

CaO B1-B2 TRANSITION UNDER HIGH-PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE

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X-ray powder diffraction measurements of CaO at high pressure and temperature have been performed with elevating temperature and pressure using lever-spring type diamond anvil cell with external ring heater. The diffraction patterns were collected by two-dimensional imaging plate (IP) detector (Rigaku R-AXIS IV++) having large dynamic range and high quantum efficiency. B1 structure transformed B2 at about 61.2 - 63.2 GPa at room temperature in the process of increasing pressure and the back transformation from B2 to B1 phase at 59.8 GPa in the course of depression. A back transformation from B2 to B1 structure in the process of depression shows a large hysteresis.

External ring heater of Pt-Rh(40) with ZrO₂-CaO cement thermal-insulator was installed closely around DAC in the high-pressure generator. Temperature was regulated by PID controller and measured by thermocouple which contacts on diamond surface. Load pressure was cooled by the newly devised remote system with oil pressure control. Water circulation in the high-pressure system was attached. B1-B2 transition pressure becomes slightly lower from 58.8 GPa at 300 K to 53.1 GPa at 685 K indicating $dP/dT < 0$. But B1-B2 transition is highly dependent on pressure instead of temperature. From the viewpoint of relative volume between B1 and B2, CaSiO₃ perovskite is possibly decomposed to SiO₂ (CaCl₂ type) and CaO-B2 structure in the pressure and temperature range of lower mantle.

Keywords: CaO B1-B2 TRANSITION HIGH PRESSURE

SEARCH FOR INTERSTITIAL ELECTRONS IN THE STRUCTURE OF Cs-IV

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The high-pressure behavior of Cs is believed to result from pressure-driven s-to-d electron transfer, which results in a number of structural phase transitions and unusual optical and melting behavior. In addition, the s-to-d transition changes the bonding character of Cs from the non-directional bonding of a nearly-free electron metal at ambient pressure to more complex directional bonding at high pressures. As a result, Cs transforms from simple structures to more complex open-packed structures on pressure increase.

Calculations of the electron density in one of these complex phases, Cs-IV [1, 2], stable between 4.5 GPa and 10 GPa, and in the predicted high-pressure complex phases of Li [3] and Na [4], suggest that in each structure there should be interstitial electron density between the atomic sites. Indeed, it may be possible to regard Cs-IV as 'Cesium electride' Cs⁺e⁻. To investigate this, we have made detailed x-ray diffraction studies of Cs-IV using high-quality single crystals and synchrotron radiation.

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ISOTOPE EFFECTS ON COMPRESSIBILITIES AND PRESSURE DEPENDENCY OF CAGE FILLING IN METHANE CLATHRATE HYDRATES

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Methane hydrates are found in ocean sea floor sediments and in permafrost regions attracting considerable interest during last years as giant source of natural gas and as a potential geo hazard. Here we report on the first *in situ* structural work on hydrogenated and deuterated methane hydrates. The samples were investigated at T = 271 K in the pressure range of 50 - 1000 bar at neutron and synchrotron sources (D2B at ILL, ID15A at ESRF and BW5 at HASYLAB. All data were analyzed using a Rietveld-refinement procedure implemented in the program GSAS. Final R-factors 2-3% were achieved. The pressure dependent lattice constants were obtained with a least-squares-estimated precision of 0.0025 - 0.0075 %. The isotope effect is larger in the hydrates (0.15%) than in hydrogenated and deuterated ice Ih (0.08%). Bulk moduli for hydrogenous samples (9.11 GPa), established on ESRF and HASYLAB data sets, were found essentially the same, and rather differ from deuterated samples bulk modulus value 8.21 GPa, based on neutron and X-ray synchrotron data sets. The values of cage filling were established on the ESRF data set. The large cages are almost fully occupied at all pressures, while the filling of small cages increases with pressure but less than expected from a solid solution behavior. In contrast to all predictions the small cage data cannot be fitted by a Langmuir isotherm.

Keywords: GAS HYDRATES COMPRESSIBILITY ISOTOPE EFFECT

HIGH PRESSURE STRUCTURAL STUDIES ON GALLIUM

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Gallium, a group III element, exhibits a complex P-T phase diagram with a number of metastable phases. On pressure increase at room temperature Ga melts and around 2 GPa crystallizes in the metastable Ga-III phase which has an In-type structure (body-centered tetragonal with 2 atoms) [1]. This phase has to be supercooled down to -63° to -88° C at around 3 GPa before it transforms to the stable Ga-II phase. The structure of Ga-II has been reported to be body-centered cubic with 12 atoms in the unit cell (cI12) [1]. However, diffraction studies on Ga [2] between 3 and 15 GPa showed complex patterns, that could not be indexed with the cI12 structure. Above 15 GPa at room temperature, Ga-II is reported to transform to Ga-III, which is the stable phase at this pressure [2], and then to a fcc phase, Ga-IV, at 120 GPa [3]. To help identify the outstanding uncertainties with the gallium P-T phase diagram, we have undertaken detailed structural studies of Ga up to 20 GPa at room temperature and at temperatures down to -80° C at 3-5 GPa. These combined powder and single-crystal x-ray diffraction studies show new features in the P-T phase diagram, including two phases with complex crystal structures that have not been reported previously.

References

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