

1 Revision 1

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3 Title: Raman spectroscopy of siderite at high pressure: Evidence for a sharp spin transition.

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17

18 **Abstract**

19 We have measured high-pressure Raman spectra of both siderite single crystalline and

20 polycrystalline powder samples in diamond anvil cell experiments across the pressure induced

21 high spin (HS) to low spin (LS) transition of Fe<sup>2+</sup>. Between 43.3 and 45.5 GPa we observed a

22 color change from transparent to green, which is associated to the spin transition. Furthermore,

23 we calibrated the position of the Raman active  $\nu_1$ -mode with pressure. In a second diamond

24 anvil cell experiment, we observed the color change from transparent to green in the form of a  
25 transition front passing through the single crystal and collected Raman spectra across the  
26 transition front. We were able to constrain the stress variation across this transition front to  
27 about 0.2 GPa, well below the resolution of our Raman-based pressure/stress calibration. In  
28 contrast to the single crystal, the powder sample shows the spin transition over a pressure  
29 range of 5 GPa, which we attribute to intergranular stresses. We conclude that within the  
30 resolution of our stress/pressure calibration the spin transition of iron in single-crystalline  
31 siderite is sharp.

32

### 33 **Introduction**

34 Carbonates are the most frequent carbon carriers in the Earth's mantle. Therefore their  
35 behavior at high pressure promotes our understanding of the processes involved in the deep  
36 carbon cycle. Carbonates have been found as inclusions in diamonds, thus proving their  
37 existence in Earth's mantle (e.g. Kaminsky 2012). Furthermore, the proof from natural  
38 samples is backed by various experimental studies, which show that various carbonates can be  
39 stable under mantle conditions. Examples include Merlini et al. (2012) who studied some of  
40 the polymorphs of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  up to 40 GPa and Isshiki et al. (2004) who showed that magnesite is  
41 stable up to conditions resembling 2600 km depth in the Earth

42 It has been shown that the major lower mantle minerals ferropericlase and bridgmanite  
43 undergo a pressure induced transition of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  from high spin (HS) to low spin (LS) state  
44 (Badro et al. 2003; Lin et al. 2012), which changes the physical and chemical behavior of  
45 these minerals in terms of e.g. sound velocities and thermal conductivities (e.g. Lin et al.  
46 2013).

47 A spin transition at high pressure can also be expected in Fe<sup>2+</sup> bearing carbonates. Therefore,  
48 either the pure endmember siderite (FeCO<sub>3</sub>), or Fe-rich magnesite (MgCO<sub>3</sub>), rhodochrosite  
49 (MnCO<sub>3</sub>), and calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) are the ideal materials to study the fine details of such effect on  
50 carbonates (e.g. Lavina et al. 2010; Liu et al. 2014). In the following paragraphs we refer to  
51 both the siderite endmember and siderite solid solutions as siderite.

52 Siderite crystallizes in the calcite structure at ambient conditions. It has been shown by single  
53 crystal x-ray diffraction (XRD) at high pressure that a sharp and isostructural volume collapse  
54 ranging from 6.5 to 10 % (Lavina et al. 2009, 2010; Nagai et al. 2010; Farfan et al. 2012) takes  
55 place between 40 and 50 GPa depending on the composition of siderite (Tab. 1). The volume  
56 collapse is assigned to the HS to LS electronic transition of the octahedrally coordinated Fe<sup>2+</sup>  
57 in siderite. The phenomenon is also accompanied by a sudden change of color from  
58 transparent to green (e.g. Lobanov et al. 2015). Depending on the experimental methods and  
59 the exact composition of the sample material (Tab. 1), however, a general inconsistency about  
60 the exact pressure and, especially, about the pressure range of the spin transition exists.  
61 Studies that used Raman spectroscopy place the spin transition over a sizeable pressure range  
62 (4 – 7 GPa), where the two configurations are thought coexist as micro-domains (Spivak et al.  
63 2014; Cerantola et al. 2015). On the contrary, single crystal XRD studies observe a sharp spin  
64 transition (1 – 2 GPa).

65 Lavina et al. (2010), who performed single crystal XRD on siderite, observe the coexistence of  
66 HS and LS state within a narrow pressure range, which they interpret as measuring both HS  
67 and LS domains in their sample. A similar behavior was observed in a single-crystal optical  
68 absorption study (Lobanov et al. 2015). In particular, Lobanov et al. (2015) report the  
69 appearance of a green (LS) domain progressively extending to the whole sample at the

70 expense of the original (HS) transparent domain between 44 and 45 GPa and propose that a  
71 stress gradient is responsible for the coexistence of both HS and LS configurations. Domains  
72 of high-pressure phases passing through the low-pressure phase have been previously  
73 observed. For example Arlt & Angel (2000) see the phase transition of spodumene from the  
74  $P2_1/c$  structure to the  $C2/c$  structure in the form of a transient domain progressing through a  
75 single crystal.

76 In order to understand whether the spin transition in siderite is sharp or broad, and in order to  
77 probe its sensitivity against pressure gradients in the sample, we have performed both single-  
78 crystal and powder Raman spectroscopic measurements at high pressures. Our experimental  
79 approach is distinct in that we were able to quantify the stress state across a transition front in  
80 a siderite single crystal by taking advantage of the high spectral and spatial resolution of  
81 micro-Raman technique. This approach gives a superior evaluation of the stress state in the  
82 sample, because ruby and other pressure sensors are always placed away from the sample, thus  
83 not giving direct information about the stress state on the sample. We conclude that the spin  
84 transition takes place in a pressure range less than 1 GPa, comparable with the resolution of  
85 our stress calibration.

86

## 87 **Methods**

88 As a starting material we used both natural and synthetic siderite samples of two  
89 compositions. The natural siderite was chemically homogeneous (Fig. 1) and has the  
90 composition of approximately  $\text{Fe}_{0.89}\text{Mn}_{0.07}\text{Mg}_{0.03}\text{Ca}_{0.01}\text{CO}_3$ , which was determined at GFZ  
91 Potsdam with a Carl Zeiss SMT Ultra 55 Plus scanning electron microscope equipped with a  
92 Tungsten-zircon field-emission filament. The natural siderite single crystal was chosen in

93 order to have a large enough size that can be mapped using Raman spectroscopy. The crystals  
94 of this sample were polished from both sides to a thickness of 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Synthetic  $\text{FeCO}_3$  powder  
95 was synthesized following French (1971) and a film of the material was prepared by squeezing  
96 the powder in a diamond anvil cell without gasket to a thickness of 10 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

97 Two diamond anvil cell experiments were performed. The first experiment was done in a  
98 Boehler-Almax-cell (Boehler, 2006) containing a 30 x 30  $\mu\text{m}^2$  large natural crystal. It was  
99 loaded with Neon at the Goethe University Frankfurt. This experiment will be referred to as  
100 DAC-N. Raman spectra for DAC-N were measured with a HORIBA Jobin Yvon LabRAM  
101 HR800 UV-VIS spectrometer equipped with a 514.5 nm  $\text{Ar}^+$ -laser. The measurements were  
102 performed in the spectral range between 200 and 1250  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and each measurement lasted 30 s  
103 with 10 accumulations.

104 The second experiment was performed in a piston-cylinder Mao-type DAC, containing a 50 x  
105 30  $\mu\text{m}^2$  large natural crystal plus the synthetic siderite film and was cryogenically loaded with  
106 liquid argon. This experiment will be referred to as DAC-A. Raman spectra in experiment  
107 DAC-A were measured with a HORIBA Jobin Yvon LabRAM HR800 VIS spectrometer with  
108 a blue (473 nm) diode pumped solid-state laser. Measurements were done between 200 and  
109 1250  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  or 1000 and 1250  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and lasted for 40 s with 5 accumulations.

