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# 2 **Crystal structure and compressibility of lead dioxide up to** 3 **140 GPa**

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## 11 **Abstract**

12 Lead dioxide is an important silica analog that has high-pressure behavior similar to what has  
13 been predicted for silica, only at lower pressures. We have measured the structural evolution and  
14 compressional behavior of different lead dioxide polymorphs up to 140 GPa in the laser heated  
15 diamond-anvil cell using argon as a pressure medium. High temperature heating prevents the  
16 formation of multi-phase mixtures found in a previous study conducted at room temperature  
17 using a silicone grease pressure medium. We find diffraction peaks consistent with a baddeleyite-  
18 type phase in our cold-compressed samples between 30 and 40 GPa, which was not observed in  
19 the previous measurements. Lead dioxide undergoes a phase transition to a cotunnite-type phase  
20 at 24 GPa. This phase remains stable to at least 140 GPa with a bulk modulus of 219(3) GPa for  
21  $K'_0=4$ . Decompression measurements show a pure cotunnite-type phase until 10.5 GPa, where the  
22 sample converts to a mixture of baddeleyite-type, pyrite-type, and OI-type (Pbca) phases. Pure  $\alpha$ -  
23 structured lead dioxide (scrutinyite) is found after pressure release at room pressure even though

24 our starting material was in the  $\beta$ -structure (plattnerite). Pressure quenching to the  $\alpha$ -structure  
25 appears to be a common feature of all group IVa oxides that are compressed to structures with  
26 greater density than the rutile-type structure.

27

## 28 **1. Introduction**

29 Lead dioxide, a silica analog compound, has a typical sequence of phase transitions for an  $AX_2$ -  
30 type compound (Prakapenka et al., 2003). Two forms are found as minerals on the Earth's  
31 surface, the orthorhombic  $\alpha$ - $PbO_2$  structure (scrutinyite) and the tetragonal rutile structured  $\beta$ -  
32  $PbO_2$  phase (plattnerite). Previous results relying on cold-compression using a silicone grease  
33 pressure-transmitting medium showed that both structures converted to the pyrite-type structure  
34 ( $Pa-3$ ) at 7 GPa, with plattnerite going through the  $CaCl_2$ -type (distorted-stishovite) phase at  
35 4 GPa before adopting the cubic structure. The  $SrI_2$ -type or OI orthorhombic structure ( $Pbca$ )  
36 was found between 11 GPa to 47 GPa, with the cotunnite-type structure ( $Pnam$ ) coexisting with  
37 it from 29 to at least 47 GPa at 300 K (Haines et al., 1996) (Fig. 1).

38 The cotunnite structure consists of highly-coordinated cations (nine-fold coordination) and a  
39 distorted hexagonal close packed (hcp) sub-lattice of anions common to metal dioxides,  
40 fluorides, and chlorides. The structure is remarkable not only due to its ubiquitous nature in  $AX_2$   
41 type compounds (Dewhurst and Lowther, 2001), but also because of the large volume change  
42 across the high-pressure transition from the pyrite-type or OI-type structures that are closely  
43 related in energy. Materials with the cotunnite structure are relatively incompressible with certain  
44 compounds (such as  $SnO_2$  and  $TiO_2$ ) having measured bulk moduli approaching diamond (Ahuja  
45 and Dubrovinsky, 2002; Shieh et al., 2006) and are intriguing possibilities for super-hard  
46 materials. The stability of highly coordinated structures for silica analogs have also been

47 recognized as being important for understanding the experimentally inaccessible interiors of large  
48 terrestrial extrasolar planets (Umemoto et al., 2006; Grocholski et al., 2010).

49 We have conducted experiments on the structural evolution of PbO<sub>2</sub> up to 140 GPa with the  
50 laser-heated diamond-anvil cell (LHDAC) using synchrotron X-ray diffraction (XRD). High  
51 quality diffraction patterns resulting from laser annealing in an argon surrounded sample allows  
52 for better determination of phase stability and compressibility of the high pressure phases of lead  
53 dioxide.

## 54 **2. Experimental methods**

55 We used  $\beta$ -PbO<sub>2</sub> (plattnerite, Alfa-Aesar, 99.995%) for the starting material. The crystal structure  
56 was confirmed using a Rigaku D/Max Rapid micro-X-ray diffractometer at the National Museum  
57 of Natural History. A total of four samples of pure  $\beta$ -PbO<sub>2</sub> were compressed into platelets and  
58 loaded into symmetric-type diamond-anvil cells with 300, 200, and 150  $\mu\text{m}$  culets in sample  
59 chambers of 150, 120, and 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. Pre-indented rhenium gaskets were used for all  
60 experiments. All samples were propped up on spacer grains of lead dioxide to allow  
61 cryogenically liquified argon to create a layer between the sample and the diamond culet. Argon  
62 acts as both a pressure medium and a thermal insulator. We used an X-ray transparent cBN seat  
63 to allow detection of diffraction peaks up to  $2\theta \approx 21^\circ$ .

64 Pressure was determined up to 75 GPa with the use of ruby fluorescence (Mao et al., 1986)  
65 from chips placed along the edge of the sample chamber, up to 120 GPa with the use of the  
66 diamond Raman scale (Akahama and Kawamura, 2006), and from 120–140 GPa with the  
67 equation of state for argon (Ross et al., 1986). The pressure determined from the diamond scale  
68 and the argon equation of state agree within experimental uncertainty at 120 GPa. We assume no  
69 systematic offset in pressure between different calibrants, which could slightly change our bulk

70 modulus and extrapolated  $V_0$ . Measured pressures agreed within experimental error before and  
71 after the heating cycle. We do not include thermal pressures (Heinz, 1990) in the pressures  
72 reported for our high-temperature data, which should therefore be regarded as a lower bound.

73 X-ray diffraction patterns in the LHDAC were measured at sector 13 of the Advanced Photon  
74 Source (wavelength of 0.3344 Å). Due to the relatively large sample compared to the laser  
75 (~20 μm in diameter) and X-ray ( $3 \times 4 \mu\text{m}^2$ ) spot size (Prakapenka et al., 2008), several fresh  
76 (previously unheated) sample areas were heated at different pressures. Although the diffraction  
77 patterns of our cold-compressed samples look similar to the patterns measured under a silicone  
78 grease medium (Haines et al., 1996), the peak widths in our argon loaded samples are much  
79 smaller than the silicone grease results (Fig. 2). X-ray diffraction patterns were collected during  
80 each laser heating cycle to track the growth of the cotunnite-type phase. Lead dioxide absorbs the  
81 1064 nm infrared laser beam (YDFL) very well, with cotunnite-type  $\text{PbO}_2$  appearing  
82 immediately upon laser coupling ( $T < 1300$  K) above 24 GPa. The combination of annealing  
83 differential stress in the sample chamber and sample recrystallization results in very sharp  
84 diffraction peaks (Figs. 2, 3d, and 4b) in comparison to the unheated diffraction patterns (Figs. 3c  
85 and 4a).

86 We collected XRD patterns up to a pressure of 140 GPa. One sample was decompressed from  
87 75 GPa after cotunnite synthesis to room pressure at room temperature in roughly 10 GPa steps.  
88 Unit cell refinements for all phases from the diffraction patterns were analyzed with the GSAS  
89 structural refinement package using Le Bail equally weighted refinements (Larson and Von  
90 Dreele, 2000). When we obtain smooth and sharp diffraction patterns of  $\text{PbO}_2$  as a pure  
91 cotunnite-type phase we performed Reitveld refinement (Fig. 4b,c). We correct the absorption  
92 effect from the cBN seat, but exclude the region between  $14.5^\circ$  and  $15.25^\circ$   $2\theta$  where the scattered

93 X-rays are going through the tapered part of the seat. We found intensity in this region to be  
94 extremely sensitive to the exact centering of the sample relative to the opening. The region  
95 happens to be where there are only a few expected diffraction peaks from the cotunnite structure  
96 and exclusion of the region does not greatly affect the precision of the refinement (~90 peaks for  
97 17 variables). A Le Bail equally weighted refinement was used to first determine lattice, peak  
98 shape, and background fit parameters for all phases. These parameters were then fixed and a best  
99 fit was obtained by varying the atomic position and thermal parameters in Rietveld refinements  
100 for the cotunnite-type phase.

