

## Revision 1

# Elasticity and Phase Transformation at High Pressure in Coesite from Experiments and First-Principles Calculations

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### Abstract

The crystal structure and equation of state of coesite (space group  $C2/c$ ) and its high pressure polymorph coesite-II (space group  $P2_1/n$ ) under pressure have been studied using X-ray powder diffraction in a diamond anvil cell (DAC) up to 31 GPa at room temperature and first-principles calculations at 0 K up to 45 GPa. New diffraction peaks appear above 20 GPa, indicating the formation of coesite-II structure. The calculated enthalpies provide theoretical support for the pressure-induced phase transformation from coesite to coesite-II at  $\sim 21.4$  GPa. Compared with coesite, the coesite-II structure is characterized by a ‘doubled’  $b$ -axis and the breakdown of the linear Si1-O1-Si1 angle in coesite into two distinct angles - one is  $\sim 176^\circ$ , close to linear, whereas the other decreases by  $22^\circ$  to  $158^\circ$ . Coesite is very anisotropic with the  $a$ -axis the shortest and twice more compressible than the  $b$ - and  $c$ -axis. By comparison, coesite-II is not so anisotropic with similar compressibilities in its  $a$ -,  $b$ -, and  $c$ -axis. As analyzed by a third-order Eulerian finite strain equation of state, the bulk modulus of coesite at 21.4 GPa is 182.3 GPa, and that of coesite-II is 140.8 GPa, indicating that coesite-II is much more compressible than coesite. The existence of coesite-II in the coldest subduction zone will change the elasticity and anisotropic properties of the subducting materials dramatically.

Key Words: Coesite; phase transition; diamond anvil cell; first-principles calculation

## 26 **Introduction**

27 Coesite is a high pressure polymorph of quartz with the monoclinic structure and space  
28 group  $C2/c$ . It is thermodynamically stable at pressures and temperatures above 2.5 GPa and  
29 500 °C (Akaogi and Navrotsky, 1984; Akaogi et al., 1995). Natural coesite has been discovered  
30 in meteorite craters and metamorphic rocks in subduction or collision zones, and used as a  
31 pressure marker for these events (e.g. Sobolev et al., 2000). The mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB)  
32 is believed to contain an appreciable amount of  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Ricard et al., 2005; Irifune and Tsuchiya,  
33 2007; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2012), and it has been proposed as a main candidate to  
34 explain the seismic observed X-discontinuity in the depth range 250-350 km (Chen et al., 2015;  
35 Williams and Revenaugh, 2005; Schmerr et al., 2013). Given the importance in these geological  
36 processes, it is of particular significance to understand the thermodynamics and elastic properties  
37 of coesite under pressure and/or temperature conditions.

38 Crystal structure studies show that coesite is a framework silicate with the Si atom  
39 coordinated with four oxygens (Fig. 1). The  $\text{SiO}_2$  tetrahedra in coesite form four-membered rings  
40 by corner sharing, which then build up the ‘double-crankshaft’ chain running parallel to the  $c$ -  
41 axis of the unit cell. There are eight distinct Si-O bonds, and five distinct Si-O-Si angles in  
42 coesite structure, with a linear Si1-O1-Si1 angle. Static compression studies showed that these  
43 bonds and angles decrease under pressure, with the smaller angles and shorter bonds undergoing  
44 more compression than larger/longer ones, and the Si1-O1-Si1 remains linear due to the  
45 requirement of the symmetry (Levien and Prewitt, 1981). Coesite has 16 units of  $\text{SiO}_2$  in a unit  
46 cell, with almost equal  $a$ - and  $c$ -axis, and  $\beta$  close to  $120^\circ$  at room conditions, which resembles  
47 that of a hexagonal structure.

48           The behavior of SiO<sub>2</sub> under pressure has long been of interest to geoscience and material  
49 science due to its abundance in Earth crust and mantle, and its relative simple chemistry but rich  
50 polymorphism under elevated pressure and/or temperature conditions, which could help to  
51 understand the properties of silicate tetrahedra under pressure. It has been shown that under  
52 pressure, the *a*-axis of coesite is much more compressible than *c*-axis, whose compressibility is  
53 close to that of *b*-axis; and the  $\beta$  angle becomes larger with increasing pressure (Levien and  
54 Prewitt, 1981; Angel et al., 2001), indicating strong anisotropic compression of its structure. The  
55 elastic properties of coesite have been found to be anomalous under pressure by several studies.  
56 For example, Angel et al. (2001) studied the compressional behavior of coesite up to 9.6 GPa  
57 using single crystal X-ray diffraction and reported an unusual positive  $K_{T0}''$  which they attributed  
58 to the unusual compression of the *c*-axis. Our recent study (Chen et al., 2015) showed that the  
59 shear wave velocity of coesite undergoes anomalous softening and decreases with increasing  
60 pressure within 0-12.6 GPa. The anomalous behavior of the shear wave velocity and shear  
61 modulus may be a precursor to the pressure-induced phase transition or amorphization with  
62 further pressure increase (e.g., Karki et al., 1997a, 1997b; Carpenter and Salje, 1998). The  
63 softening in shear wave velocity of coesite is in accordance with a density-functional theory  
64 calculation by Kimizuka et al. (2008), which reported that the shear elastic constant  $C_{44}$  of  
65 coesite decreases with increasing pressure. Moreover, previous Raman spectroscopy (Hemley,  
66 1987) and X-ray diffraction (Hemley et al., 1988) studies all suggest that coesite transforms to a  
67 metastable high pressure phase at 22-25 GPa at room temperature, and then becomes amorphous  
68 at higher pressure between 25-35 GPa. By contrast, a more recent Raman spectroscopy study in  
69 diamond anvil cell up to 51 GPa by Černok et al. (2014a) reported two phase transitions at ~23  
70 GPa and ~35 GPa; however, instead of becoming amorphous, coesite was found to remain as a

71 crystalline phase up to the highest experimental pressure 51 GPa, which is consistent with a more  
72 recent study by Hu et al. (2015) using single-crystal synchrotron X-ray diffraction and first-  
73 principles calculations.

74 However, in spite of these extensive previous experimental and theoretical studies,  
75 additional research on the coesite to coesite-II phase transition is still needed. In this study, we  
76 conducted a high-pressure angle dispersive X-ray diffraction study on powdered coesite sample  
77 in a diamond anvil cell (DAC) up to 31 GPa, and determined the cell parameters and unit cell  
78 volumes under pressure. In addition to these experiments, we performed first-principles  
79 calculations on coesite and its high-pressure polymorphs (stishovite and coesite-II) up to 45 GPa  
80 to investigate their relative stability, compressibilities, as well as structural change pathways  
81 under pressure.