110 In both experiments we used a 50x lens. To determine the spatial resolution in the DAC we  
111 measured the amplitude of a Raman active mode with respect to the position in the DAC,  
112 thereby crossing over the edge of the single crystal. The position dependence of the amplitude  
113 can be fitted with a sigmoidal function, whose derivative is a peak-shaped curve (Fig. 2). The  
114 FWHM of this curve is then defined as the spatial resolution of  $9 \pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ .

115 The diamond anvil cells were equipped with either type I (DAC-N) or type II (DAC-A)  
116 diamonds of 300  $\mu\text{m}$  culet and Rhenium gaskets, which were preindented between to a  
117 thickness of 30 to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ . The holes in the gaskets were 130  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. Furthermore,  
118 ruby crystals were loaded in each cell in order to determine the pressure using the ruby  
119 fluorescence method after Mao et al. (1986). In the DAC-A experiment the rubies were nearly  
120 20 to 30  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and thus, in principle, too large for the setup. As a consequence the  
121 rubies bridged the two culets and were stressed and one ruby even crashed during loading. For  
122 pressure determination the smaller fragments were used. Thus, the pressure determined by  
123 ruby was different than the pressure on the samples. Further remarks about the rubies in DAC-  
124 A are found in the discussion. In DAC-N two rubies were loaded with only 5 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$  in  
125 diameter. We used only the smaller ruby for pressure measurement, since it is less susceptible  
126 to stress heterogeneity in the sample chamber. To measure the ruby fluorescence after each  
127 pressure increase we used the Raman system. In experiment DAC-A the measurements were  
128 done several hours after each pressure increase in order to equilibrate the system, whereas in  
129 experiment DAC-N we waited for only 30 to 60 minutes. Klotz et al. (2009) report a standard  
130 deviation for ruby fluorescence measurements in argon as pressure transmitting medium of 1.2  
131 GPa at 40 GPa and 0.3 GPa at 40 GPa for neon as pressure transmitting medium. The  
132 uncertainty of the pressure value for experiment DAC-A is estimated to be  $\pm 2$  GPa.

133

## 134 **Results**

135 At ambient pressure five distinctive peaks are observable in the siderite single crystal  
136 spectrum between 200 and 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 3). These modes are assigned to the lattice modes  
137 libration (L) and translation (T), the internal vibrations of the  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  group ( $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_1$ ) and the

138 combination band of the  $\nu_1$ - and  $\nu_4$ -mode (Rutt and Nicola 1974). A broad band at  
139 approximately 500 to 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is thought to be caused by  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  electronic excitation, and at  
140 1530  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  an unassigned band is observed (Langille and O'Shea 1977). In all spectra of the  
141 siderite film a broad band is visible at around 760-770  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , which comes from the  
142 background.

143 In experiment DAC-N we measured Raman spectra of the sample up to 63 GPa (Fig. 4). Up to  
144 41.7 GPa all modes (L, T,  $\nu_4$  and  $\nu_1$ ) are shifted to higher wavenumbers with increasing  
145 pressure. Between 43.3 and 45.5 GPa we observe a sudden frequency change of all modes as a  
146 consequence of the spin transition. Both of the L and T modes jump to higher  
147 wavenumbers because of the distance reduction between the  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ -groups and the cations  
148 (Dai, Nagai et al. 2010; Farfan et al. 2012; Cerantola et al. 2015). The  $\nu_4$ -mode as well jumps  
149 to higher wavenumbers due to a decrease of the O-O bond lengths (Lavina et al. 2010;  
150 Cerantola et al. 2015). Contrary to the other modes the  $\nu_1$ -mode is shifted to lower  
151 wavenumbers between 43.3 and 45.5 GPa caused by an increase of C-O bond lengths after the  
152 spin transition (Lavina et al. 2010). At 43.3 GPa the  $\nu_1$ -mode shows a small shoulder on the  
153 left side, which is assigned to the first occurring LS state and at 45.5 GPa the  $\nu_1$ -mode shows a  
154 small shoulder on the right side, which is assigned to the last remaining HS state. The color of  
155 the crystal also changes from transparent to green (Fig. 5), which is due to the spin transition.  
156 We do not observe a transition front as in the study by Lobanov et al. (2015) because of a  
157 large pressure step. Fig. 6 shows a linear fit of the  $\nu_1$ -mode in experiment DAC-N. As the  $\nu_1$ -  
158 mode is the most intense mode in the siderite spectrum, this band is the best candidate to  
159 calibrate the peak position against pressure. For the HS-mode the fit function

$$R_{HS} = 2.2 (\pm 0.1) * P + 1091.7 (\pm 3.1)$$

160 and for the LS-mode the fit function

$$R_{LS} = 1.5 (\pm 0.1) * P + 1089.3 (\pm 5.6)$$

161 is obtained with  $R_{HS}$  or  $R_{LS}$  being the Raman shift in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $P$  being the pressure in GPa  
162 under nearly hydrostatic conditions. Cerantola et al. (2015) report slopes of  $2.17 \text{ cm}^{-1}/\text{GPa}$   
163 (HS) and  $1.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}/\text{GPa}$  (LS) and are in fairly good agreement with our slopes of  $2.207 \text{ cm}^{-1}/\text{GPa}$   
164 (HS) and  $1.528 \text{ cm}^{-1}/\text{GPa}$  (LS).

165 In the high-pressure Raman spectra taken on the siderite film (DAC-A), only the  $\nu_1$ -mode  
166 could be followed at all pressures (Fig. 7). At around 42.8 GPa a new peak appears next to the  
167  $\nu_1$ -mode at lower wavenumbers, which increases in intensity with increasing pressure at the  
168 cost of the old  $\nu_1$ -mode. The change of the  $\nu_1$ -mode and the occurrence of a new mode indicate  
169 the spin transition and the two bands are assigned to the HS  $\nu_1$ -mode and the new LS  $\nu_1$ -mode  
170 (Spivak et al. 2014, Cerantola et al. 2015). Furthermore, the spin transition is indicated by the  
171 appearance of two new peaks at 46.4 GPa, which are assigned to the T-mode and the  $\nu_4$ -mode.  
172 Overall the spin transition in the siderite film occurs in a pressure range of 4 to 5 GPa, which  
173 is in accordance to the single crystal results of Cerantola et al. (2015).

174 The single crystal Raman spectra (Fig. 8) taken within the same experiment (DAC-A) show  
175 the L, T and  $\nu_4$ -modes more clearly. With increasing pressure all modes shift continuously to  
176 higher wavenumbers. From 47 to 49.7 GPa a discontinuous jump of the L, T and  $\nu_4$ -modes to  
177 higher wavenumbers is observable. The  $\nu_1$ -mode again jumps to lower wavenumbers (Fig. 8)  
178 and the spectra do not show the HS and LS  $\nu_1$ -mode simultaneously at the same pressure, as it  
179 was observed in the spectra of the siderite film. Again we assign the mode at 47 GPa and 1182



180  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to the HS  $\nu_1$ -mode and that at 49.7 GPa and  $1153 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to the LS  $\nu_1$ -mode. With further  
181 increasing pressure the LS modes shift to higher wavenumbers (Fig. 9).

182 In experiment DAC-A we again observed the color change from transparent (HS) to green  
183 (LS) in the single crystal during compression, but the pressure steps were too large to observe  
184 the transition front. Thus, the sample was slightly decompressed and we managed to obtain the  
185 transition front at 45 GPa (Fig. 10). We then collected Raman spectra across the transition  
186 front. The sample was further decompressed to HS conditions, and carefully compressed  
187 again. We then observed the transition front under compression. This compression and  
188 decompression process was done several times, resulting in an increased pressure range of the  
189 spin transition. We attribute this transition pressure range increase to the fracturing of the  
190 single crystal, thus behaving similar to the siderite film.

