

## Thermoelasticity of Tremolite Amphibole: Geophysical Implications

Ye Peng<sup>1</sup>, Mainak Mookherjee

Earth Materials Laboratory, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science,

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA

<sup>1</sup>corresponding author: [yp16b@my.fsu.edu](mailto:yp16b@my.fsu.edu)

### Abstract

We investigated the structure, equation of state, thermodynamic, and elastic properties of tremolite amphibole ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{Mg}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ ) up to 10 GPa and 2000 K, using *first principles* simulations based on density functional perturbation theory. We found that at 300 K, the pressure-volume results can be adequately described by a third-order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state with bulk moduli  $K_0$  of 78.5 and 66.3 GPa based on local density approximation (LDA) and generalized gradient approximation (GGA), respectively. We also derived its coefficients of the elastic tensor based on LDA and GGA and found that the LDA is in good agreement with the experimental results. At 300 K, the shear modulus  $G_0$  is 58.0 GPa based on LDA. The pressure derivative of the bulk modulus  $K'$  is 5.9 while that of the shear modulus  $G'$  is 1.3. The second Grüneisen parameter, or  $\delta_T = [-1/(\alpha K_T)](\partial K_T/\partial T)_P$ , is 3.3 based on LDA. We found that at ambient conditions, tremolite is elastically anisotropic with the compressional wave velocity anisotropy  $AV_P$  being 34.6% and the shear wave velocity anisotropy  $AV_S$  being 27.5%. At higher pressure corresponding to the thermodynamic stability of tremolite, i.e.,  $\sim 3$  GPa, the  $AV_P$  reduces to 29.5% whereas  $AV_S$  increases to 30.8%. To evaluate whether the presence of hydrous phases such as amphibole and phlogopite could account for the observed shear wave velocity ( $V_S$ ) anomaly at the mid-lithospheric discontinuity (MLD), we used the thermoelasticities of tremolite (as a proxy for other

26 amphiboles), phlogopite, and major mantle minerals to construct synthetic velocity profiles.  
27 We noted that at depths corresponding to the mid-lithosphere, the presence of 25 vol%  
28 amphibole and 1 vol% phlogopite could account for a  $V_S$  reduction of 2.3%. Thus based on  
29 our thermoelasticity results on tremolite amphibole, it seems that mantle metasomatism could  
30 partly explain the MLD.

31

32 **Keywords:** Tremolite, equation of state, elasticity, Mid-Lithospheric Discontinuity (MLD)

33

### 34 **Introduction**

35 It is well known that the Earth's surface is made up of rigid plates composed of the  
36 crust and the brittle part of the upper mantle, together known as the lithosphere. The  
37 lithosphere glides over the rheologically weaker part of the mantle known as the  
38 asthenosphere. The lithosphere and asthenosphere boundary (LAB) is characterized by a  
39 negative seismic shear wave velocity gradient ( $dV_S/dz$ ; where  $V_S$  refers to the seismic shear  
40 wave velocity and  $z$  refers to the depth from the surface). This reduction of  $V_S$  is thought to  
41 indicate the presence of partial melts at the LAB, as the conductive geothermal gradient of  
42 the relatively colder lithosphere intersects the solidus of mantle lithologies (Rychert et al.,  
43 2005; Rychert and Shearer, 2009; Fischer et al., 2010).

44 Recent high resolution, short-wavelength body wave studies across continents revealed  
45 a 3-10% reduction in  $V_S$  at depths ranging between 50 and 160 km. This drop in  $V_S$  is a nearly  
46 global phenomenon (Abt et al., 2010; Selway et al., 2015). In most regions where velocity  
47 drops have been reported, the depth range is tightly confined between 80-100 km, which is in  
48 the middle of the continental lithosphere. Therefore, this  $V_S$  anomaly is referred to as the mid-  
49 lithospheric discontinuity (MLD) (Abt et al., 2010; Fischer et al., 2010). This is distinct from  
50 the LAB, which often occurs at depths between 150 and 300 km beneath the surface of the

51 continental crust and is associated with a smaller velocity reduction than that of the MLD in  
52 many regions (Karato et al., 2015). The velocity anomaly at the MLD is a rather perplexing  
53 observation and challenges the existing view that the geologically older cratons (age > 540  
54 Ma) in the inner part of the continents are tectonically stable. The current understanding that  
55 the craton is stable over long geological time is based on geochemical studies of upper mantle  
56 rocks (Carlson et al., 2005) and long wavelength surface wave studies (Gung et al., 2003).  
57 The key question is what could cause such a reduction of velocity at MLD depths. The  
58 reduction in  $V_S$  could be related to the presence of partial melts (Fischer et al., 2010) such that  
59 they are interconnected across the matrix of the host rock. This is likely to affect the strength  
60 of the bulk rock and then the longevity of the craton as mechanically strong layers. However,  
61 the continental geotherm at MLD depths is unlikely to be hot enough to generate partial melts  
62 (Karato et al., 2015). Alternative mechanisms have also been proposed to explain the  $V_S$   
63 reduction and include anisotropy (Yuan and Romanowicz, 2019; Selway et al., 2015),  
64 elastically accommodated grain boundary sliding (EAGBS) (Karato et al., 2015; Karato and  
65 Park, 2019), and mantle metasomatism (Selway et al., 2015; Saha et al., 2018). Both  
66 azimuthal and radial anisotropy could produce MLD features. Yet, the azimuthal anisotropy  
67 is dependent on the station-source configurations, i.e., back-azimuths. The geometries of  
68 radial anisotropy are only observed locally and are hard to explain tectonically (Selway et al.,  
69 2015). A rheological change as in EAGBS is an elegant mechanism that could explain the  
70 lowering of  $V_S$ . The velocity reduction caused by EAGBS when it occurs solely due to  
71 temperature is not sharp enough to be detectable, even by the short-wavelength body wave  
72 studies (Selway et al., 2015; Karato et al., 2015). The presence of a water-rich or  
73 compositionally different layer is likely to further enhance the velocity reduction (Karato et  
74 al., 2015). However, the effect of water on the seismic wave velocity and attenuation is quite  
75 complex and certainly warrants further study (Cline II et al., 2018; Mittal et al., 2019).

76 Mantle metasomatism is likely to stabilize hydrous phases including amphiboles and micas  
77 (Selway et al., 2015; Saha et al., 2008), which have substantially lower seismic velocities  
78 than major mantle minerals (Abers and Hacker, 2016). Therefore, these hydrous phases might  
79 create the velocity drops necessary to explain the MLD.

80 Amphiboles are likely to be stable over a wide range of pressures (<3-4 GPa),  
81 temperatures (<1100 °C), and chemistries pertaining to the metasomatized mantle (Mandler  
82 and Grove, 2016). The P-T limit of the thermodynamic stability of amphiboles is nearly flat  
83 i.e.,  $dP/dT \approx 0$  (Mandler and Grove, 2016; Frost, 2006). This indicates that the high pressure  
84 stability of amphiboles is not sensitive to temperature. Thus, upon mantle metasomatism,  
85 amphiboles are likely to be stabilized at pressures of ~3-4 GPa, corresponding to depths of  
86 ~90-120 km across a wide variety of geotherms. The calcic end member, tremolite, is stable  
87 up to ~3 GPa and has a similar  $dP/dT$  trend, and hence it could be used as a proxy for other  
88 amphibole phases that are likely to be stable in the metasomatized mantle (Jenkins et al.,  
89 1991).

90 Although amphiboles are common rock-forming minerals in both the crust and the  
91 upper mantle across diverse geological settings, our understanding of their thermoelastic  
92 properties at relevant pressures and temperatures conditions remains poor. Thus, having a  
93 better constraint on those of amphiboles is critical to better understand the geological  
94 processes that might explain the MLD. The crystal structure of amphibole accommodates a  
95 wide variety of cations and it forms an extensive solid solution with many end member  
96 stoichiometries. Over the broad range of amphibole end member compositions (e.g., tremolite,  
97 pargasite, glaucophane, kaesurite), the most commonly reported elastic properties are from  
98 equation of state studies using powder or single-crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD) (Comodi et  
99 al., 1991; Zhang et al., 1992; Yang et al., 1998; Comodi et al., 2010; Jenkins et al., 2010;  
100 Zanazzi et al., 2010; Welch et al., 2011; Nestola et al., 2012). More recently, the thermal

101 equation of state of the end member pargasite has been experimentally determined (Comboni  
102 et al., 2017). These available experimental studies on the thermoelastic properties of  
103 amphiboles provide constraints only on the bulk moduli and their pressure/temperature  
104 derivatives. However, to relate to the geophysical observations, one also requires a better  
105 constraint on the shear moduli, which are not determined from the equation of state studies.  
106 Moreover, the bulk moduli reported from the single-crystal equation of state are often the  
107 Reuss bound which are significantly smaller than the Voigt-Reuss-Hill or Hashin-Shtrikman  
108 averages used for estimating the seismic velocities in absence of crystal preferred orientations  
109 (Brown and Abramson, 2016). For instance, the existing thermoelastic database (Abers and  
110 Hacker, 2016) tabulates bulk moduli of tremolite and pargasite determined from the single-  
111 crystal XRD study (Comodi et al., 1991), i.e., the bulk moduli are likely to be underestimated.  
112 In a recent experimental study, the coefficients of the elastic tensor of calcic and sodic-calcic  
113 amphiboles at ambient conditions were reported using impulsive stimulated light scattering  
114 method (Brown and Abramson, 2016). However, the effects of pressure and temperature on  
115 the elasticity of amphiboles remain largely unknown.