### 101 **3. Results and Discussion**

102 Plattnerite ( $\beta$ -PbO<sub>2</sub>) is the more common of the two lead dioxide polymorphs and our starting  
103 material is in this structure. X-ray diffraction of the starting material confirmed the rutile  
104 structure. Initial room temperature compression of our PbO<sub>2</sub> samples resulted in the OI structure  
105 (Fig. 3a) at 14–39 GPa and the cotunnite-type (Fig. 3c) at 61–140 GPa. We find a few reflections  
106 between 29 and 39 GPa that cannot be fit with the OI structure and are likely due to baddeleyite-  
107 type PbO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 3b). The most intense reflection of the baddeleyite-type can account for the peak  
108 at  $\sim 6.9^\circ$  ( $d$ -spacing = 2.778 Å) in these diffraction patterns if we assume the volume is similar to  
109 the OI structure. The previous measurements from Haines et al. (1996) found formation of a  
110 mixture of OI and cotunnite-type phases instead in the 29–47 GPa pressure range. The most  
111 notable difference between Haines et al. (1996) and our measurements is that we used Ar  
112 whereas they used silicone grease for a pressure medium. The peak width in our cold-  
113 compression measurements are a factor of 2–3 narrower than in Haines et al. (1996) (Fig. 2),  
114 consistent with much higher deviatoric stresses from the silicone grease (Angel et al., 2007).

115 Therefore, the lower pressure appearance of the cotunnite-type phase in Haines et al. (1996) is  
116 probably related to larger deviatoric stresses from the silicon grease medium. The failure to  
117 observe the baddeleyite-type peaks in the previous result may have been due to peak broadening  
118 of the OI and cotunnite-type phases, obscuring diffraction peaks from the monoclinic phase if  
119 present in their samples.

120 The cotunnite-type phase of  $\text{PbO}_2$  is stable after heating at 24 GPa and persists at high  
121 temperatures up to at least 140 GPa in our experiments (Figs 1 and 3c,d). As expected, the  
122 transition pressure is lower than analogs such as  $\text{TiO}_2$  or  $\text{SnO}_2$  that convert to the cotunnite-type  
123 from the OI structure at  $\sim 60$  GPa (Dekura et al., 2011; Shieh et al., 2006). The wide stability field  
124 is also not surprising, as  $\text{TiO}_2$  has experimentally been found to be stable from 60 to 200 GPa  
125 (Dekura et al., 2011) and compounds such as  $\text{SiO}_2$  are extremely stable computationally in the  
126 cotunnite structure (Umemoto et al., 2006; Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2011). Post-cotunnite phase  
127 transitions in oxide systems have been reported only rarely, but for  $\text{TiO}_2$  the transition to a  $\text{Fe}_2\text{P}$   
128 phase occurs at  $\sim 200$  GPa (Dekura et al., 2011). Several other structures have been suggested as  
129 well, including  $\text{Ni}_2\text{In}$  and  $\text{Co}_2\text{Si}$ , among others (Leger et al., 1995; Haines et al., 1998; Griffiths  
130 et al., 2009; Dorfman et al., 2010). Since  $\text{PbO}_2$  appears to be a good analog for  $\text{SiO}_2$  and Pb has a  
131 larger scattering cross section, it is a good candidate for exploring post-cotunnite structures for  
132 group IVa oxides. If the systematics of oxides follow similar behavior to the fluorides, where the  
133 pressure of the post-cotunnite transition decreases with increasing 1 bar cation radius (Dorfman  
134 et al., 2010), the post-cotunnite phase should become stable between the 140 GPa found in this  
135 experiment and 200 GPa as has been found for  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

136 The cotunnite-type is converted to a mixture of the OI, baddeleyite-type, and pyrite-type  
137 phases on cold decompression from 24 GPa to 10.5 GPa (Fig. 3e). The appearance of a small  
138 amount of baddeleyite structured  $\text{PbO}_2$  is not surprising as the structure is commonly found in

139 other AX<sub>2</sub> compounds and is closely related in crystal structure to both OI and pyrite types  
140 (Dubrovinskaia et al., 2001; Lowther et al., 1999). The OI phase is likely metastable above  
141 24 GPa, as low-temperature heating ( $T < 1300$  K) immediately converts the OI structure to the  
142 cotunnite-type (Fig. 3a,b) and the cotunnite structure is stable on decompression to 24 GPa as  
143 well (Fig. 1). Pressure quenching from the OI, baddeleyite-type, and pyrite-type mixture produces  
144 scrutinyite ( $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub>, Fig. 3f), with no evidence of any material reverting to the rutile structure ( $\beta$ -  
145 PbO<sub>2</sub>).

146 Retention of the  $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub> structure is common among all the group IVa oxides. Once the  
147 structure is formed it can be quenched to room pressure as in the case of SiO<sub>2</sub> (Dubrovinsky et  
148 al., 1997; Grocholski et al., 2013) and GeO<sub>2</sub> (Prakapenka et al., 2003). Transformation to even  
149 higher coordination structures such as the pyrite-type in the case of SnO<sub>2</sub> (Haines and Leger,  
150 1997) or the cotunnite-type for PbO<sub>2</sub> (Haines et al., 1996) still retain the scrutinyite ( $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub>)  
151 structure over conversion to the more stable rutile ( $\beta$ -PbO<sub>2</sub>) structure on decompression. The  
152 reason for this is likely due to the unfavorable transformation path through the baddeleyite  
153 structure required to convert back to the rutile structure (Haines and Leger, 1997). Intriguingly,  
154 PbO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, and SiO<sub>2</sub> have been synthesized in the  $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub> structure through purely metastable  
155 pathways (Carr and Hampson, 1972; Chen and Shen, 2002; Dubrovinsky et al., 2001a), as well as  
156 been found in nature (Taggart et al., 1988; El Goresy et al., 2001kb; Sharp et al., 1999). This  
157 observation suggests that for the remaining group IVa oxides (SnO<sub>2</sub> and GeO<sub>2</sub>) we should expect  
158 to find specimens with the scrutinyite structure in nature either from the shock processes that  
159 have been shown to form  $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub>-type TiO<sub>2</sub> (El Goresy et al., 2001kb) and SiO<sub>2</sub> (Sharp et al.,  
160 1999), or more speculatively as an oxidation product from hydrothermal mineralization as is the  
161 case for PbO<sub>2</sub> (Taggart et al., 1988).

162 The sequence of phase transitions is consistent with the previous experiments on PbO<sub>2</sub>  
163 (Haines et al., 1996) and SnO<sub>2</sub> (Haines and Leger, 1997; Shieh et al., 2006). The phases of PbO<sub>2</sub>  
164 are also close to the alkali earth fluorides, although some adopt the cubic fluoride structure and  
165 the OI structure is not stable (Dorfman et al., 2010; Grocholski et al., 2010). The phase sequence  
166 is similar to experimental results on the group IV oxides, except these compounds transform to  
167 the monoclinic baddeleyite-type phase before transforming to the OI structure (Ohtaka et al.,  
168 2001a, b). Our experiments cannot rule out a small stability field for the baddeleyite-type  
169 structure between 10 and 11 GPa (Fig. 3e), and the structure may stabilize with temperature. The  
170 baddeleyite-type structure is likely metastable along with the OI structure above 30 GPa (Fig. 3a),  
171 as heating this assemblage above 30 GPa results in the cotunnite structure (Fig. 1).