191 On the left side of the transition front (Fig. 10), the transparent color was assigned to HS-  
192 siderite and the green color on the right side to the LS-siderite. Eight Raman spectra of the  $\nu_1$ -  
193 mode were taken along the transition front (Fig. 11) and the respective spectra are shown in  
194 (Fig. 12). For convenience, we assumed that the scattering volume at each measurement point  
195 had a cylindrical shape. The distance between each point is 4 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Because of the spatial  
196 resolution of 9  $\mu\text{m}$ , the scattering volume sampled at each measurement was likely to overlap  
197 with the next and the previous point and, therefore, the obtained signal was mixed. Point 3 was  
198 measured on the LS side and is the first point that showed a small signal of HS, which must  
199 have come from point 4 since the scattering volume probed at point 2 was completely LS. On  
200 the other side point 7 was measured on the HS side and was the first point that got a small  
201 signal of LS, which must have come from point 6. Therefore we were able to track down the

202 transition front between point 4 and 6 to a width of 10 - 15  $\mu\text{m}$ . Overall no large shift of the  
203  $\nu_1$ -mode was observed, therefore ruling out a large stress gradient.

204 In Tab. 2 the peak positions of the respective spectra from Fig. 12 are found, together with  
205 their calculated pressures changes. We were not able to fit the HS  $\nu_1$ -mode for point 1 and 2  
206 and for point 8 the LS  $\nu_1$ -mode. The overall calculated pressure gradient is not larger than 2  
207 GPa. From point 1 to 2 the pressure calculated by  $R_{LS}$  drops over 1 GPa. Since point 1 was  
208 measured close to the gasket it might be that the gasket was pressing on the crystal. Thus, the  
209 LS siderite was found at the right side of the crystal even though the highest pressure would be  
210 expected in the center of the sample chamber. From the former analyses the transition front  
211 was found somewhere between point 4 and 6 within approximately 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . The pressures  
212 calculated for points 4, 5 and 6 differ only 0.2 GPa, therefore indicating that the spin transition  
213 happened over a very small pressure range.

214 Finally we note that a more detailed analysis of the collected Raman spectra of DAC-A and  
215 DAC-N revealed an abrupt increase in the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the  $\nu_1$ -  
216 mode upon the HS-LS transition in both of our single-crystal studies (DAC-A and DAC-N).  
217 Possible reasons behind this pressure induced FWHM broadening in the non-magnetic LS  
218 state might be (a) local stresses (we mention though that the FWHM remains rather constant  
219 upon further compression, hence this extrinsic effect can most likely be excluded), (b) local  
220 structural disorder, inhomogeneities, defects, and/or (c) a modified vibrational density of states  
221 in the LS state, which could lead to a reduction of the respective  $\nu_1$  phonon lifetime, i.e. a  
222 FWHM increase of the respective Raman-active mode (e. g. Debernardi et al. 2001). A more  
223 detailed discussion of this effect, however, lies beyond the scope of this paper.

224

225 **Discussion**

226 *Gradual versus sharp spin transition with respect to pressure increase*

227 Lavina et al. (2010) studied a natural siderite with a near endmember composition using single  
228 crystal XRD, observing a sharp, volume collapse of the unit cell volume from HS to LS,  
229 without a change in crystalline symmetry. At ca. 45 GPa Lavina et al. (2010) observed a  
230 Bragg peak splitting, which was explained as HS and LS domains forming as a consequence  
231 of the ongoing spin transition. As their sample size was  $12 \times 17 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the X-ray spot  
232 dimensions either  $5 \times 5$  or  $5 \times 10 \mu\text{m}^2$ , it is very likely that a large part of the sample is measured  
233 in a single measurement. Therefore, if the spin transition occurred over a broad pressure range,  
234 they should have been able to observe both HS and LS domains during the spin transition.  
235 However, Cerantola et al. (2015) argue that XRD is a technique only sensitive to long-range  
236 features. Hence, short-range features such as HS and LS micro-domains should not be  
237 observable. Raman spectroscopy should be able to detect such small scale features, which is  
238 why in previous Raman studies, the splitting of the  $\nu_1$ -mode into HS and LS components over  
239 a pressure range was assigned to HS and LS microdomains (Spivak et al. 2014, Cerantola et  
240 al. 2015).

241 We observed the spin transition over a pressure range in a siderite film (DAC-A), thus,  
242 implying a more gradual change from HS to LS. But this is easily explained by local strain  
243 maxima and minima at the grain boundaries (e.g. Takemura 2001; Glazyrin et al. 2016).  
244 Therefore, groups of crystals might show the spin transition while others not. With as single  
245 measurement signal from several small crystals of different orientations is collected. In  
246 contrast, the natural siderite crystal in DAC-N and DAC-A both change rapidly as indicated  
247 by the sudden shift of the  $\nu_1$ -mode to lower frequencies.

248 In the single crystals in DAC-A and DAC-N the spin transition is accompanied by a color  
249 change from transparent to green. In experiment DAC-A we observe a single HS and a single  
250 LS domain at the same time (Fig. 10 and 11), which would mean that there is a stress variation  
251 in the sample of probably up to 7 GPa based on the results of Spivak et al. (2014) and  
252 Cerantola et al. (2015). But by measuring Raman spectra along the crystal we do not observe a  
253 large shift of the modes frequencies and, thus, we can rule out a large stress gradient and a  
254 spin transition over a wide pressure range. It appears that one either measures a material that is  
255 completely HS or completely LS. Looking at Figs. 11 and 12 one may get the impression of  
256 coexisting HS and LS siderite domains in a range of pressures. However, this effect is readily  
257 explained by the finite spatial resolution at which we measured Raman scattering in our  
258 experiments. When getting closer to the transition front, one logically obtains more signal  
259 from the other side of the transition front. Cerantola et al. (2015) did observe a color change  
260 but no transition front. If they could not distinguish between a single HS and a single LS  
261 domain in their crystal there is a possibility of mixed measurements and, thus, they might  
262 obtain the impression of a gradual spin transition.

263 Because of the bridging rubies there is an overestimation of the transition pressure of DAC-A.  
264 Thus, the linear regression obtained in DAC-N can only be used to calculate pressure or stress  
265 differences within the sample rather than calculating absolute experimental pressure.  
266 Nonetheless we could show that over the transition front the calculated stress changes only by  
267 0.2 GPa, which is below our stress/pressure resolution. Consequently, we state that the spin  
268 transition in siderite is sharp.

269

270 **Implications**

271 We were able to quantify the stress variation on the sample in a very precise and self-  
272 consistent manner, by employing the calibrated Raman mode frequency as a function of  
273 pressure. At ambient temperature we could clearly show that the spin transition in siderite is  
274 sharp. Regarding the effect of temperature on the spin transition, for magnesiosiderite Liu et  
275 al. (2014) report a broadening of the spin transition from 4 GPa at ambient temperature to 10  
276 GPa at 1200 K. To check whether this broadening is an effect of the spin transition or caused  
277 by internal stresses, one could apply the method here described.

278 In terms of geological significance, siderite may serve as an analog to the major constituents  
279 of the Earth's mantle, bridgmanite and ferropericlase, which also undergo spin transitions  
280 under high pressure (Badro et al. 2003; Lin et al. 2012). Therefore, by carefully analyzing the  
281 stress state on these samples, it should be checked how sharp the spin transition actually is.  
282 For the further understanding of Earth's mantle it is important to know whether spin  
283 transitions are sharp or broad, since mantle properties like seismic velocities, electrical  
284 conductivity, and fractionation processes are directly affected.