116 To provide better constraints on the elasticity of amphibole at high pressures and  
117 temperatures relevant for the MLD, in this study we report the elastic properties of tremolite  
118 ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{Mg}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ ) using *first principles* simulations based on the static Density  
119 Functional Theory (DFT). We explore the structure and elasticity of tremolite up to a  
120 pressure of 10 GPa, beyond its thermodynamic stability. We also explore the effect of  
121 temperature on the coefficients of the elastic tensor by including thermal corrections to the  
122 static pressures based on quasi-harmonic approximations (QHA). We combine the  
123 thermoelastic properties of tremolite as a proxy for amphiboles with those of the major  
124 mantle minerals to construct the lithospheric mantle velocity-depth profiles and relate them to  
125 geophysical observations.

126

## 127 **Methods**

128 Tremolite is a calcic amphibole with a stoichiometry of  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Mg}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ . In order  
129 to compute elastic properties of tremolite, we used the crystal structure of natural near-end-  
130 member tremolite determined by single-crystal XRD (Yang and Evans, 1996) as a starting  
131 guess and modified it to match the pure end-member composition. The unit cell of tremolite  
132 consists of 82 atoms, i.e., two formula units ( $Z=2$ ). Tremolite is monoclinic and has a space  
133 group symmetry  $C2/m$ . The crystal structure consists of two principal elements: a double  
134 chain of corner-sharing tetrahedral units and a strip of edge-sharing octahedral units, both of  
135 which extend along the [001] direction. In the double chain, there are two distinct tetrahedral  
136 sites, T1 and T2, both occupied by silicon atoms. In the octahedral strip, there are three  
137 distinct octahedral sites denoted by M1, M2, and M3, which are occupied by magnesium  
138 atoms. The strip of octahedral units is sandwiched between two tetrahedral double chains  
139 with their apices pointing towards each other, together forming an I-beam (**Figure 1**). At the  
140 junction of the I-beams is the B site, which hosts the calcium atom in distorted cubic  
141 coordination. The alkali (A) site is vacant in tremolite. The hydrogen is bonded to an oxygen  
142 atom shared by one M3 and two M1 octahedral units. The hydroxyl vector points towards the  
143 center of the ditrigonal ring formed by the tetrahedral units (**Figure 1**).

144 We performed *first principles* simulations based on DFT (Hohenberg and Kohn, 1964;  
145 Kohn and Sham, 1965), with a highly accurate plane-wave basis projector augmented wave  
146 method as implemented in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP) (Kresse and  
147 Hafner, 1993; Kresse and Furthmüller, 1996a, b; Kresse and Joubert, 1999). The method  
148 solves the time-independent Schrödinger equation for a multi-electron system. It is widely  
149 used for silicate mineral studies such as for mineral structures, energies, and elasticities  
150 (Karki et al., 2001; Stixrude et al., 1998). We investigated the mineral properties with two

151 widely used approximations to the exchange-correlation functional: the local density  
152 approximation (LDA) (Ceperley and Adler, 1980) and the generalized gradient  
153 approximation (GGA) (Lundqvist and March, 1987; Perdew and Wang, 1986; Perdew et al.,  
154 1992). It is known that the ground state energy varies as a function of the plane-wave energy  
155 cutoff and the k-point sampling mesh (Peng et al., 2017). We performed a series of  
156 convergence tests for tremolite. We found that a plane-wave energy cut-off of 800 eV and a  
157 Monkhorst-Pack (Monkhorst and Pack, 1976) k-point mesh of  $2 \times 1 \times 4$ , i.e., 6 irreducible k-  
158 points in the Brillouin zone, are sufficient to describe the ground state energies of tremolite.  
159 The ground state energies are converged to within 1.3 meV/atom (**Supplementary Table 1,**  
160 **2**).

161 We determined the coefficients of the elastic tensor by a finite difference method  
162 (Karki et al., 2001). The coefficients of the elastic tensor ( $C_{ijkl}$ ) are obtained by relating the  
163 stress ( $\sigma_{ij}$ ) with the applied strain ( $\epsilon_{kl}$ ). We applied positive and negative strains of  
164 magnitudes 0.5%, 1.0%, 1.5%, and 2.0% to the unit-cell at a specific pressure. The results  
165 show a good linear relationship between strains and stresses in the explored strain range  
166 (**Supplementary Figure 1**). We found that 1.0% strain is well within the linear elastic limit.  
167 This is similar to earlier reports on diverse mineral systems (Karki et al., 2001; Mookherjee  
168 and Bezacier, 2012; Peng et al., 2017; Mookherjee et al., 2016, 2019). Hence we applied 1.0%  
169 strain for all the investigated volumes. To estimate the effect of the energy cut-off on the  
170 convergence of stress, we also computed the coefficients of the elastic tensor at three distinct  
171 volumes each with a higher energy cut-off of 1000 eV. We found that the  $C_{ijkl}$  with an energy  
172 cut-off of 800 eV appears sufficiently converged (**Supplementary Table 3**). We determined  
173 the single crystal anisotropy using petrophysical software (Mainprice, 1990).

174 In order to gain insight into the temperature dependence of the bulk modulus, we  
175 performed phonon calculations using density functional perturbation theory (Baroni et al.,

176 2001) as implemented in VASP (e.g., Gajdoš et al., 2006) and used QHA to estimate the  
 177 Helmholtz free energy using PHONOPY (Togo and Tanaka, 2015). The Helmholtz free  
 178 energy under the QHA is given by

$$179 \quad F(V, T) = U(V) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V) + k_B T \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} \ln \left\{ 1 - \exp \left[ \frac{-\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{k_B T} \right] \right\} \quad (1)$$

180 where  $U$  is the internal energy,  $\mathbf{q}$  is the wave vector,  $\nu$  is the band index,  $\omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}$  is the phonon  
 181 frequency at  $\mathbf{q}$  and  $\nu$ ,  $T$  is temperature, and  $V$  is volume. The  $\hbar$  and  $k_B$  are the reduced Planck  
 182 constant and the Boltzmann constant, respectively. We determined the phonon frequencies,  
 183  $\omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}$ , for all the unit-cell volumes explored in static DFT calculations. We explored  
 184 temperatures from 0 K to 2000 K with an interval of 20 K. The volume dependence of the  
 185 internal energy  $U(V)$  is determined using the static DFT simulation as discussed. The zero  
 186 point energy  $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)$  and the thermal contributions  $k_B T \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} \ln \{ 1 - \exp[-\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)/k_B T] \}$   
 187 constitute together the phonon contribution to Helmholtz free energy, defined as  $F_{phonon}$ . Thus,  
 188 eq. (1) could also be expressed as:

$$189 \quad F(V, T) = U(V) + F_{phonon}(V, T) \quad (2)$$

190 The phonon Helmholtz free energy  $F_{phonon}$  accounts for the volume dependence of phonon  
 191 frequencies. The entropy ( $S$ ) and heat capacity ( $C_V$ ) at a constant volume are respectively  
 192 calculated from its phonon density of states as functions of vibrational frequencies:

$$193 \quad S = - \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \right)_V = -k_B \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} \ln \left\{ 1 - \exp \left[ \frac{-\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{k_B T} \right] \right\} - \frac{1}{T} \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} \frac{\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{\exp \left[ \frac{\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{k_B T} \right] - 1} \quad (3)$$

$$194 \quad C_V = -T \left( \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial T^2} \right)_V = \sum_{\mathbf{q}, \nu} k_B \left[ \frac{\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{k_B T} \right]^2 \frac{\exp \left[ \frac{\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{k_B T} \right]}{\left\{ \exp \left[ \frac{\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q}, \nu}(V)}{k_B T} \right] - 1 \right\}^2} \quad (4)$$

195 Our results on lattice parameters and elasticity are for a static lattice. To compare more  
 196 directly with the room temperature experimental results on tremolite, we made corrections to  
 197 the pressure via



$$198 \quad P = P_{static} + P_{phonon} \quad (5)$$

199 where the  $P_{static}$  is related to  $-[dU(V)/dV]$  and the  $P_{phonon}$  is determined from –  
200  $[dF_{phonon}(V,T)/dV]_T$ , where  $U(V)$  and  $F_{phonon}(V,T)$  are as defined in eq. (1) and (2).