## 82 **Experiments and Theoretical Calculations**

83 The coesite sample (K1005) used in the current experiment was synthesized at 6 GPa  
84 950°C for 2.5 hours in a 1000-ton uniaxial split-cylinder apparatus (USCA-1000) in the High  
85 Pressure Laboratory at Stony Brook University using silicon dioxide powder as the starting  
86 material. The recovered sample was determined to be pure coesite by powder X-ray diffraction.  
87 In-situ high-pressure synchrotron X-ray diffraction experiments starting with this coesite powder  
88 were performed in a diamond anvil cell up to 31 GPa at beamline X17C of National Synchrotron  
89 Light Source (NSLS) in Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). Both of the opposing diamond  
90 anvils used in the current experiments have a culet size of 350  $\mu\text{m}$ . The samples were dried at  
91 373 K for >2 hrs in the oven before loading into the hole drilled in the center of a T301 stainless  
92 steel gasket, which was pre-indented to 70  $\mu\text{m}$  with an initial thickness of 267  $\mu\text{m}$ . The

93 fluorescence of two ruby pieces loaded in the sample chamber along with the coesite sample was  
94 used for pressure measurement (Mao et al., 1986). A mixture of methanol-ethanol with volume  
95 ratio 4:1 was used as the pressure medium, which provides hydrostatic conditions up to ~10 GPa  
96 (Klotz et al., 2009). X-ray diffraction patterns were collected during pressurization with a typical  
97 pressure increment interval of 1-2 GPa and exposure time 1600-1800 s using a Rayonix165 CCD  
98 detector. We integrated the two-dimensional X-ray diffraction images as a function of  $2\theta$  using  
99 software package Fit2D (Hammersley et al., 1996), followed by unit cell parameters refinement  
100 using Le Bail method with the GSAS/EXPGUI program (Toby, 2001; Larson and Von Dreele,  
101 2004).

102 The first-principles calculations using density functional theory (DFT) were performed  
103 within a generalized gradients approximation (GGA) framework of PBE (Perdew et al., 1996)  
104 exchange correlation functions and local density approximation (LDA) of CA-PZ exchange  
105 correlations of Ceperley and Alder (1980) parameterized by Perdew and Zunger (1981) as  
106 implemented in the CASTEP package. All computations were performed using a primitive cell to  
107 obtain equilibrated structures and enthalpies for coesite, stishovite, and coesite-II under pressure  
108 with ultrasoft pseudopotentials of Si ( $R_c=1.8$  a.u.,  $3s^23p^2$ ) and O ( $R_c=1.0$  a.u.,  $2s^22p^4$ ). A  
109 combination of plane wave cut-off energy  $E_{\text{cut}}=800$  eV (1250 eV for LDA calculations) and a  $3\times$   
110  $3\times3$  Monkhorst-Pack k-mesh ( $3\times1\times3$  for coesite-II) was used with convergence criteria of  $1\times10^{-5}$   
111 eV/atom in energy, 0.03 eV/Å in force, and 0.05 GPa in pressure for both coesite and coesite-II  
112 structures. GGA calculations with higher plane wave cut-off energy of  $E_{\text{cut}}=1250$  eV result in  
113 changes of 0.2%-1.6% in lattice parameters ( $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $\beta$ ), while tests with higher k mesh indicate  
114 almost no difference in the resultant enthalpies. Compared with experimental data, the current  
115 GGA (LDA) results overestimate (underestimate) the lattice parameters of coesite by ~1.0%

116 (unit cell volume by 2.2%) because of underbinding (overbinding), zero-point motion and  
117 difference in temperature.

## 118 **Results and discussions**

### 119 **1. Enthalpies of SiO<sub>2</sub> phases**

120 The relative enthalpies of coesite, stishovite and coesite-II from GGA and LDA  
121 calculations are compared in Fig. 1 as a function of pressure. As indicated in Fig. 1, stishovite  
122 has lower enthalpy than coesite above ~8.5 GPa, and the difference grows larger with pressure to  
123 -0.3 eV/atom at 25 GPa. This indicates that, thermodynamically, it is the stable phase, consistent  
124 with that revealed in previous experiments (e.g., Zhang et al., 1996). However, the reconstructive  
125 phase transition from coesite to stishovite at lower temperatures is hindered due to the high  
126 kinetic barrier and the high pressure but low temperature condition, resulting in various  
127 metastable phases (e.g. Hemley, 1987; Černok et al., 2014a, 2014b; Hu et al, 2015). Above 25  
128 GPa from GGA calculations, the coesite-II structure with space group  $P2_1/n$  becomes  
129 thermodynamically more stable than coesite structure as suggested by the relatively low enthalpy,  
130 although the difference, ranging from -0.01 eV/atom at 30 GPa to -0.02 eV/atom at 45 GPa, is  
131 much smaller than that between coesite and stishovite. This provides theoretical support for the  
132 phase transition from  $C2/c$  to  $P2_1/n$  in coesite. Within 0-25 GPa, we note that, although coesite  
133 has been experimentally demonstrated to be more stable than coesite-II, the enthalpies of these  
134 two structures are almost the same in the pressure range 0-25 GPa and the relaxed equilibrium  
135 structure parameters (Table 1) are nearly identical, which in turn may have facilitated the  
136 transition from  $C2/c$  coesite to  $P2_1/n$  coesite-II at higher pressures. The relative enthalpy between  
137 coesite and coesite-II from LDA calculations is similar to that from GGA calculations except that

138 the pressure of the phase transition occurs at lower pressure, which is consistent with previous  
139 finding that the LDA calculations underestimate the transition pressure in comparison with GGA  
140 (e.g. Oganov and Ono, 2004).

141

## 142 **2. Pressure induced phase transition and equation of state**

143 Selected experimental X-ray diffraction patterns at elevated pressures are shown in Fig. 2.  
144 For comparison, the theoretical diffraction patterns for coesite at 25 GPa and for coesite-II at 25  
145 GPa and 30 GPa are also included. As seen in Fig. 2, no pronounced changes in the diffraction  
146 pattern were observed within the pressure range of 0-14 GPa, except for the anisotropic shifts in  
147  $2\theta$  angles displayed by different diffraction peaks due to anisotropic compressions of crystal axes  
148  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  which leads to an increased separation among the peaks grouped around  $2\theta\sim 6.7-7^\circ$  and  
149  $2\theta\sim 7.5-8^\circ$ . At pressures above 14 GPa, the diffraction peaks become broader due to the  
150 solidification of the pressure medium. As a result, unambiguous indexing of individual peaks for  
151 phase identification becomes difficult. We notice that up to 25 GPa, although the theoretical  
152 diffraction patterns for coesite and coesite-II are very similar; the pattern for coesite-II at 30 GPa,  
153 however, clearly shows some characteristic peaks at  $2\theta\sim 8.5^\circ$  not overlapped with those of coesite  
154 which can help diagnose the transition (see theoretical diffraction patterns in Fig. 2). A closer  
155 examination indicates that, as circled in Fig. 2, there are indeed relatively small new peaks  
156 emerging in the experimental diffraction patterns above 20 GPa, which cannot be due to the  
157 coesite, instead, the positions of these new peaks correspond well to the diffraction peaks of (0 3  
158 2) (-2 3 2) (2 2 0) (1 5 -2) [may also contain contributions from weaker (2 5 -1) (1 5 1)] as  
159 indicated by the arrows in the theoretical patterns for coesite-II. Another line of evidence for the

160 formation of coesite-II is that, the main peaks around  $2\theta \sim 7.5\text{-}8^\circ$  shift to slightly higher angles  
161 within 20-25 GPa followed by a visible slope change with increasing pressure; this is consistent  
162 with the current finding that coesite-II has a higher compressibility than coesite (see next section  
163 on compressibility).