172 A typical diffraction pattern of the cotunnite-type structure is shown in Fig. 4c with the  
173 atomic structure obtained from Rietveld refinement shown in Fig. 5. The refined crystal structure  
174 has atomic coordinates similar to other cotunnite-type phases including the previous refinement  
175 on PbO<sub>2</sub>. However, the previous refinement on PbO<sub>2</sub> was conducted on a cold-compressed  
176 sample that was a mixture of cotunnite-type and OI-type structures (Haines et al., 1996). The  
177 improvement on diffraction peak sharpness is two orders of magnitude from the older study  
178 (Fig. 2), due to high temperature heating of the sample that allows for the full conversion of the  
179 OI phase to the cotunnite phase and relieving differential stresses (Fig. 4) in the sample chamber  
180 (Heinz and Jeanloz, 1987; Fiquet et al., 1996). Our results also extend the *d*-space range from  
181 ~1.3 Å to ~0.9 Å, doubling the number of diffraction peaks included in each refinement from 45  
182 to 93.

183 Our data set allows for the determination of six independent Pb–O bond lengths for the nine  
184 nearest neighbor oxygens and two co-planar Pb–Pb–Pb angles (Fig. 6). The bond lengths

185 (normalized to unit cell volume) and angles are consistent with other cotunnite structured  
186 compounds including  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{BaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ , and  $\text{SnO}_2$  (Leger et al., 1998; Dubrovinsky et al.,  
187 2001b; Shieh et al., 2006). The normalized bond lengths for our  $\text{PbO}_2$  data are closest to  $\text{ZrO}_2$   
188 (Desgreniers and Lagarec, 1999), which has a similar ionic radius. In general the Pb–O bond  
189 lengths decrease with increasing pressure, with the exception of the smallest Pb–O bond at  
190 24 GPa (#4 in Fig. 5). The trend is for the bond lengths to become more regular as pressure  
191 increases, although the convergence levels off above 80 GPa. In general, the oxygen network  
192 stays as a distorted hcp lattice up to 140 GPa with no evidence of a displacive transition to a  
193 regular hcp lattice expected from most of the predicted post-cotunnite structures. Co-planar Pb-  
194 Pb-Pb angles similarly do not move towards  $60^\circ$ , but rather become slightly less regular as a  
195 function of pressure (Fig. 6c). Atomic coordinates for each structural refinement are given in  
196 Tab. 1.

197 Lattice parameters (Figs 7, 8, and Tab. 2) are generally in agreement with previous results  
198 (Haines et al., 1996). Lattice parameters for the pyrite-type and  $\alpha$  structures agree within 1%,  
199 while the cotunnite lattice parameters are in agreement within experimental error up to 47 GPa.  
200 Compression is almost isotropic for the cotunnite-type phase, with the  $b$  axis slightly more and  
201 the  $c$  axis slightly less compressible than the  $a$  axis (Tab. 3). Our measured lattice parameters for  
202 the OI phase are smaller by up to 2% for  $a$  and  $c$  compared to the previous results. The  $a$  and  $c$   
203 directions are also the most compressible, as the axial incompressibility in the  $b$  direction is more  
204 than three times greater (Tab. 3). The larger lattice parameters from Haines et al., (1996) are due  
205 to either greater deviatoric stresses from the use of silicone grease pressure medium or peak  
206 interferences from the cotunnite-type phase that appears in their samples.

207 Our axial ratios for both the OI and the cotunnite structures are in the range of those found for  
208 similar compounds (Dewhurst and Lowther, 2001). Our results show the  $a/c$  ratio for the

209 cotunnite-type structure increasing to 40 GPa, where it flattens and slightly decreases above  
210 120 GPa. A flat  $a/c$  ratio is seen also in SnO<sub>2</sub> (Shieh et al., 2005) and ZrO<sub>2</sub> (Ohtaka et al., 2005),  
211 although the ratio is higher in these compounds. The decrease at 120 GPa may be indicative of a  
212 phase transformation coming at slightly higher pressure, as in the case for the alkali fluorides  
213 such as CaF<sub>2</sub> (Dorfman et al., 2010) that have sharply decreasing  $a/c$  ratio with pressure as the  
214 post-cotunnite transition is approached (Fig. 7).

215 The volume collapse between the OI and cotunnite structures is about 11% (Fig. 9), consistent  
216 with previous results on PbO<sub>2</sub> and other cotunnite-type phases (Haines et al., 1996; Dewhurst and  
217 Lowther, 2001). The change in volume with pressure was fit with a second-order Birch-  
218 Murnaghan equation for both the OI and cotunnite-type phases. Both fits were computed to  
219 minimize the error on  $K_0$  and  $V_0$  simultaneously. We included data up to 29 GPa from Haines et  
220 al. (1996) for the OI structure, but exclude parameters reported at higher pressures where large  
221 overlap in peak intensity occurs in the older experiments with the cotunnite-type phase. Our  
222 results indicate that the OI structure is more compressible ( $K_0 = 122(7)$  GPa) than previously  
223 measured by 2.5% using  $V_0$  of 313.8(1.9) Å<sup>3</sup>. The compressibility and room pressure volume of  
224 the cotunnite phase is remarkably consistent with the previous data, having a  $K_0 = 219(3)$  GPa  
225 and  $V_0 = 134.4(3)$  Å<sup>3</sup>.

226 Our data significantly reduces the error on the bulk modulus and theoretical room pressure  
227 volume of the cotunnite-type phase of PbO<sub>2</sub>. Unlike other silica analog compounds, the bulk  
228 modulus of the cotunnite-type phase is not significantly higher than the bulk modulus of other  
229 PbO<sub>2</sub> phases. The trend of increasing bulk moduli with decreasing ionic radii still holds, as  
230 compounds such as SnO<sub>2</sub> (Shieh et al., 2006) and possibly TiO<sub>2</sub> (Ahuja and Dubrovinsky, 2002;  
231 Al-Khatatbeh et al., 2009) being much less compressible than PbO<sub>2</sub>. Cotunnite structured GeO<sub>2</sub>

232 and SiO<sub>2</sub> should be very stiff as well and potential candidates for superhard materials, as  
233 predicted by computational studies (Teter, 1998; Dewhurst and Lowther, 2001).

234 We have conducted experiments on PbO<sub>2</sub> up to 140 GPa surrounded by an argon pressure  
235 medium in the LHDAC. Laser heating helps to prevent metastable phases from being present in  
236 the sample chamber that can occur under cold compression and to anneal differential stresses in  
237 the samples at high pressure. We find the cotunnite-type phase is stable from 24 GPa up to the  
238 highest pressure of this study (~140 GPa) at 300–3000 K (Fig. 1). We do not find a mixture of  
239 the OI and cotunnite-type phases under cold compression as was found in the previous results  
240 (Haines et al., 1996), but we do confirm the OI phase and baddeleyite-structured phase to be  
241 metastable under lower differential stress conditions up to 39 GPa. We also identify a mixed  
242 phase of baddeleyite, OI, and pyrite types at 10.5 GPa on decompression before full conversion  
243 to the  $\alpha$  structure at 1 bar.

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369 Figure 1: Stability diagram for high-pressure phases of  $\text{PbO}_2$ . Blue denotes where the cotunnite-  
370 type ( $Pnam$ ) phase is found, red for OI-type ( $Pbca$ ), green for trace baddeleyite-type ( $P2_1/c$ ), pink  
371 for pyrite-type ( $Pa-3$ ), and black for the  $\alpha$ -structure ( $Pbcn$ ). Circles denote the stable phase  
372 during and after heating, triangles denote stable phases during cold compression or post-  
373 annealing decompression, and crosses denote where there is evidence of melting. The pressure  
374 values are from the room temperature measurements and so we have used asymmetric error bars  
375 to account for the likely effect of thermal pressure at high temperature. Experimental values for  
376 cold compression and decompression from Haines et al. (1996) are presented at the bottom. The  
377 cotunnite transition is hindered at low pressure, with the OI phase remaining metastable well into  
378 the stability field of the cotunnite-type phase. Heating (this study) or shear stress (Haines et al,  
379 1996) may produce the high pressure phase, although with the latter method a large modal  
380 fraction remains in the OI structure.