201

## 202 **Results**

### 203 ***Equation of state and linear compressibility***

204 The energy as a function of unit-cell volume can be well described by the integral form  
205 of a third-order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state (Birch, 1978) (**Figure 2, Supplementary**  
206 **Figure 2**). The energy-volume results based on LDA yielded a zero-pressure unit-cell volume  
207  $V_0^{LDA}$  of 875.0 Å<sup>3</sup> and 887.1 Å<sup>3</sup> at 0 K and 300 K, respectively (**Table 1**). The prediction of  
208 LDA at 300 K is 2.1% smaller than that based on single-crystal XRD study at ambient  
209 conditions (Comodi et al., 1991). The corresponding GGA result is greater than the  
210 experimental result by 5.8% (Comodi et al., 1991). The energy-volume results yielded a zero-  
211 pressure bulk modulus ( $K_0^{LDA}$ ) of 83.1 GPa and 78.5 GPa at 0 K and 300 K, respectively  
212 (**Table 1**). The result at 300 K is in good agreement with the experimental result of 76±3 GPa  
213 (Comodi et al., 1991; Comodi et al., 2010). The zero-pressure lattice parameters at 300 K are  
214 also in excellent agreement with the experimental data (Comodi et al., 1991), differing from  
215 the experimental data by no more than 1%. Specifically,  $a_0^{LDA}$  is smaller than  $a_0^{exp}$  by 0.6%,  
216  $b_0^{LDA}$  is smaller than  $b_0^{exp}$  by 0.9%,  $c_0^{LDA}$  is smaller than  $c_0^{exp}$  by 0.5%, and  $\beta_0^{LDA}$  is greater  
217 than  $\beta_0^{exp}$  by 0.03%. To determine the incompressibility along individual directions, i.e., the  
218 linear bulk moduli ( $K_l$ ), where  $l = a-, b-,$  and  $c^*$ -axes ( $c^* = c \sin\beta$ ), we used the dependence of  
219 linear normalized pressure ( $F_l$ ) on the linear finite strain ( $f_l$ ), i.e.,  $f_l$ - $F_l$  relationships expressed  
220 in terms of the  $K_l$  (Davies, 1974; Weaver, 1976; Meade and Jeanloz, 1990; Wentzcovitch and  
221 Stixrude, 1997; Chheda et al., 2014) (**Table 1, Figure 2**):

$$222 \quad F_l = K_l + m_l f_l \quad (6)$$

223 where the slope  $m_l$  is related to the pressure dependence of  $K_l$  and its particular value is not  
224 important in this study. The linear normalized pressure  $F_l$  could be further expressed in terms  
225 of the pressure ( $P$ ),  $f_l$ , and the volume finite strain ( $f_V$ ):

$$226 \quad F_l = \frac{P}{f_l(1+2f_l)(1+2f_V)} \quad (7)$$

227 The linear finite strain  $f_l$  is related to the ratio of axial length ( $l$ ) and the axial length at zero-  
228 pressure ( $l_0$ ):

$$229 \quad f_l = \frac{1}{2} \left( \left( \frac{l_0}{l} \right)^2 - 1 \right) \quad (8)$$

230 The volume finite strain  $f_V$  is related to the ratio of unit-cell volume ( $V$ ) and the unit-cell  
231 volume at zero-pressure ( $V_0$ ):

$$232 \quad f_V = \frac{1}{2} \left( \left( \frac{V_0}{V} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} - 1 \right) \quad (9)$$

233 The linear bulk moduli ( $K_l$ ) are related to the bulk modulus ( $K_0$ ) by  $K_0 = (K_a^{-1} + K_b^{-1} + K_c^{-1})^{-1}$   
234 (Nye, 1985). Our results show consistency within 1.3%. The linear bulk moduli from both  
235 LDA and GGA indicate that tremolite is very anisotropic as documented by  $K_a < K_c < K_b$ . We  
236 noted that LDA and GGA results bracket the experimental results, with LDA being in better  
237 agreement with the experimental data (**Table 1, Figure 2**).

238

### 239 ***Thermodynamic Parameters***

240 We derived the fundamental thermodynamic parameters from the volume dependence  
241 of Helmholtz free energy at finite temperatures (Togo and Tanaka, 2015). The thermal  
242 expansion coefficient,  $\alpha$ , is obtained from  $(1/V)(\partial V/\partial T)_P$  (**Figure 3**). At 0 GPa and 300 K, we  
243 found  $\alpha^{LDA} > \alpha^{GGA}$  with the former being  $2.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$  and the latter being  $2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ,  
244 respectively. The prediction from LDA is in better agreement with the experimental results of  
245  $3.13 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$  on tremolite (Sueno et al., 1973). The source of discrepancy may lie in the fact  
246 that the experiments were conducted at only three temperatures, those being 24 °C, 400 °C,

247 and 700 °C. Our thermal expansion value based on LDA ( $\alpha^{LDA}$ ) is in very good agreement  
248 with the recent synchrotron XRD study on pargasite amphibole, which shows  $2.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  
249 300 K and 0 GPa (Comboni et al., 2017) (**Figure 3**). It should be noted that pargasite  
250 ( $\text{NaCa}_2(\text{Mg}_4\text{Al})(\text{Si}_6\text{Al}_2)\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ ) and tremolite are both calcic amphiboles. Upon  
251 compression, we noted that both  $\alpha^{LDA}$  and  $\alpha^{GGA}$  decreases (**Supplementary Table 4**).

252 One of the underlying assumptions about QHA is that minerals behave as harmonic  
253 solids at each volume, i.e., phonon frequencies depend only on volume, and heating at  
254 constant volume does not change the vibrational frequencies. This is true if the phonon  
255 modes are not interacting and this assumption often fails at higher temperatures (Oganov et  
256 al., 2002). The validity of QHA can be determined from the inflection point on the  
257 temperature dependence of the thermal expansion coefficient, beyond where  $(\partial^2 \alpha / \partial T^2)_P > 0$  at  
258 high temperatures (Wentzcovitch et al., 2004). However, it is very unlikely that tremolite will  
259 be thermodynamically stable at these temperatures, since it is known to dehydrate at  $\sim 1180 \text{ K}$   
260 and  $\sim 1 \text{ GPa}$ , i.e., tremolite is likely to dehydrate before QHA limit is reached (Jenkins et al.,  
261 1991) (**Figure 3**).

262 Our predictions of specific heat capacity,  $C_P$ , at zero-pressure agree well with the  
263 existing experimental results (Krupka et al., 1985; Kahl and Maresch, 2001; Dachs et al.,  
264 2010). Our results at 300 K and 0 GPa for LDA and GGA are  $660.0 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$  and  $675.4$   
265  $\text{Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ , respectively. In comparison, experimental results on tremolite are  $658 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$   
266 (**Figure 3**) (Krupka et al., 1985; Kahl and Maresch, 2001; Dachs et al., 2010).

267 The Grüneisen parameter,  $\gamma$ , is defined as  $\gamma = \alpha K_T V / C_V = \alpha K_S V / C_P$ , where  $K_T$  and  $K_S$  are  
268 the isothermal and adiabatic bulk modulus, respectively. It decreases asymptotically as a  
269 function of temperature at zero-pressure (**Figure 3**). At low temperatures, the asymptotic  
270 behavior of the temperature dependence in  $\gamma$  is due to the fact that the temperature  
271 dependences of the thermodynamic parameters, i.e.,  $\alpha$ ,  $K_T$ , and  $V$ , are smaller in magnitude

272 compared to that in the heat capacity,  $C_V$ . At high temperatures, the  $\gamma$  exhibits negligible  
273 temperature dependence (**Figure 3**). Previous studies indicate that  $\gamma$  is dependent on both  
274 temperature and volume and often exhibits non-monotonic temperature dependence (Oganov  
275 et al., 2000, 2002; Price et al., 1987). At 300 K, the numerical values of the  $\gamma^{LDA}$  and  $\gamma^{GGA}$  are  
276 0.86 and 0.71, respectively. We also made independent estimates of  $\gamma$  from experimentally  
277 determined thermal parameters at 300 K and 0 GPa, i.e.,  $\alpha$  (Comboni et al., 2017),  $V$  and  $K_S$   
278 (Brown and Abramson, 2016), and  $C_P$  (Dachs et al., 2010). The estimated  $\gamma \sim 0.95 \pm 0.07$  is in  
279 good agreement with the LDA results (**Figure 3**). We further analyzed and discussed the  
280 thermoelastic parameters at simultaneous high temperatures and pressures (**Supplementary**  
281 **Section I, Supplementary Table 5**).