164         The unit cell volume (for 16 SiO<sub>2</sub> units) for coesite obtained from the current DAC  
165 experiments, together with those for coesite and coesite-II from the first-principles (GGA)  
166 calculations, are given in Table 1 and plotted in Fig. 3. As stated above and clearly seen in Fig. 2,  
167 due to the effect of the methanol-ethanol pressure medium in the DAC experiments (see also  
168 Klotz et al., 2009), only the data obtained below 14 GPa are of adequate quality for reliable  
169 lattice parameter refinement. For comparison, the results for these two structures from single-  
170 crystal X-ray diffraction studies by Černok et al. (2014b) and Hu et al. (2015) are also plotted.  
171 Since the original results for the unit cell volumes from GGA calculations are systematically  
172 higher than experimental data, a closer comparison is thus accommodated by applying a  
173 correction of -3.6 GPa to the GGA pressures listed in Table 1 by using unit cell volume at zero  
174 pressure as the reference. The unit cell volumes of coesite from our DAC experiment are in  
175 excellent agreement with those from Černok et al. (2014b) as well as those predicted by first-  
176 principles calculations.

177         The volumes of coesite and coesite-II are indistinguishable at pressures below 20 GPa;  
178 with further increase in pressure, the volume of coesite-II becomes smaller than that of coesite  
179 and the difference increase from 1.1% at 21.4 GPa to 2.0% at 26.4 GPa. For coesite-II, available  
180 experimental data are limited to two data points in each of the two recent studies by Černok et al.  
181 (2014b) and Hu et al. (2015) at pressures below 35 GPa, and the equation of state of coesite-II  
182 has not been evaluated in these previous studies. A comparison between the current DFT results



183 and those from Černok et al. (2014b) and Hu et al. (2015) reveals that the predicted values are in  
184 complete agreement with those from experiments below 35 GPa, above which the coesite-II  
185 structures were found to transform to a new structure as characterized by an accelerated decrease  
186 in the unit cell volume (for 16 SiO<sub>2</sub> units) in comparison with the predicted values from the first  
187 principles. According to Hu et al. (2015), this feature marks the transformation pathway from 4-  
188 to 5- to 6- coordination silicon during the transformation to the monoclinic post stishovite  
189 structure.

190 The current *P-V* data from DAC experiments were fitted using a weighted third-order  
191 Eulerian finite strain [hereafter referred to as Birch-Murnaghan] equation of state (Davies and  
192 Dziewonski, 1975) with the volume ( $V_0$ ), bulk moduli ( $K_0$ ) and its pressure derivative ( $K_0'$ ) at  
193 room condition as free parameters. The results are  $V_0 = 547.1 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $K_0 = 106.2 \text{ GPa}$  and  $K_0' = 2.1$   
194 (Table 2). The data from GGA calculations were fitted to third-order Eulerian finite strain  
195 equations (Birch, 1978):

$$E(V) = E_0 + \frac{9V_0K_0}{16} \left\{ \left[ \left( \frac{V_0}{V} \right)^{2/3} - 1 \right]^3 K_0' + \left[ \left( \frac{V_0}{V} \right)^{2/3} - 1 \right]^2 \left[ 6 - 4 \left( \frac{V_0}{V} \right)^{2/3} \right] \right\}$$

196 , yielding  $K_0 = 92.8 \text{ GPa}$  and  $K_0' = 3.6$  for coesite. With a pressure correction of -3.6 GPa, the  
197 GGA results for coesite show good agreement with the data from experimental studies (see Fig.  
198 3) and can be prescribed by an equation of state with  $V_0 = 546.2 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $K_0 = 96.2 \text{ GPa}$  and  $K_0' = 4.3$   
199 (Table 2). And those for coesite-II at 21.4 GPa are  $K_{21.4\text{GPa}} = 140.8 \text{ GPa}$ ,  $K_{21.4\text{GPa}}' = 3.6$  by fitting  
200 the data above 21.4 GPa to avoid influence of the different trend at low pressures. The unit cell  
201 volumes of coesite from the current experiments ( $547.1 \text{ \AA}^3$ ) and DFT calculations ( $546.2 \text{ \AA}^3$ )  
202 compare well with the values of  $546.80 \text{ \AA}^3$  (Angel et al., 2001) and  $546.46 \text{ \AA}^3$  (Levien and

203 Prewitt, 1981) from single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies. Note that the  $K_0$  from the current  
204 DFT calculations using equation of state approach is in excellent agreement with that obtained  
205 from single crystal elastic constants calculated by Kimizuka et al. (2008). The discrepancies in  
206  $K_0$  and  $K_0'$  between experiment and DFT calculations may result from the different pressure  
207 range as well as the well-known trade-off between  $K_T$  and  $K_T'$  in equation-of-state fit. It is worth  
208 noting that, according to Angel et al. (2001), the bulk modulus of coesite has a positive second  
209 order pressure derivative, thus, a higher  $K_0'$  is expected when fitting data from a wider pressure  
210 range using the same third order Birch-Murnaghan equation.

211 To compare with coesite-II at high pressures, we also calculated the bulk modulus at 21.4  
212 GPa using the 3<sup>rd</sup> order Birch-Murnaghan equation (Birch, 1978)  $K = (1 + 2f)^{5/2} K_0 \left[ 1 + \right.$   
213  $\left. 3K_0' - 5f - 272(4 - K_0')f^2, f = 12V_0V^2/3 - 1 \right]$ , resulting in  $K_{21.4GPa} = 182.3$  GPa for coesite. This  
214 value is much larger than that of coesite-II ( $K_{21.4GPa} = 140.8$  GPa), indicating that coesite-II is  
215 23% more compressible than coesite. This observation provides strong support for the  
216 interpretation of the evolution of the X-ray diffraction patterns (Fig. 2) that the diffraction peaks  
217 shift to higher angles more rapidly after the phase transformation to coesite-II.

