

22 **Ab-initio determination of high pressure and high temperature**  
23 **thermoelastic and thermodynamic properties of low-spin ( $\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ )O**  
24 **ferropericlase with x in the range [0.06, 0.59]**

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33

34 **Abstract**

35

36 In this work we calculate the thermo-elastic properties of ( $\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x$ )O ferropericlase, with x in the  
37 [0.06, 0.59] range, and the thermodynamic properties of ferropericlase having the specific  
38 stoichiometric composition ( $\text{Mg}_{0.54}\text{Fe}_{0.46}$ )O, at pressures and temperatures which are those typical of  
39 the Earth's lower mantle. We follow an *ab-initio* quantum-mechanical approach, with the use of the  
40 WC1LYP hybrid HF/DFT (Hartree-Fock/Density Functional Theory) functional, within the framework  
41 of the quasi-harmonic approximation. Iron is assumed to be in the low spin configuration, as it proved  
42 to be the most stable spin arrangement at the thermo-baric conditions of the deepest lower mantle. The  
43 choice of the low spin configuration, and the use of an *ab-initio* approach, make this work unique as it

44 is the first time that such a technique is applied for the calculation of the vibrational and  
45 thermodynamic properties of the low spin ferropericlase.

46 We observe a linear increase of the bulk modulus and a linear decrease of the cell volume as iron  
47 content increases. More precisely, for  $x = 0.46$ , at ambient condition  $K_T = 205.57$  GPa,  $K'_T = 4.242$  and  
48  $V_T = 72.216 \text{ \AA}^3$ ; for  $x = 0.03$ , at the same conditions,  $K_T = 167.42$  GPa,  $K'_T = 4.085$  and  $V_T = 75.145 \text{ \AA}^3$ .

49 Some thermodynamic parameters and the thermal expansion ( $C_V$ ,  $C_P$ ,  $S$ ,  $\alpha$ ) for  $(\text{Mg}_{0.54}\text{Fe}_{0.46})\text{O}$  are  
50 calculated both at ambient condition [ $C_V = 36.11$  J/(mole\*K),  $C_P = 36.38$  J/(mole\*K),  $S = 26.62$   
51 J/(mole\*K),  $\alpha = 1.97 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ], and at simultaneous high-pressure and high-temperature conditions as  
52 a function of the geobar and geotherm curves. The data here proposed can be seen as possible bounds  
53 to the values of thermoelastic and thermodynamic parameters employed in the construction of  
54 geophysical models and the same data could be used to revise the velocity of the seismic waves in the  
55 lower mantle.

56

57 **Keywords** Ferropericlase, lower mantle, thermoelastic properties, thermodynamic properties

58

## 59 **Introduction**

60

61 The magnesium-rich  $(\text{Mg}_x\text{Fe}_{1-x})\text{O}$  solid solution, known as the mineral ferropericlase, constitutes a  
62 significant part of the Earth, as it is the second most abundant mineral in the lower mantle (660 – 2890  
63 km depth) following  $(\text{Mg,Fe})\text{SiO}_3$  perovskite (Irifune 1994; Wood 2000). Its structure (the rock-salt  
64 one; space group  $Fm-3m$ ), is stable across the whole lower mantle depth range (Fei et al. 1992; Lin et  
65 al. 2003), so that the knowledge of its elastic properties at high-pressure (HP) and high-temperature  
66 (HT) as a function of the iron content is of crucial importance for the geophysics of the mantle. To the  
67 authors' knowledge, in spite of the great importance of this phase, only a few experimental

68 measurements at lower mantle pressure conditions do exist and they mainly address three topics: (i) the  
69 prediction of the high-spin (HS) low-spin (LS) transition (Jacobsen et al. 2002; Lin et al. 2003, 2005;  
70 Speziale et al. 2005; Lin et al. 2006; Tsuchiya et al. 2006; Fei et al. 2007; Lin et al. 2007; Komabayashi  
71 et al. 2010); (ii) the measurement of the elastic properties up to HP conditions (Fei et al. 1992; Fei  
72 1999; Kung et al. 2002; J. Zhang and Kostak 2002; van Westrenen et al. 2005; Jackson et al. 2006;  
73 Speziale et al. 2007; Fei et al. 2007; Crowhurst et al. 2008; Reichmann, Sinogeikin, and Bass 2008;  
74 Komabayashi et al. 2010; Matsui et al. 2012); and (iii) the determination of the possible phase  
75 transitions in the lower mantle (H.K. Mao, Shen, and Hemley 1997; Wood 2000). Of these  
76 experimental works, only a few deal in detail with ferroperricite in its low-spin configuration (Chen et  
77 al., 2012; Fei et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2005; Mao et al., 2011; Speziale et al., 2007). Regarding the  
78 computational works, although they have demonstrated to be able to correctly predict the elastic  
79 properties of oxides and silicates at simultaneous HP/HT conditions (Oganov, Brodholt, and Price  
80 2002; Ottonello et al. 2010; Scanavino et al. 2012) and, at the same time, to predict the correct spin  
81 states of iron through the use of appropriate methodologies, by using spin polarized Hamiltonians  
82 (Pisani 1996), there are only few papers focused on the ferroperricite with iron in LS configuration  
83 (Persson et al. 2006; Scanavino et al. 2012; Wentzcovitch et al. 2009; Wu et al. 2009).

84 The choice of the spin state of iron in ferroperricite is extremely important as the two different states  
85 are stable at different P/T conditions and consequently at different depth in the Earth's interior. It is  
86 known that the spin configuration of the iron in ferroperricite is strictly dependent on the temperature  
87 and on the iron concentration: in particular, it is known that the increase of temperature shifts the spin  
88 transition to higher pressures [from 50 GPa at 300 K, to 70 GPa at 2000 K for the  $(\text{Mg}_{0.75}\text{Fe}_{0.25})\text{O}$   
89 composition (Lin et al. 2007)] and that the increase of the iron content shifts the transition towards  
90 higher pressures [from 30 GPa at room temperature for ferroperricite having a small amount of iron,  
91 up to 90 GPa for wustite (Speziale et al. 2005)]. The determination of the high-spin to low-spin

92 crossover region is still controversial as it occurs over a very broad pressure region at typical lower  
93 mantle temperatures (Kantor et al. 2009, Lin and Tsuchiya 2008, Sturnhahn et al. 2005, Wentzcovitch et  
94 al. 2009) and also because the experimental observation in wustite is highly controversial (Badro et al.  
95 1999, Pasternak et al. 1997).