282

### 283 *Crystal Structure at High-Pressure*

284 We examined the crystal structure of tremolite as a function of volume. We explored  
285 volumes in both compressional and tensional regimes. Our results show that polyhedron  
286 volumes and bond lengths decrease upon compression (**Supplementary Table 6**). The  
287 pressure dependence of the volume of the polyhedral sites could be well described by a finite  
288 strain third-order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state (**Supplementary Table 7**). The zero-  
289 pressure volumes of the polyhedrons ( $V_0$ ) are in good agreement with the experimental results  
290 based on single-crystal XRD (Comodi et al., 1991). However, the compressibilities of the  
291 polyhedral sites as estimated by experiments are not consistent with our results. This might  
292 be attributed to the fact that the crystal structure refinements from the single-crystal XRD  
293 were limited to two pressures at 0.0001 GPa and 3.5 GPa for tremolite. Therefore, it is likely  
294 that the polyhedral compressibilities were determined using linear fits of polyhedral volume  
295 and pressure (Comodi et al., 1991). Among the polyhedral units, the vacant A site is the  
296 softest and followed by the B site. The tetrahedral sites are the stiffest with  $K_{T1} > K_{T2}$  while

297 the stiffness of octahedral sites is intermediate with  $K_{M3} > K_{M1} > K_{M2}$  (**Supplementary Table**  
298 **7**).

299

### 300 *Elasticity*

301 Tremolite has 13 independent coefficients of the elastic tensor owing to its monoclinic  
302 symmetry (Nye, 1985). In this section, we adopted the Voigt notation for the elastic tensor  
303 ( $C_{ij}$ ). So far only one experimental result on tremolite at ambient conditions has been reported  
304 using impulsive stimulated light scattering method (Brown and Abramson, 2016). In their  
305 measurements, the  $a^*$ -,  $b$ -, and  $c$ -axes of the crystal were aligned parallel to X-, Y-, and Z-  
306 axes of the coordinate system, respectively, where  $a^* = a \sin\beta$ . However, in our simulations,  
307 the unit-cell was only constrained with the  $b$ -axis parallel to the Y-axis. Thus we rotated the  
308 experimentally determined elastic tensor by  $\sim 15^\circ$  for better comparison (**Supplementary**  
309 **Table 8**). The data show that our results based on LDA agree with the experimental data very  
310 well (**Figure 4, Table 2**) (Brown and Abramson, 2016).

311 The principal coefficients of the elastic tensor stiffen upon compression, i.e.,  $dC_{ij}/dP > 0$ ,  
312 and exhibit a relationship of  $C_{22} > C_{33} > C_{11}$  over the pressure range of 0-10 GPa. The pressure  
313 dependences of the principal coefficients are greater than those of other elastic coefficients,  
314 including the off-diagonal and shear elastic coefficients. The shear coefficients  $C_{66}$ , based on  
315 LDA results, decreases upon compression, i.e.,  $dC_{66}/dP < 0$ . The results based on GGA show  
316 that the  $C_{66}$  initially increases ( $dC_{66}/dP > 0$ ) and then decreases ( $dC_{66}/dP < 0$ ) upon  
317 compression with an inflection point at a pressure of  $\sim 6$  GPa (**Figure 4**). It is likely that such  
318 an inflection point occurs for LDA at a larger volume, i.e., a negative pressure, and it is not  
319 sampled in our study. The errors in the coefficients of the elastic tensor are within 0.4%  
320 except for the shear off-diagonal coefficients ( $C_{15}$ ,  $C_{25}$ ,  $C_{35}$ ,  $C_{46}$ ) which have errors within  
321 4.1%. The absolute errors in the shear off-diagonal coefficients are  $< 0.06$  GPa. The Voigt-

322 Reuss-Hill average bulk ( $K_{VRH}$ ) and shear ( $G_{VRH}$ ) moduli increase with pressure. We noted  
323 that the  $G' < K'$ , because all shear coefficients ( $C_{44}$ ,  $C_{55}$ ,  $C_{66}$ ) have systematically lower  
324 pressure dependences than those of the principal and off-diagonal coefficients, i.e.,  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{22}$ ,  
325  $C_{33}$ ,  $C_{23}$ ,  $C_{31}$ , and  $C_{12}$ . The errors in the elastic moduli are within 0.1%. Similarly, the  
326 compressional wave velocity ( $V_P$ ) increases at a faster rate with pressure. Based on LDA  
327 results, the shear wave velocity ( $V_S$ ) initially increases but then decreases at  $\sim 8$  GPa.  
328 Compared to the changes in the compressional wave velocity, shear wave velocity is rather  
329 insensitive to pressure (**Figure 5**). The errors of the velocities are within 0.04%. Eulerian  
330 finite strain formalism adequately explains the pressure dependence of the coefficients of the  
331 elastic tensor (**Table 2**) (Chheda et al., 2014; Karki et al., 2001).

332

### 333 *Anisotropy*

334 Based upon the linear compressibilities and the coefficients of the elastic tensor, it is  
335 clear that tremolite is very anisotropic. We determined the seismic velocities of tremolite  
336 along different propagation directions using the Christoffel equation (Mainprice, 1990):

$$337 \det|T_{ik} - \delta_{ik}\rho V_x^2| = 0 \quad (10)$$

338 where  $\delta_{ik}$  is the Kronecker delta,  $V_x$  is the seismic velocity, where  $x = \{P, S1, S2\}$ , P refers to  
339 the compressional wave and S1 and S2 refer to fast and slow shear waves, respectively, and  
340  $T_{ik}$  is the Christoffel stiffness. The  $T_{ik}$  for a certain propagation direction is defined by:

$$341 T_{ik}(\mathbf{n}) = C_{ijkl}\mathbf{n}_j\mathbf{n}_l \quad (11)$$

342 where the  $C_{ijkl}$  is the coefficients of the elastic tensor with the full notation and  $\mathbf{n}_j\mathbf{n}_l$  are the  
343 direction cosines.

344 The anisotropy  $AV_x$  is defined by:

$$345 AV_x = \frac{V_x^{max} - V_x^{min}}{\frac{1}{2}(V_x^{max} + V_x^{min})} \times 100\% \quad (12)$$

346 where  $V_x^{max}$  and  $V_x^{min}$  are respectively the maximum and minimum velocities solved from Eq.  
347 (10), where  $x = \{P, S\}$ , and S refers to the shear wave.

348 We determined the elastic anisotropy for both LDA and GGA results and compared them  
349 with the recent experimental study (Brown and Abramson, 2016). Stereographic projections  
350 show that our results agree well with the experimental results (**Figure 6**). Upon compression,  
351 the compressional wave velocity anisotropy ( $AV_P$ ) decreases while shear wave velocity  
352 anisotropy ( $AV_S$ ) increases. The pressure dependent behavior of  $AV_S$  is likely to be related to  
353 the negative pressure dependence of  $C_{66}$ , since the other coefficients of the elastic tensor  
354 stiffen upon compression. At 0 GPa and 300 K,  $AV_P^{LDA}$  is 34.6% and  $AV_S^{LDA}$  is 27.5%. At 3  
355 GPa corresponding to the thermodynamic stability of tremolite,  $AV_P^{LDA}$  reduces to 29.5%, i.e.,  
356 by 14.7%. In contrast,  $AV_S^{LDA}$  increases to 30.8%, i.e., by 12.0%. At 10 GPa, the maximum  
357 pressure explored in this study,  $AV_P^{LDA}$  reduces to 22.6%, while  $AV_S^{LDA}$  increases to 38.8%  
358 (**Supplementary Table 9**).