381

382 Figure 2: Full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the 100% line for laser annealed samples (red  
383 circles), unheated samples (blue squares), decompression measurements (green triangles), and  
384 measurements collected using silicone grease (open squares), (Haines et al., 1996). Error from  
385 FWHM fits are much smaller than the scatter between diffraction patterns collected at similar  
386 pressure. Lines are best fit from linear regression. The FWHM in our unheated samples is much  
387 lower than the silicone grease results due to our use of argon pressure medium, with annealing of  
388 the samples sharpening diffraction peaks by an additional factor of 2–3. The arrow shows the  
389 result of decompression from 75.1 GPa on the FWHM, which results in peak broadening of a  
390 similar magnitude to cold compression over a similar pressure range.

391

392 Figure 3: Examples of measured X-ray diffraction patterns with background subtraction (black  
393 lines) along with fits (red lines) and residuals (blue lines) obtained from Rietveld refinements.  
394 The omitted intensity between  $14.5^\circ$  and  $15.5^\circ$  is due to the angled part of the cBN seat and not  
395 included in the structural refinement. The vertical bars represent peak positions obtained from  
396 structural refinements. (A) Example of diffraction pattern from the OI structure obtained on  
397 initial compression to 34.5 GPa of the starting material. A small amount of baddeleyite-  
398 structured material helps account for the shoulders around the most intense line. (B) Cotunnite  
399 structure obtained at 39 GPa post-heating at  $\sim 1500$  K. The changes in diffraction patterns and  
400 peak sharpening from (A) to (B) are typical after only a few minutes of laser heating (see Fig. 4  
401 as well). (C) Cotunnite structure compressed to 105 GPa at room temperature without laser  
402 heating of the sample. (D) Post-heating diffraction of (C), resulting in significant sharpening of  
403 the cotunnite-type phase reflections (E) Pyrite-type structure with minor amounts of baddeleyite  
404 and OI type phases formed on decompression of the cotunnite-type phase from 24 GPa to  
405 10.5 GPa. (F) Unheated  $\text{PbO}_2$  in the  $\alpha$  structure after room temperature decompression from (E)  
406 at 10.5 GPa.

407

408 Figure 4: (A) Example of unheated diffraction pattern collected at 75 GPa. Diffraction lines are  
409 broad and distorted from non-hydrostatic stresses. (B) Example of unrolled diffraction pattern  
410 collected post-heating at 75 GPa. The quality in the 2-dimensional and integrated patterns is  
411 typical for PbO<sub>2</sub> samples after a few minutes of laser heating. The angular range is greater than  
412 for the unheated pattern because we moved the detector closer to the sample. (C) Rietveld  
413 structural refinement (red) of the diffraction pattern of PbO<sub>2</sub> (black) at 75.1 GPa and residual  
414 (blue) after background fit (dashed line). A total of 89 different reflections (red vertical bars)  
415 were used in the fitting, omitting the two reflections that occur in the angular range where the x-  
416 rays transit through the angled part of the cBN seat.

417

418 Figure 5: Crystal structure model of the cotunnite-type phase in PbO<sub>2</sub> looking close to straight  
419 down the *c*-axis. Red spheres are oxygen atoms and black spheres are lead atoms. The nine-fold  
420 coordinated structure consists of three sets of bonds with a two-fold multiplicity labeled 2, 5, and  
421 6. Bonds 1, 3, and 4 have a multiplicity of one. The oxygen network is a distorted hcp lattice that  
422 forms kinked chains of coordinating polyhedra.

423

424 Figure 6: Pb–O bond lengths from structural refinements of cotunnite structure and Pb-Pb-Pb  
425 angles. Most Pb-O bond distances decrease rapidly with pressure, before flattening out at even  
426 higher pressure. The trend is to have more uniform bond distances, although there is still  
427 appreciable scatter from the refinements. The Pb-Pb-Pb angles become slightly less regular with  
428 pressure.

429

430 Figure 7: Lattice parameters from our data set (filled) and from Haines et al. (1996) (open).  
431 Dashed lines are fits to the unit cell parameters that are back-extrapolated to room pressure for  
432 the cotunnite-type structure using the method in Xia et al. (1998). This yields  $a_0=5.663(4)$ ,  
433  $b_0=6.670(4)$ ,  $c_0=3.563(3)$ . The cotunnite-type structure has close to isotropic compression. The  
434 compressibility is in contrast to the OI structure, where the  $b$  axis is much stiffer than the  $a$  or  $c$   
435 axes (see Tab. 3). The  $a/c$  ratio is shown, which increases and levels off like  $ZrO_2$  (Ohtaka et al.,  
436 2001) and  $SnO_2$  (Shieh et al., 2005). The  $a/c$  ratio for fluoride compounds such as  $CaF_2$  (open  
437 blue circles) has a decrease when approaching the post-cotunnite transition (Dorfman et al.,  
438 2010). Although the decrease in our ratio above 120 GPa is slight, it may be an early indication  
439 of a phase transition at slightly higher pressure.

440

441 Figure 8: Lattice parameters for lower pressure phases. Our data is consistent with the previous  
442 results (Haines et al, 1996). However, we find our lattice parameters of the OI structure  
443 systematically lower above 29 GPa. The discrepancy is likely due to severe peak overlaps from  
444 deviatoric stresses in the previous results.

445

446 Figure 9: Measured unit cell volumes for OI ( $Z = 8$ ) and cotunnite ( $Z = 4$ ) phases. The error is  
447 smaller than the size of the data points (Tab. 2). The volume change at the transition (24 GPa) is  
448 11%, consistent with other analogs such as  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Ohtaka et al., 2001). Dashed lines are fits to the  
449 second-order Birch Murnaghan EOS. This yields a  $K_0 = 219(1)$  GPa with  $V_0 = 134.4(3) \text{ \AA}^3$  for  
450 the cotunnite structure and  $K_0 = 122(7)$  GPa with  $V_0 = 313.8(1.9)$  for the OI structure.

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453 Table 1: Atomic coordinates obtained from the Rietveld refinements. The z-coordinate is 0.25,  
454 0.25, and 0.75 for Pb, O1, and O2, respectively.

455

P (GPa)	x <sub>Pb</sub>	y <sub>Pb</sub>	x <sub>O1</sub>	y <sub>O1</sub>	x <sub>O2</sub>	y <sub>O2</sub>
23.5(5)	0.260(1)	0.100(2)	0.317(3)	0.409(3)	0.087(4)	0.346(2)
29.0(6)	0.254(1)	0.100(2)	0.335(2)	0.415(2)	0.071(3)	0.365(2)
39.0(8)	0.258(1)	0.103(1)	0.338(4)	0.440(3)	0.061(5)	0.344(3)
62.7(1.2)	0.257(1)	0.108(1)	0.344(3)	0.416(2)	0.020(4)	0.321(2)
75.1(1.5)	0.256(1)	0.109(1)	0.361(2)	0.413(1)	0.039(2)	0.322(1)
93(3)	0.255(1)	0.111(1)	0.332(3)	0.416(2)	0.073(4)	0.315(2)
105(3)	0.259(1)	0.113(1)	0.344(2)	0.407(2)	0.079(3)	0.296(3)
120(2)	0.251(1)	0.109(1)	0.360(3)	0.428(4)	0.079(5)	0.339(4)
140(2)	0.255(1)	0.110(1)	0.347(2)	0.440(2)	0.110(5)	0.317(4)

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464 Table 2: Pressures and lattice parameters for cotunnite-type lead dioxide.