96 In this work, following an *ab-initio* quantum-mechanical approach within the framework of the quasi-  
97 harmonic approximation (QHA), we aim to calculate the elastic properties of ferropericlase having  
98 composition in the range from  $(\text{Mg}_{0.94}\text{Fe}_{0.06})\text{O}$  [FeO content 8.2 wt%] to  $(\text{Mg}_{0.41}\text{Fe}_{0.59})\text{O}$  [FeO content  
99 56 wt%], at HP/HT conditions, and at the same time to calculate the thermodynamic properties for  
100 ferropericlase having  $(\text{Mg}_{0.54}\text{Fe}_{0.46})\text{O}$  stoichiometry ( $\text{Fe}_{46}$  ferropericlase for short) either at ambient  
101 condition or at simultaneous HP/HT conditions. The reliability of the QHA at simultaneous HP/HT  
102 conditions has been discussed by Scanavino et al. (2012) and in this work QHA is considered reliable  
103 as well, in all the P/T ranges treated. Since the maximum iron concentration considered in this work  
104 corresponds to the  $(\text{Mg}_{0.41}\text{Fe}_{0.59})\text{O}$  stoichiometry, and since the pressure range here investigated  
105 corresponds to the one of the lower mantle (from 24 GPa to 136 GPa), we decide to use the LS  
106 configuration as such configuration is the most stable at the deeper lower mantle P/T conditions, at  
107 least for the iron concentrations considered. A comparison with properties of the HS phase (from  
108 literature data) is made as at shallower depth there is a very large region of mixed spin where the  
109 properties are intermediate between those of the high-spin and of the low-spin.

110 This work is the follow-up of a previous one of ours (Scanavino et al. 2012), where we studied the  
111 periclase and the LS ferropericlase having a low iron concentration  $(\text{Mg}_{0.97}\text{Fe}_{0.03})\text{O}$ . In that work we  
112 observed how a very low percentage of iron ( $\text{Fe}_{03}$  ferropericlase) in the structure of periclase  
113 significantly changes its static and thermoelastic properties by producing an increase of the bulk  
114 modulus both at static (from 163.75 GPa to 172.17 GPa), and at ambient conditions (from 160.14 to  
115 167.42 GPa), and a decrease of the cell volume (from  $75.089 \text{ \AA}^3$  to  $74.190 \text{ \AA}^3$  at static conditions, and

116 from 75.999 Å<sup>3</sup> to 75.145 Å<sup>3</sup> at ambient conditions). Such trends have also been observed by the  
117 computational work of Persson et al. (2006), which reported at static conditions for LS ferropericla-  
118 se an increase of  $K_0$  (from 153 GPa to 170 GPa) and a decrease of  $V_0$  (from 77.04 Å<sup>3</sup> to 74.96 Å<sup>3</sup>).  
119 In view of what is reported above, in this work we set the goal to fill these gaps in the knowledge of LS  
120 ferropericla-  
121 se through the calculation of the P/T dependence of its thermoelastic and thermodynamic  
122 properties, for different compositions of (Mg<sub>1-x</sub>Fe<sub>x</sub>)O with x ranging from 0.06 to 0.59.

### 123 **Computational details**

124  
125 The ground state wave functions, the corresponding energies at the static limit ( $E_{st}$ ; no inclusion of zero  
126 point and thermal energies; see Principe et al. (2011) for the definitions), the optimized geometries and  
127 the vibrational frequencies are all calculated from first principles, at different cell volumes, by means of  
128 the CRYSTAL09 code (Dovesi et al. 2010). For a detailed description of the methodology employed by  
129 the code see (Pisani 1996).

130 To obtain the stoichiometric compositions from (Mg<sub>0.94</sub>Fe<sub>0.06</sub>)O to (Mg<sub>0.41</sub>Fe<sub>0.59</sub>)O it is necessary to  
131 construct supercells of MgO, and to substitute Fe<sup>2+</sup> for some of the Mg cations within the structure. As  
132 a good compromise between the availability of computational resources and supercell dimensions,  
133 calculations are performed on a 2x2x2 supercell (64 atoms in the cell) with respect to the conventional  
134 one of pericla-  
135 se (8 atoms). With such a supercell, the different distributions of Fe and Mg in the crystal  
136 structure give rise to a generally large number of atomic configurations; precisely the total number  $p$  of  
137 configurations (if equivalence by symmetry is not taken into account) is equal to  $N!/x!(N-x)!$  where  $N$   
138 is the number of sites and  $x$  the number of substitutions. By considering the symmetry, the whole set of  
139 configurations is then arranged in non-equivalent classes, each one being constituted by all the  
symmetry equivalent configurations. Because the number of such classes is very high [they are a few

140 hundreds for  $(\text{Mg}_{0.94}\text{Fe}_{0.06})\text{O}$ , and more than three hundred million for  $(\text{Mg}_{0.41}\text{Fe}_{0.59})\text{O}$ ], for each  
141 stoichiometry we chose the ones preserving the highest number of symmetry operators. Such a choice  
142 is mainly imposed by the availability of the computational resources; as an example, by considering the  
143  $(\text{Mg}_{0.94}\text{Fe}_{0.06})\text{O}$  composition, there are 496 possible configurations which are arranged in 177 classes,  
144 and there is only one class that preserves all the 48 symmetry operators. By adding one iron atom more  
145 to the previous supercell, the number of classes and configurations increase by about one order of  
146 magnitude. Therefore, the calculation of the static energies of the classes preserving the highest  
147 symmetry is the unique practical choice.

148 The chosen basis set of the elements and the thresholds controlling the accuracy of the static energy  
149 calculations are specified in (Scanavino et al. 2012). The Hamiltonian chosen (WC1LYP) is a hybrid  
150 HF/DFT one, based on the WC (GGA; Generalized Gradient Approximation) exchange functional  
151 proposed by Wu and Cohen (Wu and R. Cohen 2006), mixed with 16% of the *exact non-local* Hartree-  
152 Fock exchange, and employing the LYP correlation functional proposed by Lee, Yang and Parr (1988).  
153 Such percentage of exact Hartree-Fock exchange is essential for the correct reproduction of the elastic  
154 and vibrational properties, as demonstrated in previous works that employ this functional (Zicovich-  
155 Wilson et al. 2004; Demichelis et al. 2009; Ungureanu, Cossio, and Prencipe 2010; De La Pierre et al.  
156 2011; Prencipe et al. 2012; Prencipe 2012; Scanavino et al. 2012; Ungureanu, Cossio, and Prencipe  
157 2012).

158 Cell volume ( $V_0$ ), cell parameter ( $a_0$ ) and fractional coordinates are optimized by analytical gradient  
159 methods, as implemented in CRYSTAL09 (Dovesi et al. 2010). The thresholds controlling the  
160 geometry optimizations (TOLDEG and TOLDEX parameters in CRYSTAL09) are respectively 0.0002  
161 hartree/bohr for the components of the gradient and 0.0008 bohr for the displacements.

162 Normal vibrational modes and their frequencies are calculated for 7 different cell volumes in the [401,  
163 571 Å<sup>3</sup>] range, for both periclase and Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlase, by diagonalizing a mass-weighted Hessian

164 matrix (Pascale et al. 2004). The first derivatives of the energy with respect to the atomic positions are  
165 calculated analytically (Doll, Saunders, and Harrison 2001), whereas second derivatives are calculated  
166 numerically by setting to 0.0015 Å the nuclear displacements with respect to the equilibrium positions.  
167 The threshold for the convergence of the total energy, in the self consistent field cycles, is set to  $10^{-9}$   
168 hartree (TOLDEE parameter in CRYSTAL09; (Dovesi et al. 2010).