285

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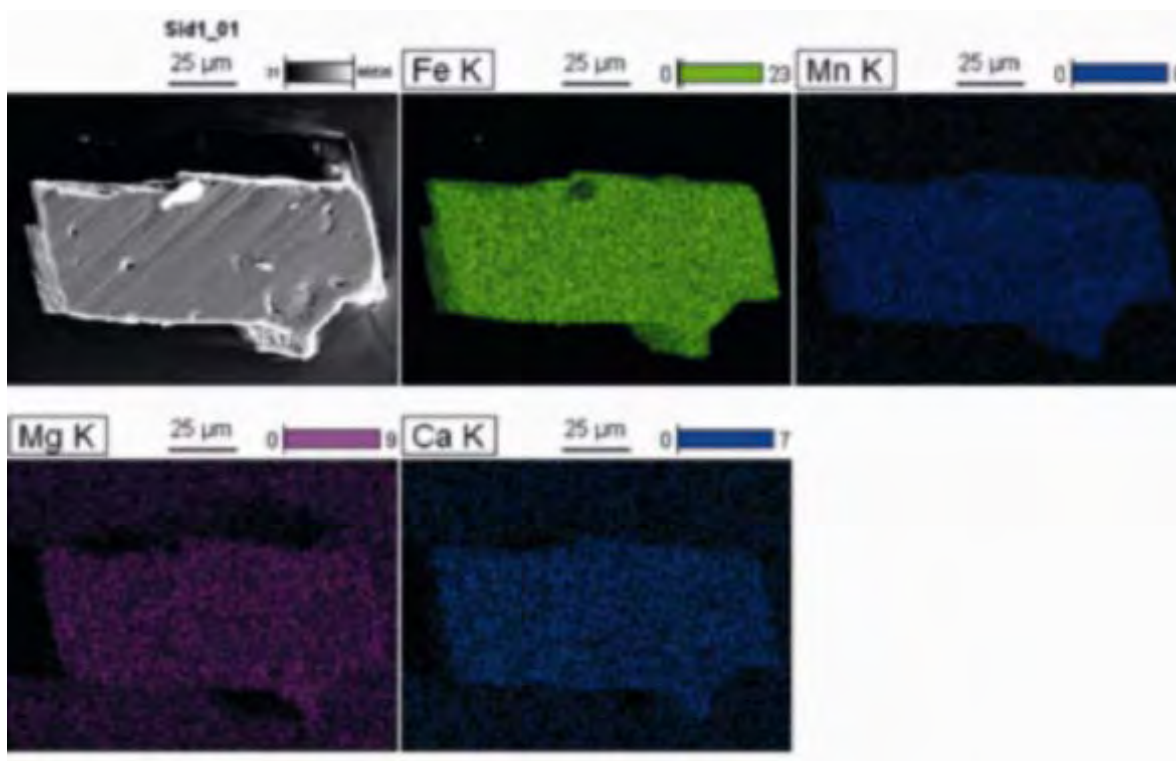
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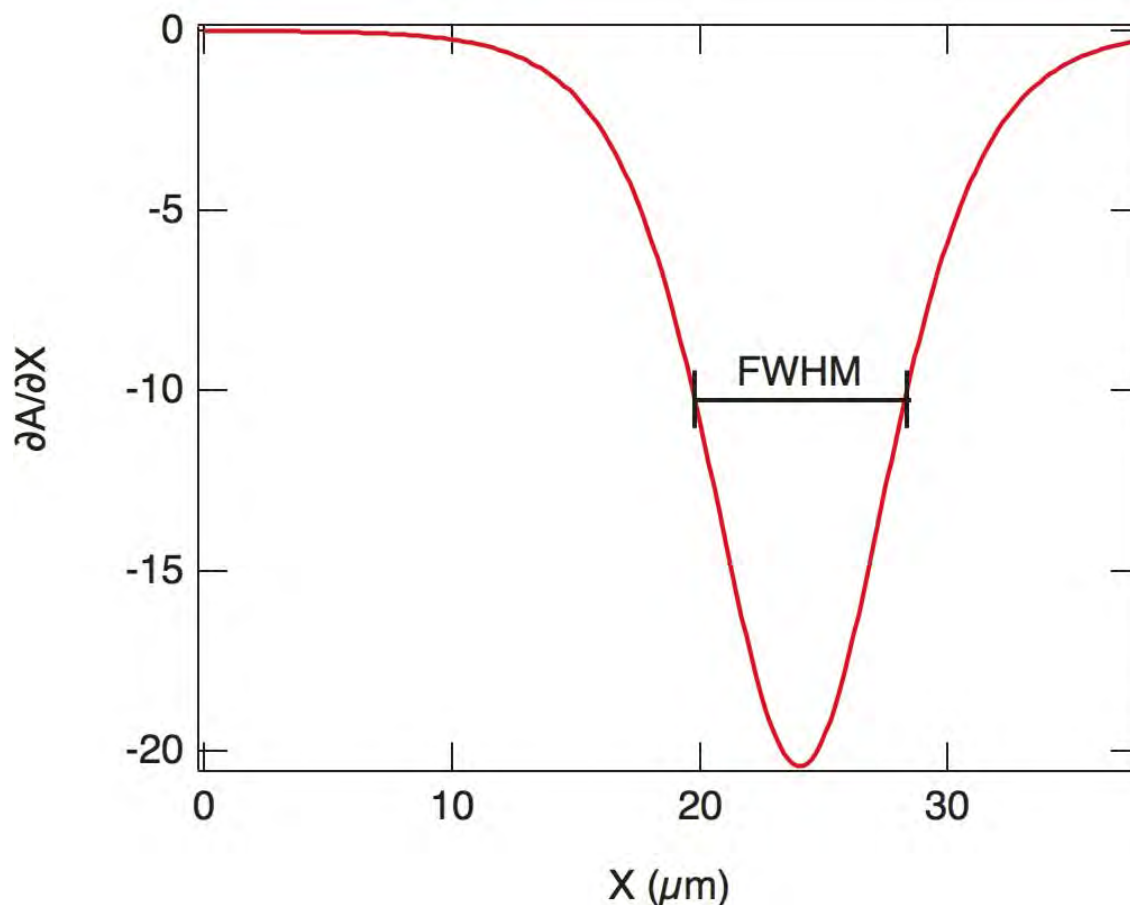
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387 **Figure 1.** SEM mapping of a representative natural siderite crystal showing that the four main  
388 components Fe, Mn, Mg and Ca are all homogeneously distributed within the crystal. At the  
389 upper side of the crystal some dirt is found. The stripes are caused by polishing of the crystal.

390



391

392 **Figure 2.** The change of amplitude with respect to change of the position on a crystal is  
393 plotted against the position on the crystal. The FWHM ( $9\pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ ) gives the spatial resolution of  
394 our Raman experiments.

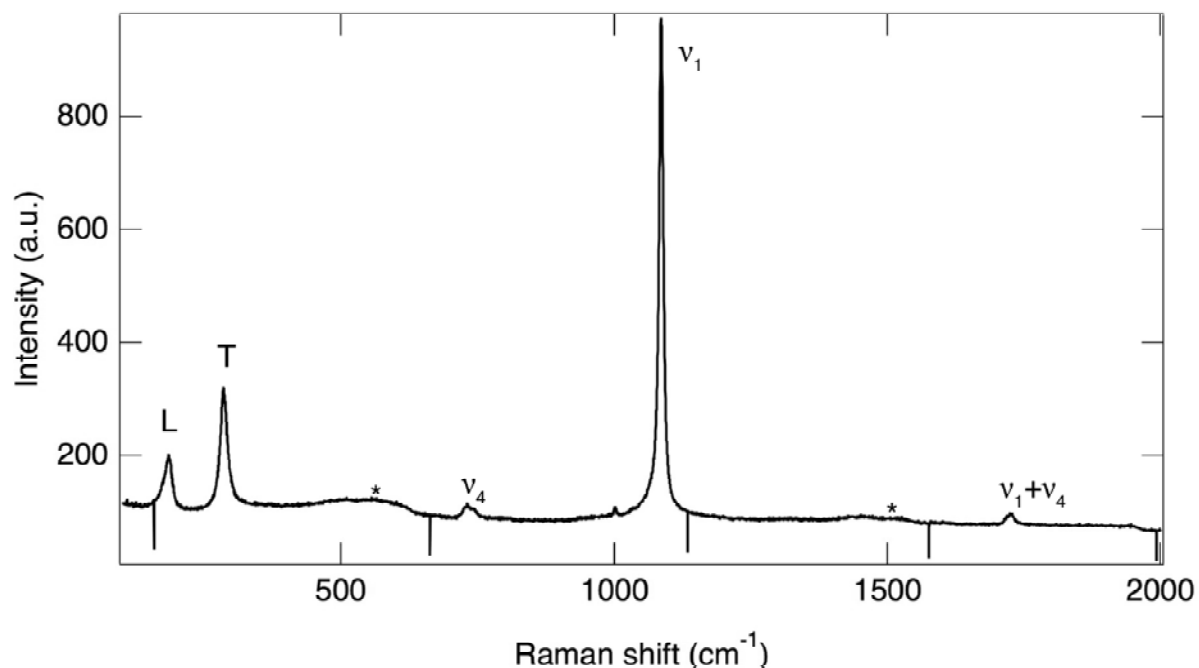
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401 **Figure 3.** Raman spectra of a natural siderite single crystal between 100 and 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at  
402 ambient conditions.

