Revision1

1   **High-pressure experiments on phase transition boundaries between**

2   **corundum, Rh$_2$O$_3$(II) and CaIrO$_3$-type structures in Al$_2$O$_3$**

3

4   Jinya Kato,[1] Kei Hirose,[1,2,]* Haruka Ozawa,[1,2] and Yasuo Ohishi[3]

5

6   [1]Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Meguro, Tokyo

7   152-8551, Japan

8   [2]Institute for Research on Earth Evolution, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and

9   Technology, Yokosuka, Kanagawa 237-0061, Japan

10   [3]Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute, Sayo, Hyogo 679-5198, Japan

11   * E-mail: kei@geo.titech.ac.jp

12

13   **ABSTRACT**

14   Phase transitions in Al$_2$O$_3$ between corundum, Rh$_2$O$_3$(II)-type, and CaIrO$_3$-type

15   (post-perovskite-type) phases were examined at high pressure and high temperature in a

16   laser-heated diamond-anvil cell (DAC) based on in-situ x-ray diffraction measurements. The

17   locations of corundum-Rh$_2$O$_3$(II) and Rh$_2$O$_3$(II)-CaIrO$_3$ boundaries were precisely determined

18 by conducting both forward and backward reactions experiments. The results demonstrate that

19 corundum undergoes phase transition to $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type structure above 106 GPa at 1800 K

20 with a negative Clapeyron slope of -6.5 ± 1.5 MPa/K, generally consistent with earlier

21 experimental and theoretical works. The $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase further transforms into

22 $CaIrO_3$-type above 170 GPa at 2300 K, indicating the transition pressure much higher than

23 earlier experimental work but in agreement with reported GGA calculations. The Clapeyron

24 slope of this phase transition was found to be high negative (-20 ± 5 MPa/K).

25   **Keywords:** phase transition, high pressure, Al_2O_3, corundum, Rh_2O_3, $CaIrO_3$,

26 post-perovskite

27

28   **INTRODUCTION**

29   Aluminum oxide is an important ceramic material and widely used as a pressure standard

30 in static DAC experiments (Cr^{3+}-bearing corundum, ruby). In addition, Al_2O_3 is one of the

31 major components in the Earth's crust and mantle. It is an important impurity in silicate

32 perovskite and post-perovskite, primary constituents in the lower mantle, and strongly affects

33 their stabilities above the core-mantle boundary (e.g., Akber-Knutson et al. 2005; Tateno et al.

34 2005; Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya 2008). Also, Al_2O_3 corundum may occur as a discrete mineral in

35   subducted highly Al-enriched materials (Komabayashi et al. 2009; Kawai et al. 2009). The

36   high-pressure (P) and high-temperature (T) behavior of Al_2O_3 is thus of great importance in

37   both materials science and deep Earth science.

38   Al_2O_3 crystallizes as corundum at low pressures. Cohen (1987) first examined a phase

39   transition from corundum to Rh_2O_3(II)-type structure by theory. Since then, a number of

40   theoretical calculations have been made to predict the transition pressure using different models

41   (Marton and Cohen 1994; Thomson et al. 1996; Duan et al. 1998; Caracas and Cohen 2005;

42   Tsuchiya et al. 2005). Experiments performed by Jephcoat et al. (1988) showed that the

43   corundum structure was preserved up to 175 GPa at ambient temperature. The first

44   experimental confirmation of Rh_2O_3(II)-type phase was made by Funamori and Jeanloz (1997).

45   They observed the phase transition approximately at 100 GPa and 1000 K. The most recent

46   experimental work by Lin et al. (2004) reported the transition above 96 GPa but the phase

47   boundary (temperature dependence) was not determined.

48        $CaIrO_3$-type Al_2O_3 was originally reported by the theoretical works performed by Oganov

49   and Ono (2005), Caracas and Cohen (2005), and Tsuchiya et al. (2005). It is isostructural with

50    $MgSiO_3$ post-perovskite phase (e.g., Hirose 2006). Oganov and Ono (2005) and subsequent

51   experimental work by Ono et al. (2006) demonstrated the phase transition boundary between

3

52   Rh_2O_3(II)- and $CaIrO_3$-type structures at 130 GPa and 1000 K, approximately similar to that of

53   perovskite to post-perovskite phase transition in $MgSiO_3$. On the other hand, Caracas and

54   Cohen (2005) and Tsuchiya et al. (2005) predicted the transition pressure above 150 GPa at 0 K.

55   Additionally, the high negative Clapeyron slope of the boundary was reported by theory

56   (Tsuchiya et al. 2005), but it has not been verified by experiments yet.

57   Here we determined the phase transition boundaries in Al_2O_3 between corundum,

58   Rh_2O_3(II)-, and $CaIrO_3$-type structures, based on the in-situ x-ray diffraction (XRD)

59   measurements at the synchrotron radiation source. These phase transitions were found to be

60   rather sluggish. We therefore performed both forward and backward experiments using a mixed

61   sample containing low-pressure and high-pressure phases together, which enabled us to

62   precisely locate the pressure and Clapeyron slope of the equilibrium phase transition

63   boundaries.

64

65   **EXPERIMENTAL METHODS**

66   The high *P-T* conditions were generated in a laser-heated DAC. We used a fine powder of

67   Al_2O_3 as a starting material. A pelletized sample was coated with Pt, which served both as an

68   internal pressure standard and as a laser absorber. It was loaded into a 30 or 50-μm hole in a

4

69   rhenium gasket, together with a pressure medium of SiO_2 glass. Beveled diamond anvils with

70   90 or 150-μm culet were used for compression. The sample was heated from both sides using a

71   fiber laser. Temperature was measured by the spectroradiometric method (Ohishi et al. 2008).

72   Typical temperature profiles across the heating spot are provided in Fig. 1.

73   Angle-dispersive XRD spectra of the sample were collected at high pressure and

74   temperature primarily on the CCD detector (Bruker APEX), which has 1024×1024 pixel

75   dimensions with a pixel size of 60-μm $\times$ 60-μm, at the beamline BL10XU of SPring-8.

76   Exposure time was 10 to 30 sec. A monochromatic incident x-ray beam with a wavelength of

77   0.4115 to 0.4144 Å was collimated to 15-μm in diameter. Two-dimensional XRD images were

78   integrated as a function of 2-theta angle in order to give a conventional one-dimensional

79   diffraction profile using the fit-2D program (Hammersley et al. 1996).

80   The variation in temperature within 15-μm area from which x-ray diffractions were

81   collected was less ±10% (Fig. 1). Pressure was calculated from the unit-cell volume of platinum

82   based on its P-V-T equation of state proposed by Holmes et al. (1989). The errors in pressure

83   were less than ±3.7 GPa at high temperature, derived mainly from large uncertainty in

84   temperature in the application of P-V-T equation of state. We repeated the heating cycles with

85   increasing/decreasing the load pressure in a single run (Tables 1 and 2).

5

86   We determined the stable phase at each *P-T* condition, based on 1) the appearance of

87   high-pressure phase, 2) grain growth observed in two-dimensional XRD image or XRD peak

88   growth when the sample included a single phase, and 3) peak growth or reduction when two

89   phases coexisted.