169 For each vibrational mode, the mode- $\gamma$  Grüneisen's parameter (Anderson 1995) is estimated through  
170 the analytical derivative of frequency as a function of volume, reconstructed by curve fitting to a  
171 quadratic polynomial.

172 Thermoelastic and thermodynamic properties (total pressure  $P$ , static bulk modulus  $K_0$ , thermal bulk  
173 modulus  $K_T$ , thermal expansion  $\alpha$ , entropy  $S$  and heat capacity  $C_V$  and  $C_P$ ) are obtained in the limit of  
174 the QHA, through the evaluation of the dependence of frequencies of the vibrational normal modes by  
175 the cell volume (mode- $\gamma$  Grüneisen's parameters). Intrinsic anharmonic effects (Oganov and  
176 Dorogokupets 2004) are not taken into account as in our previous work (Scanavino et al. 2012) we  
177 have demonstrated that at simultaneous HP/HT conditions, the Born-Oppenheimer potential energy  
178 surface in the neighbourhood of its minimum, corresponding to the stable nuclear configuration, can  
179 reasonably be considered harmonic.

180 The  $K_0$ ,  $K'$ ,  $V_0$  and  $a_0$  static parameters at the equilibrium are obtained by fitting  $E_{st}(V)$  data to a volume  
181 integrated third-order Birch-Murnaghan (Birch 1952) equation of state (EoS; BM3, for short, in the  
182 following). The same parameters at ambient conditions ( $P = 0.1$  MPa  $T = 298$  K) are obtained by fitting  
183 the total  $P(V, T)$  curve to BM3 EoS. For some configurations we use also a volume integrated Vinet  
184 equation of state (Vinet, Smith, et al. 1987; Vinet, Ferrante, et al. 1987). Other equations of state  
185 (Murnaghan, Natural Strain) are not used as not suitable for our wide compression range (Angel 2000).

186

## 187 **Results and discussion**

188

189 The static energies for each iron composition are calculated at 12 different volumes for different  
190 compression ranges according to the composition. The higher is the iron content, the lower is the  
191 compression range as, at very compressed volumes and with high concentrations of iron, it is difficult  
192 to obtain the SCF convergence. The compression ranges used (expressed as  $V/V_0$ ) [0.732, 1.028],  
193 [0.703, 1.028], [0.657, 1.028], correspond respectively to the pressure ranges [-5, 120/134] GPa, [-5,  
194 125/166] GPa and [-5, 177] GPa (the higher is the iron content the higher is the maximum pressure).  
195 The resulting EoS parameters for the static fitting are shown in Table 1. Both the EoS's employed  
196 (volume integrated BM3 and Vinet) show an increase of the equilibrium bulk modulus with the iron  
197 content (Figure 1) and a simultaneous decrease of the equilibrium cell volume (Figure 2), whereas  $K'$   
198 shows a non linear increase with the iron content. Although at first sight the differences between the  
199 two volume integrated BM3 and Vinet EoS's could appear small, they are not negligible as, for the  $E_0$   
200 resulting by the two fitting (not reported in Table 1), the differences are significantly high: about 0.0005  
201 hartree for BM3 with respect to static equilibrium  $E_0$  obtained by the geometry optimization, about 5  
202 hartree for the Vinet. This demonstrates how the Vinet EoS is not suited for fitting in such pressure  
203 ranges.

204 The absence of literature data in Table 1 is due to the lack of computational works concerning  
205 ferropicicase at static conditions with the LS configuration, apart from the paper by Persson et al.  
206 (2006), whose results are reported in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The deviance of the values obtained in  
207 Persson et al. (2006) with respect our data is mainly due to their employed functional as it is known  
208 that GGA ones overestimate the cell volume and underestimate the bulk modulus (Alfredsson et al.  
209 2005). Apart from this their trends fully confirm our data. Experimental papers are obviously absent  
210 because of the impossibility to reach static conditions experimentally. In Table 2 are reported the cell  
211 volumes for the LS phase obtained by geometry optimization: the difference with the data obtained by

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212 EoS fitting is minimal (about 2 mHa). Experimental data are again absent due to the impossibility to  
213 obtain a crystal of LS ferropericlae at ambient conditions.

214 Starting from the calculated frequencies of the vibrational modes it is possible to obtain the vibrational  
215 energies, which provide the equilibrium thermodynamic parameters at ambient condition of periclae  
216 and Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlae (Table 3). By looking at our data in Table 3, it is possible to confirm what was  
217 already observed in our previous work (Scanavino et al. 2012): a reduction of the pressure range in the  
218 fitting reduces  $K_0$  and increases  $V_0$ . Moreover, as already noted for the static fitting, the Vinet EoS  
219 overestimates the cell volume and underestimates the bulk modulus. A comparison with other literature  
220 data reported in Table 3 is difficult since the fittings by Lin et al. (2005) and Fei et al. (2007) are made  
221 by using a second order Birch-Murnaghan EoS (BM2), which is not suitable in this range of pressure,  
222 according to Angel (2000) and Scanavino et al. (2012). Such inadequacy is also confirmed by the fact  
223 that starting from the data of Lin et al. (2005) and fitting them by using a BM3 EoS, we obtain very  
224 different results (Table 3), with respect to those reported by Lin et al. (2005) themselves.

225 The only comparable datum for the LS ferropericlae is the one by Speziale et al. (2007), who for a  
226 (Mg<sub>0.83</sub>Fe<sub>0.17</sub>)O stoichiometry, observed a reduction of the cell volume and an increase of the bulk  
227 modulus, consistently with what is observed in the present work. The comparison with the HS phase is  
228 relatively easier due to the greater number of works dealing with this phase [(Bonzcar and Graham  
229 1982; Jacobsen et al. 2002; Kung et al. 2002; Lin et al. 2005; Jackson et al. 2006; Speziale et al. 2007;  
230 Fei et al. 2007; Reichmann et al. 2008; Komabayashi et al. 2010; Matsui et al. 2012) - see Table 4]. In  
231 contrast with the LS phase, in the HS it is possible to observe that  $K_0$  is almost unmodified by the  
232 increase of iron; but  $V_0$  increases with the iron content and, in this respect, shows an opposite behaviour  
233 with respect to the LS phase.

234 The reliability of our fittings, both at static and at ambient conditions, is confirmed by the F-f plots  
235 (Angel 2000) showing that Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlae is correctly described by the BM3 EoS (Figure 3).

