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衝撃を受けた隕石中のメージャーライトガーネットの対称性 Symmetry of majorite garnet in shocked chondrites revisited: A TEM study

富岡 尚敬^{1*}; 宮原 正明²; 伊藤 元雄¹ TOMIOKA, Naotaka^{1*}; MIYAHARA, Masaaki²; ITO, Motoo¹

¹海洋研究開発機構高知コア研究所、²広島大学理学研究科地球惑星システム学専攻

¹Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC, ²Department of Earth and Planetary Systems Science, Graduate School of Science, Hiroshima University

Majorite is a garnet-structured mineral with a composition on the join (Mg,Fe)SiO₃-(Mg,Fe)₃Al₂Si₃O₁₂, which contains Si in the octahedral sites. Al-free majorite samples synthesized by Kawai-type multianvil apparatus are known to have a tetragonal symmetry (space group $I4_1/a$) [1]. However, all of natural Al-free majorite samples found in shocked chondrites have been reported to be cubic (Ia-3d) [2]. Single-crystal X-ray study of a synthetic MgSiO₃ majorite clarified the tetragonal distortion of majorite is caused by Mg-Si ordering in the octahedral sites [3]. Subsequent microstructural observations of synthetic Al-free majorite by TEM concluded that the tetragonal phase is formed from the cubic phase through the cation ordering even upon rapid quenching (10^3 °C/sec) and the symmetry reduction phase derives modulated and twinning structures [4]. On the contrary, cubic (Mg,Fe)SiO₃ majorite in shocked chondrites is inferred to have been preserved due to higher cooling rate than that in high-pressure synthesis where the cation ordering is inhibited.

Due to very small tetragonal distortion from the cubic phase (c/a = 0.99) and very week extra reflections for the tetragonal phase, it is difficult to judge the symmetry of small amount of natural majorite samples by powder X-ray diffractometry. For the symmetry analyses of submicron-sized grains, single-crystal electron diffraction is a suitable method, since the intensities of weak reflections to diagnose the tetragonal symmetry are enhanced by the effect of dynamical diffraction. In this study, we revisit symmetries of majorite grains in shocked ordinary chondrites (Tenham; L6, Y-75100; H6) and also synthetic (Mg,Fe)SiO₃ majorite by TEM. The intensity of {101} reflections, which appears only for the $I4_1/a$ tetragonal phase, is under investigation by selected are electron diffraction.

References:

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[4] *e.g.* Heinemann, S., Sharp, T.G., Seifert, F., and Rubie, D.C. (1997) The cubic-tetragonal phase transition in the system majorite ($Mg_4Si_4O_{12}$) - pyrope ($Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$), and garnet symmetry in the Earth's transition zone. *Phys. Chem. Minerals*, 24, 206-221.; Tomioka, N., Fujino, K., Ito, E., Katsura, T., Sharp, T., and Kato, T. (2002) Microstructures and structural phase transition in (Mg_5Fe)SiO₃ majorite. *Eur. J. Mineral.*, 14, 7-14.

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