90

91   **RESULTS**

92   **Boundary between corundum and Rh$_2$O$_3$(II)-type structures**

93   We have performed one run (run #1) at relatively low pressure range for corundum-Rh$_2$O$_3$

94   boundary (Table 1). The sample was first compressed to 87 GPa at room temperature. The

95   broad XRD peaks from corundum were observed before heating (Fig. 2a). Such corundum

96   peaks became sharp and spotty when the sample was first heated to 2390 K for 8 min at 99 GPa

97   (heating cycle #1 in Table 1), indicating the grain growth and thus the stability of corundum at

98   such *P-T* condition. After quenching temperature, the sample was further compressed at 300 K

99   and reheated to 2060 K at 121 GPa (cycle #2). The peaks of Rh$_2$O$_3$ (II)-type structure appeared

100   in 38 min. Using such corundum + Rh$_2$O$_3$(II) coexisting sample, we further examined the phase

101   stability based on the growth/reduction of the corresponding XRD peaks. For this purpose, only

102   corundum 104 line and Rh$_2$O$_3$(II) 211 and 021 lines were used to avoid peak overlapping. Phase

6

103   stability was judged from the change in relative intensities (peak areas) given in Table 1.

104   Subsequently the sample was decompressed and again heated to 2180 K at 105 GPa (cycle #3).

105   We observed the growth of the $Rh_2O_3(II)$ peaks in 8 min (Figs. 2b and 3b). When the

106   temperature was decreased to 1870 K, the corundum peaks conversely grew relative to those of

107   $Rh_2O_3(II)$ (Figs. 2c and 3a), indicating the reversal phase transition at this *P-T* condition. Upon

108   following heating both at 2560 and 2810 K, the peaks of $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase became more

109   intense. On the other hand, the peaks of corundum again grew when we reduced the

110   temperature to 1930 K. In a similar manner, we performed another heating cycles (#4 to #8), in

111   which both forward (Corundum $\rightarrow Rh_2O_3$) and reversal ($Rh_2O_3 \rightarrow$ Corundum) transitions were

112   successfully observed (Table 1).

113   The change in stable structures with changing the *P-T* conditions is illustrated in

114   chronological order in Fig. 4. From the results of these forward and backward experiments, we

115   tightly constrain the location of the phase transition boundary between corundum and the

116   $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type structure. The transition occurs above 106 GPa at 1800 K. The boundary has a

117   negative *P/T* (Clapeyron) slope of -6.5 ± 1.5 MPa/K.

118

119   **Boundary between $Rh_2O_3(II)$ and $CaIrO_3$-type phases**

7

120   We have conducted four separate runs (runs #2-5) up to a pressure of 193 GPa and a

121   temperature of 3540 K for $Rh_2O_3(II)$-$CaIrO_3$ boundary (Table 2). In run #2, we first synthesized

122   the $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase by heating corundum to 1900 K at 127 GPa. Only the $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type

123   structure was observed up to 157 GPa and 2570 K. The peaks from $CaIrO_3$-type phase appeared

124   when the sample was compressed and then again heated to 2590 K at 186 GPa for 32 min. In the

125   next experiment (run #3), the XRD pattern was collected only at 158 GPa and 3170 K, showing

126   the $CaIrO_3$-type structure. In run #4, the $CaIrO_3$-type phase was first obtained directly from

127   corundum at 164 GPa and 2990 K. We then further compressed this sample and reheated to

128   relatively low temperature (1850 K). The peaks from $Rh_2O_3(II)$ appeared coexisting with the

129    $CaIrO_3$-type phase in 43 min. With such $Rh_2O_3(II)$ + $CaIrO_3$ mixed sample, the stability of

130    $Rh_2O_3(II)$ or $CaIrO_3$ was determined with changing the *P-T* conditions, based on the

131   growth/reduction of the XRD peaks. We used the peak areas of 211 and 310 lines and 022 and

132   131 lines for $Rh_2O_3(II)$ or $CaIrO_3$-type phases, respectively (Table 2). Figs. 3c and 5a illustrate

133   the XRD pattern when the $CaIrO_3$ peaks extensively grew at 193 GPa and 3420 K. The

134   relatively intense $CaIrO_3$ peaks were also present at 149 GPa and 3510 K (Fig. 5b). In the

135   following heating at 143 GPa and 3540 K, we observed the growth of $Rh_2O_3(II)$ peaks at the

136   expense of $CaIrO_3$ peaks (Fig. 5c). In the fifth run, a mixture of $Rh_2O_3(II)$ and $CaIrO_3$-type

8

137   phases was obtained in the first heating at 159 GPa and 2840 K. On further heating to 2950 K,

138   the peaks from CaIrO$_3$-type structure grew in 13 min.

139   These results are summarized in Fig. 6, in which the change in stable crystal structure is

140   illustrated along with the experimental *P-T* path in each run. The location of the

141   Rh$_2$O$_3$(II)-CaIrO$_3$ phase transition boundary is precisely determined from these data. The

142   results show that the transition occurs at 170 GPa and 2300 K with a high negative Clapeyron

143   slope of -20 ± 5 MPa/K.

144

145   **DISCUSSION**

146   These data are compared with earlier theoretical and experimental reports in Fig. 7. Our

147   results on corundum-Rh$_2$O$_3$(II) boundary are generally consistent with the experimental studies

148   by Funamori and Jeanloz (1997) and Lin et al. (2004), although the transition boundary was not

149   well constrained in these earlier experiments. Both pressure and the negative Clapeyron slope

150   of the boundary are in excellent agreement with the GGA calculations by Tsuchiya et al. (2005),

151   although their LDA results show much lower transition pressure.

152   Present experiments demonstrate that the phase transition between Rh$_2$O$_3$(II)- and

153   CaIrO$_3$-type structures occurs at 170 GPa and 2300 K (Fig. 7). Such transition pressure and the

154   high negative Clapeyron slope are again in general agreement with the GGA calculations

155   reported by Tsuchiya et al. (2005). On the other hand, the transition pressure determined here is

156   much higher than that reported by previous experiments performed by Ono et al. (2006), who

157   reported the transition pressure of ~130 GPa at 1500 K. Such discrepancy is in part because of

158   the difference in pressure scale used to estimate the experimental pressure. Ono and others used

159   Au pressure scale (pressure-volume-temperature equation of state) proposed by Jamieson et al.

160   (1982), while we calculated the pressure based on the Pt pressure scale by Holmes et al. (1989).

161   Akahama et al. (2002) have shown that Jamieson's Au scale gives the pressure lower by ~20

162   GPa at ~150 GPa and 300 K than Holmes's Pt scale used in the present experiments.

163   Internally-consistent Au and Pt pressure scales were proposed by Fei et al. (2007) and

164   Dorogokupets and Dewaele (2007). These scales help to diminish the discrepancy between the

165   results by Ono et al. (2006) and this study, but the difference in $Rh_2O_3(II)$-$CaIrO_3$ transition

166   pressure is still found to be ~30 GPa.