236 As regards the mode- $\gamma$  Grüneisen's parameter, the average value related to vibrational modes at the  
237 static equilibrium volume for  $\text{Fe}_{46}$  ferropericlase increases with respect to those for periclase [from  
238 1.112 for periclase to 1.257 for  $(\text{Mg}_{0.97}\text{Fe}_{0.03})$  (Scanavino et al. 2012), and to 1.291 for  $\text{Fe}_{46}$   
239 ferropericlase], due to the reduction of the values of the frequencies and of the relative cell volume at  
240 the static equilibrium.

241 Some thermoelastic ( $K_T$ ,  $V_T$ ,  $K'_T$ ,  $\alpha$ ) and thermodynamic parameters of interest ( $C_V$ ,  $C_P$ ,  $S$ ) are shown in  
242 Table 5, concerning either periclase (Isaak, Anderson, and Goto 1989; Chopelas 1990; Fei 1995; Inbar  
243 and R.E. Cohen 1995; Robie, Hemingway, and Fisher 1995; Dubrovinsky and Saxena 1997; Fiquet,  
244 Richet, and Lyon 1999; Karki et al. 2000; Oganov and Dorogokupets 2003; Oganov, Gillan, and Price  
245 2003; Ghose et al. 2006) or LS and HS-ferropericlase [however, in some works the spin is not specified  
246 (Hama and Suito 1999)] with different iron contents (the thermoelastic ones are calculated  
247 numerically).

248 As regards the LS phase, the thermal expansion shows significant variation as it decreases from  
249  $2.25 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$  for periclase, to  $1.97 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$  for  $\text{Fe}_{46}$  ferropericlase, but such a decrease is not linear as  
250 the value of  $\alpha$  for the  $\text{Fe}_{03}$  ferropericlase is  $2.43 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$ , that is, it is a higher value than the  
251 corresponding one for periclase. Such trend of the thermal expansion as a function of composition can  
252 also directly be seen in the increase of the cell volume in the passage from static to ambient conditions.  
253 In fact, when we calculate the cell volume at ambient condition, we have to consider both the zero  
254 point and thermal effects of the vibrational normal modes of the crystal. Both effects generate an  
255 additional pressure that sums to the static one (the *zero-point* pressure and the thermal pressure). It  
256 means that at 300 K, but also at every other temperature (0 K included), these pressures are to be taken  
257 into account whereas, by definition, they are absent at the static condition. In particular, such pressures  
258 must be compensated by the static one in order to keep the crystal at the equilibrium with the imposed  
259 external pressure (Prencipe et al. 2011). As *zero-point* and thermal pressure are generally positive,

260 static pressure must assume negative values corresponding to larger cell volumes with respect to the  
261 static one. By excluding the *zero-point* pressure (+1.23 GPa for periclase and +1.71 GPa for Fe<sub>46</sub>  
262 ferropericlase), as it is not dependent by the temperature, and with respect to the cases at 0K, at 300K  
263 we calculate a volume expansion of +0.91 Å<sup>3</sup> for periclase and +0.79 Å<sup>3</sup> for ferropericlase due to a  
264 corresponding increase of the thermal pressure from 0 to about +0.54 GPa for both compositions.

265 Such reduction of the thermal expansion is in contrast to the findings of Zhang and Kostak (1992), who  
266 observed that the thermal expansion and the thermodynamic parameters are not influenced by the iron  
267 content. Such a statement, that is not valid for the LS phase, is consistent with the data for the HS phase  
268 (Fei et al. 1992; J. Zhang and Kostak 2002), which are indeed not significantly dependent upon the iron  
269 concentration.

270 The other thermodynamic quantities of Table 5 appear to remain almost unmodified by the presence of  
271 iron, except for  $C_P$  obtained for (Mg<sub>0.60</sub>Fe<sub>0.40</sub>)O by Fei et al. (1999) and Zhang and Kostak (2002),  
272 which respectively obtained a lower and a higher value with respect to the one of periclase, although  
273 they treated a high-spin ferropericlase.

274 As regards the thermoelastic quantities, they agree with the same quantities obtained by a EoS fitting  
275 reported in Table 3 (the maximum differences are -0.034 Å<sup>3</sup> for the volume of Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlase and  
276 +1.35 GPa for the bulk modulus of Fe<sub>03</sub> ferropericlase).

277 Lastly we calculate for Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlase the values of the thermal expansion coefficient  $\alpha$  (Figure 4),  
278 of the  $K_0$  (Figure 5), of the heat capacity  $C_V$  and  $C_P$  (Figure 6) and of the entropy  $S$  (Figure 7) as a  
279 function of the depth, or according to the conditions of pressure and temperature of the geobar curve  
280 (Bina 1998) and of the geotherm curve (Brown and Shankland 1981) respectively. As regards the  
281 thermal expansion, we notice that Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlase has lower values with respect to periclase in all  
282 the lower mantle and ambient conditions, whereas the bulk modulus of Fe<sub>46</sub> ferropericlase is always  
283 larger. The values of the heat capacity and of the entropy appear to be almost constant in the lower

284 mantle. We recall that the LS phase, with the  $(\text{Mg}_{0.54}\text{Fe}_{0.46})\text{O}$  stoichiometric composition, becomes the  
285 most stable one at about 60 GPa, corresponding to about 1500 km of depth; this does not mean that the  
286 results for shallower depths are meaningless or wrong: the curves reported in Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 do  
287 describe the correct behavior of the low-spin phase for those P/T conditions, even if such phase is not  
288 the most stable one. Moreover the expected FeO content of ferropericlase in the lower mantle ranges  
289 from 15 to 20 mole% (Fei et al. 2007), and at such composition the low spin phase becomes the most  
290 stable even at shallower depths.

291 Finally, the data proposed in this work could be used for the calculation of the longitudinal seismic  
292 velocities. Since the speed of the longitudinal waves is proportional to the bulk modulus, one could say  
293 that we expect an increase in the velocity of seismic waves with respect to the case of  
294 periclase, but such prediction is strictly conditioned by the value of the density, that with the *ab-initio*  
295 techniques can not be determined in precise way. Consequently the only reliable data concern the bulk  
296 modulus and its P/T/X dependence and these data can subsequently be entered in the geodynamic  
297 models integrated with other data from another source (density, shear modulus,...) to obtain the change  
298 in the seismic speeds.