359

## 360 Discussion

361 The pressure dependence of the elastic properties could be better understood in terms of  
362 the evolution of the crystal structure under pressure. For instance, among the principal  
363 coefficients of the elastic tensor, the finding that  $C_{22} > C_{33} > C_{11}$  could be explained in terms  
364 of the I-beam units that constitute the crystal structure of tremolite (**Figure 1**). The I-beam is  
365 connected to adjacent I-beams via A and B cations, which are weaker linkages. Along the  $b$ -  
366 axis, i.e., [010] direction, three adjacent I-beams are linked by a B site. Along the  $a$ -axis, i.e.,  
367 [100] direction, I-beams are connected by an A site. In tremolite, the A sites are vacant  
368 allowing for a further weakening of the I-beam linkages. The pressure-induced evolution of  
369 the I-beams shape could be well understood in terms of the distances between the basal  
370 oxygen pairs. The distance of O7-O7' and O4-O4' along the  $a$ -axis indicate the inner and

371 outer thickness of I-beam, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 3**). The difference between  
372 inner and outer thicknesses indicates the bending of the I-beam. At room pressures, the I-  
373 beam is bent with a concave curvature whereas under compression, owing to the greater  
374 compressibility of the vacant A site, there is a reduction in the bend, i.e., the concave  
375 curvature of the I-beam. There is an inflection in the bend curvature to a convex shape at  
376 further compression to pressures of  $\sim 10$  GPa (**Supplementary Figure 3**). Similar to I-beam  
377 thickness, we could also quantify the separation between two adjacent I-beams. One can  
378 further distinguish between the inner and outer separations, as determined by the distance of  
379 O7-O7'' and O4-O4'' along the *a*-axis, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 3**). Because of  
380 the difference in the compressibility of the A and B sites, the distance of O4-O4'' varies little  
381 while the distance of O7-O7'' decreases about 0.7 Å from 0 to 10 GPa. Based on LDA results,  
382 we noted that the O4-O4'' initially decreases but then increases, leading to a change in the  
383 shape of the I-beam. Hence, the bending of the I-beam along the *a*-axis appears to be crucial  
384 in explaining the finding that  $C_{11}$  is softer compared to  $C_{22}$  and  $C_{33}$ .

385         Since individual tetrahedral units are quite stiff, they could be treated as effectively  
386 rigid bodies and the crystal structure responds to compression by rotation of the tetrahedral  
387 units. The tetrahedral rotation angle indicates the extent to which the ditrigonal ring deviates  
388 from a regular hexagon, and is defined by  $\theta = (\sum_{i=1}^6 |\phi_i - 120^\circ|) / 12$ , where  $\phi_i$  is the angle  
389 between three adjacent basal oxygen atoms (**Supplementary Figure 3**). Based on results  
390 from LDA, we noted that  $\theta$  increases from 6.5° at room pressure to 10.3° at 10 GPa  
391 (**Supplementary Figure 3**). The increase in  $\theta$  could be rationalized in terms of the greater  
392 stiffness along the *b*-axis compared to the *c*-axis. Thus, the finding that  $C_{22} > C_{33}$  could be  
393 rationalized in terms of the behavior of  $\theta$  upon compression.

394         The elastic anisotropy of tremolite can also be understood in terms of the behavior of  
395 the individual structural units. For instance, the compressional wave ( $V_p$ ) and the fast shear



396 wave ( $V_{SI}$ ) are relatively faster along  $b$ - and  $c^*$ -axes forming a girdle perpendicular to the  $a$ -  
397 axis. The slow shear wave ( $V_{S2}$ ) is faster along the  $c^*$ -axis (**Figure 6**). This is likely to be  
398 related to the stiffer I-beam and its weaker linkages along the  $a$ -axis.

399 It is well known that sheet silicates exhibit large elastic anisotropy that persists to lower  
400 crustal/upper mantle depths (Jiang et al., 2006; Mainprice et al., 2008; Bezacier et al., 2010;  
401 Chheda et al., 2014; Mookherjee and Mainprice, 2014). In contrast, amphibole is elastically  
402 less anisotropic, but owing to its greater thermal stability, is often more abundant in deep  
403 crustal and upper mantle lithologies. Thus amphibole is also likely to play an important role  
404 in explaining the seismic anisotropy of lower crustal and/or upper mantle lithologies that  
405 have experienced a deformation (Tatham et al., 2008; Ji et al., 2013).

406 The crystal structure of tremolite ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{Mg}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ ), a double chain silicate, can be  
407 considered as a hybrid crystal structure of talc ( $\text{Mg}_6\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4$  for 2 formula units), a sheet  
408 silicate, and diopside ( $\text{Ca}_4\text{Mg}_4\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{24}$  for 4 formula units), a single chain silicate. Based on the  
409 existing literature data and our results, we found that the thermodynamic and elastic  
410 properties of tremolite (tr) are intermediate between those of diopside (di) and talc (tlc). For  
411 instance, at ambient conditions,  $(\alpha_T K_T)^{di}$  ( $2.18 \times 10^{-3}$  GPa/K)  $>$   $(\alpha_T K_T)^{tr}$  ( $2.12 \times 10^{-3}$  GPa/K)  $>$   
412  $(\alpha_T K_T)^{tlc}$  ( $1.23 \times 10^{-3}$  GPa/K) (Isaak et al., 2006; Ulian and Valdrè, 2015). The heat capacity  
413  $C_P$  of tremolite ( $660.1 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ ) is intermediate between that of diopside ( $666.9 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ )  
414 and talc ( $650.8 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ ) (Krupka et al., 1985). The elastic properties also exhibit a similar  
415 trend, i.e., the isothermal bulk modulus  $K_T$  of tremolite (78.5 GPa) is intermediate between  
416 that of diopside (109.1 GPa) and talc (55.1 GPa) (Zhao et al., 1998; Ulian and Valdrè, 2015).  
417 The isothermal bulk moduli,  $K_T$ , for all the mineral phases are from a third-order Birch-  
418 Murnaghan equation of state. Similarly, the shear elastic moduli  $G$  of tremolite (58.1 GPa) is  
419 in between that of diopside (72.8 GPa) and talc (39.7 GPa) (Isaak et al., 2006; Ulian et al.,  
420 2014).

421

## 422 **Implication**

423       Metamorphosed ultramafic rocks and calc-silicate rocks could be examined in a CaO-  
424 MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> (CMSHC) system (Spear, 1993). In these metamorphosed rocks,  
425 tremolite is likely to be stable over a wide range of pressures (~0-3 GPa), temperatures  
426 (~400-900 °C), and chemistries (Spear, 1993; Jenkins et al., 1991). The presence of tremolite  
427 means that an ultramafic or calc-silicate mineral assemblage has experienced intermediate  
428 pressures (Spear, 1993). In contrast, the presence of talc in the mineral assemblage indicates  
429 that the assemblage has equilibrated at a lower metamorphic grade while diopside indicates  
430 equilibration at a relatively higher one. In fact, the gradual change of talc to tremolite to  
431 diopside with increasing pressure and temperature, i.e., metamorphic grade, has been well  
432 documented in siliceous dolomitic marbles in the Lepontine Alps (Trommsdorff, 1970;  
433 Winter, 2010) (**Figure 7**). We compiled the velocity-density systematics for a series of  
434 minerals, including talc, tremolite, and diopside, that are likely to be stable in the CMSHC  
435 system and found a strong correlation between the density and seismic velocity of all the  
436 minerals in CMSHC system. In metamorphosed/ metasomatized regions that are not exposed  
437 in an outcrop, such velocity-density systematics will be valuable in constraining the extent of  
438 metamorphism/metasomatism (**Figure 7**).

439       To evaluate whether metasomatism could explain the anomalously low seismic velocity  
440 at MLD depths, we compared the shear wave velocity of a nonmetasomatized lithology with  
441 that of metasomatized ones. For determining the velocity-depth profile for the  
442 nonmetasomatized lithology, we used the mineral assemblage and geotherm (surface heat  
443 flow of 40, 45, and 50 mW/m<sup>2</sup>) representative of a typical craton, the Kaapvaal Craton  
444 (Griffin et al., 2009; Artemieva, 2009) (**Supplementary Table 10**). To constrain the degree  
445 of metasomatism, we modeled metasomatized lithologies by varying the modal abundances

446 of amphibole between 5 and 25% at the depths of 70-90 km, i.e., MLD depths. We also  
447 incorporated 1 vol% of phlogopite throughout the entire modeled depth range, i.e., 50-200  
448 km. We calculated the velocity-depth profiles for these metasomatized lithologies by using  
449 the thermoelastic codes (Abers and Hacker, 2016) (**Figure 8**). Details of the thermoelastic  
450 formalisms and parameters used for our calculations for the anhydrous mantle mineral phases  
451 can be found in the supplementary information (**Supplementary Section II, Supplementary**  
452 **Table 11**). We updated the thermoelastic parameters for the hydrous minerals and used those  
453 of tremolite from this study as a proxy for amphiboles that are likely to be stable in  
454 metasomatized lithologies (**Table 3**). We defined the velocity reduction as  $\Delta V_S = (V_S^{Ref} -$   
455  $V_S^{Meta})/V_S^{Ref} \times 100\%$  at a given depth, where the  $V_S^{Ref}$  is the reference velocity for the  
456 nonmetasomatized lithology, and  $V_S^{Meta}$  is the velocity for the metasomatized lithology  
457 containing hydrous phases, i.e., amphiboles and phlogopite. We found that  $\Delta V_S$  is sensitive to  
458 the degree of metasomatism. For instance, for a geotherm with the surface heat flow of 45  
459  $\text{mW/m}^2$ , 5 vol% of amphibole can account for a  $V_S$  reduction of only 0.02 km/s, or  $\Delta V_S$  of  
460 0.4%. In contrast, 25 vol% of amphibole can account for a  $V_S$  reduction of 0.09 km/s, or 1.9%.  
461 In addition to 25 vol% of amphibole, another 1 vol% of phlogopite leads to a further  
462 reduction of 0.02 km/s, i.e., a total of 0.11 km/s or 2.3% reduction. We also found that the  
463  $\Delta V_S$  is rather insensitive to the choice of geotherm (**Figure 8**). However, it is sensitive to the  
464 choice of thermoelastic parameters for the hydrous minerals. For instance, parameters  
465 tabulated in the existing thermoelastic database (Abers and Hacker, 2016) significantly  
466 overestimate the velocity reduction (**Table 3, Figure 8**). For the same degree of  
467 metasomatism and a geotherm with 45  $\text{mW/m}^2$  surface heat flow, the thermoelastic  
468 parameters from the earlier database (Abers and Hacker, 2016) suggest that 25 vol% of  
469 amphibole can account for a  $V_S$  reduction of 0.18 km/s, or  $\Delta V_S$  of 3.8%; an addition of 1 vol%  
470 phlogopite leads to a further reduction of 0.03 km/s, i.e., a total of 0.20 km/s or 4.4%