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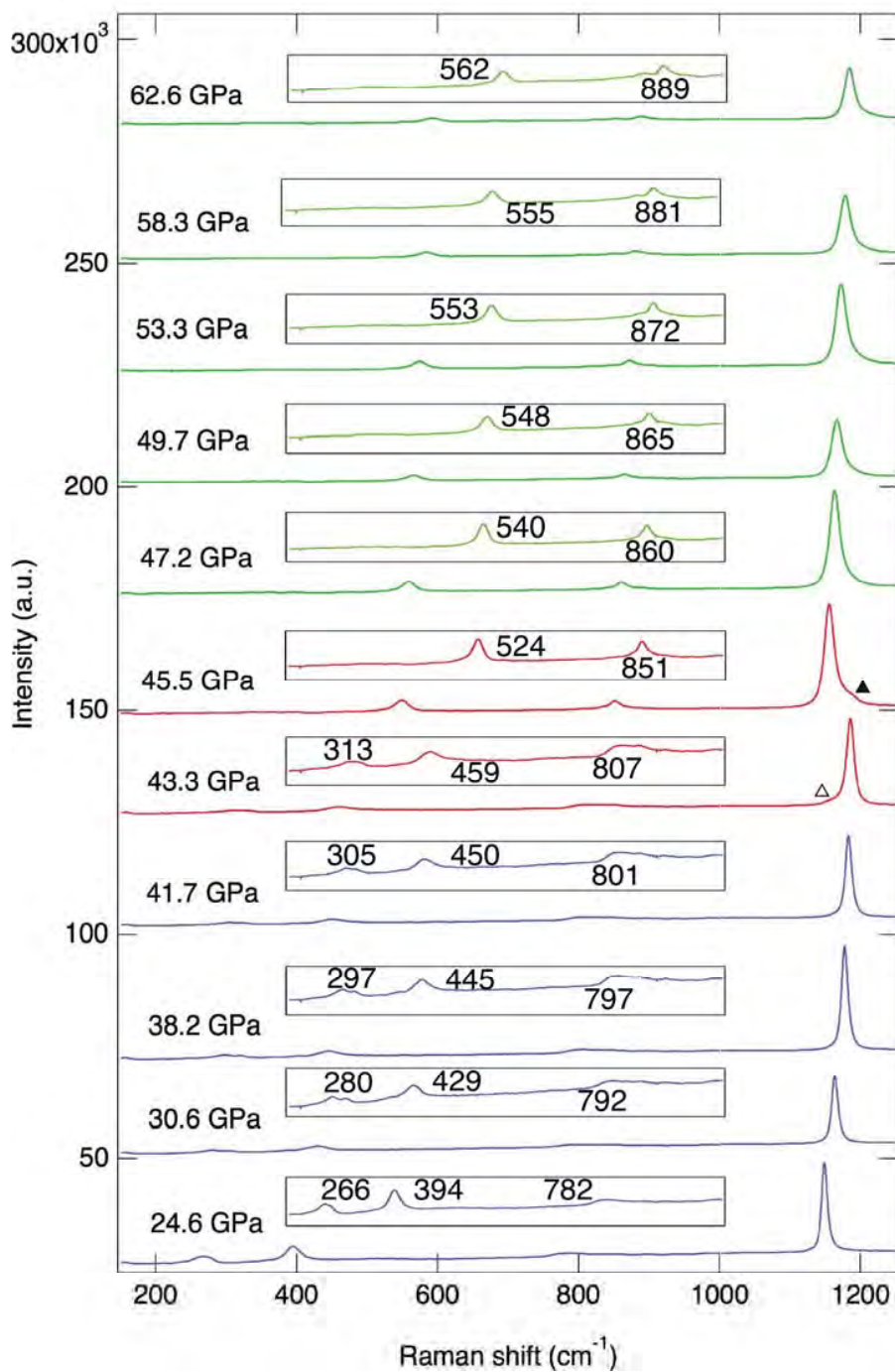
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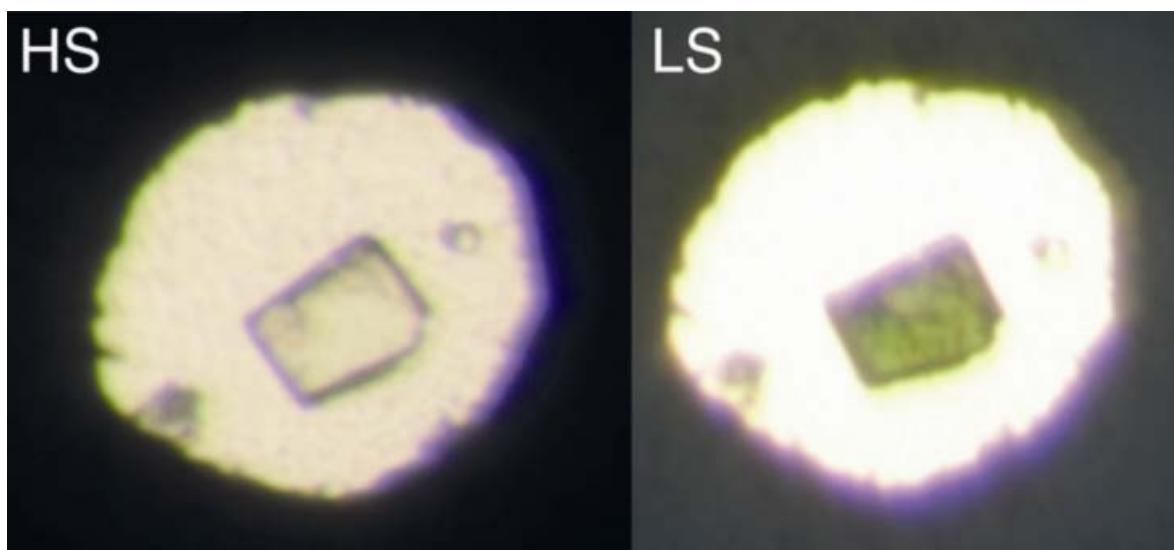
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415 **Figure 4.** Raman spectra of DAC-N. Blue spectra show HS siderite, red spectra show a

416 transition area from HS to LS and green spectra show LS siderite. At 43.3 GPa the empty

417 triangle marks the occurrence of a small shoulder, which belongs to the first occurring LS  
418 siderite and at 45.5 GPa the black triangle marks the last remaining HS siderite. The range of  
419 the magnification is from 200 to 1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