167   More importantly, we found that phase transitions in Al_2O_3 are rather sluggish. The

168    $CaIrO_3$-type phase appeared in 32 min by heating the single phase $Rh_2O_3(II)$ sample to 2590 K

169   (#7 in Fig. 6). Similarly, we observed the appearance of $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase after heating the

170   single-phase $CaIrO_3$ sample for 43 min (#11 in Fig. 6). Ono et al. (2006) synthesized

10

171    $CaIrO_3$-type Al_2O_3 from the corundum starting material at ~170 GPa and 2000-2500 K, which

172   is consistent with the present study. Ono and co-workers reheated this $CaIrO_3$-type Al_2O_3 with

173   decreasing pressure and observed the phase transition to $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type structure below 130

174   GPa and 2000 K. They suggested the transition pressure to be ~130 GPa only from such $CaIrO_3$

175    $\rightarrow Rh_2O_3(II)$ experiments. However, the low transition pressure reported by Ono et al. (2006)

176   may be due to the effect of kinetic hindering of the reaction and should be confirmed by reversal

177   experiments. The kinetic problem may have been significant in the experiments by Ono and

178   others because they mixed the Al_2O_3 sample with gold powder that served as a laser absorber.

179   Since metal powder easily becomes aggregate upon laser-heating, such sample preparation

180   often causes heterogeneous temperature distributions (Sinmyo and Hirose 2010). In contrast to

181   their experiments, we determined the P-T location of the boundary mainly using the $Rh_2O_3(II)$

182   + $CaIrO_3$ coexisting sample in order to avoid such a kinetic problem. Moreover, present result

183   was constrained by both forward and backward reactions. We also used metal-coated samples

184   in this study, which provided homogeneous temperature distributions upon laser heating. All of

185   these efforts should have helped in obtaining the equilibrium phase transition boundary.

186   Present study demonstrates that phase transition between $Rh_2O_3(II)$ and $CaIrO_3$-type

187   phases in Al_2O_3 does not take place in the mantle pressure range. This transition has been

188   suggested to occur in subducted primordial crust with anorthosite composition or highly

189   Al-rich sediments (Komabayashi et al. 2009; Kawai et al. 2009). Moreover, Kawai and others

190   argued that such subducted anorthositic crust is dense in the lowermost mantle, and the negative

191   Clapeyron slope of the $Rh_2O_3(II)$–$CaIrO_3$ transition disturbs recycling and thus causes

192   accumulation of anorthositic crust in the core-mantle boundary region. However, without

193     $Rh_2O_3(II)$–$CaIrO_3$ transition in Al_2O_3 phase, the density of anorthositic crust is comparable to

194   that of pyrolitic lower mantle. It is therefore likely that the anorthositic primordial crust was

195   easily involved in the mantle convection and is not an important constituent in the present D”

196   layer.

197

198   **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

202

203   **REFERENCES CITED**

204   Akahama, Y., Kawamura, H., and Singh, A.K. (2002) Crosscheck of Pt and Au Pressure Scales

205   and EOS of Bi to Megabar Pressures. The Review of High Pressure Science and

206   Technology, 12, 63-68 (in Japanese with English abstract).

207 Akber-Knutson, S., Stein-Neumann, G., and Asimow, P.D. (2005) Effect of Al on the

208   sharpness of the MgSiO$_3$ perovskite to post-perovskite phase transition. Geophysical

209   Research Letters, 32, L14303, DOI: 10.1029/2005GL023192.

210 Caracas, R. and Cohen, R.E. (2005) Prediction of a new phase transition in Al$_2$O$_3$ at high

211   pressures. Geophysical Research Letters, 32, L06303, DOI: 10.1029/2004GL022204.

212 Cohen, R.E. (1987) Calculation of elasticity and high pressure instabilities in corundum and

213   stishovite with the potential induced breathing model. Geophysical Research Letters, 14,

214   37-40, DOI: 10.1029/GL014i001p00037.

215 Dorogokupets, P.I., and Dewaele, A. (2007) Equations of state of MgO, Au, Pt, NaCl-B1, and

216   NaCl-B2: internally consistent high-temperature pressure scales. High Pressure Research,

217   27, 431-446.

218 Duan, W., Wentzcovitch, R.M., and Thomson, K.T. (1998) First-principles study of

219   high-pressure alumina polymorphs. Physical Review B, 57, 10363-10369.

220 Fei, Y., Ricolleau, A., Frank, M., Mibe, K., Shen, G., and Prakapenka, V. (2007) Toward an

221   internally consist pressure scale. Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences USA, 104,

222   9182-9186.

223   Funamori, N. and Jeanloz, R. (1997) High-pressure transformation of Al_2O_3. Science, 278,

224   1109-1111.

225   Hammersley, A.P., Svensson, S.O., Hanfland, M., Fitch, A.N., and Hausermann, D. (1996)

226   Two-dimensional detector software: From real detector to idealised image or two-theta

227   scan. High Pressure Research, 14, 235-248.

228   Hirose, K. (2006) Postperovskite phase transition and its geophysical implications. Reviews of

229   Geophysics, 44, RG3001, DOI: 10.1029/2005RG000186.

230   Holmes, N.C., Moriarty, J.A., Gathers, G.R., and Nellis, W.J. (1989) The equation of state of

231   platinum to 660 GPa (6.6 Mbar). Journal of Applied Physics, 66, 2962-2967.

232   Jamieson, J.C., Fritz, J.N., and Manghnani, M.H. (1982) Pressure measurement at high

233   temperature in X-ray diffraction studies: gold as a primary standard. In S. Akimoto and

234   M.H. Manghnani, Eds., High Pressure Research in Geophysics, p. 27-48. Reidel, Boston.

235   Jephcoat, A.P., Hemley, R.J., and Mao, H.K. (1988) X-ray diffraction of ruby (Al_2O_3:Cr^{3+}) to

236   175 GPa. Physica B, 150, 115-121.

237   Kawai, K., Tsuchiya, T., Tsuchiya, J., and Maruyama, S. (2009) Lost primordial continents.

238   Gondwana Research, 16, 581-586.

14

239   Komabayashi, T., Maruyama, S., and Rino, S. (2009) A speculation on the structure of the D″

240   layer: The growth of anti-crust at the core–mantle boundary through the subduction history

241   of the Earth. Gondwana Research, 15, 342-353.

242   Lin, J.F., Degtyareva, O., Prewitt, C.T., Dera, P., Sata, N., Gregoryanz, E., Mao, H.K., and

243   Hemley, R.J. (2004) Crystal structure of a high-pressure/high-temperature phase of alumina

244   by *in situ* X-ray diffraction. Nature Materials, 3, 389-393.

245   Marton, F.C. and Cohen, R.E. (1994) Prediction of a high-pressure phase transition in Al_2O_3.

246   American Mineralogist, 79, 789-792.

247   Oganov, A.R. and Ono, S. (2005) The high-pressure phase of alumina and implications for

248   Earth's D″ layer. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of

249   America, 102, 10828-10831.

250   Ohishi, Y., Hirao, N., Sata, N., Hirose, K., and Takata, M. (2008) Highly intense

251   monochromatic X-ray diffraction facility for high-pressure research at SPring-8. High

252   Pressure Research, 28, 163-173.

253   Ono, S., Oganov, A. R., Koyama, T., and Shimizu, H. (2006) Stability and compressibility of

254   the high-pressure phases of Al_2O_3 up to 200 GPa: Implications for the electrical

255   conductivity of the base of the lower mantle. Earth and Planetary Science Letters, 246,

256   326-335.