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**Tables and Figures**

*Table 1 - Equilibrium values of  $K_0$ ,  $K'$  and  $V_0$  at static condition for the low-spin (LS) ferropiericase sorted according to the percentage of iron. The iron percentage is referred to the stoichiometric formula  $(Fe_{\delta/100}Mg_{1-(\delta/100)})O$ . The letters a, b, c and d, used in the column of the iron percentage, indicate different configurations ordered as a function of decreasing static energy. The compression ranges are referred to the ratio  $V/V_0$ .*

% Fe [ $\delta$ ]	[0.657, 1.028] compression range						[0.703, 1.028] compression range						[0.732, 1.028] compression range		
	BM3			Vinet			BM3			Vinet			BM3		
	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]
3*	172.17	4.10	74.190												
6a	175.09	4.097	73.870				174.41	4.118	73.884						
6b	175.53	4.086	73.859	169.91	4.458	73.938	174.75	4.109	73.876						
6c	175.11	4.090	73.868				174.35	4.113	73.883						
9a	179.62	4.054	73.535	174.63	4.403	73.591	178.06	4.103	73.562						
9b	179.62	4.054	73.535				178.06	4.103	73.562						
12a	183.83	4.015	73.200	178.90	4.351	73.254	181.19	4.097	73.245						
12b	182.37	4.092	73.352				180.79	4.142	73.379						
12c	182.37	4.092	73.352				180.79	4.142	73.379						
12d	183.83	4.015	73.200				181.19	4.097	73.245						
15a	186.29	4.053	73.010	181.07	4.402	73.066	183.87	4.126	73.050						
15b	186.29	4.126	73.010				183.87	4.053	73.050						
18	189.18	4.074	72.807	183.84	4.432	72.872	186.55	4.151	72.853						
21a	188.64	4.142	72.967	178.88	4.535	72.841	184.76	4.150	72.772						
21b	188.64	4.142	72.967				185.32	4.240	73.026						
25							188.90	4.210	72.783	184.82	4.535	72.818			
37a							200.73	4.287	72.058	195.89	4.636	72.101	199.69	4.322	72.072
37b							200.73	4.287	72.058				199.69	4.322	72.072
40a							204.76	4.223	71.890				203.12	4.277	71.912
40b							204.73	4.267	71.777	199.83	4.612	71.821	203.35	4.312	71.796
40c							204.78	4.222	71.892	200.07	4.556	71.933	203.11	4.276	71.915
46a							210.75	4.283	71.423	205.67	4.631	71.466	209.43	4.325	71.440
46b							210.59	4.274	71.574				209.13	4.321	71.969
46c							210.74	4.283	71.548				209.43	4.325	71.941
56							220.49	4.256	71.030	215.27	4.598	71.072	218.45	4.318	71.055
59							224.92	4.204	70.809	219.77	4.535	70.850	222.26	4.283	70.842

\* The datum is from Scanavino et al. (2012).

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Table 2 - Equilibrium values of cell volume at static condition for the low-spin (LS) ferropericlase sorted according to the percentage of iron. The iron percentage is referred to the stoichiometric formula  $(Fe_{\delta/100}Mg_{1-(\delta/100)})O$ . The letters a, b, c and d, used in the column of the iron percentage, indicate different configurations ordered as a function of decreasing static energy. The data are obtained by geometry optimization.

	Fe % [ $\delta$ ]	Volume [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]		Fe % [ $\delta$ ]	Volume [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]		Fe % [ $\delta$ ]	Volume [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]
Scanavino et al. (2012)	3	74.121	This work	15a	73.414	This work	40c	71.908
This work	6a	73.813	This work	15b	73.414	This work	46a	71.572
This work	6b	73.815	This work	18	73.210	This work	46b	71.555
This work	6c	73.807	This work	21a	72.961	This work	46c	71.395
This work	9a	73.963	This work	21b	72.961	This work	56	71.020
This work	9b	73.963	This work	25	72.738	This work	59	70.810
This work	12a	73.632	This work	37a	72.007			
This work	12b	73.744	This work	37b	72.008			
This work	12c	73.744	This work	40a	71.916			
This work	12d	73.632	This work	40b	71.666			

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Table 3 - Equilibrium values of  $K_0$ ,  $K'$  and  $V_0$  at ambient condition for the low-spin (LS) ferropericlase sorted according to the percentage of iron. The iron percentage is referred to the stoichiometric formula  $(Fe_{\delta/100}Mg_{1-(\delta/100)})O$ .

	$P(V)$ fitting interval [GPa]	% Fe [ $\delta$ ]	EoS	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	Methodology
Scanavino et al. (2012)	0 - 170	3	BM3	167.42	4.09	75.145	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
Lin et al. (2005)	55 - 135	17	BM2	250	4 (fixed)	/	X-ray diffraction
Lin et al. (2005)	55 - 135	17	Vinet	245	4 (fixed)	/	X-ray diffraction
Scanavino et al. (2012)	80 - 135	17	BM3	164.57 <sup>§</sup>	4.61 <sup>§</sup>	71.551 <sup>§</sup>	
Speziale et al. (2007)	80 - 135	17/20	BM3	190 <sup>§</sup>	4.60 <sup>§</sup>	71.000 <sup>§</sup>	
Speziale et al. (2007)	40 - 134	17	BM3	186	4.60	71.390	X-ray diffraction
Fei et al. (2007)	40 - 95	20	BM2	170	4 (fixed)	74.200	X-ray diffraction
Mao et al. (2012)	0 - 140	25	BM2	166	4 (fixed)	74.4	X-ray diffraction
Fei et al. (2007)	60 - 148	39	BM2	170	4 (fixed)	73.600	X-ray diffraction
This work	0 - 158.62	46	BM3	205.57	4.242	72.216	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
	0 - 158.62	46	BM4	206.05	4.207	72.173	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
	0 - 158.62	46	Vinet	198.22	4.642	72.319	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
	0 - 128.73	46	BM3	204.13	4.279	72.244	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
	0 - 128.73	46	BM4	205.82	4.206	72.182	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
	0 - 128.73	46	Vinet	198.45	4.635	72.315	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)

The symbol / means that the datum is not reported  
<sup>§</sup> the fitted data are from Lin et al. (2005)

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Table 4 - Equilibrium values of  $K_0$ ,  $K'$  and  $V_0$  at static and at ambient conditions for the high-spin (HS) ferroprecipitate sorted according to the percentage of iron. The iron percentage is referred to the stoichiometric formula  $(Fe_{\delta/100}Mg_{1-\delta/100})O$ .