P (GPa)	$a$ (Å)	$b$ (Å)	$c$ (Å)	vol (Å <sup>3</sup> )	$a/c$
23.5(5)	5.493(2)	6.520(2)	3.453(2)	123.7(1)	1.591(1)
29.0(6)	5.464(3)	6.468(4)	3.415(2)	120.7(2)	1.600(1)
34.5(6)	5.446(3)	6.426(3)	3.383(3)	118.4(2)	1.610(2)
39.0(8)	5.426(3)	6.389(2)	3.362(2)	116.6(1)	1.614(1)
62.7(1.2)	5.343(4)	6.290(2)	3.295(4)	110.7(2)	1.622(2)
75.1(1.5)	5.298(3)	6.239(3)	3.269(3)	108.1(2)	1.620(2)
93(3)	5.246(3)	6.194(3)	3.228(3)	104.9(2)	1.625(2)
105(3)	5.215(3)	6.167(4)	3.211(4)	103.3(2)	1.624(2)
120(2)	5.128(4)	6.108(3)	3.183(3)	99.7(2)	1.611(2)
129(2)	5.107(3)	6.084(3)	3.163(3)	98.3(1)	1.615(2)
135(2)	5.085(4)	6.061(4)	3.155(4)	97.2(2)	1.612(2)
140(2)	5.083(2)	6.046(2)	3.152(4)	96.9(1)	1.613(2)