257   Sinmyo, R. and Hirose, K. (2010) The Soret diffusion in laser-heated diamond-anvil cell.

258   Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors, 180, 172-178.

259   Tateno, S., Hirose, K., Sata, N., and Ohishi, Y. (2005) Phase relations in $Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$ to 180

260   GPa: Effect of Al on post-perovskite phase transition. Geophysical Research Letters, 32,

261   L15306, DOI: 10.1029/2005GL023309.

262   Thomson, K.T., Wentzcovitch, R.M., and Bukowinski, M.S.T. (1996) Polymorphs of alumina

263   predicted by first principles: Putting pressure on the ruby pressure scale. Science, 274,

264   1880-1882.

265   Tsuchiya, J. and Tsuchiya, T. (2008) Postperovskite phase equilibria in the $MgSiO_3$–Al_2O_3

266   system. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America,

267   105, 19160-19164.

268   Tsuchiya, J., Tsuchiya, T., and Wentzcovitch, R.M. (2005) Transition from the

269        $Rh_2O_3(II)$-to-$CaIrO_3$ structure and the high-pressure-temperature phase diagram of

270   alumina. Physical Review B, 72, 020103(R).

271

272 **Figure captions**

273 **FIGURE 1.** Examples of temperature profile across the laser-heated spot at 96-192 GPa.

274 X-ray diffraction was collected from 15-μm area around the hot spot.

275 **FIGURE 2.** XRD patterns of Al_2O_3 + Pt obtained at (a) 87 GPa and 300 K before heating, (b)

276 105 GPa and 2180 K, and (c) 102 GPa and 1870 K. C, corundum; R, $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase; Pt,

277 platinum; S, SiO_2 phase (pressure medium).

278 **FIGURE 3.** Caked-two-dimensional diffraction image was taken at (a) 102 GPa and 1870 K,

279 (b) 105 GPa and 2180 K, and (c) 192 GPa and 3420 K, corresponding to XRD patterns shown

280 in Figs. 2c, 2b, and 5a, respectively. Vertical bars indicate peak positions. C, corundum; R,

281 $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase; PPv, $CaIrO_3$-type (post-perovskite-type) phase; Pt, platinum.

282 **FIGURE 4.** Phase boundary between corundum and $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase in Al_2O_3.

283 Sequential change in the experimental P-T conditions is illustrated by numbers (see the first

284 column in Table 1). Solid tie-lines show the actual P-T path, while broken lines indicate the

285 reheating after compression/decompression at room temperature (press load was changed in

286 between). Solid squares, corundum; open circles, $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type structure.

287 **FIGURE 5.** XRD patterns of Al_2O_3 + Pt, obtained at (a) 192 GPa and 3420 K, (b) 148 GPa and

288 3510 K, and (c) 142 GPa and 3540 K. R, $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase; PPv, $CaIrO_3$-type

289 (post-perovskite-type) phase; A, α-PbO_2-type SiO_2; Pt, platinum.

17

290 **FIGURE 6.** Phase boundary between $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type and $CaIrO_3$-type (post-perovskite-type)

291 structures in Al_2O_3. Sequential change in the *P-T* conditions is illustrated by numbers (see the

292 first column in Table 2) and tie-lines (broken lines indicate that the load pressure was changed

293 in between). Open, solid, and half-filled symbols indicate $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type, $CaIrO_3$-type, and

294 $Rh_2O_3(II) + CaIrO_3$ coexisting, respectively. Circles, run #2; diamond, run #3; squares, run #4;

295 triangles.

296 **FIGURE 7.** Comparison of present experimental results (solid squares, corundum; open

297 circles, $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type phase; sold diamonds, $CaIrO_3$-type phase) with previous experiments

298 and calculations. Dash-dotted line denotes the $Rh_2O_3(II)$-$CaIrO_3$ boundary determined

299 experimentally by Ono et al. (2006). Blue and red zones represent the calculated

300 corundum-$Rh_2O_3(II)$ and $Rh_2O_3(II)$-$CaIrO_3$ boundaries, respectively (the range indicates the

301 difference between the LDA and GGA results) from Tsuchiya et al. (2005).

302

TABLE 1. Experimental conditions and results. The growth of XRD peaks indicates the stability of corundum (Co) or Rh_2O_3(II)-type (Rh) phase

	Cycle#	Heating (min)	a_{Pt} (Å)	P (GPa)	T (K)	X-ray	Change in Co/Rh ratio*
1	1	8	3.6900(9)	98.9(23)	2390	Co growth	Co only
2	2	38	3.6464(6)	120.6(24)	2060	Rh appearance	→0.49
3	3	8	3.6726(10)	105.2(21)	2180	Rh growth	2.94→1.93
4	3	15	3.6740(11)	102.2(19)	1870	Co growth	1.93→2.74
5	3	2	3.6737(9)	107.2(23)	2560	Rh growth	2.74→2.00
6	3	10	3.6741(8)	108.7(24)	2810	Rh growth	2.00→1.32
7	3	4	3.6768(9)	101.1(18)	1930	Co growth	1.32→3.06
8	4	7	3.6651(9)	107.2(18)	1820	Rh growth	3.06→2.55
9	4	9	3.6652(9)	108.4(19)	2000	Rh growth	1.40→0.79
10	5	4	3.6639(9)	106.4(16)	1600	Co growth	0.56→2.21
11	5	5	3.6627(10)	107.6(18)	1670	Rh growth	2.21→0.95
12	5	11	3.6622(11)	109.1(19)	1850	Rh growth	0.95→0.77
13	5	14	3.6623(12)	114.3(25)	2560	Rh growth	0.77→0.62
14	6	3	3.6898(9)	99.9(25)	2900	Rh growth	1.92→0.86
15	6	40	3.6967(6)	96.9(24)	3000	Co growth	0.86→2.08
16	7	8	3.6833(7)	103.1(24)	2840	Rh growth	2.08→1.12
17	7	12	3.6826(4)	105.0(23)	3050	Rh growth	1.12→0.43
18	8	45	3.6899(4)	102.4(24)	3190	Rh growth	0.75→0.63
19	8	23	3.6892(5)	97.9(20)	2480	Co growth	0.63→1.22
20	8	16	3.6888(4)	96.6(18)	2270	Co growth	1.22→1.45

Note: Numbers in parentheses are uncertainty in the last digit(s).

* The ratio was calculated based on the peak areas of 104 line and 211 and 021 lines for corundum and Rh_2O_3(II)-type, respectively. The sample position possibly changed between different heating cycles.