### 218 3. Crystal structure of coesite and coesite-II

219 Unit cell parameters of coesite and coesite-II from DFT calculations (Table 1) were fitted  
220 to a Birch-Murnaghan equation of state, and the axial bulk modulus of the two phases were  
221 obtained (Table 3). The  $K_a$ ,  $K_b$ , and  $K_c$  from our DFT calculations are in good agreement with  
222 those of Černok et al. (2014b) with the largest difference (~9%) in  $K_a$ . And the  $K_c$  from our DAC  
223 experiments is lower than the other two results, which is probably caused by the different  
224 pressure range, as well as the trade-off in the equation of state fitting. The resultant axial

225 compressibilities for coesite at room pressure are  $4.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$ ,  $2.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$ , and  $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$   
226  $\text{GPa}^{-1}$  for *a*-, *b*-, and *c*-axis, respectively from our DFT calculations, indicating strong anisotropy  
227 of its compression behavior with the *a*-axis about 96% and 137% more compressible than *b*- and  
228 *c*-axis, respectively. By comparison, those for coesite-II at 21.4 GPa are  $2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$ ,  $2.6 \times 10^{-3}$   
229  $\text{GPa}^{-1}$ , and  $2.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$  for *a*-, *b*-, and *c*-axis respectively. The compressibilities of the three  
230 axes are much closer in coesite-II, indicating that the compression in coesite-II structure is much  
231 less anisotropic at high pressure than coesite.

232         Despite the discrepancies in the axial compressibilities in Table 3, the evolution of the  
233 unit-cell parameters as a function of pressure for coesite and coesite-II from the current study are  
234 in good agreement with those from Černok et al. (2014b) (Fig. 4). Within  $\sim 21.4$ - $26.4$  GPa, the *b*-  
235 and *c*-axis undergo sharper decreases because of the phase transition, ranging from 0.9% at 21.4  
236 GPa to 1.5% at 26.4 GPa for *b*-axis, and from 0.5% to 0.8% for *c*-axis; in contrast, the *a*-axis  
237 exhibits a negligibly small increase (Fig. 4). During compression, the  $\beta$  angle for coesite  
238 increases continuously up to the transition pressure at  $\sim 21.4$  GPa for coesite, after which the  $\beta$   
239 angle in coesite-II structure starts to decrease. On the other hand, the only two experimental data  
240 points at  $\sim 27$  and 31 GPa from Černok et al. (2014b) seem to suggest an increase of the  $\beta$  angle.  
241 This discrepancy in  $\beta$  angle cannot be reconciled and more experimental data are still needed.

242         Based on the current DFT calculations, a detailed analysis was performed on the  
243 evolution of Si-O bond length and Si-O-Si angle under pressure. The results for the eight distinct  
244 Si-O bonds of coesite are shown in Fig. 5(a) (See also Supplement 1), together with the four Si-  
245 O bonds of coesite-II evolved from the shortest Si1-O1 in coesite. As seen in Fig. 5 for coesite,  
246 the shorter Si-O bonds are more compressible as evidenced by the steep slopes as a function of  
247 pressure, with the shortest Si1-O1 undergoing 8.5% shortening at 21.4 GPa. This result is

248 consistent with those reported in previous experimental (Černok et al., 2014b; Angel et al., 2003)  
249 and theoretical (Gibbs et al., 2000) studies. As a consequence, the Si1 tetrahedron is more  
250 compressible than Si2 tetrahedron, rendering a volume reduction of 7.3% and 5.8% at 21.4 GPa  
251 for Si1 and Si2 tetrahedron respectively. The Si1-O1 then evolves into four distinct lengths in  
252 coesite-II, with two of them following the trend in coesite and the other two showing 1.3%  
253 increase. Another characteristic feature of this transformation is that, the linear Si1-O1-Si1 angle,  
254 which is constrained to be 180° in coesite due to symmetry requirement, breaks down at ~21.4  
255 GPa, resulting in two independent angles (Si2-O15-Si3 and Si5-O4-Si7) in coesite-II. One of the  
256 Si1-O1-Si1 evolved angles (Si2-O15-Si3) decreases by 22° to 158°, while the other (Si5-O4-Si7)  
257 is ~176°, close to linear (Fig. 5b, Fig. 6). With further increase in pressure, the Si2-O15-Si3 in  
258 coesite-II undergoes a monotonic decrease while the Si5-O4-Si7 angle experiences relatively  
259 small change and remains close to linear. The distortion of the linear Si1-O1-Si1 angle results in  
260 the loss of mirror planes during the phase transition from coesite to coesite-II. Besides the  
261 changes in the angles and bonds related to the O1 atom in coesite, the Si1-O4-Si2 in coesite also  
262 undergoes considerable change and evolves into four angles in coesite-II, with two of them close  
263 to the original Si1-O4-Si2 (~146°), one increases to 164°, and the other decreases to 136°. These  
264 analyses shed insights into the atomistic pathways for the formation of coesite-II from a *b*-axis  
265 doubled coesite structure.

## 266 **Implications**

267 By analyzing the X-ray diffraction patterns from diamond anvil cell experiments on  
268 powdered coesite sample, combined with DFT calculations on coesite and its high pressure  
269 polymorphs coesite-II and stishovite, we studied the pressure-induced phase transformation from  
270 coesite to coesite-II and the elasticity of these two structures to garner better understanding on

271 their behavior under mantle pressures. The current data for coesite and coesite-II are in good  
272 agreement with those from previous studies (e.g. Černok et al., 2014b; Hu et al., 2015), that  
273 coesite-II is deemed a product in the transformation pathway from 4- to 5- to 6- coordinated  
274 structure of SiO<sub>2</sub>. The bulk modulus of coesite and coesite-II are determined from DFT  
275 calculations, yielding  $K_{21.4GPa}=182.3\text{GPa}$  for coesite and  $K_{21.4GPa}=140.8\text{GPa}$  for coesite-II. This  
276 indicates that under mantle pressures coesite-II is much more compressible than coesite and a  
277 decrease of the bulk sound velocity by ~12% is expected across the transition.

278 As of today, the structural change from coesite to coesite-II has only been observed at  
279 high pressure and room temperature conditions. It remains to be further investigated as to what  
280 temperature this structure transformation can persist at mantle pressures. For instance, a recently  
281 discovered new metastable phase of orthopyroxene has been found to exist at temperatures least  
282 up to 673 K (Zhang et al., 2014). Similarly, if coesite-II can exist at moderately low temperatures,  
283 then coesite-II might be considered as a metastable phase in cold subduction zones; the phase  
284 transition will change the elasticity as well as anisotropic properties of the subducted oceanic  
285 crust due to the dramatically different compressional behavior between coesite and coesite-II as  
286 well as the appreciable amount of SiO<sub>2</sub> in the MORB (Ricard et al., 2005; Irifune and Tsuchiya,  
287 2007; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2012). Considering ~14% of SiO<sub>2</sub> in the MORB  
288 mineralogy as suggested in Ricard et al. (2005), it will cause ~1.7% of bulk sound velocity  
289 change across the phase transformation from coesite to coesite-II, which should be detectable by  
290 seismic studies. The velocity decrease is even more significant when subducted sediments, which  
291 can contain up to ~20 wt% of SiO<sub>2</sub> (Ono 1998; 2007), are taken into account. Thus, the phase  
292 transformation between coesite and coesite-II may offer a new possibility for the interpretation  
293 of seismic low velocity observed at deep depths in cold subduction zones.