471 reduction (**Figure 8**). Previous estimates with similar modal abundances of amphibole and  
472 phlogopite accounted for a shear wave velocity reduction of >5% (Selway et al., 2015). The  
473 geophysically observed reduction in  $V_S$  ranges from 3 to 10% (Lekić and Fischer, 2014;  
474 Sodoudi et al., 2013; Wölbern et al., 2012; Savage and Silver, 2008). Thus, we found the  
475 presence of amphibole and phlogopite associated with metasomatism could account for some  
476 reduction of  $V_S$  but may not be the sole mechanism responsible for MLD. However, it is to be  
477 noted that our estimates of the  $V_S$  for amphibole are based on alkali (K/Na) and iron (Fe) free  
478 tremolite end members. Recent estimates show that iron- and alkali-bearing end members  
479 could further reduce shear wave velocity ( $V_S$ ) by another 0.1 km/s per atom of alkali or iron  
480 in the formula unit (Brown and Abramson, 2016). However, the pressure and temperature  
481 dependences on elastic properties of the amphibole solid solution remain unknown and would  
482 be important for providing better constraints on their role at MLD depths. In addition to  
483 mantle metasomatism, other proposed mechanisms might also be required to explain the  
484 MLD, such as elastically accommodated grain boundary sliding (Karato et al., 2015; Karato  
485 and Park, 2019) and/or the presence of partial melts (Fischer et al., 2010).

486

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496

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738

739 **Figure Caption**

740 **Figure 1:** Crystal structure of tremolite amphibole predicted using *first principles* simulation  
741 at ~3 GPa. **(a)** Projection along the (001) plane: the crystal structure consists of  
742 tetrahedral units ( $\text{SiO}_4$ ) forming double chains and octahedral units ( $\text{MgO}_6$ ) arranged  
743 to form strips. The octahedral strip is sandwiched between two tetrahedral double  
744 chains with their apices pointing towards each other, together forming an I-beam  
745 denoted by bold black dashed lines. Large B sites are occupied by Ca and are located  
746 at the edge of the octahedral strip. The hydroxyl groups (OH) are located at the center  
747 of the strips of octahedral units. **(b)** Projection along the (100) plane: the crystal  
748 structure shows the tetrahedral double chains and the octahedral strips extend in the  
749 [001] direction. Also shown are the mirror (dashed black lines), the 2-fold axis (gray  
750 ellipse with a line), and the unit-cell edge (a continuous black line) for reference.

751 **Figure 2:** **(a)** Helmholtz free energy vs. unit-cell volume for tremolite amphibole. The open  
752 circles indicate unit-cell volume at zero-pressure. The experimentally unit-cell  
753 volume  $V_0^{Exp}$  is indicated by a green shaded bar (Comodi et al., 1991). **(b)** Pressure vs.  
754 unit-cell volume for tremolite amphibole at 300 K. **(c-e)** Lattice parameters:  $a$ -;  $b$ -;  $c$ -  
755 axes vs. pressure at 300 K. Inset shows the plot of lattice parameter  $\beta$  vs. pressure. **(f-**  
756 **h)** Linear normalized pressure,  $F_i$ , vs. linear Eulerian finite strain,  $f_i$ , at 300 K for  $a$ -,  
757  $b$ -, and  $c^*$ -axis, respectively. The vertical intercepts indicate the linear compressibility:  
758  $K_a$ ,  $K_b$ , and  $K_{c^*}$  (**Table 1**). The error bars for the normalized pressure are estimated to  
759 be  $\pm 0.1$  GPa based on the numerical precision of the calculations determined from the  
760 convergence of total energy (**Supplementary Table 1, 2**). Legend: LDA: pink  
761 symbols; GGA: light blue symbols; and experimental results (Exp): green symbols  
762 (Comodi et al., 1991).

763 **Figure 3:** **(a)** Thermal expansion coefficient ( $\alpha$ ) of tremolite as a function of temperature at  
764 zero-pressure. The filled blue circle refers to  $\alpha$  of tremolite at ambient conditions

765 (Sueno et al., 1973). The filled orange circle represents  $\alpha$  of pargasite experimentally  
766 determined at ambient conditions from a synchrotron XRD study (Comboni et al.,  
767 2017). Note that tremolite is an end member composition of pargasitic amphibole. **(b)**  
768 Specific heat capacity ( $C_P$ ) as a function of temperature at zero-pressure. The  
769 experimental results are also at ambient pressure (Krupka et al., 1985; Kahl and  
770 Maresch, 2001; Dachs et al., 2010). **(c)** Grüneisen parameter ( $\gamma$ ) as a function of  
771 temperature at zero-pressure. The black triangle represents  $\gamma$  determined using the  
772 equation  $\gamma = \alpha V K_S / C_P$ , where thermodynamic parameters are from previous  
773 experimental studies:  $\alpha$  (Comboni et al., 2017),  $V$  and  $K_S$  (Brown and Abramson,  
774 2016), and  $C_P$  (Dachs et al., 2010) at ambient conditions. The solid and dashed lines  
775 in the panel **(a-c)** represent the properties at temperatures where QHA is valid and  
776 invalid, respectively. The Debye temperature and the thermodynamic stability are  
777 indicated by the pink and green shaded bars, respectively.

778 **Figure 4:** **(a)** Comparison between the coefficients of the elastic tensor predicted from *first*  
779 *principles* simulations in this study and experimental results at ambient conditions  
780 (BA16: Brown and Abramson, 2016). **(b-e)** Coefficients of the elastic tensor,  $C_{ij}$ , of  
781 tremolite as a function of pressure at 300 K: **(b)** the principal coefficients,  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{22}$ ,  
782 and  $C_{33}$ ; **(c)** the shear coefficients,  $C_{44}$ ,  $C_{55}$ , and  $C_{66}$ ; **(d)** the off-diagonal coefficients,  
783  $C_{23}$ ,  $C_{13}$ , and  $C_{12}$ ; and **(e)** the shear off-diagonal coefficients,  $C_{15}$ ,  $C_{25}$ ,  $C_{35}$ , and  $C_{46}$ .

784 **Figure 5:** **(a)** Bulk ( $K_{VRH}$ ) and shear ( $G_{VRH}$ ) moduli as functions of pressure at 300 K. The  
785 subscript VRH refers to the Hill average of the Voigt and Reuss Bounds. The inset  
786 shows the isothermal bulk moduli as a function of temperature at zero-pressure. The  
787 purple circle is the bulk modulus (Reuss limit) derived from the experimentally-  
788 determined elastic tensor (BA16: Brown and Abramson, 2016). The green circle  
789 represents the isothermal bulk modulus determined by a second-order Birch-



790 Murnaghan equation of state (C91: Comodi et al., 1991). The solid and dashed lines  
791 represent the isothermal bulk moduli at temperatures where QHA is valid and invalid,  
792 respectively. **(b)** Compressional ( $V_P$ ) and shear ( $V_S$ ) wave velocity as a function of  
793 pressure at 300 K. Purple symbols in all panels refer to experimental results (BA16:  
794 Brown and Abramson, 2016).

795 **Figure 6:** Comparison of seismic anisotropy of tremolite between this study (averages of  
796 LDA and GGA) and an experimental study (Brown and Abramson, 2016) at ambient  
797 conditions. The stereographic projections down the  $c$ -axis are shown for **(a)**  $V_P$ , **(b)**  
798  $V_{SI}$ , and **(c)**  $V_{S2}$  from this study and **(d)**  $V_P$ , **(e)**  $V_{SI}$ , and **(f)**  $V_{S2}$  from the experiment.