303

304

19

TABLE 2. Experimental conditions and results. The growth of XRD peaks indicates the stability of $Rh_2O_3(II)$ (Rh) or $CaIrO_3$-type (PPv) phase

	Run	Cycle#	Heating (min)	a_{Pt} (Å)	P (GPa)	T (K)	X-ray	Change in Rh/PPv ratio*
1	2	1	16	3.6350(12)	127.1(26)	1900	Rh appearance	Rh only
2	2	1	9	3.6371(11)	128.9(27)	2380	Rh growth	Rh only
3	2	2	21	3.6157(12)	142.3(30)	2140	Rh growth	Rh only
4	2	2	11	3.6144(12)	145.3(31)	2460	Rh growth	Rh only
5	2	3	3	3.5992(14)	153.9(32)	2040	Rh growth	Rh only
6	2	3	3	3.6002(12)	157.1(34)	2570	Rh growth	Rh only
7	2	4	32	3.5653(10)	186.0(27)	2590	PPv appearance	→3.59
8	2	4	6	3.5658(12)	187.5(30)	2870	PPv growth	3.59→2.03
9	3	1	13	3.6028(10)	158.4(29)	3170	PPv appearance	
10	4	1	12	3.5943(14)	164.0(28)	2990	PPv appearance	
11	4	2	43	3.5678(15)	178.7(25)	1850	Rh appearance + PPv growth	
12	4	2	31	3.5641(20)	192.8(39)	3420	PPv growth	2.49→0.15
13	4	3	8	3.5820(5)	169.7(19)	2290	Rh growth	0.15→0.24
14	4	4	6	3.6224(14)	142.6(29)	2850	Rh growth	0.29→0.70
15	4	4	7	3.6211(10)	145.3(30)	3110	Rh growth	0.70→1.11
16	4	4	7	3.6195(8)	148.9(32)	3510	PPv growth	1.11→0.68
17	4	5	23	3.6296(5)	142.5(27)	3540	Rh growth	0.68→0.90
18	4	6	10	3.6049(10)	156.3(28)	2980	Rh growth	0.89→1.58
19	4	7	6	3.5891(8)	163.4(21)	2240	Rh growth	2.07→2.58
20	5	1	5	3.5995(6)	159.4(21)	2840	Rh + PPv appearance	
21	5	1	13	3.5971(5)	161.9(25)	2950	PPv growth	5.65→3.59