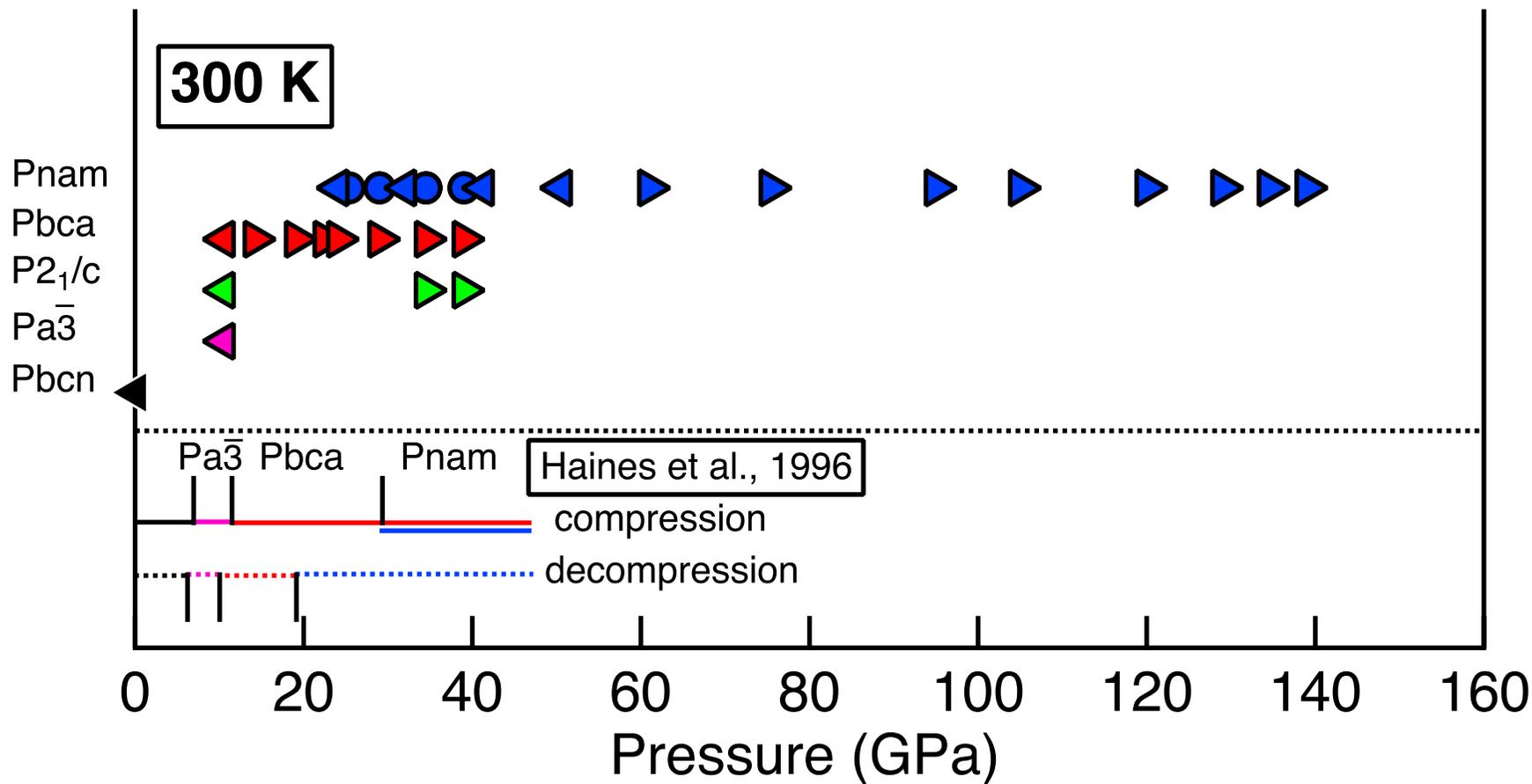
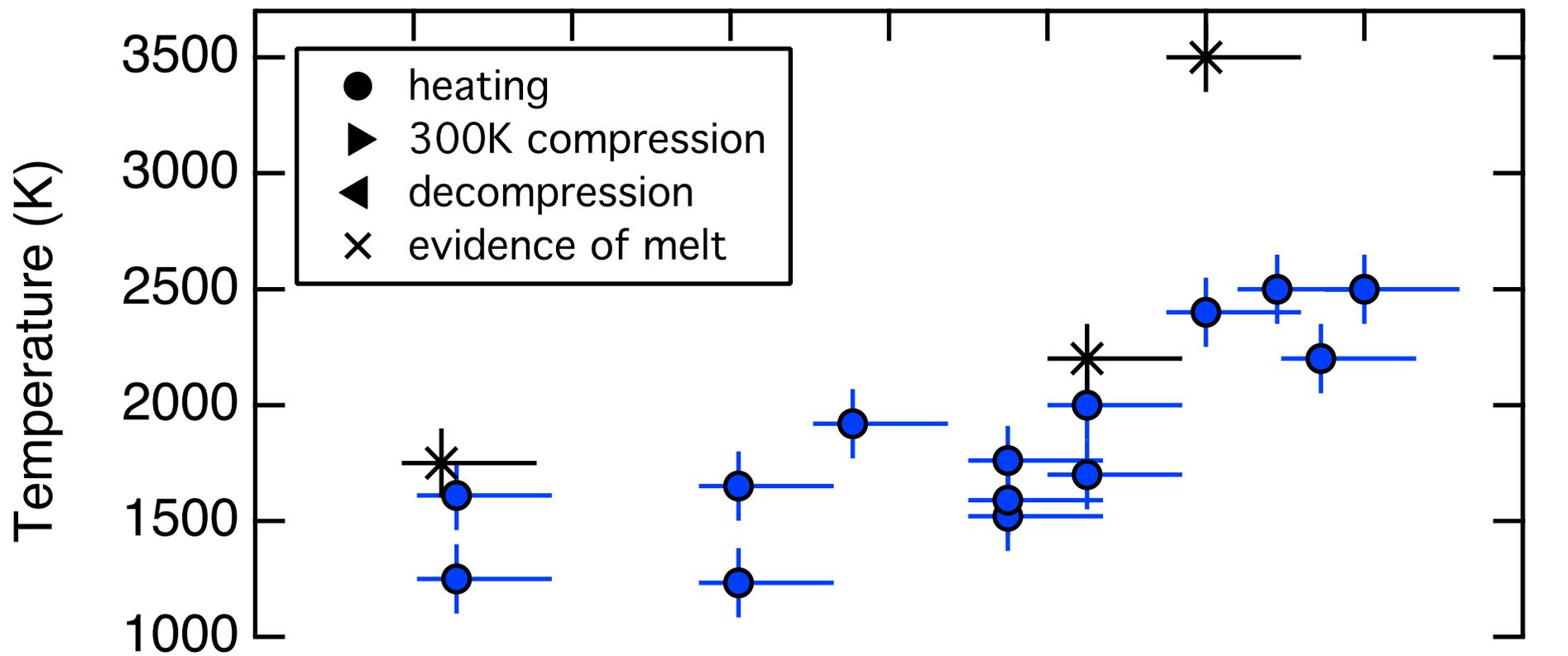
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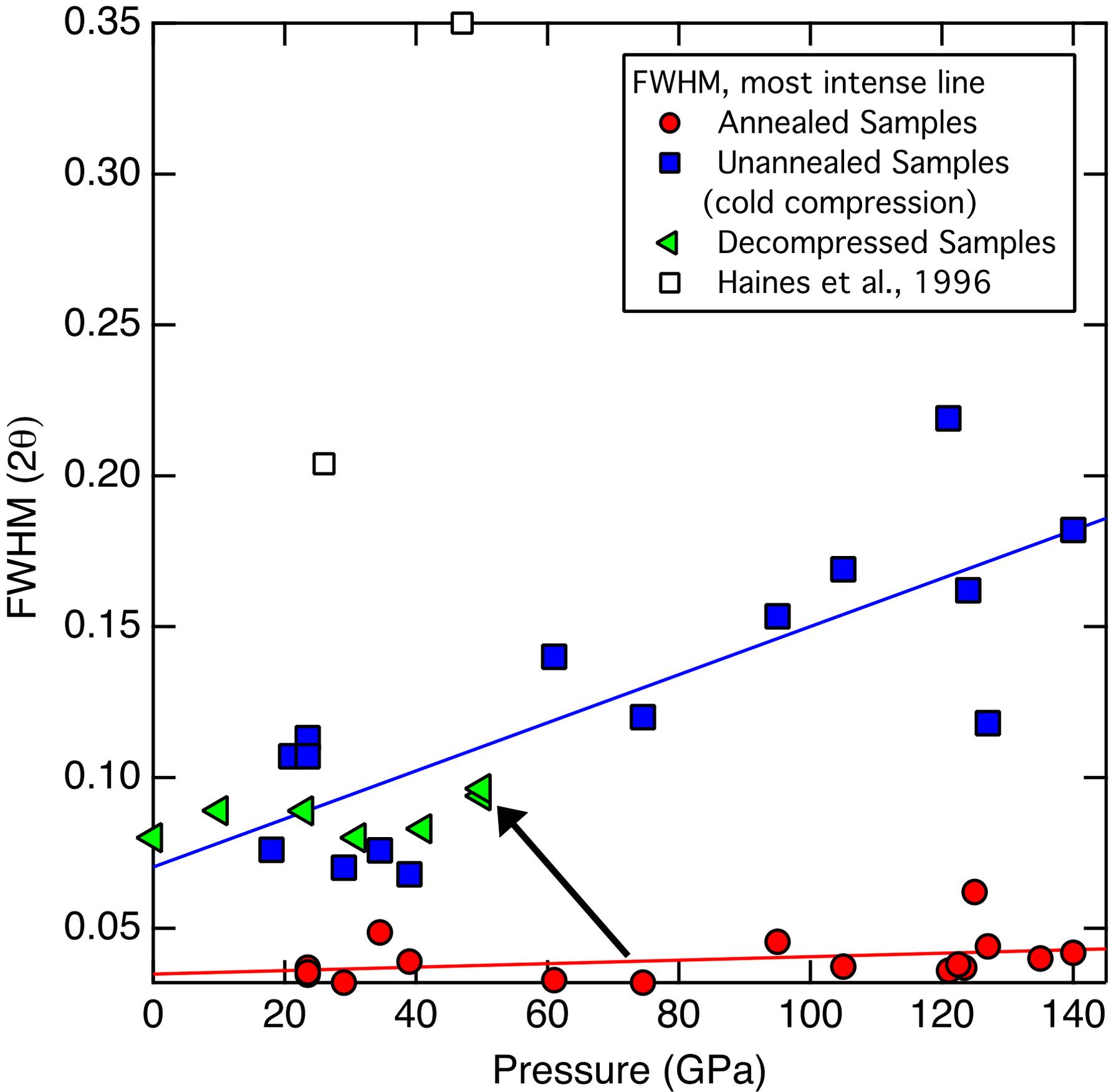
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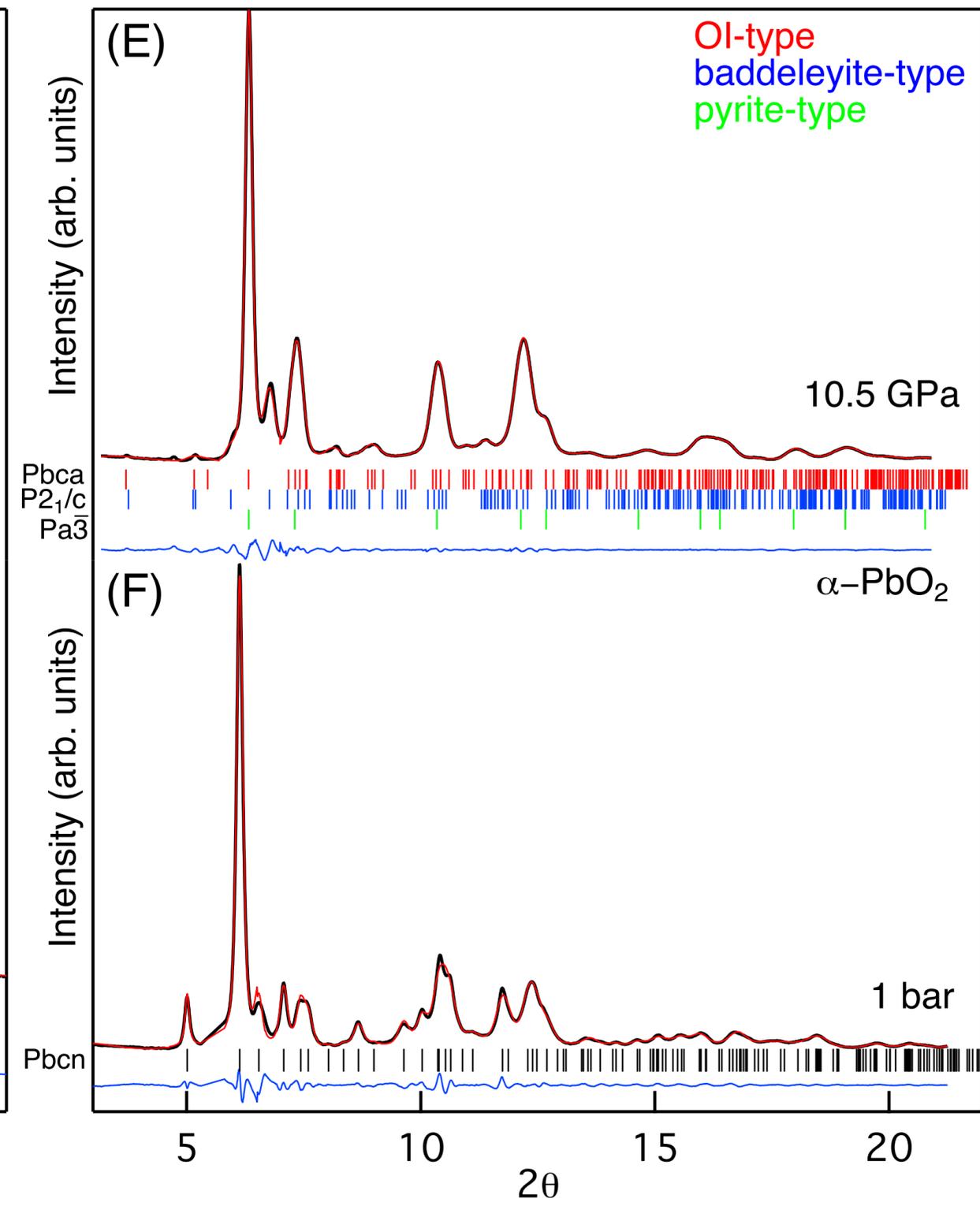
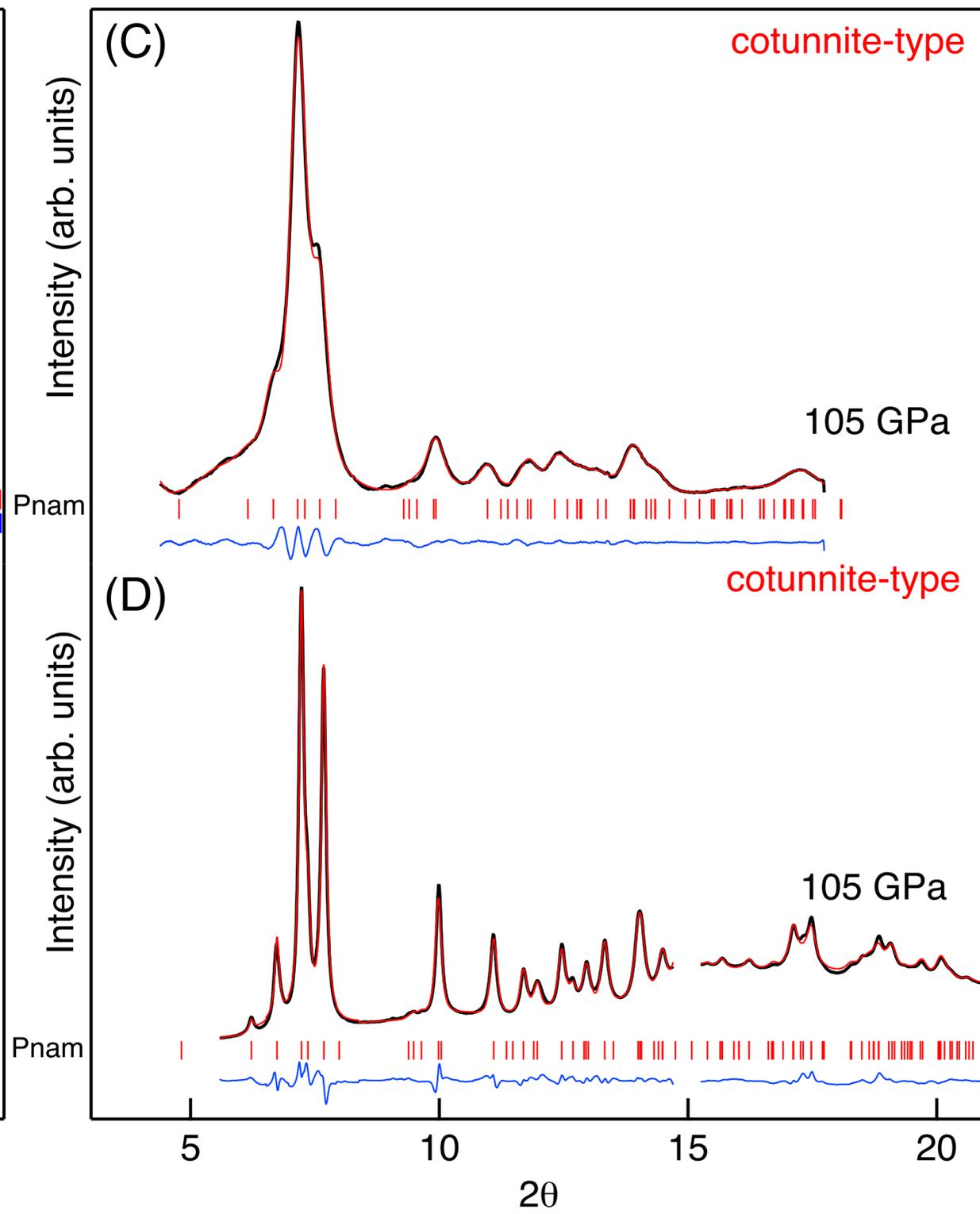