799 **Figure 7:** **(a)** Ternary composition diagram of the system CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub>  
800 (CMSHC), projected from H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>. Such a ternary system is representative of  
801 both metamorphosed ultramafic rocks (black symbols) and calc-silicates rocks (white  
802 symbols). Mineral phases stable in both lithologies are shown as half-black and half-  
803 white circles. The inset depicts the metamorphic zones showing diopside (Di),  
804 tremolite (Tr), and talc (Tlc) as indicator minerals in regionally metamorphosed  
805 dolomitic marbles of the Lepontine Alps, along the Swiss-Italian border  
806 (Trommsdorff, 1970; Winter, 2010). **(b)** Velocities as a function of density for  
807 mineral phases in the CMSHC system. Inset shows the velocities as a function of  
808 water content for diopside (Di), tremolite (Tr), and talc (Tlc). The water content is  
809 also shown in **(a)** by the bar with a blue gradient. Legend: compressional ( $V_P$ ) and  
810 shear ( $V_S$ ) wave velocity are represented by circles and squares in **(b)**, respectively,  
811 and their corresponding trends are shown as dashed lines. The mineral abbreviations  
812 and references: antigorite (Atg) (Bezacier et al., 2010), brucite (Brc) (Jiang et al.,  
813 2006), calcite (Cal) (Chen et al., 2001), diopside (Di) (Isaak et al., 2006), dolomite  
814 (Dol) (Chen et al., 2006), enstatite (En) (Jackson et al., 2007), forsterite (Fo) (Mao et

815 al., 2015), ice (Ice-III) (Tulk et al., 1994), periclase (Per) (Zha et al., 2000), quartz  
816 (Qtz) (Ohno et al., 2006), talc (Tlc) (Uljan et al., 2014), and tremolite (Tr) (this study).  
817 **Figure 8:** Shear wave velocity-depth profiles for lithospheric mantle assemblages based on  
818 geotherms with varying surface heat flows of (a) 40 mW/m<sup>2</sup>; (b) 45 mW/m<sup>2</sup>; and (c)  
819 50 mW/m<sup>2</sup>. The reference (nonmetasomatized) lithology is based on the Kaapvaal  
820 Craton composition (**Supplementary Table 10**) (Griffin et al., 2009). The degree of  
821 mantle metasomatism and its effect on  $V_S$  is modeled by varying abundances of  
822 amphiboles (amp) (solid colored lines) between 70-90 km depth. Throughout the  
823 entire depth range displayed, an additional 1 vol% of phlogopite (phl) (dashed lines)  
824 is incorporated in the metasomatized lithology, following earlier work (Selway et al.,  
825 2015). The solid black lines indicate the velocity-depth profiles of the reference  
826 (nonmetasomatized) lithology ( $V_S^{ref}$ ). Thermoelastic data for hydrous phases are  
827 reported in **Table 3**. AH16: velocity-depth profiles calculated using the thermoelastic  
828 database (Abers and Hacker, 2016); S15 (Selway et al., 2015), since the reference  
829 velocity-depth profile was not reported, we assumed a baseline (orange dashed lines)  
830 and recalculated the shear wave velocity reduction. Hence, it is to be noted that the  
831  $\Delta V_S$  of ~3.6% for S15 does not account for the effect of 1% phlogopite on velocity  
832 reduction. Lower panels represent plots of the  $\Delta V_S$  caused by incorporating amphibole  
833 (and phlogopite) based on geotherms with varying surface heat flows of (d) 40  
834 mW/m<sup>2</sup>; (e) 45 mW/m<sup>2</sup>; and (f) 50 mW/m<sup>2</sup>. The pink shaded areas indicate the  
835 reported MLD  $\Delta V_S$  of 3-5%. In some regions, the reduction is >10% and is not shown  
836 in this diagram.

**Table 1.** Equation of state and lattice parameters for tremolite.

$E_0$ [eV]	$V_0$ [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	$K_0$ [GPa]	$K'$	$a_0$ [Å]	$K_a$ [GPa]	$b_0$ [Å]	$K_b$ [GPa]	$c_0^*$ [Å]	$K_c^*$ [GPa]	$T$ [K]	Method
-647.8	875.0	83.1	6.6	9.708	168.2	17.83	391.8	5.056	294.5	0	LDA <sup>a</sup>
-587.7	945.4	68.3	6.2	10.02	143.4	18.24	341.7	5.176	215.4	0	GGA <sup>a</sup>
-641.0	887.1	78.5	5.2	9.776	157.3	17.88	406.0	5.076	266.8	300	LDA <sup>a</sup>
-581.3	958.4	66.3	6.1	10.08	137.8	18.29	356.1	5.199	201.3	300	GGA <sup>a</sup>
-	905.76	76	4	9.840	-	18.042	-	5.102	-	300	SCXRD <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *this study*

<sup>b</sup> Comodi et al., 1991: SCXRD: single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The bulk modulus ( $K_0$ ) determined by a quadratic fitting of volume with pressure in Comodi et al., 1991 is 85 GPa, and is updated to 76±3 GPa using a second-order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state in Comodi et al., 2010.

**Table 2a.** Pressure dependence of the elastic constants ( $C_{ij}$ ), bulk ( $K$ ), and shear ( $G$ ) moduli for tremolite using LDA. The finite strain fit results and their pressure derivatives are also tabulated.

$V$ [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	$P_{0K}$ [GPa]	$P_{300K}$ [GPa]	$\rho$ [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	$C_{11}$ [GPa]	$C_{22}$ [GPa]	$C_{33}$ [GPa]	$C_{12}$ [GPa]	$C_{13}$ [GPa]	$C_{23}$ [GPa]	$C_{44}$ [GPa]	$C_{55}$ [GPa]	$C_{66}$ [GPa]	$C_{15}$ [GPa]	$C_{25}$ [GPa]	$C_{35}$ [GPa]	$C_{46}$ [GPa]	$K_{VRH}$ [GPa]	$G_{VRH}$ [GPa]
LDA (PAW)																		
800	10.00	10.62	3.37	181.0	249.6	249.5	84.1	110.6	89.2	88.0	87.7	43.9	2.1	0.6	-19.9	11.0	137.1	66.4
810	8.27	9.05	3.33	171.4	242.0	240.5	79.9	103.3	83.4	87.5	85.5	44.6	0.6	0.1	-21.1	9.9	130.2	65.6
820	6.69	7.58	3.29	162.2	234.9	231.9	75.8	96.2	78.1	86.9	83.4	45.6	-1.0	-0.5	-22.4	8.9	123.6	65.0
830	5.23	6.22	3.25	153.1	227.8	223.6	71.9	89.1	73.0	86.2	81.1	46.2	-2.6	-1.1	-23.7	8.0	117.1	64.1
840	3.89	4.94	3.21	144.4	221.2	215.6	68.1	82.4	68.4	85.3	78.9	46.8	-4.3	-1.6	-24.9	7.2	110.9	63.1
850	2.66	3.75	3.17	136.1	214.8	208.0	64.7	75.5	63.9	84.4	76.6	47.2	-6.0	-2.3	-26.2	6.3	104.8	62.2
860	1.53	2.65	3.14	128.1	208.2	200.3	61.5	69.3	59.6	83.3	74.3	47.5	-7.6	-3.0	-27.5	5.5	98.9	61.0
870	0.49	1.61	3.10	120.9	202.2	192.9	58.3	63.0	55.5	82.1	71.8	47.7	-9.1	-3.8	-28.9	4.8	93.3	59.9
880	-0.46	0.65	3.07	114.2	195.8	186.2	55.1	56.5	51.7	80.9	69.4	47.9	-10.6	-4.6	-30.3	4.0	87.6	58.9
890	-1.33	-0.25	3.03	108.1	189.8	179.3	52.3	51.0	48.2	79.5	66.8	47.8	-11.9	-5.4	-31.8	3.2	82.4	57.6
finite strain fit at 0 K																		
875.0	0	1.12	3.08	117.6	198.8	189.6	56.6	59.9	53.6	81.5	70.6	47.8	-9.8	-4.2	-29.6	4.3	90.3	59.4
first pressure derivative				7.3	6.4	7.3	3.2	6.4	4.0	1.3	2.6	-0.1	1.6	0.8	1.4	0.8	5.7	1.2
second pressure derivative				-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.1
finite strain fit at 300 K																		
887.1	-1.09	0	3.04	109.4	191.5	181.2	53.1	52.6	49.1	80.0	67.6	47.9	-11.6	-5.1	-31.3	3.5	83.8	58.0
first pressure derivative				7.4	6.6	7.6	3.2	6.6	4.0	1.4	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.9	1.5	0.8	5.9	1.3
second pressure derivative				-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.1

**Table 2b.** Pressure dependence of the elastic constants ( $C_{ij}$ ), bulk ( $K$ ), and shear ( $G$ ) moduli for tremolite amphibole using GGA. The finite strain fit results and their pressure derivatives are also tabulated.