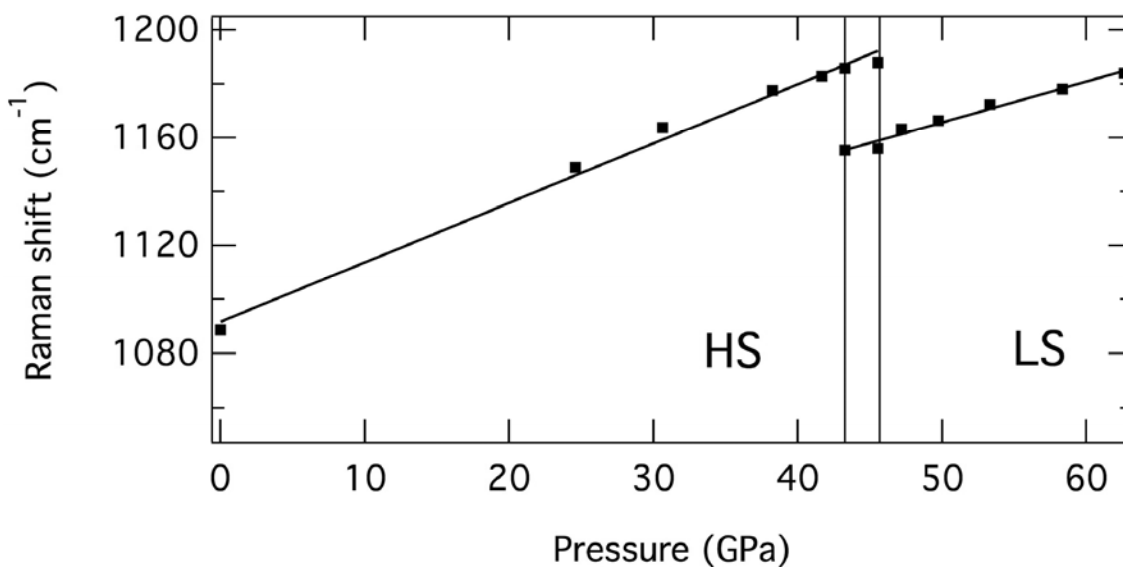
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423 **Figure 5.** Picture of the single crystal of DAC-N. In the HS-state the crystal is transparent and  
424 in the LS-state it turns green.

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431 **Figure 6.** Raman shift of the  $\nu_1$ -mode measured in neon plotted against pressure. With  
432 increasing pressure the  $\nu_1$ -mode moves to higher frequencies. At ca. 43.3 GPa the LS  $\nu_1$ -mode  
433 appears at lower wavenumbers and at 45.5 the HS  $\nu_1$ -mode is nearly gone. The black lines are  
434 the linear fits for either the HS or the LS  $\nu_1$ -mode.

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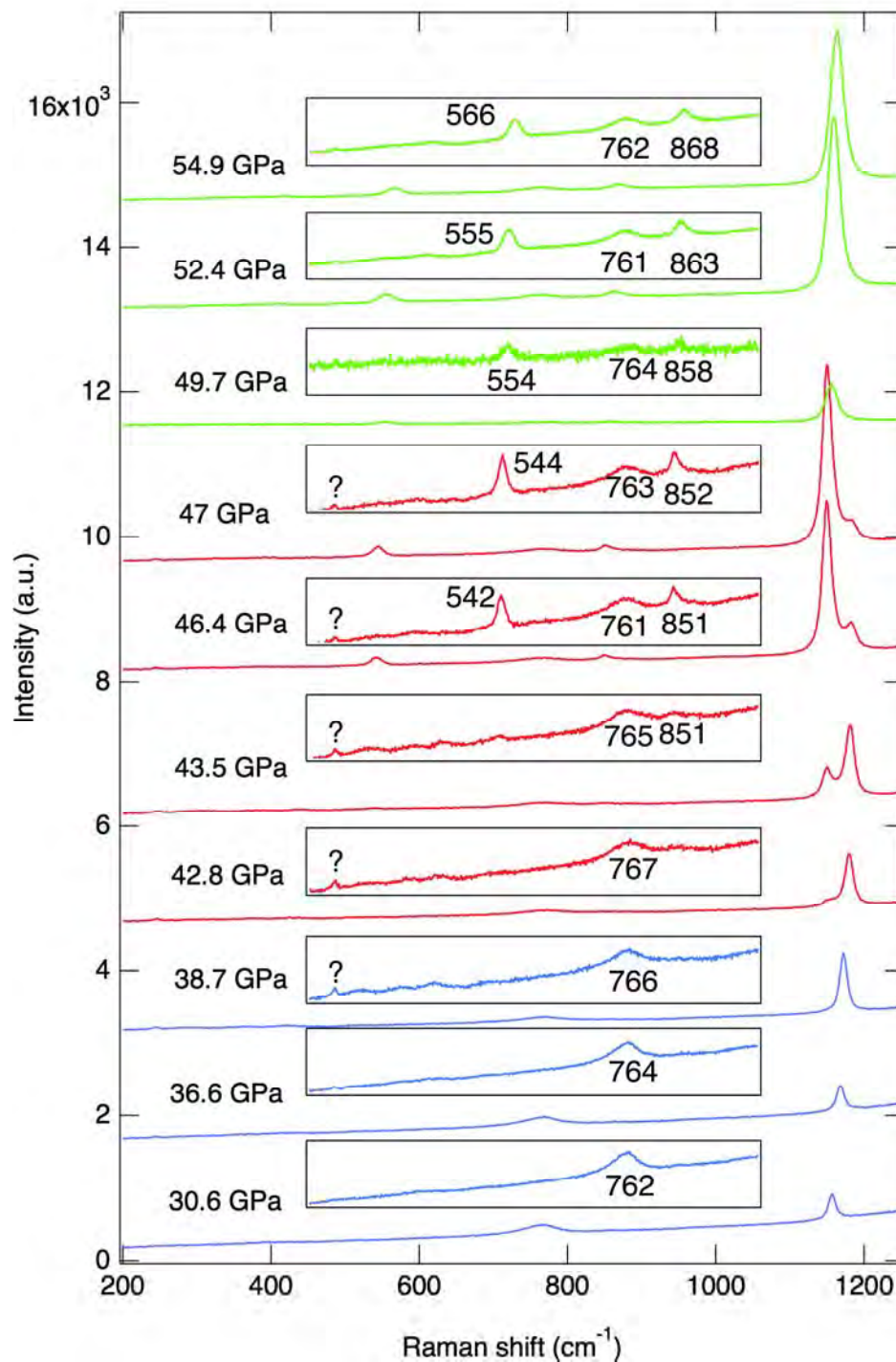
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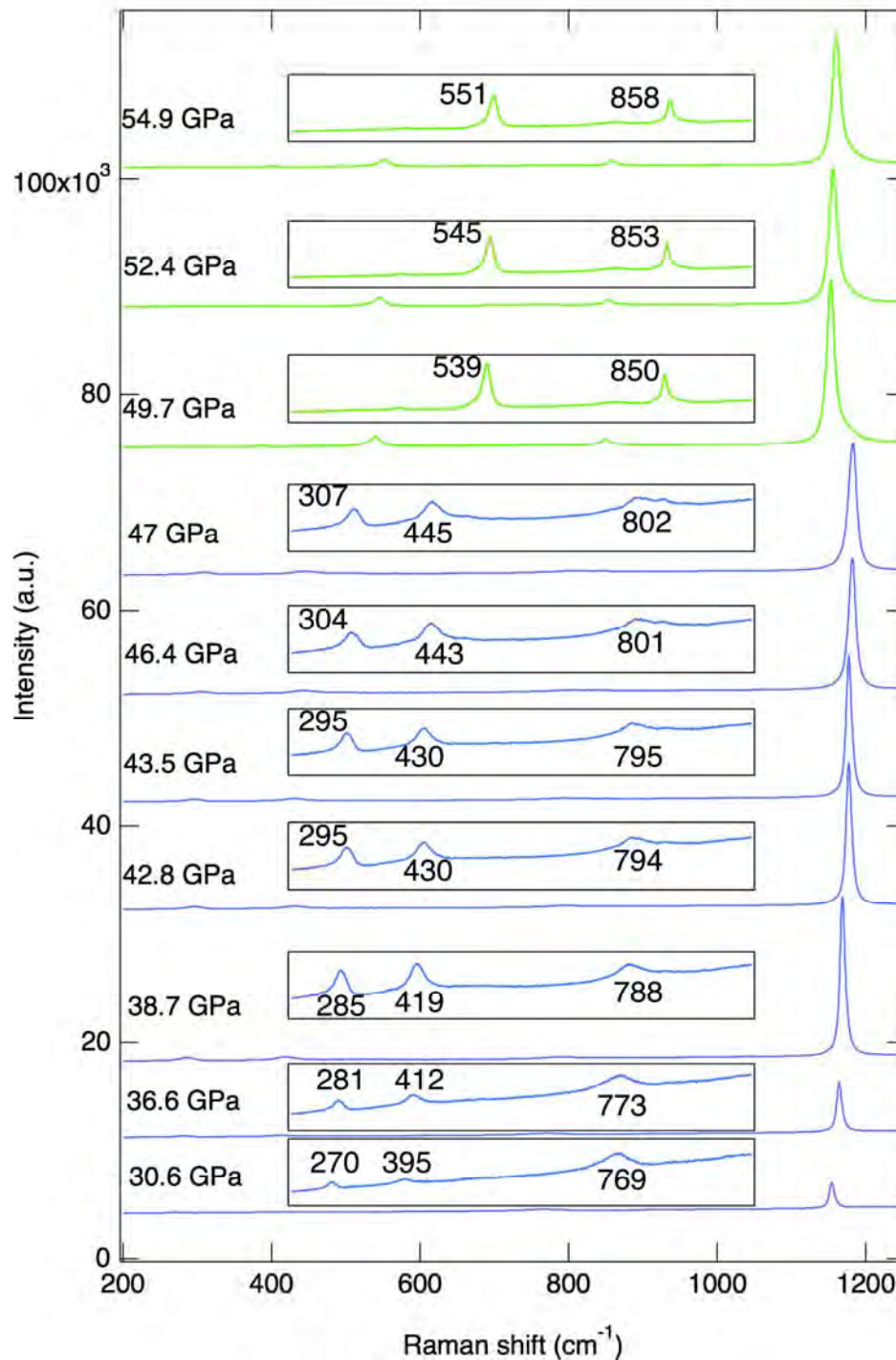
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443 **Figure 7.** Raman spectra (DAC-A) of a film of pure siderite measured from 30.6 to 54.9 GPa.