Note: Numbers in parentheses are uncertainty in the last digit(s).
* The ratio was calculated based on the peak areas of 211 and 310 lines and 022 and 131 lines for $Rh_2O_3(II)$-type and $CaIrO_3$-type, respectively. The sample position possibly changed between different heating cycles.
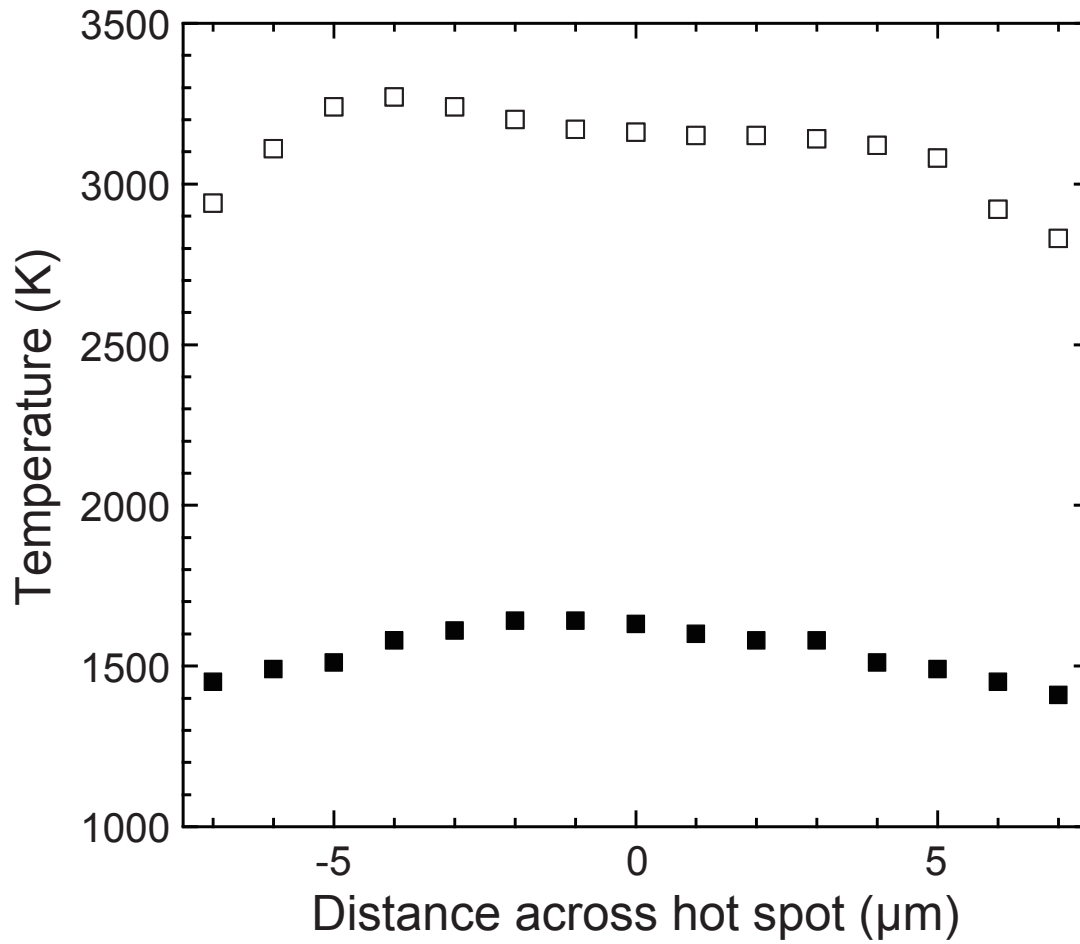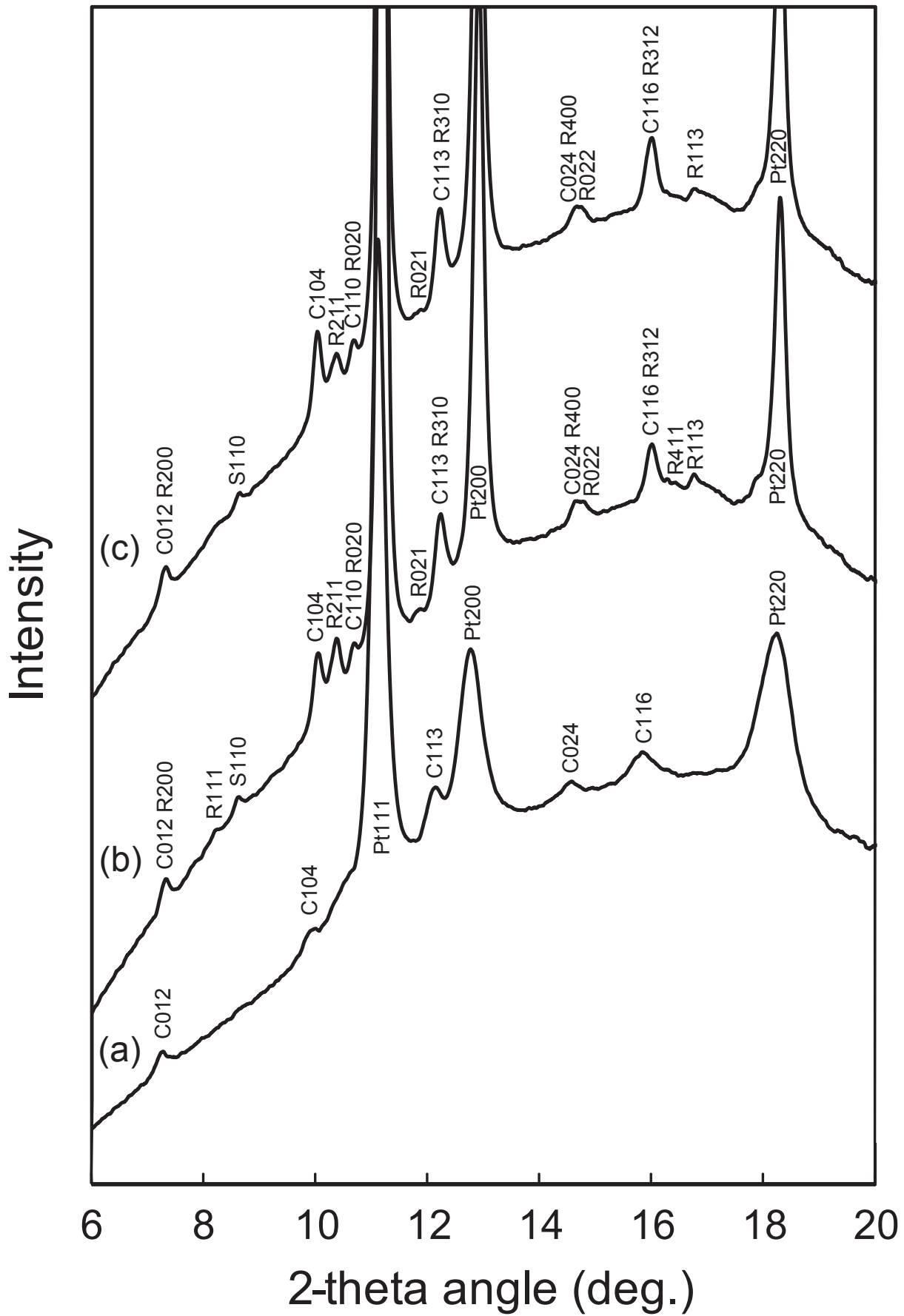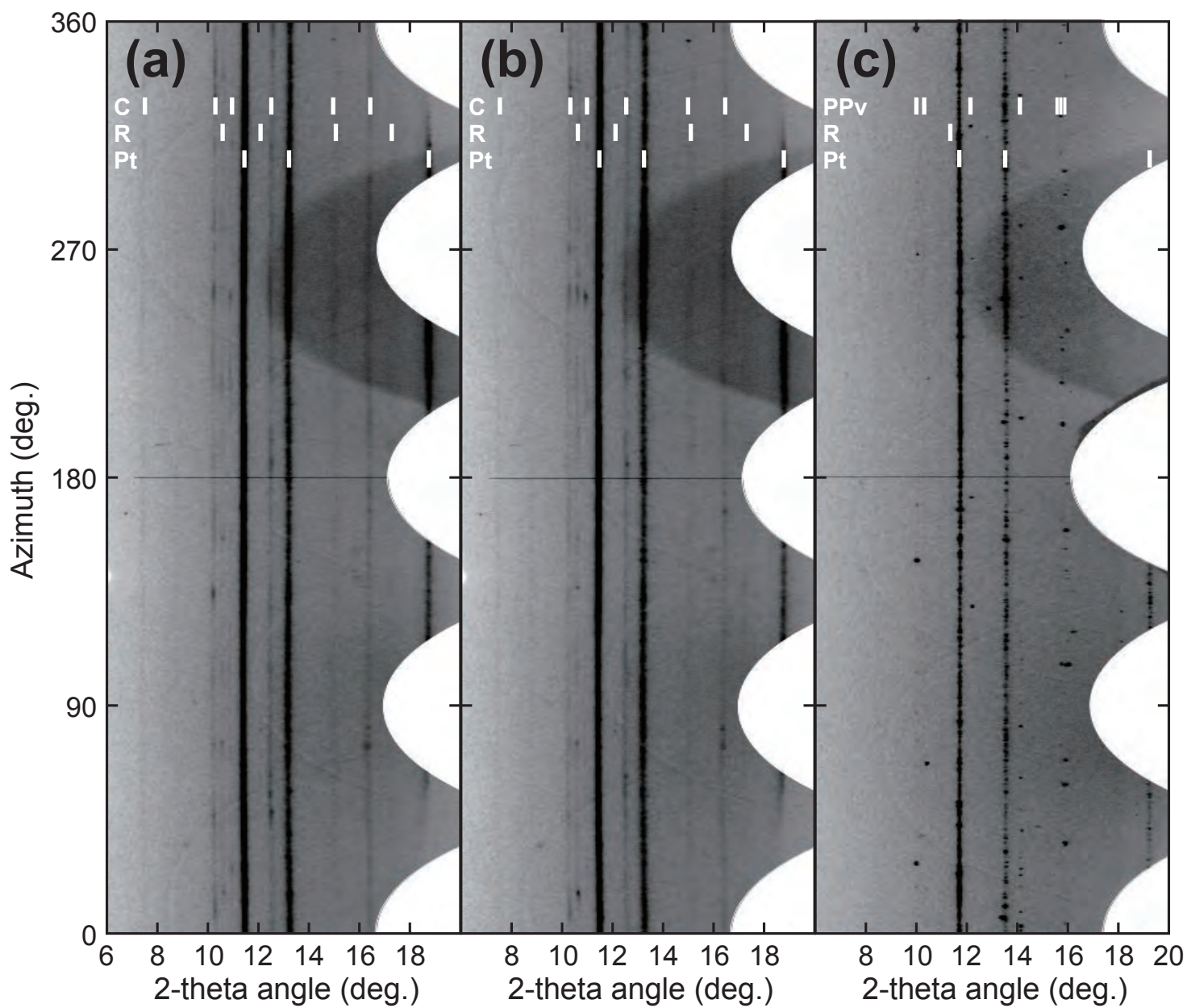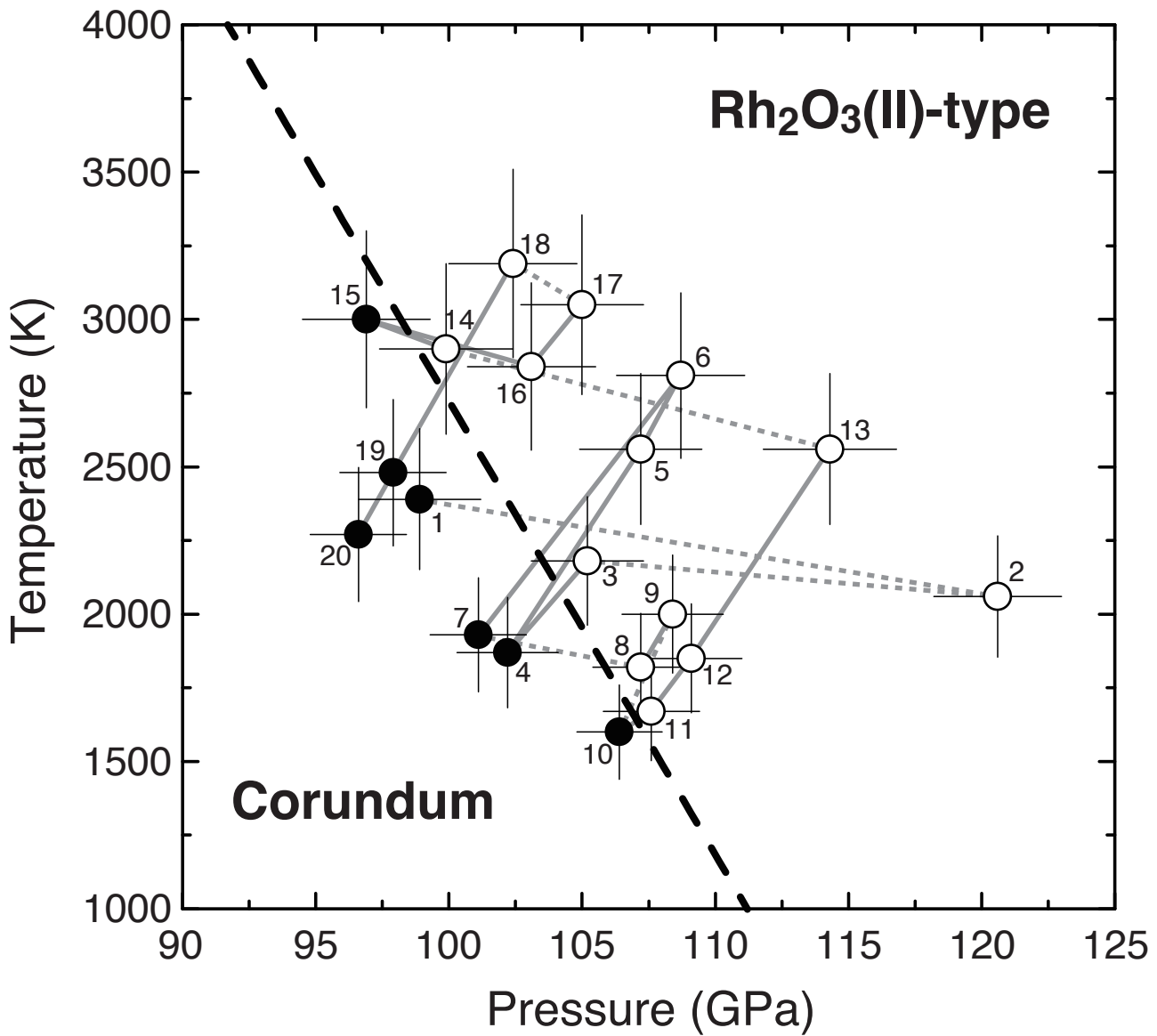