterized, therefore, via in-situ experiments from ambient temperatures and rpessures to 800?C/1486 MPa. The solution mechanisms and partitioning of structural species between fluids and melts were determined with the aid confocal microRaman and with FTIR spectroscopy backed up with published phosphorus-31 MAS NMR data [1]. The experiments were conducted in an Ir-gasketed hydrothermal diamond anvil cell. Temperature and pressure were recorded with thermocouples (1?C uncertainty) and pressure- and temperature-dependent Raman shift of 13C diamonds (40 MPa uncertainty). Starting materials were aluminum-free Na2O?4SiO2 (NS4) and with 10 mol % Al2O3 (NA10) substituting for SiO2, both with 5 mol % P2O5. These compositions enabled characterization of phosphorus behavior with coexisting haploandesite melt and aluminosilicate-saturated aqueous fluids with variable Al-content.

Aluminosilicate species of Qo, Q1, Q2, and Q3 type exist in coexisting fluid and melt and in single phase liquid together with phosphate species, PO4, P2O7, and QnP. In the QnP notation, the n-value denotes the number of oxygen in the structural species shared with P and Si. Al substitutes for Si predominantly in the QnP species. In melts, the abundance of the most depolymerized silicate species, Qo, is positively correlated with temperature and pressure, wheres that of the most polymerized species, Q3, decreases with temperature and pressure. In the silicate solute in aqueous fluids, the opposite relationship exists with Qo abundance decreasing and Q3 (and Q1 and Q2) abundance increasing with increasing temperature and pressure. The silicate melts, therefore, become increasingly depolymerized and the silicate solute in aqueous fluids decreasingly depolymerized. The P2O7 and QnP are the dominant phosphate species in fluid, melt, and single phase liquid with orthophosphate, PO4, playing a subordinate role. The fluid/melt partition coefficients for P2O7 and QnP species are in the 0.15-0.7 range with that of QnP being greater than that of P2O7. The PO4 fluid/melt partition coefficients are <0.2. In all cases, the partition coefficients increase with increasing temperature and pressure. There is no clear influence of Al2O3. Hence, it appears that P-bearing complexes in fluids and melts are associated with Na+. Mobility of phosphorus during metamorphic processes likely is principally governed by availability of alkali metals (and perhaps alkaline earths), whereas Al/Si-ratio may be a less important composition parameter. The P-partitioning between fluids and melts likely are significantly pressure-dependent because fluid and melt speciation is sensitive to pressure.

[1] Cody, B. O., Mysen, B. O., Saghi-Szabo, G., and Tossell, J. A., 2001. Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta 65, 2395.

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