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384

385 **Figure and Table Captions:**

386 Fig. 1. Comparison of the relative enthalpy per atom between coesite and coesite-II, stishovite.

387 Fig. 2. Selected X-ray diffraction patterns of coesite. The experimental patterns are aligned with  
388 the gap proportional to the pressure difference. A group of peaks from coesite-II are  
389 enlarged in the upper right figure. Besides the peaks from coesite, the bcc-Fe (110) as



390 well as the hcp-Fe (101) (002) (011) are also observed in the experiment. Black dashed  
391 lines show the shift of the peaks grouped around  $2\theta \sim 7.5\text{-}8^\circ$  with pressure.

392 Fig. 3. Comparison of unit cell volumes of coesite and coesite-II ( $V/2$ ) as a function of pressure.  
393 Results from GGA calculations were adjusted by applying a correction of -3.6 GPa to  
394 pressures. The refined results obtained from this study for coesite are consistent with  
395 single crystal studies by Angel et al. (2001), as well as by Levien and Prewitt (1981) [not  
396 plotted in Fig. 3 for clarity].

397 Fig. 4. Compressibility of unit cell parameters. Results from the current GGA calculations were  
398 applied a correction of -3.6 GPa to pressures.

399 Fig. 5. Compression of (a) Si-O bonds in coesite and the evolution of the shortest Si1-O1 (b) the  
400 five Si-O-Si angles in coesite and the evolution of the linear Si1-O1-Si1 angle above the  
401 phase transition in coesite-II. The current calculations were adjusted by applying a  
402 correction of -3.6 GPa to pressures.

403 Fig 6. Structure of coesite and coesite-II at 21.4 GPa from DFT calculations. A and C:  
404 polyhedral illustration of the silica tetrahedral for coesite and coesite-II at 21.4 GPa  
405 respectively viewed down the  $b$ -axis. B and D: illustration of the Si1-O1-Si1 angle in  
406 coesite and its evolved angles Si5-O4-Si7 and Si2-O15-Si3 in coesite-II viewed down the  
407  $a$ -axis (circled out in A and C).