444 Blue spectra show HS siderite, red spectra show a transition area from HS to LS and green



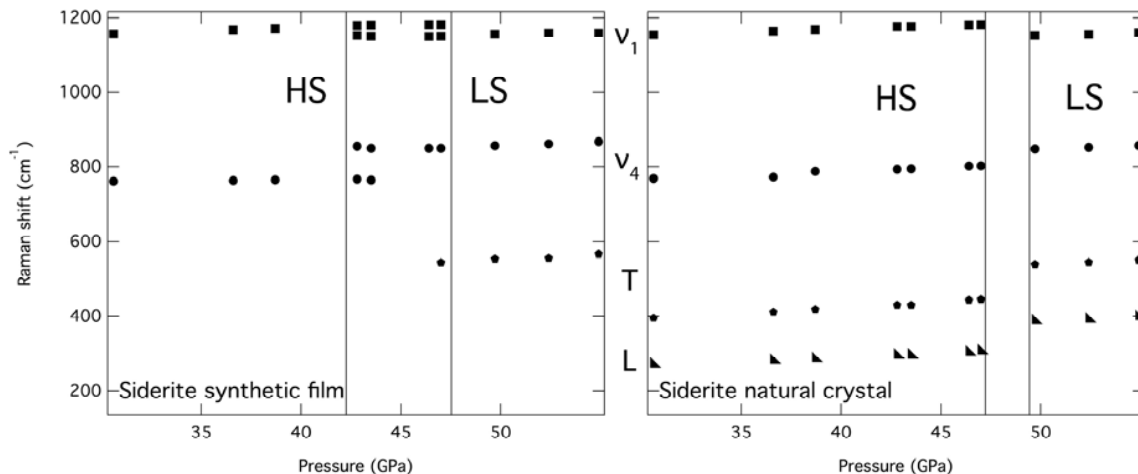
445 spectra show LS siderite. The signal at  $760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is an artifact, which does not belong to the  
446 sample. The range of the magnification is from 200 to  $1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .



447

448 **Figure 8.** Raman spectra (DAC-A) of a natural siderite crystal measured from 30.6 to 54.9  
449 GPa. Blue spectra show HS siderite and green spectra show LS siderite. The range of the  
450 magnification is from 200 to 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

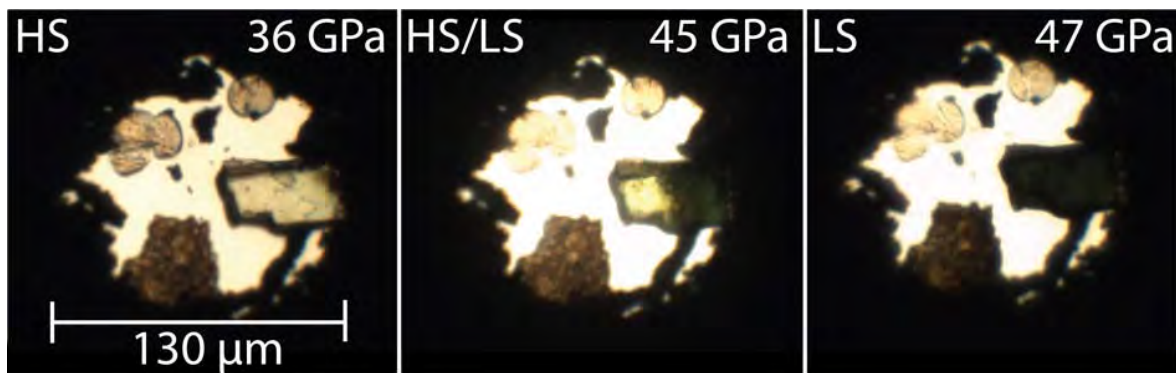
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453 **Figure 9.** Raman shift of the observed modes plotted against pressure for the siderite film  
454 (left) and the siderite single crystal (right). The plotted results are measured under  
455 compression. The pressure region where the spin transition is observed is marked by the  
456 vertical black lines.

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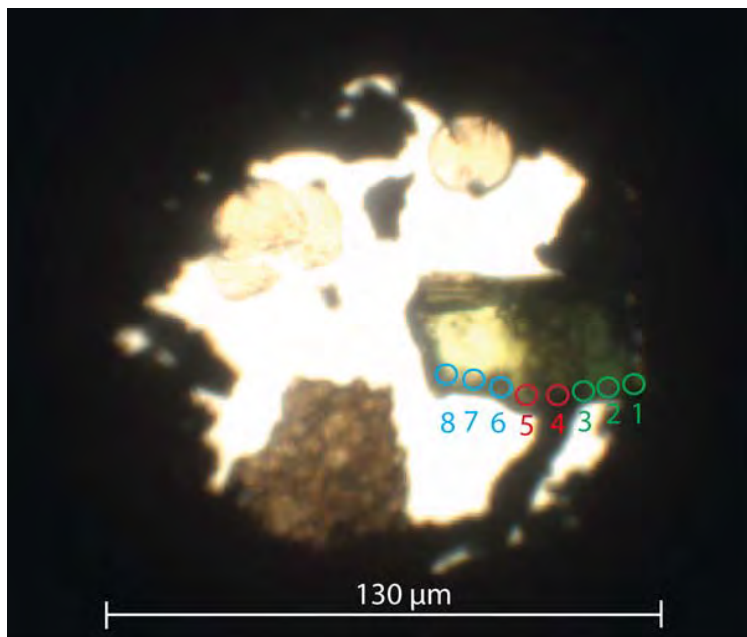


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459 **Figure 10.** View of the sample chamber at 36, 45, and 47 GPa. At the top are the round and  
460 fractured rubies, at the bottom is the brown siderite film and at the right side is the natural  
461 siderite single crystal. The black parts are dirt from the rhenium gasket. At 36 GPa the crystal

462 is transparent and in the HS state, at 45 GPa during decompression half of the crystal is  
463 transparent (HS) and half is green (LS). At 47 GPa the crystal is completely dark green and  
464 therefore in the LS-state.