	$P(V)$ fitting interval [GPa]	% Fe [ $\delta$ ]	EoS	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$V_0$ [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	Methodology
Static conditions							
Scanavino et al. (2012)	0 -180	3	BM3	175.87	4.243	73.789	HF/DFT (HF 35%)
Scanavino et al. (2012)	0 -180	3	BM3	168.93	/	74.739	HF/DFT (WC1LYP)
Persson et al. (2006)	-20 - 200	25	BM3	153	4.1	79.120	GGA + PAW
Persson et al. (2006)	-20 - 200	50	BM3	163	4.0	80.600	GGA + PAW
Persson et al. (2006)	-20 - 200	75	BM3	148	4.4	82.800	GGA + PAW
Ambient conditions							
Reichmann et al. (2008) *	0 - 9	1.3	#	161.1	4.2	/	Brillouin spectroscopy
Jackson et al. (2006)	0 - 20	6	#	163	3.90	/	Brillouin spectroscopy
Jacobsen et al. (2002)	/	6	/	161°	/	75.098	X-ray diffraction
Bonzcar and Graham (1982)	0 - 0.5	8	d	159.5	3.66	75.312	X-ray diffraction
Jacobsen et al. (2002)	/	15	/	166°	/	75.633	X-ray diffraction
Kung et al. (2002) *	0 - 10	17	#	165.6	4.14	75.848	X-ray diffraction
Lin et al. (2005)	0 - 55	17	BM3	160.7	3.280	/	X-ray diffraction
Lin et al. (2005)	0 - 55	17	Vinet	161.3	3.25	/	X-ray diffraction
Matsui et al. (2012)	0 - 53	17	BM3	160 (fixed)	4.08	75.849	X-ray diffraction
Scanavino et al. (2012)	0 - 53	17	BM3	175.58 <sup>a</sup>	3.11 <sup>a</sup>	76.179 <sup>a</sup>	
Speziale et al. (2007)	0 - 40	17/20	BM3	157.5 <sup>b</sup>	3.92 <sup>b</sup>	76.10 <sup>b</sup>	X-ray diffraction
Wu et al. (2009)	0 - 150	18.75	/	172.48	/	76.16	LDA+U
Komabayashi et al. (2010)	15 - 72	19	BM2	154.3	4 (fixed)	76.24	X-ray diffraction
Speziale et al. (2007)	0 - 40	20	BM3	158	4.4	76.030	X-ray diffraction
Scanavino et al. (2012)	0 - 40	20	BM3	154.42 <sup>c</sup>	3.91 <sup>c</sup>	76.140 <sup>c</sup>	
Fei et al. (2007)	0 - 35	20	BM2	158	4 (fixed)	76.16	X-ray diffraction
Jacobsen et al. (2002)	/	24	/	165°	/	76.333	X-ray diffraction
Mao et al. (2012)	0 - 140	25	BM2	162	4 (fixed)	76.34	X-ray diffraction
Matsui et al. (2012)	0 - 55	25	BM3	160 (fixed)	4.22	76.372	X-ray diffraction
Jacobsen et al. (2002)	0 - 9.3	27	BM3	158.4	5.49	76.336	X-ray diffraction
Scanavino et al. (2012)	0 - 9.3	27	BM3	158.32 <sup>e</sup>	5.42 <sup>e</sup>	76.336 <sup>e</sup>	
Bonzcar and Graham (1982)	0 - 0.5	27.5	d	167.6	3.93	76.187	X-ray diffraction
van Westrenen et al. (2005) *	0 - 26.7	36	BM3	154	4	77.438	X-ray diffraction

Jacobsen et al. (2002)	/	37	/	164	/	76.836	X-ray diffraction
Fei et al. (2007)	0 - 60	39	BM2	156	4 (fixed)	77.480	X-ray diffraction
Fei et al. (1992) *	8 - 30	40	BM2	157	4 (fixed)	77.417	X-ray diffraction
Zhang and Kostak (2002) *	0 - 10.1	40	BM2	158	4 (fixed)	77.460	X-ray diffraction
Bonzcar and Graham (1982)	0 - 0.5	40.5	d	161.5	6.18	77.064	X-ray diffraction
Bonzcar and Graham (1982)	0 - 0.5	41.6	d	168.7	/	76.766	X-ray diffraction
Jacobsen et al. (2002)	/	53	/	161	/	77.937	X-ray diffraction
Jacobsen et al. (2002)	0 - 8.9	56	BM3	155.8	5.53	77.453	X-ray diffraction
Fei et al. (2007)	0 - 42	59	BM2	153	4 (fixed)	79.360	X-ray diffraction

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The symbol / means that the datum is not reported

<sup>o</sup> adiabatic  $K_0$  obtained from elastic constants

# Finite-strain equation of state taken from Davies and Dziewonski (1975)

d From elastic constant

<sup>a</sup> the fitted data are from Matsui et al. (2012)

<sup>b</sup> combined dataset from Lin et al. (2005) and Speziale et al. (2005)

<sup>c</sup> the fitted data are from Speziale et al. (2007)

<sup>g</sup> the fitted data are from Jacobsen et al. (2002)

\* the spin state of the iron is not specified

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Table 5 – Comparison of some thermoelastic ( $V_T$ ,  $K_T$ ,  $K'_T$ ,  $\alpha$ ) and thermodynamic parameters of interest ( $C_V$ ,  $C_P$ ,  $S$ ) for periclase and ferropiclase. The molar quantities are converted for the primitive cell of periclase with two atoms in order to allow the comparison, whereas the cell volume refers to the conventional cell with eight atoms [ $P = 0.1$  MPa,  $T = 298.15$  K].

	$V_T$ [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	$K_T$ [GPa]	$K'_T$	$C_V$ [J/(mole* K)]	$C_P$ [J/(mole* K)]	$S$ [J/(mole* K)]	$\alpha$ [1/K]	Spin state
<b>MgO</b>								
Inbar and Cohen (1995)	/	/	/	/	/	/	3.88E-05	
Ghose et al. (2006)	/	/	/	36.58	/	26.80	/	
Fiquet et al. (1996)	/	/	/	/	/	/	4.90E-05	
Fiquet et al. (1999)	74.725	/	/	36.20	/	/	3.19E-05	
Dubrovinsky and Saxena (1997)	/	/	/	/	/	/	3.15E-05	
Saxena et al. (1993)	/	/	/	36.82	37.35	26.94	3.12E-05	
Fei (1995)	/	/	/	/	/	/	3.16E-05	
Chopelas (1990)	/	/	/	36.74	/	26.84	3.11E-05	
Isaak et al. (1989)	/	/	/	/	37.67	/	3.12E-05	
Robie and Hemingway (1995)	/	/	/	36.87	/	/	/	
Scanavino et al. (2012) #	75.999	162.19	4.204	35.474	35.755	25.133	2.25E-05	
Hama and Suito (1999) #	74.724	160.2	4.52	36.5	/	26.6	/	
Oganov and Dorogokupets (2003) #	74.670	170.53	4.036	/	31.3	/	2.40E-05	
Oganov et al. (2003) #	76.225	172.6	4.004	/	/	26.81	/	
Karki et al. (2000) #	74.240	159	4.30	36.53	37.06	26.65	3.11E-05	
<b>Mg<sub>0.97</sub>Fe<sub>0.03</sub>O</b>								
This work #	75.144	168.77	4.056	35.46	35.80	25.04	2.43E-05	LS
Hama and Suito (1999) #	73.594*	160.16 <sup>§</sup>	4.638 <sup>§</sup>	/	/	/	/	/
<b>Mg<sub>0.8125</sub>Fe<sub>0.1875</sub>O</b>								
Wu et al. (2009)	76.16	172.48	/	38.98	39.66	/	3.35E-05	HS
<b>Mg<sub>0.75</sub>Fe<sub>0.25</sub>O</b>								
Mao et al. (2011)	76.34	162	/	/	/	/	3.76E-05	HS
Mao et al. (2011)	74.4	166	/	/	/	/	3.37E-05	LS
<b>Mg<sub>0.60</sub>Fe<sub>0.40</sub>O</b>								
Fei et al. (1992)	77.418	157	/	/	27.54	/	3.95E-05	HS
Zhang and Kostak (2002)	77.460	158	/	41.12	41.92	/	3.79E-05	HS
<b>Mg<sub>0.54</sub>Fe<sub>0.46</sub>O</b>								
This work #	72.182	206.27	4.187	36.11	36.38	26.62	1.97E-05	LS
Hama and Suito (1999) #	76.323*	167.60*	3.790*	/	/	/	/	/