408 Table 1. Cell parameters and unit cell volumes from diamond anvil cell experiments and DFT  
409 (GGA) calculations

410 Table 2. Comparison of bulk modulus for coesite and coesite-II in this study with previous results

411 Table 3. Axial bulk modulus of coesite and coesite-II

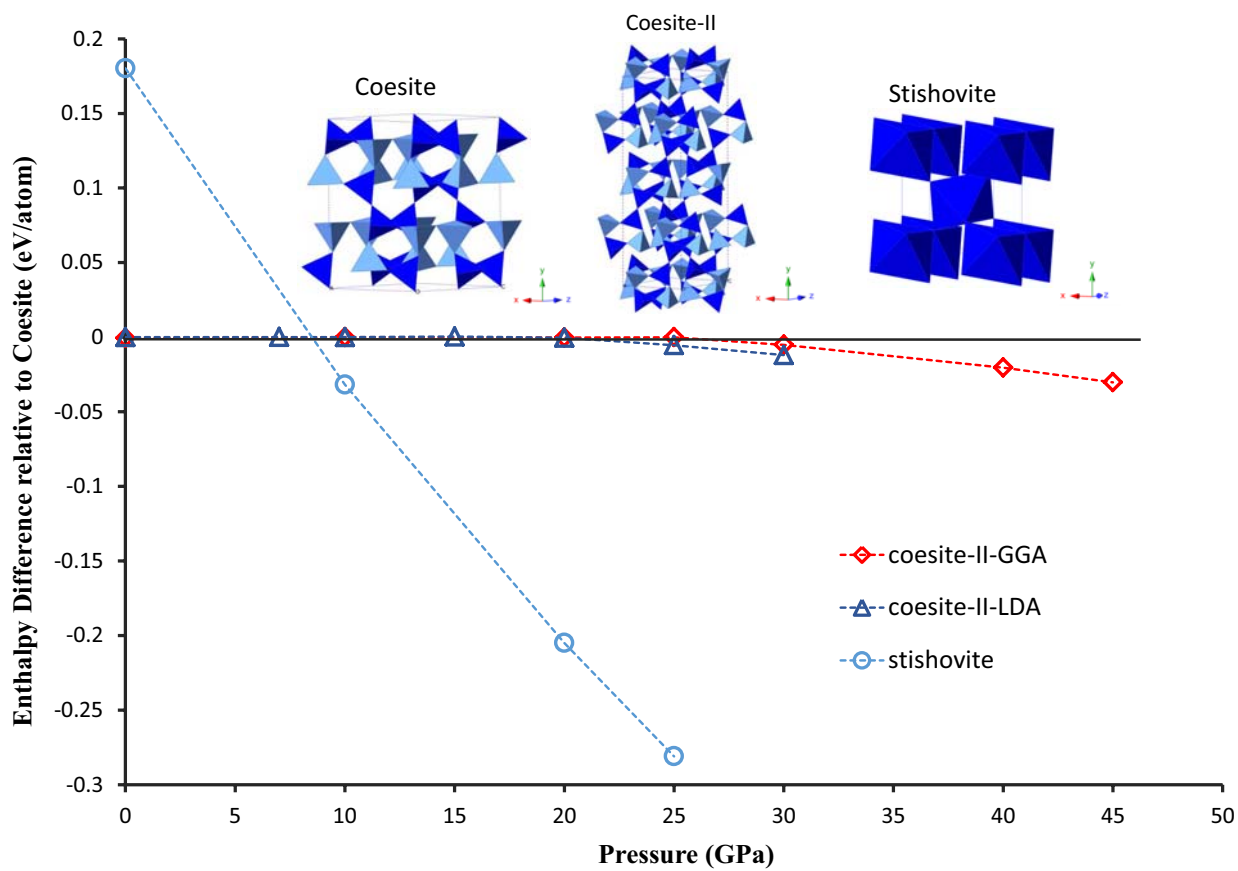


Fig.1