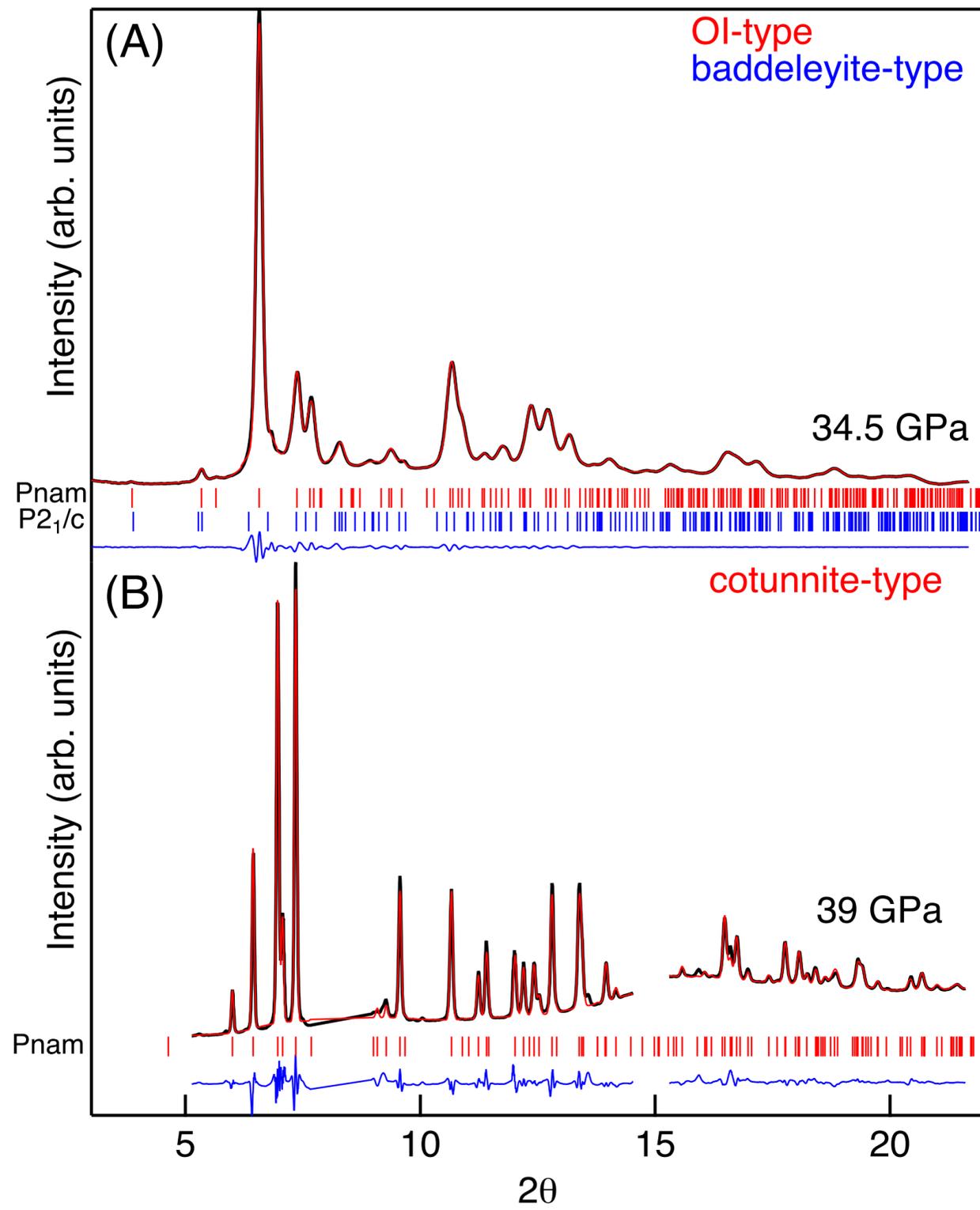
467 Table 3: Unit-cell parameters and elastic parameters for OI and cotunnite-type phase for PbO<sub>2</sub>,  
 468 with  $K'_0$  fixed at 4. Linear bulk moduli of the unit-cell axes were computed with the method of  
 469 Xia1998.