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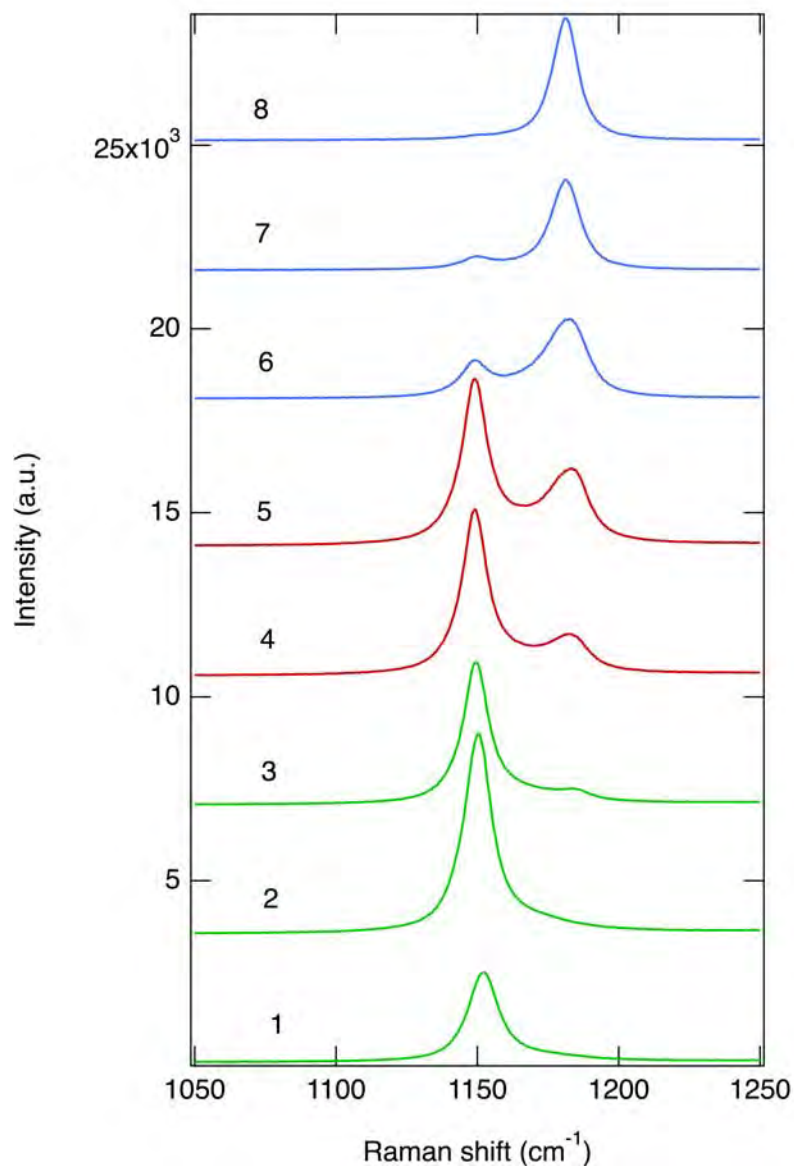


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467 **Figure 11.** Measurement points where Raman spectra were taken at approximately 45 GPa.

468 Blue is on the HS side, red is on the border of HS and LS and green is on the LS side.

469



470

471 **Figure 12.** Raman spectra at 45 GPa during decompression showing the  $\nu_1$ -mode belonging to  
472 the measurement points in Fig. 11. Blue is in the HS state, red is on the border and shows HS  
473 and LS and green is in the LS-state. The closer the measurements get to the transition front,  
474 the more are the measurements mixed.

475

476

477 **Table 1.** Overview of the current literature about siderite and a comparison of their used  
 478 methods, composition and transition pressure.

| Reference               | Method                              | Pressure transmitting medium     | Spot size [ $\mu\text{m}^2$ ] | Sample size [ $\mu\text{m}^2$ ] | Composition   | Transition pressure [GPa]     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Cerantola et al. (2015) | Raman                               | Neon                             | 2 x 2                         | 15 x 15                         | $\text{FeCO}_3$   | 40 – 47                       |
| Lobanov et al. (2015)   | UV-VIS                              | Neon                             | 50 x 50                       | 30 x 50                         | $\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Mn}_{0.05}\text{CO}_3$                                 | 43 – 45                       |
| Spivak et al. (2014)    | Raman                               | Neon                             | 2 x 2                         | 15 x 15                         | $\text{FeCO}_3$   | 40 – 47                       |
| Liu et al. (2014)       | Powder + single crystal XRD         | Neon                             | N/A                           | N/A                             | $\text{Fe}_{0.65}\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.02}\text{CO}_3$                 | 43 to 47 (single crystal XRD) |
| Farfan et al. (2012)    | XRD + Raman                         | None (XRD); silicone oil (Raman) | 2 x 2 (Raman)                 | N/A                             | $\text{Fe}_{0.76}\text{Mn}_{0.15}\text{Mg}_{0.09}\text{Ca}_{0.01}\text{CO}_3$ | 46 (XRD); 46 – 50 (Raman)     |
| Lin et al. (2012)       | Powder + single crystal XRD + Raman | Neon                             | ~ 5 (XRD);                    | 45 x 50 Raman                   | $\text{Fe}_{0.65}\text{Mg}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.02}\text{CO}_3$                 | 45                            |
| Nagai et al. (2010)     | Powder XRD                          | Argon                            | N/A                           | N/A                             | N/A   | 47 – 50                       |
| Lavina et al. (2010)    | Single crystal XRD                  | Neon                             | 5 - 10 x 5 - 10               | 12 x 17                         | Near endmember  | 44 – 45                       |
| Mattila et al. (2007)   | XES                                 | Argon; None above 40 GPa         | 120 x 55                      | N/A                             | $\text{Fe}_{0.96}\text{Mn}_{0.04}\text{CO}_3$                                 | ~ 50                          |

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480

481 **Table 2.** Raman peak positions of the  $\nu_1$ -mode measured in argon and their respective  
 482 calculated pressures and deviations. Point 1 is the reference point for  $\Delta\text{P}$  LS and point 3 for  $\Delta\text{P}$   
 483 HS.

| Point | LS $\nu_1$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] | HS $\nu_1$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] | P LS [GPa] | P HS [GPa] | $\Delta\text{P}$ LS [GPa] | $\Delta\text{P}$ HS [GPa] |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1     | 1152.0                          | -                               | 41         | -          | 0                         | -                         |
| 2     | 1150.2                          | -                               | 39.9       | -          | 1.1                       | -                         |
| 3     | 1149.0                          | 1182.8                          | 39.1       | 41.3       | 1.9                       | 0                         |
| 4     | 1149.0                          | 1183.0                          | 39.1       | 41.4       | 1.9                       | -0.1                      |
| 5     | 1149.0                          | 1183.4                          | 39.1       | 41.5       | 1.9                       | -0.2                      |
| 6     | 1149.4                          | 1183.4                          | 39.3       | 41.5       | 1.7                       | -0.2                      |
| 7     | 1150.1                          | 1181.1                          | 39.8       | 40.5       | 1.2                       | 0.8                       |
| 8     | -                               | 1181.0                          | -          | 40.5       | -                         | 0.8                       |

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