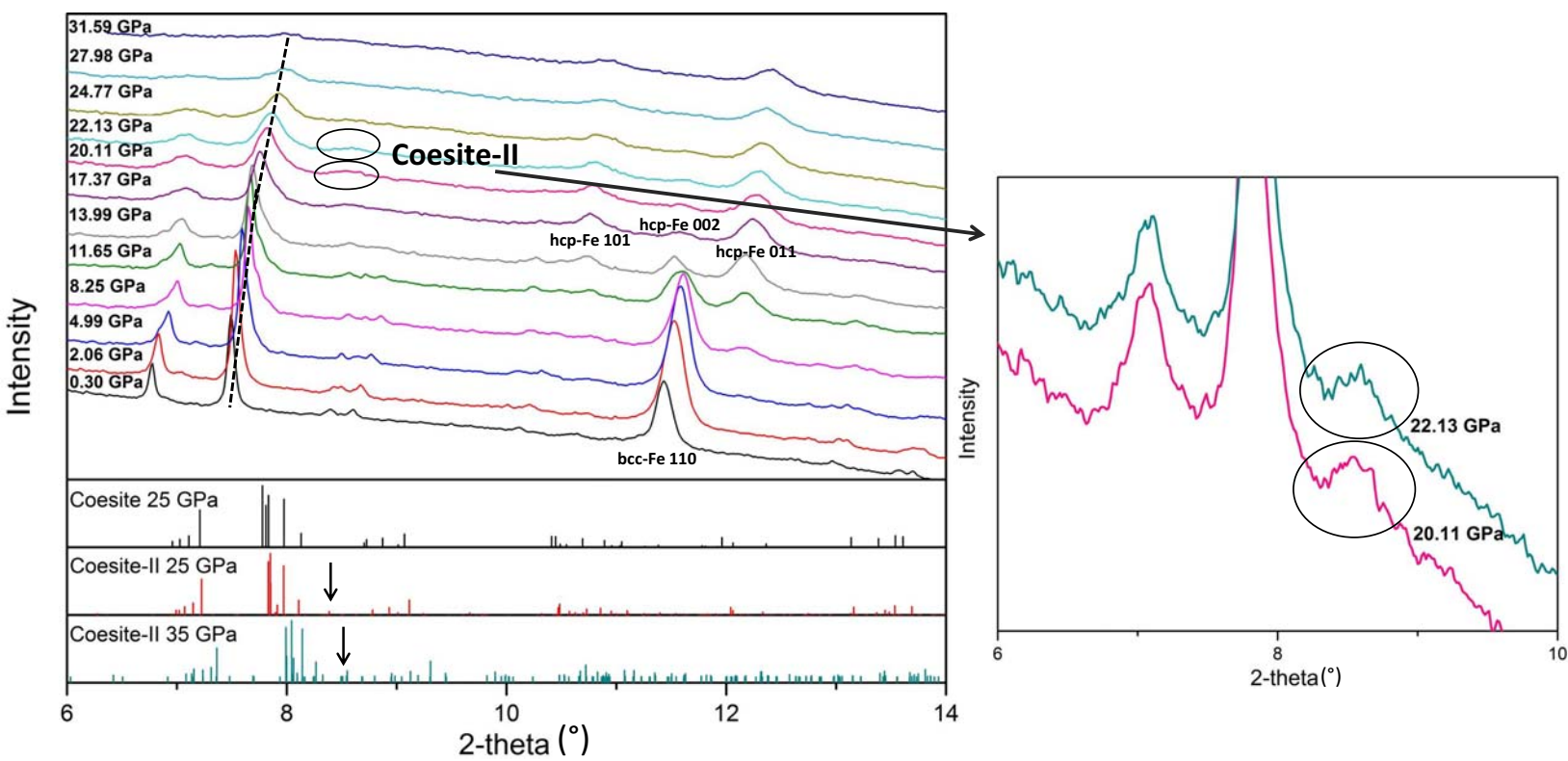


Fig.2

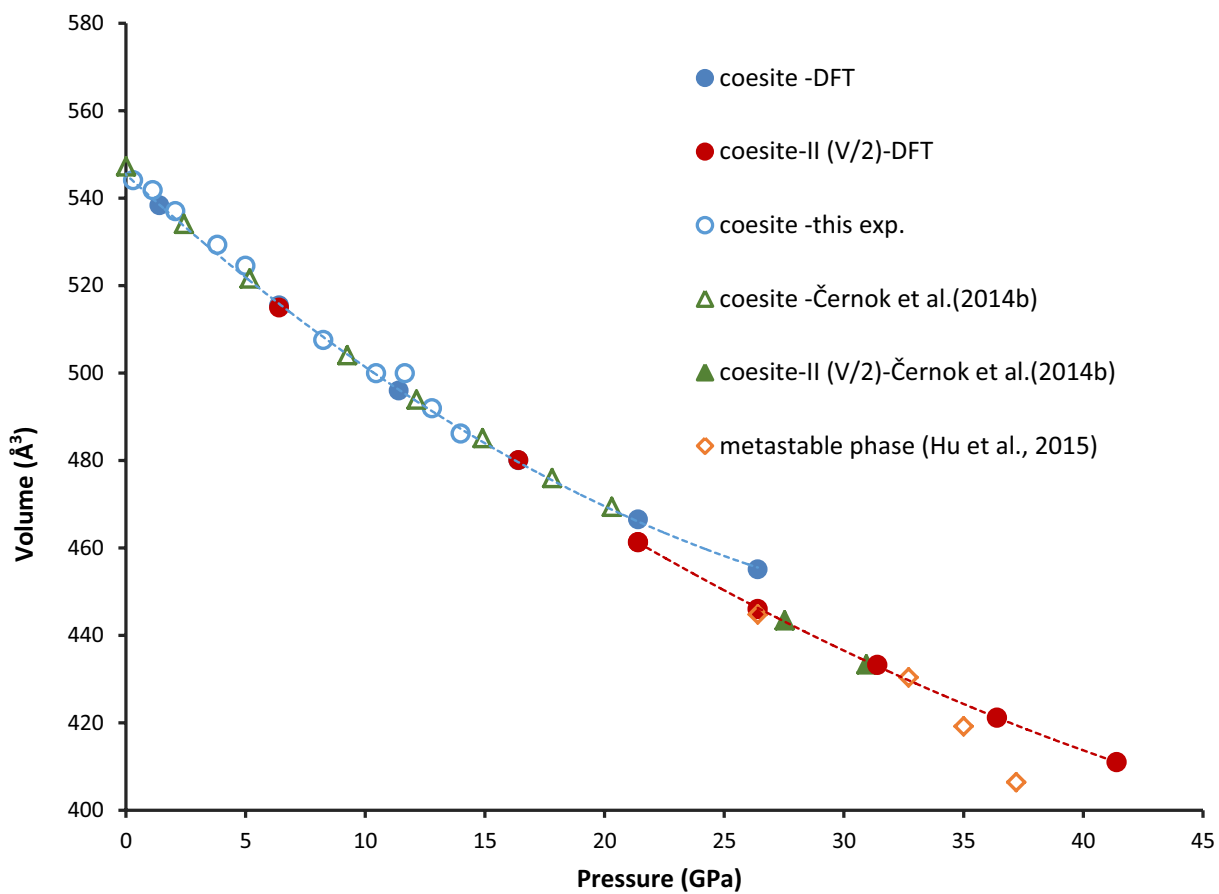


Fig.3

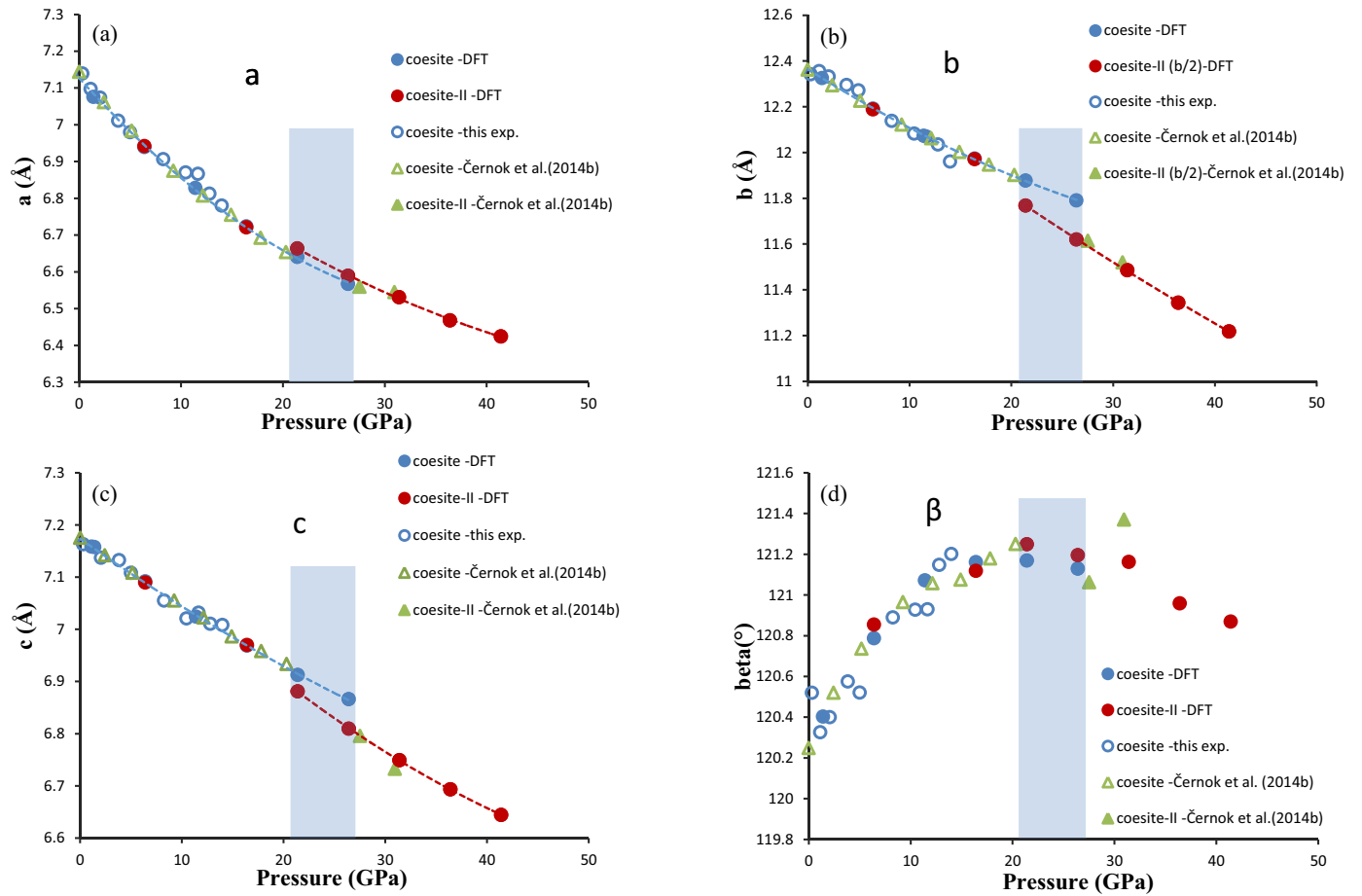


Fig.4

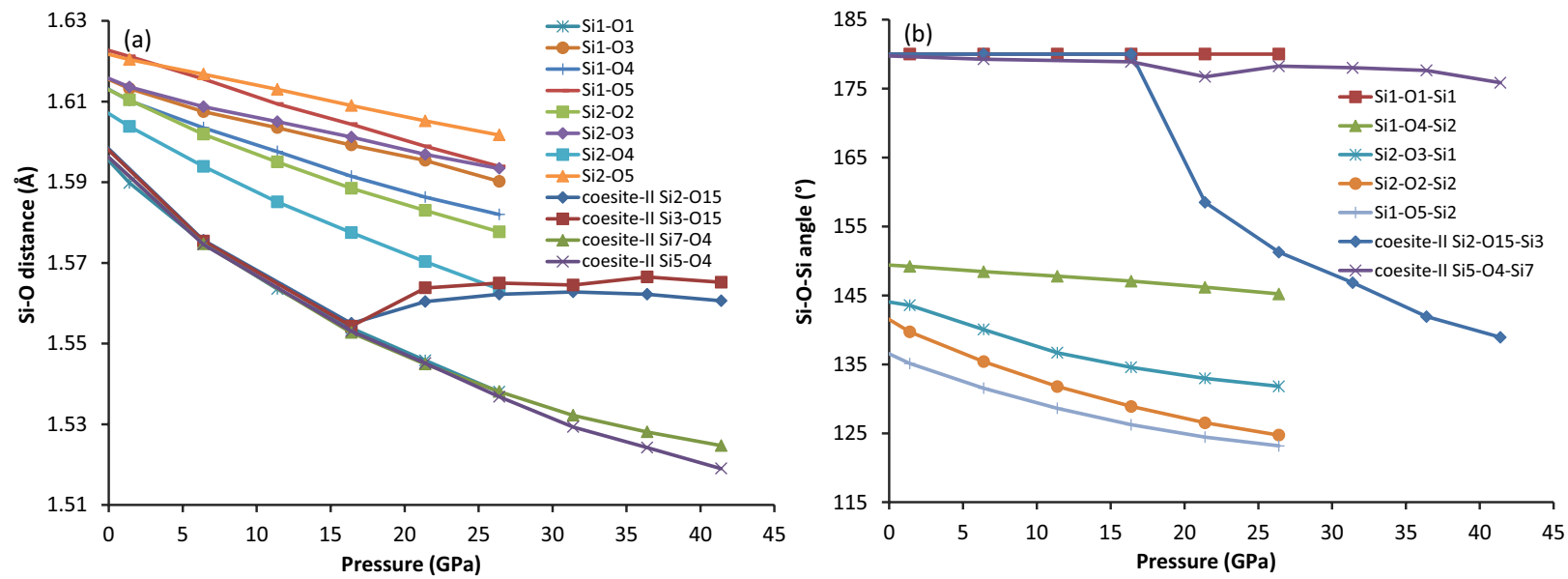
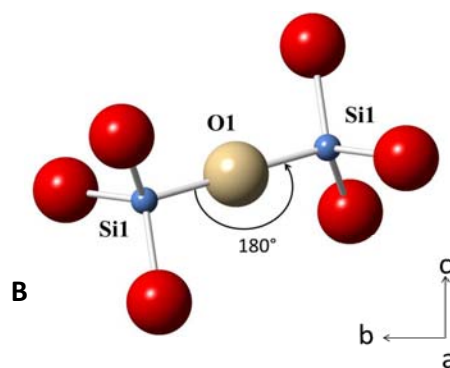
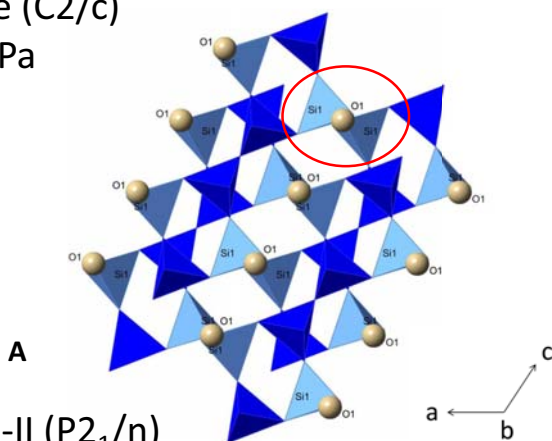
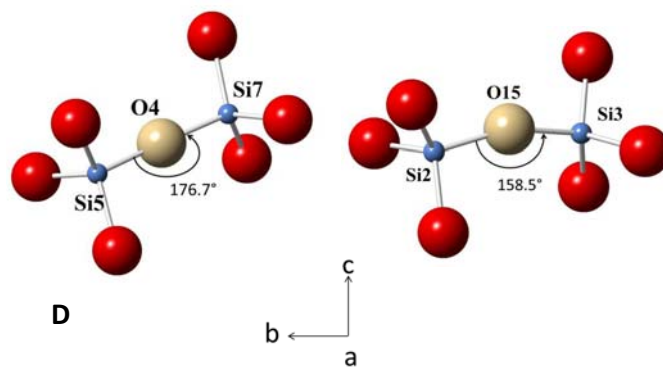
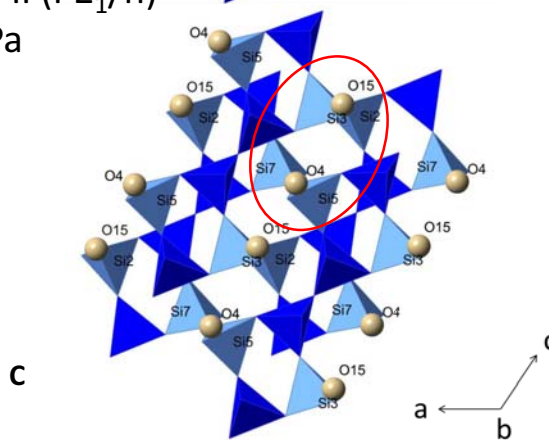