	$a_0$ (Å)	$K_{0a}$ (GPa)	$b_0$ (Å)	$K_{0b}$ (GPa)	$c_0$ (Å)	$K_{0c}$ (GPa)	$V_0$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	$K_0$ (GPa)
OI								
This study	10.749(40)	82(7)	5.380(10)	286(33)	5.477(30)	77(6)	313.8(1.9)	122(7)
Haines (1996)	—	—	—	—	—	—	304.0	180(7)
Cotunnite-type								
This study	5.663(4)	227(1)	6.670(4)	259(4)	3.563(3)	174(1)	134.4(3)	219(3)
Haines (1996)	—	—	—	—	—	—	135.38	221(21)

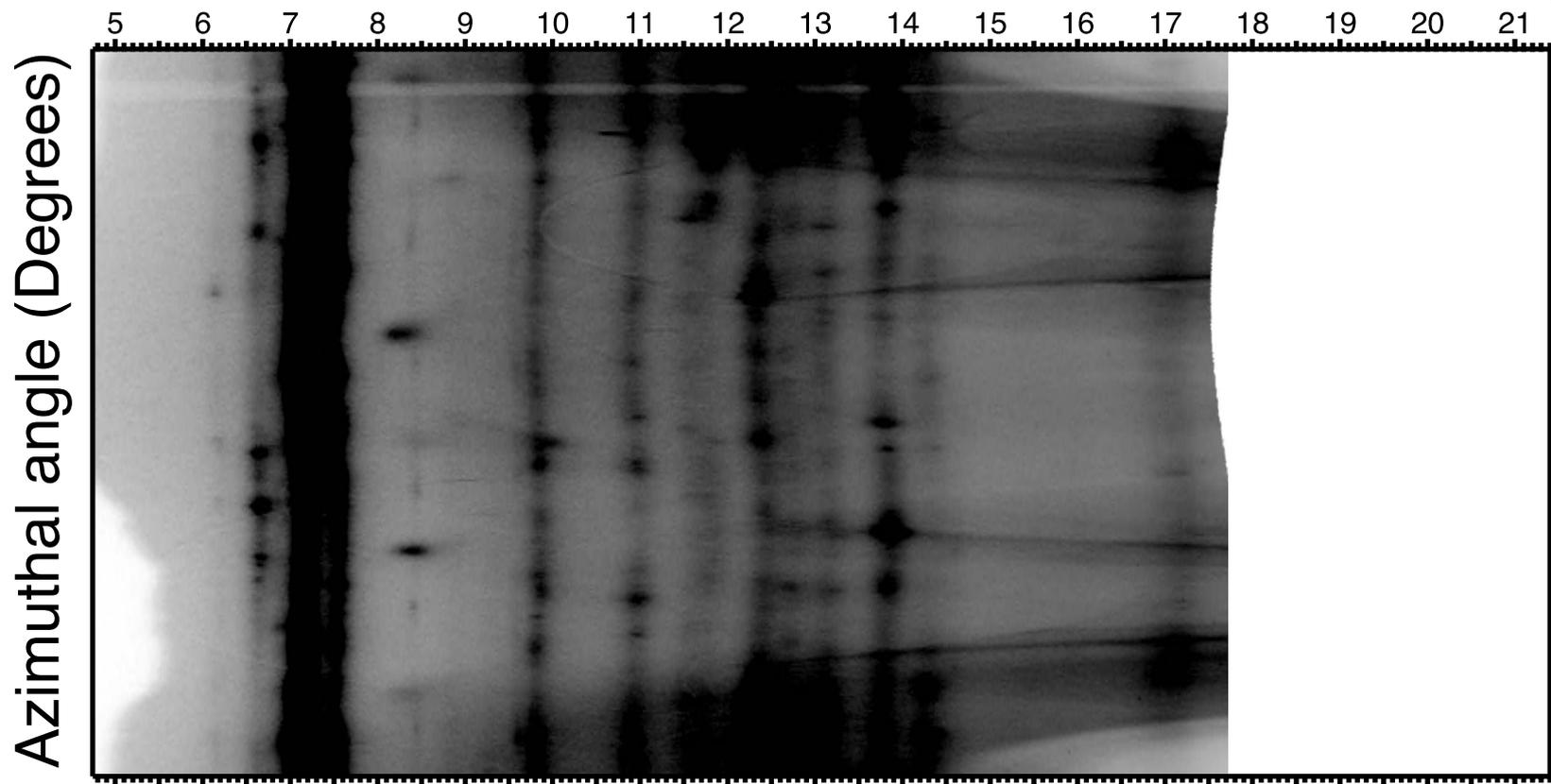
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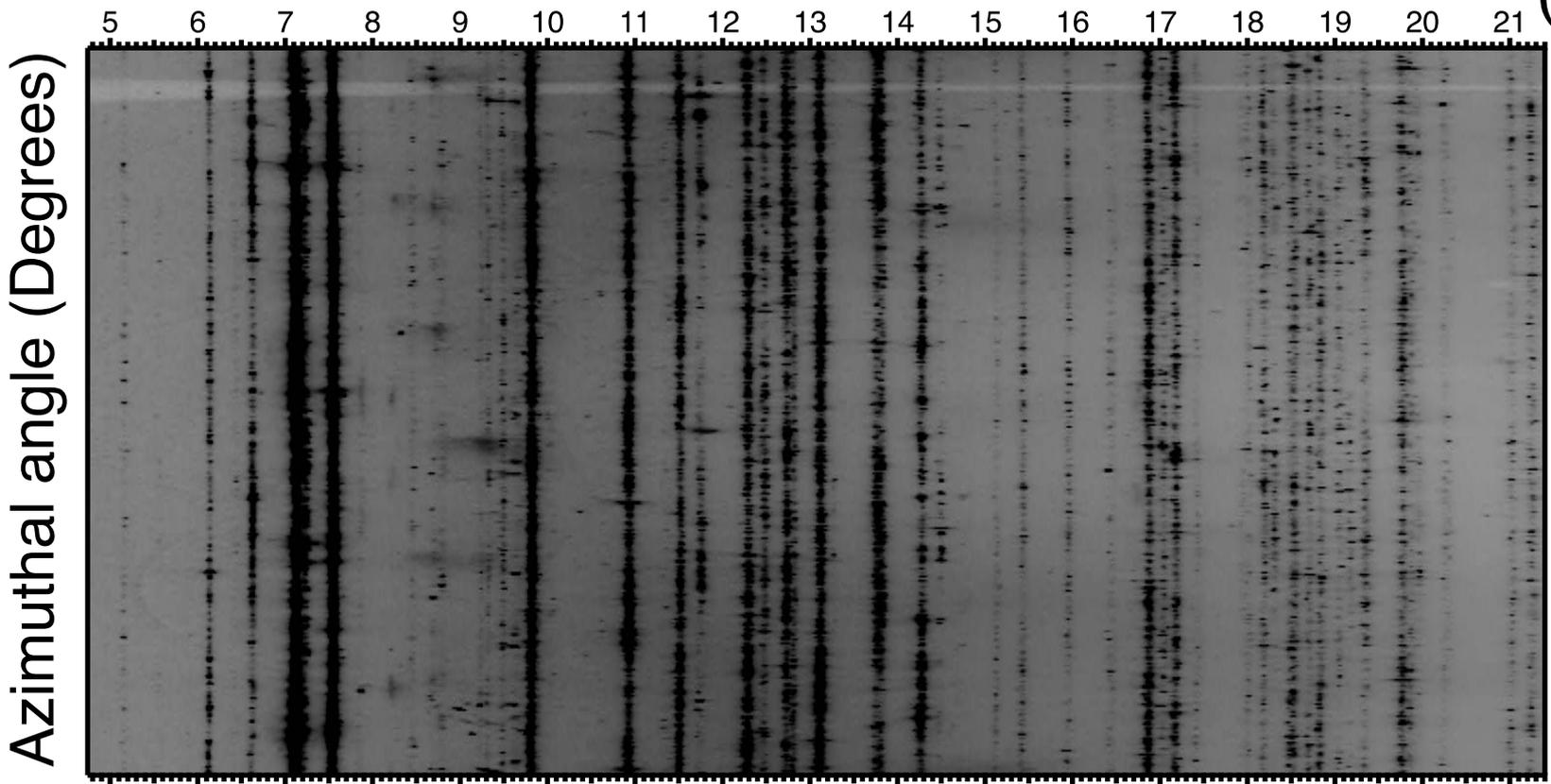




(A)



(B)



(C)