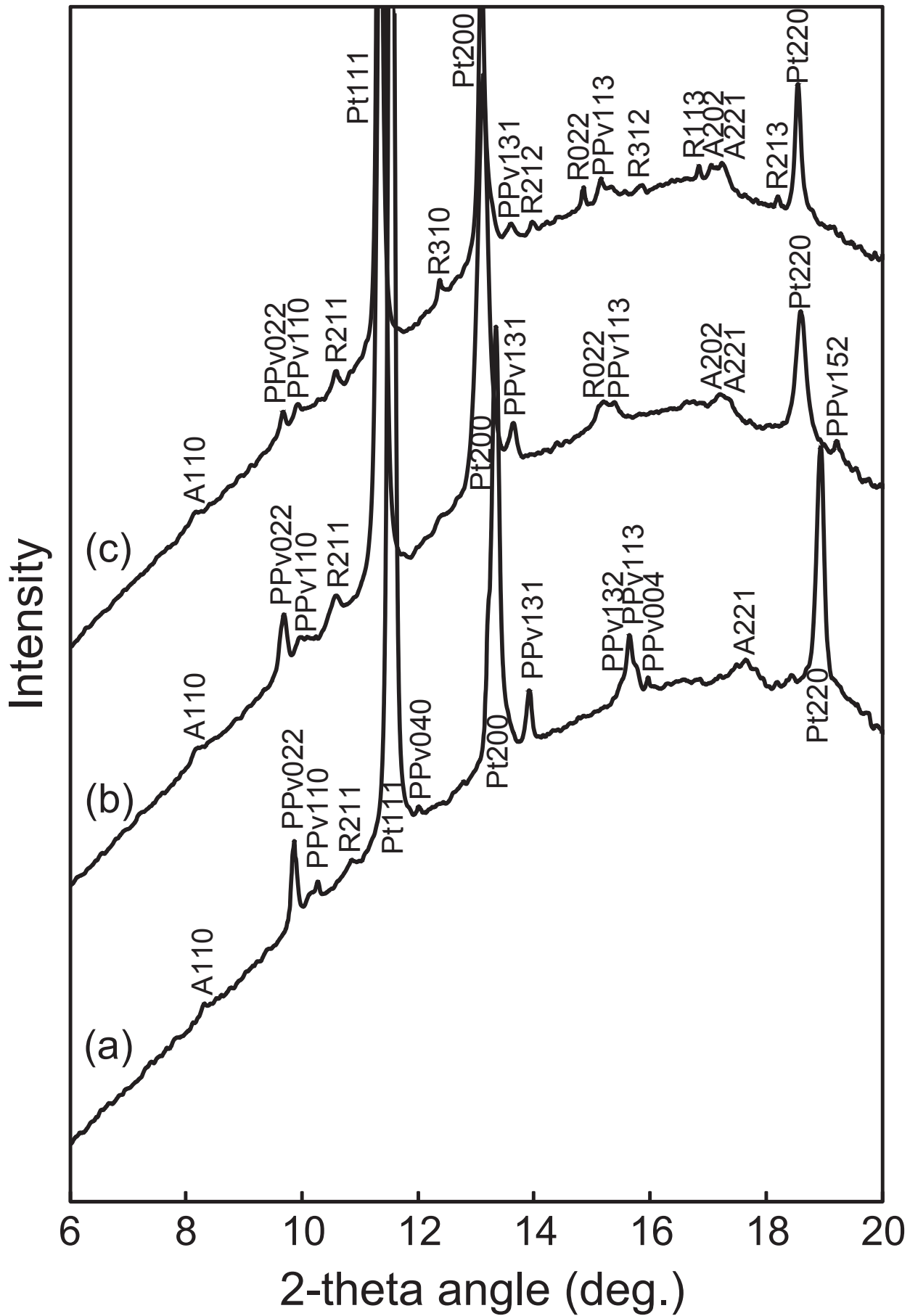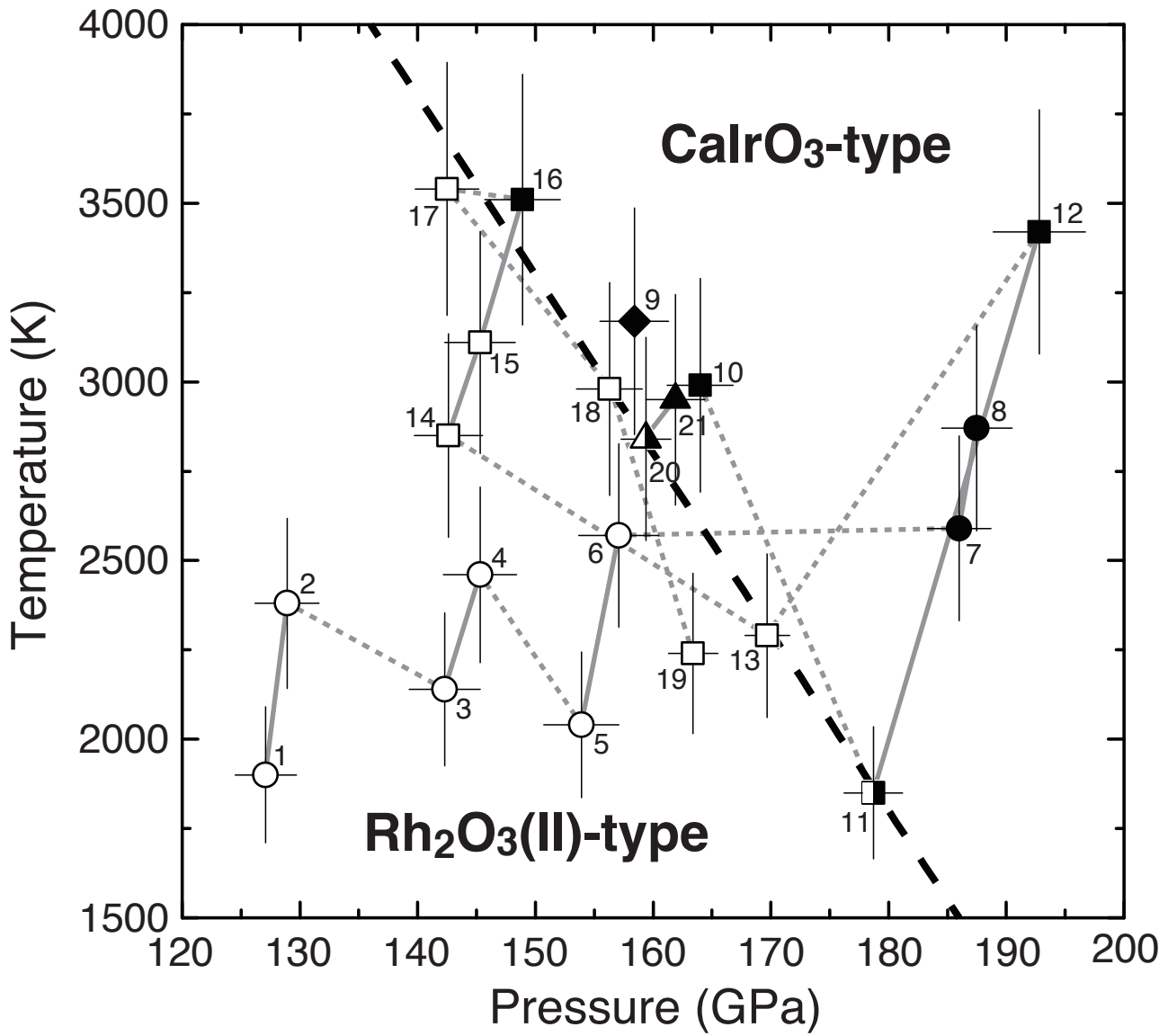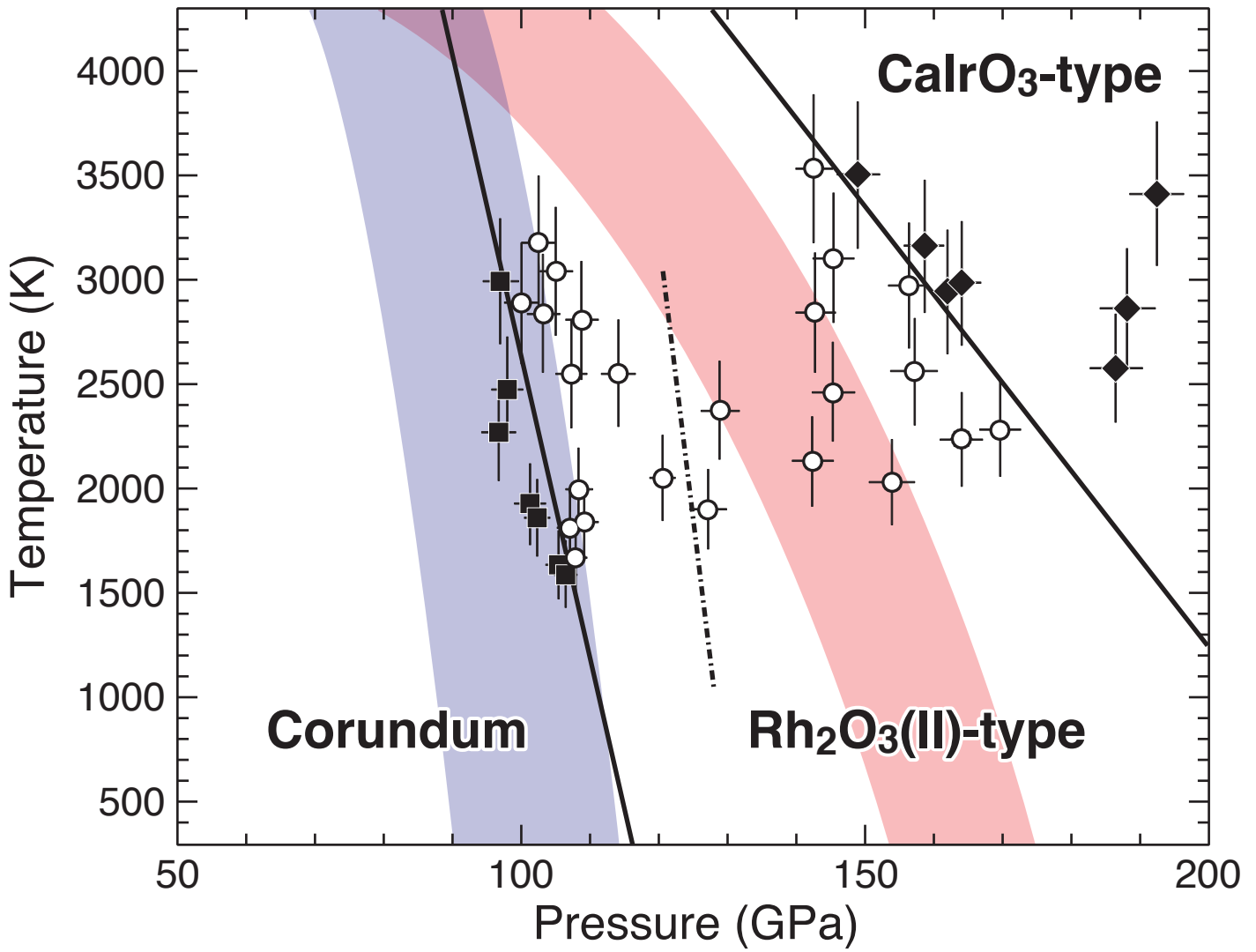
305

20

figure 1

figure 2

figure 3

figure 4

figure 5

figure 6

figure 7