Fig.5

Coesite (C2/c)  
21.4 GPa



Coesite-II (P2<sub>1</sub>/n)  
21.4 GPa



**Fig.6**

Table 1. Cell parameters and unit cell volumes from diamond anvil cell experiments and DFT  
 (GGA) calculations

<i>P</i> (GPa)	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>b</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)	beta(°)	<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )
<i>Coesite -DAC experiments</i>					
0.30	7.139(2)	12.342(1)	7.163(2)	120.52(1)	543.7(1)
1.12	7.097(2)	12.355(8)	7.158(2)	120.33(1)	541.8(3)
2.06	7.074(4)	12.332(8)	7.137(4)	120.40(1)	537.0(8)
3.82	7.011(6)	12.295(8)	7.132(5)	120.58(1)	529.3(9)
4.99	6.980(2)	12.272(2)	7.108(1)	120.52(1)	524.5(1)
8.25	6.906(2)	12.138(4)	7.055(2)	120.89(1)	507.6(0)
10.45	6.870(2)	12.083(7)	7.021(3)	120.93(2)	499.9(1)
11.65	6.866(1)	12.070(3)	7.032(2)	120.93(1)	499.9(0)
12.79	6.812(2)	12.035(6)	7.011(1)	121.15(2)	491.9(2)
13.99	6.780(1)	11.961(3)	7.008(1)	121.20(2)	486.1(1)
<i>Coesite -DFT calculations</i>					
0	7.2493	12.4696	7.2215	120.149	564.49
5	7.0755	12.3251	7.1575	120.403	538.35
10	6.9395	12.1919	7.0919	120.787	515.46
15	6.8280	12.0734	7.0241	121.072	495.96
20	6.7234	11.9735	6.9686	121.161	480.05
25	6.6408	11.8773	6.9126	121.169	466.52
30	6.5670	11.7910	6.8660	121.129	455.09
<i>Coesite-II -DFT calculations</i>					
0	7.2426	24.9784	7.2218	120.006	1131.38
10	6.9421	24.3766	7.0895	120.855	1029.92
20	6.7209	23.9418	6.9699	121.118	960.15
25	6.6637	23.5357	6.8809	121.249	922.60
30	6.5894	23.2399	6.8095	121.195	892.01
35	6.5309	22.9705	6.7492	121.162	866.41
40	6.4679	22.6874	6.6934	120.959	842.26
45	6.4243	22.4358	6.6443	120.869	822.01



Table 2. Comparison of bulk modulus for coesite and coesite-II in this study with previous results

	$K_0$ (GPa)	$K_0'$	Max P (GPa)	Reference
<i>Coesite</i> (C2/c, room P)	96.2	4.3	25(21.4 after correction)	DFT calculations-This study
	106.2	2.1	13.99	DAC experiment-This study
	96	8.4	5.19	Levien and Prewitt (1981)
	100.8	1.8	9.6	Angel et al. (2001)
	114	8 <sup>a</sup>	8.5	Bassett and Barnett (1970)
	126	4 <sup>a</sup>		
	95.9	-	15	<sup>b</sup> Kimizuka et al. (2008)
<i>Coesite-II</i> (P2 <sub>1</sub> /n, 21.4 GPa)	140.8	3.58	45(41.4 after correction)	DFT calculations-This study

<sup>a</sup>assumed, <sup>b</sup>DFT calculations

Table 3. Axial bulk modulus of coesite and coesite-II

	$K_a$ (GPa)	$K_a'$	$K_b$ (GPa)	$K_b'$	$K_c$ (GPa)	$K_c'$	Reference
<i>Coesite</i> (C2/c, room P)	73.2	3.25	142.7	3.74	175.5	1.82	DFT calculations-This study
	76.0	2.99	144.6	0	158.2	4.59	DAC experiment-This study
	66.3*	3.4*	143	3.6	173	2.5	Černok et al. (2014b)
<i>Coesite-II</i> (P2 <sub>1</sub> /n, 21.4 GPa)	138.9	4.77	129.4	1.42	150.6	4.47	DFT calculations-This study

\*calculated using unit cell parameters from Černok et al. (2014b)

$$\text{Axial compressibility} = \frac{1}{3K_x}, x=a, b, c$$