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Dissolution mechanisms of CO₂ in silicate melts

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Carbon dioxide is one of abundant volatile components in natural magmas. It is generally known to dissolve in silicate melts/glasses as molecular CO_2 and CO_3^{2-} species, but how the latter group is incorporated and its effect on the silicate structure are less known. Recently, we started a comprehensive study on silicate glasses (quenched melts) using advanced solid-state NMR techniques combined with Raman spectroscopy and first-principles calculations to better understand this issue. Here we give a preliminary report of the results.

 CO_2 -bearing glasses (1 to 10 wt%, all undersaturated) were prepared by quenching melts at 1.0 to 1.5 GPa and 1400 to 1600 $^{\circ}$ C using a non-endloaded piston cylinder apparatus. 13 C-enriched carbonate (CaCO₃ or Na₂CO₃) was used as the 13 CO₂ source. The starting material was sealed in Pt capsule, and Fe_2O_3 disk was placed near the capsule to avoid reduction of CO_2 .

Three silicate compositions have been examined by NMR thus far: diopside ($CaMgSi_2O_6$), Ca-melilite ($Ca_{1.5}AlSi_2O_7$) and jadeite (NaAlSi₂O₆). The ¹³C MAS NMR spectrum of the diopside glass contains a nearly symmetric peak near 167.2 ppm. That of the Ca-melilite glass exhibits a similarly narrow peak near 167.8 ppm with a tail to lower frequency. Both peaks are attributable to dissolved CO_3^{2-} group. The ¹³C MAS NMR spectrum of the jadeite glass contains a broader asymmetric peak near 164 ppm, a narrower peak near 125 ppm and another weak narrow peak near 185 ppm, resembling that reported previously. These peaks may be attributed to dissolved CO₃²⁻, CO₂ and CO species, respectively. Thus for depolymerized diopside and Ca-melilite compositions, CO_3^{2-} species is predominant, but for fully polymerized jadeite composition, CO_3^{2-} and CO_2 species coexist, consistent with previous reports. The presence of CO molecules indicates somewhat reduced condition. Preliminary speculation on the environments of the CO32- groups may be made from the ¹³C NMR spectra. The narrowness and closeness in peak position to crystalline CaCO₃(168.6 ppm) for the two depolymerized compositions may indicate that both are dominated by free CO_3^{2-} species (i.e. linked only to network modifiers). Formation of free CO_3^{2-} will polymerize the melt structure. The asymmetric peak shape for the Ca-melilite glass could be a sign for additional species. For this sample, ²⁷Al 3Q MAS NMR revealed small amounts of penta-coordinated and octahedral Al, in addition to tetrahedral Al. It is interesting to know whether these high-coordinated Al are related to CO_3^{2-} speciation. The ¹³C NMR peak of CO_3^{2-} in the jadeite glass is much broader and more shifted from that of crystalline carbonate, suggesting that these species could be part of the aluminosilicate network. More definite peak assignment awaits further ²⁹Si-¹³C and ²⁷Al-¹³C double-resonance NMR measurements that can directly probe C-O-Si(Al) linkages. Raman spectroscopy will be also used to obtain information regarding symmetry of CO_3^{2-} species. First-principles calculations are underway to gain better insights into the chemical shifts and J couplings for candidate local structures. The latest results will be presented at the meeting.

Keywords: silicate melt, carbon dioxide, melt structure, dissolution mechanism, NMR spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy