Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2012

(May 20-25 2012 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

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SMP47-P10

Room:Convention Hall

Time:May 24 13:45-15:15

Effect of Al content and oxygen fugacity on water partitioning between olivine and orthopyroxene

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Water affects physical property of minerals (e.g. elemental diffusion rates, melting points). Because small amount of water plays key roles in mantle rheology, precise knowledge on partitioning of water among mantle minerals is very important in understanding the earth dynamics. Rauch and Keppler (2002) investigated effect of Al content on water solubility in orthopyroxene. Al solubility of orthopyroxene decreases with increasing pressure above 3 GPa. Thus water partitioning coefficient may change significantly above 3 GPa. Moreover, Nishihara et al. (2008) indicated that substituting mechanism of OH in a mineral changes considerably with concentration of OH. Although water partitioning has been studied by many workers under water saturated conditions, experiments under low OH concentration are very limited.

In order to investigate the partitioning coefficient of water between olivine and orthopyroxene under low OH concentration (4~200 ppm), we performed high-temperature and high-pressure experiments using Kawai-type multi-anvil apparatus (SPI-1000) and piston-cylinder apparatus at the Magma Factory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, using starting materials of natural olivine (OI; KLB-1) and synthetic orthopyroxene with various Al content (Opx; (Mg,Fe)_{2-x}Al_{2x}Si_{2-x}O₆ (x=0, 0.025, 0.05)). Powdered minerals were enclosed in metal foil capsule (Ni, Mo) to form monomineralic layers with more than 300 micron meters in thickness each and put it in a Au₇₅Pd₂₅ capsule at pressures of 1, 3 GPa and temperature of 1300 °C. Oxygen fugacity was controlled by Ni-NiO and Mo-MoO₂ buffers. Water contents were obtained with a vacuum type Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (FT-IR6100, IRT5000). Water content of minerals was calculated based on Paterson's (1982) calibration. Run products were polished down to doubly polished slab. After polishing and prior to FT-IR analysis, samples were stored in a vacuum oven at ~120 °C over night. Detection limit in the IR spectra at 3200-4000 cm⁻¹ is typically less than 1 ppm due to very low back ground of vacuum type FT-IR.

Water partitioning coefficient between OI and AI free Opx are $D_{(Al\ free\ Opx/OI)} = 1^2.3$. On the other hand, that between AI bearing Opx and OI are $D_{(Al\ bearing\ Opx/OI)} > 4.1$. Thus $D_{(Opx/OI)}$ becomes larger with AI content of Opx. At constant temperatures, AI solubility of orthopyroxene stays nearly constant at 1 $^{\circ}$ 3 GPa but becomes smaller with increasing pressure above $^{\circ}$ 3 GPa. Results of this study shows that amount of water in Opx is much larger than that in coexisting OI below $^{\circ}$ 3 GPa. On the other hand, water content of OI would become much larger than that of Opx above $^{\circ}$ 3 GPa. The IR spectra of AI bearing Opx show peaks broader than those of AI free Opx. Peak shapes of AI bearing Opx are similar to those of natural samples. The IR spectra of OI in recovered samples under Ni-NiO buffer show additional OH band (3700 cm $^{-1}$) that are not seen in the spectra of run products under Mo-MoO $_2$ buffer. We are performing further high pressure experiments using OI single crystal to avoid grain-boundary effects on adsorbing water.

Keywords: FT-IR, partitioning coefficient, upper mantle, olivine, orthopyroxene