The symbol / means that the datum is not reported

# computational works [HF/DFT this work; LDA Karki et al. (2000), Oganov et al. (2003); GGA Oganov and Dorogokupets (2003), thermodynamic model Hama and Suito (1999)]

§ the data are obtained by relations of the type  $V_T(\text{MgFeO}) = V_T(\text{MgO})[1 + a_1 y + a_2 y^2 + a_3 y^3]$  where  $y$  is the iron content in the stoichiometric formula  $\text{Mg}_{1-y}\text{Fe}_y\text{O}$

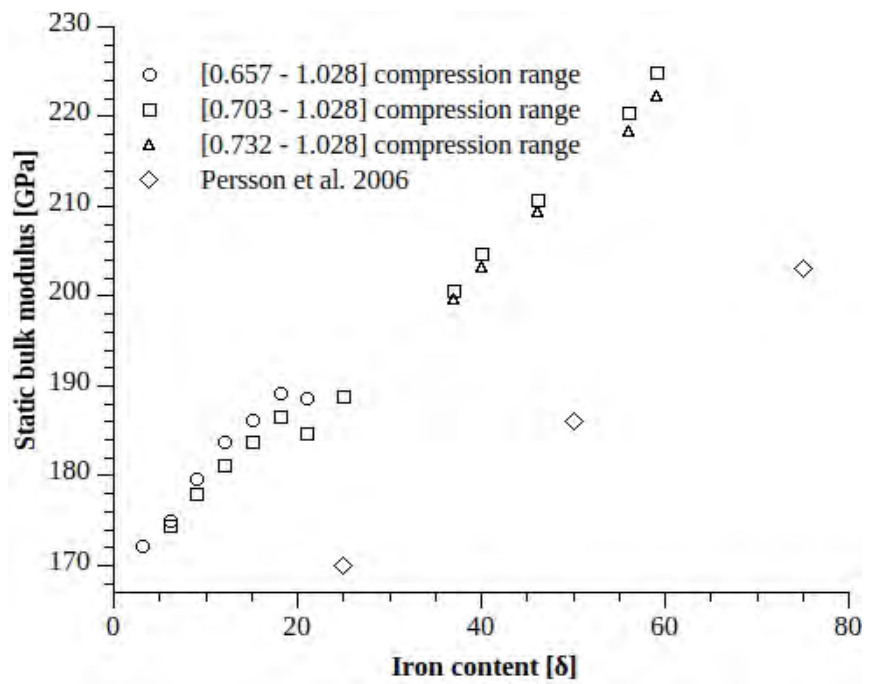


Figure 1

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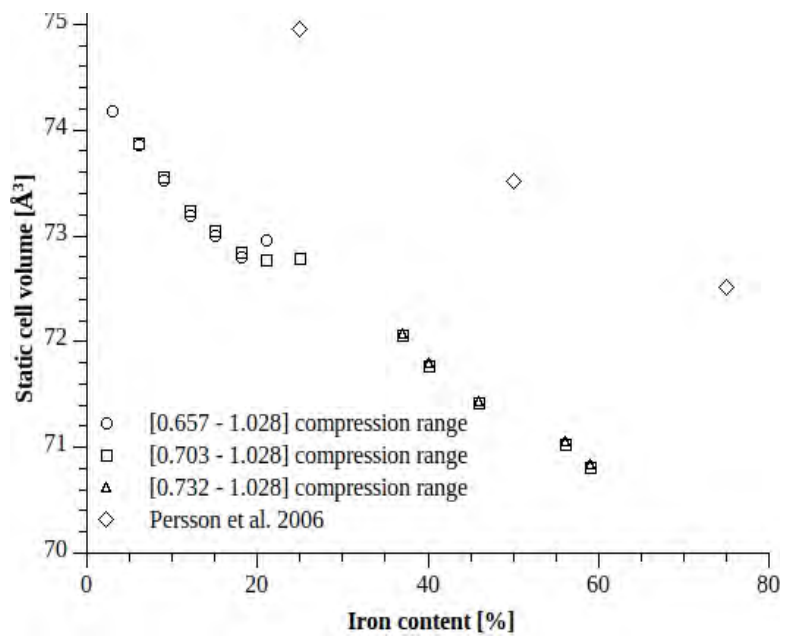


Figure 2

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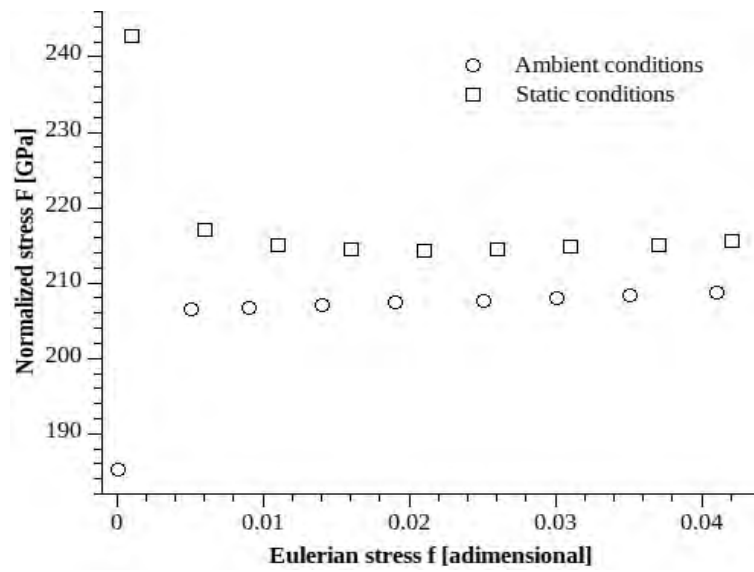


Figure 3

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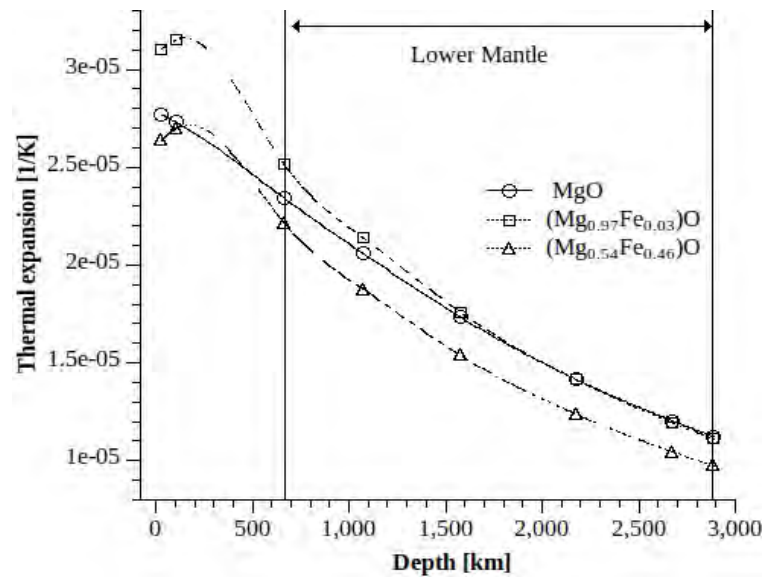


Figure 4

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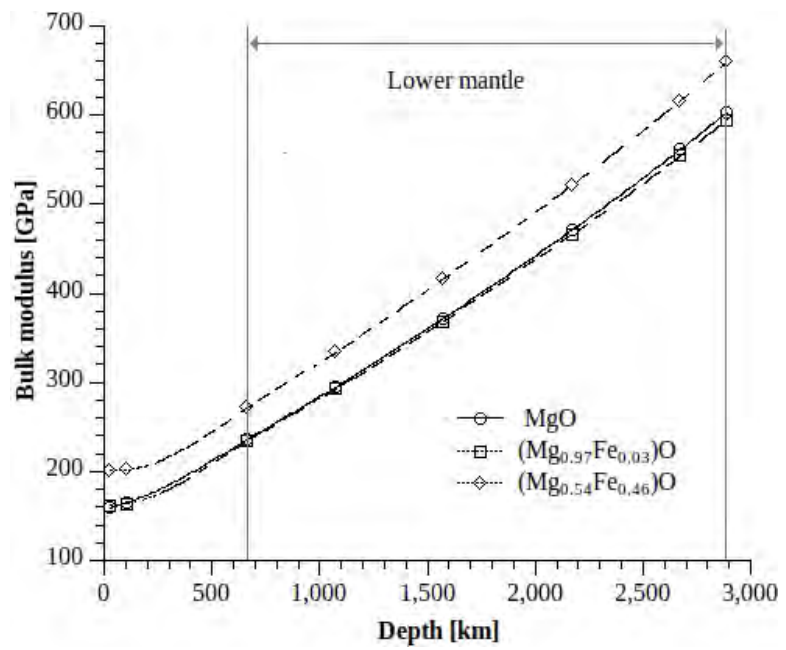


Figure 5

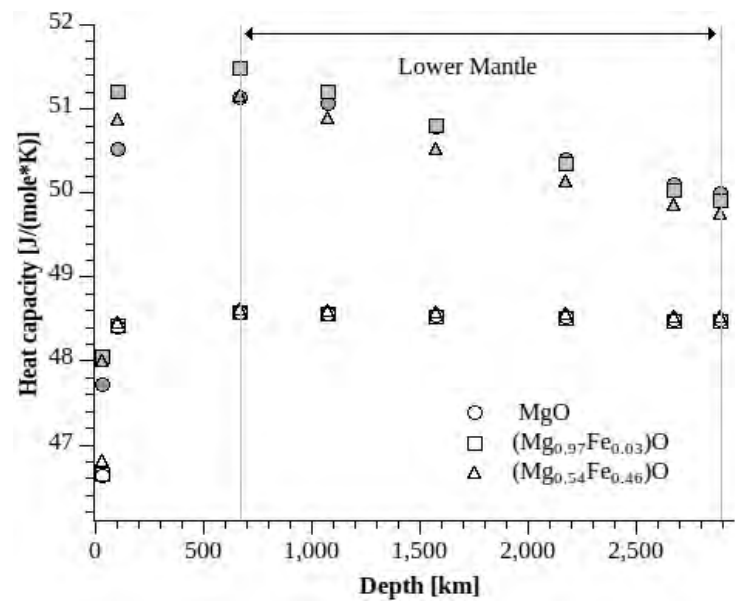


Figure 6

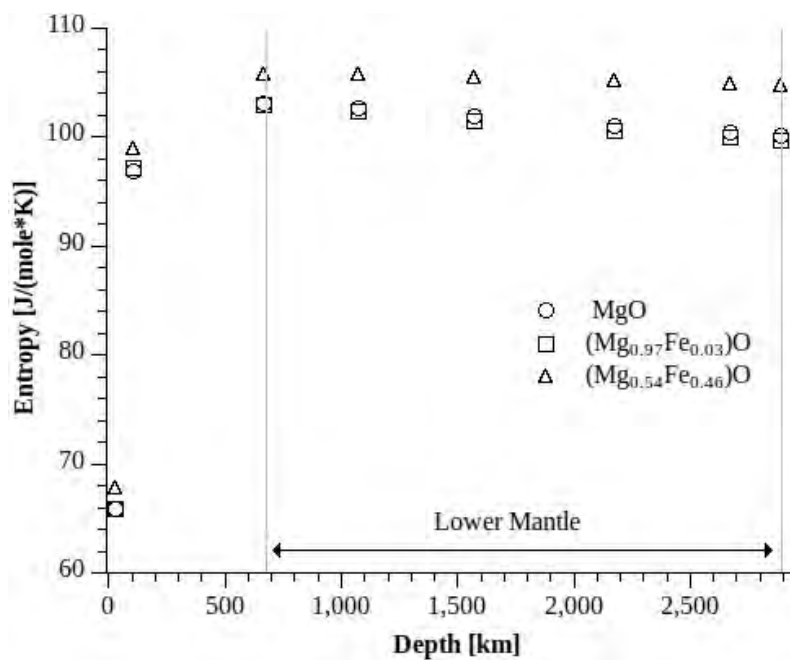


Figure 7

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353 List of Figures

- 354 • Figure 1 - Static bulk modulus of ferroperricite as a function of the iron content in the  
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356 compression range of [-20, 200] GPa.
- 357 • Figure 2 - Static conventional cell volume (1/8 of the supercell) of ferroperricite as a function  
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365 K); 100 km (3.3 GPa / 1475 K); 660 km (23.5 GPa / 1866 K); 1071 km (41.5 GPa / 2004 K);  
366 1571 km (65.1 GPa / 2147 K); 2171 km (95.3 GPa 2296 K); 2671 km (122.4 GPa / 2405 K);  
367 2885 km (134.8 GPa / 2449 K).
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- 371 • Figure 6 - Heat capacity as a function of depth. The P/T conditions reflect the ones of the  
372 Earth's interior according the values of the geotherm and the geobar curves. For the P/T  
373 conditions associated at the points in the picture see the caption of Figure 4. The empty  
374 symbols refer to the  $C_V$ , the full ones to the  $C_P$ .

- 375 • Figure 7 - Entropy as a function of depth. The P/T conditions reflect the ones of the Earth's  
376 interior according the values of the geotherm and the geobar curves. For the P/T conditions  
377 associated at the points in the picture see the caption of Figure 4.

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