$V$ [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	$P_{0K}$ [GPa]	$P_{300K}$ [GPa]	$\rho$ [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	$C_{11}$ [GPa]	$C_{22}$ [GPa]	$C_{33}$ [GPa]	$C_{12}$ [GPa]	$C_{13}$ [GPa]	$C_{23}$ [GPa]	$C_{44}$ [GPa]	$C_{55}$ [GPa]	$C_{66}$ [GPa]	$C_{15}$ [GPa]	$C_{25}$ [GPa]	$C_{35}$ [GPa]	$C_{46}$ [GPa]	$K_{VRH}$ [GPa]	$G_{VRH}$ [GPa]	
GGA (PAW)																			
860	8.66	9.97	3.14	156.4	222.0	217.0	72.0	89.9	74.4	83.7	77.9	45.1	-1.5	-1.4	-23.6	5.6	117.0	62.3	
880	6.11	7.33	3.07	142.2	209.6	202.8	65.4	77.9	65.9	81.8	73.9	45.6	-4.1	-2.6	-25.6	4.1	106.1	60.5	
900	3.92	5.05	3.00	128.5	197.8	190.1	59.3	66.9	58.4	79.5	69.8	45.7	-6.6	-3.9	-27.6	2.6	95.9	58.5	
920	2.03	3.07	2.93	117.1	186.9	178.3	53.9	56.4	51.9	77.0	65.5	45.4	-8.8	-5.3	-29.7	1.3	86.5	56.4	
940	0.40	1.37	2.87	107.7	176.8	168.9	48.7	46.7	46.9	74.4	61.2	45.0	-10.7	-6.7	-31.7	-0.1	78.1	54.4	
960	-1.00	-0.11	2.81	99.8	167.5	161.9	43.8	38.1	43.2	71.6	56.5	44.3	-12.2	-8.1	-33.7	-1.3	70.8	52.3	
finite strain fit at 0 K																			
945.4	0.00	0.95	2.85	105.4	174.2	167.0	47.3	44.5	46.2	73.6	59.8	44.8	-11.0	-7.1	-32.3	-0.4	76.1	53.7	
first pressure derivative				6.0	6.6	6.1	3.4	6.2	3.0	1.9	3.1	0.4	1.2	1.0	1.4	0.9	5.3	1.4	
second pressure derivative				0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
finite strain fit at 300 K																			
958.4	-0.90	0.00	2.81	100.0	168.2	161.4	44.2	38.8	43.0	71.8	57.0	44.3	-12.2	-8.0	-33.5	-1.2	71.2	52.5	
first pressure derivative				5.7	6.6	5.9	3.3	6.2	2.8	2.0	3.2	0.5	1.2	1.0	1.4	0.9	5.2	1.4	
second pressure derivative				0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1

**Table 3.** Thermoelastic data for tremolite (tr) and phlogopite (phl).

phase	gram formula weight (g/mol)	molar volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /mol)	density @298K (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	wt% H <sub>2</sub> O	expansivity (/K)	isothermal bulk modulus (Pa)	dK <sub>T</sub> /dP	shear modulus (Pa)	dlnG/dlnρ	dG/dP	first Grüneisen parameter	second Grüneisen parameter	Reference
	<i>gfw</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>ρ</i> <sub>298</sub>	<i>H</i> <sub>2</sub> <i>O</i>	<i>a</i> <sup>0</sup>	<i>K</i> <sub><i>T</i></sub>	<i>K</i> <sub><i>T</i></sub> '	<i>G</i>	<i>Γ</i>	<i>G</i> '	<i>γ</i> <sub><i>th</i></sub>	<i>δ</i> <sub><i>T</i></sub>	
tr	812.37	267.13	3041	2.20	4.94E-05 <sup>[1]</sup>	7.85E+10	5.19	5.80E+10	3.33 <sup>[2]</sup>	1.27	0.86	3.33 <sup>[3]</sup>	<i>ref</i> <sup><i>a</i></sup>
tr	812.37	272.70	2979	2.20	5.34E-05	8.50E+10	4.00	5.05E+10	4.79	0.99	0.79	4.79	<i>ref</i> <sup><i>b</i></sup>
phl	417.24	149.31	2794	4.50	7.60E-05 <sup>d[1]</sup>	5.12E+10	9.10	3.66E+10	11.73 <sup>[2]</sup>	1.83	0.56 <sup><i>e</i></sup>	11.73 <sup>[4]</sup>	<i>ref</i> <sup><i>c</i></sup>
phl	417.24	149.70	2788	4.50	5.79E-05	4.97E+10	8.59	2.70E+10	9.18	0.91	0.59	9.18	<i>ref</i> <sup><i>b</i></sup>

*ref*<sup>*a*</sup>: This study, using parameters based on LDA.

*ref*<sup>*b*</sup>: Abers and Hacker, 2016, and the references or notes therein.

*ref*<sup>*c*</sup>: Chheda et al., 2014, data represented here are the average of LDA and GGA.

*ref*<sup>*d*</sup>: Tutti et al., 2000.

*ref*<sup>*e*</sup>: Ulian and Valdrè, 2015, talc is used as a proxy for phlogopite which has a very similar crystal structure.

*ref*<sup>*f*</sup>: Bailey and Holloway, 2000, talc is used as a proxy for phlogopite.

Note [1]: The expansivity constant *a*<sup>0</sup> is obtained by fitting *V* vs. *T*.

Note [2]: The parameter *Γ* is approximated as  $\Gamma = \delta_T$  (Anderson et al., 1992; Hacker and Abers, 2004) when *G* vs. *T* is not known.

Note [3]: The isothermal second Grüneisen parameter *δ*<sub>*T*</sub> is obtained by fitting *K*<sub>*T*</sub> vs. *T*.

Note [4]: The isothermal second Grüneisen parameter *δ*<sub>*T*</sub> is obtained based on its definition formula.

For the details about the parameters, please refer to the Supplementary Information (**Supplementary Section II**).

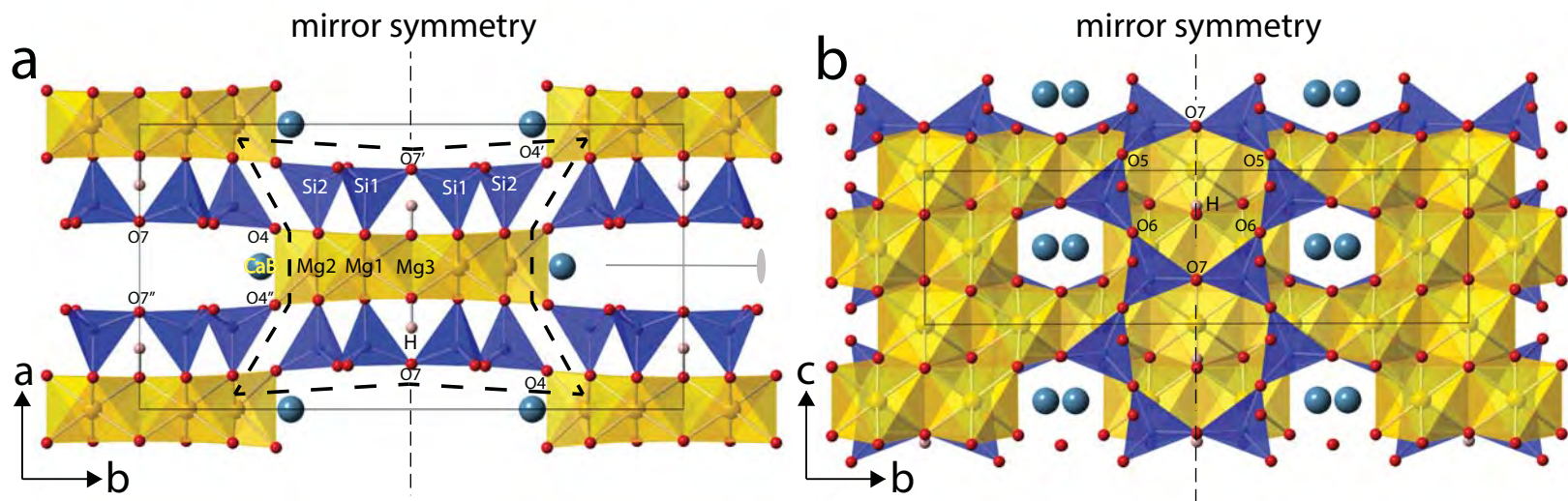


Figure 1

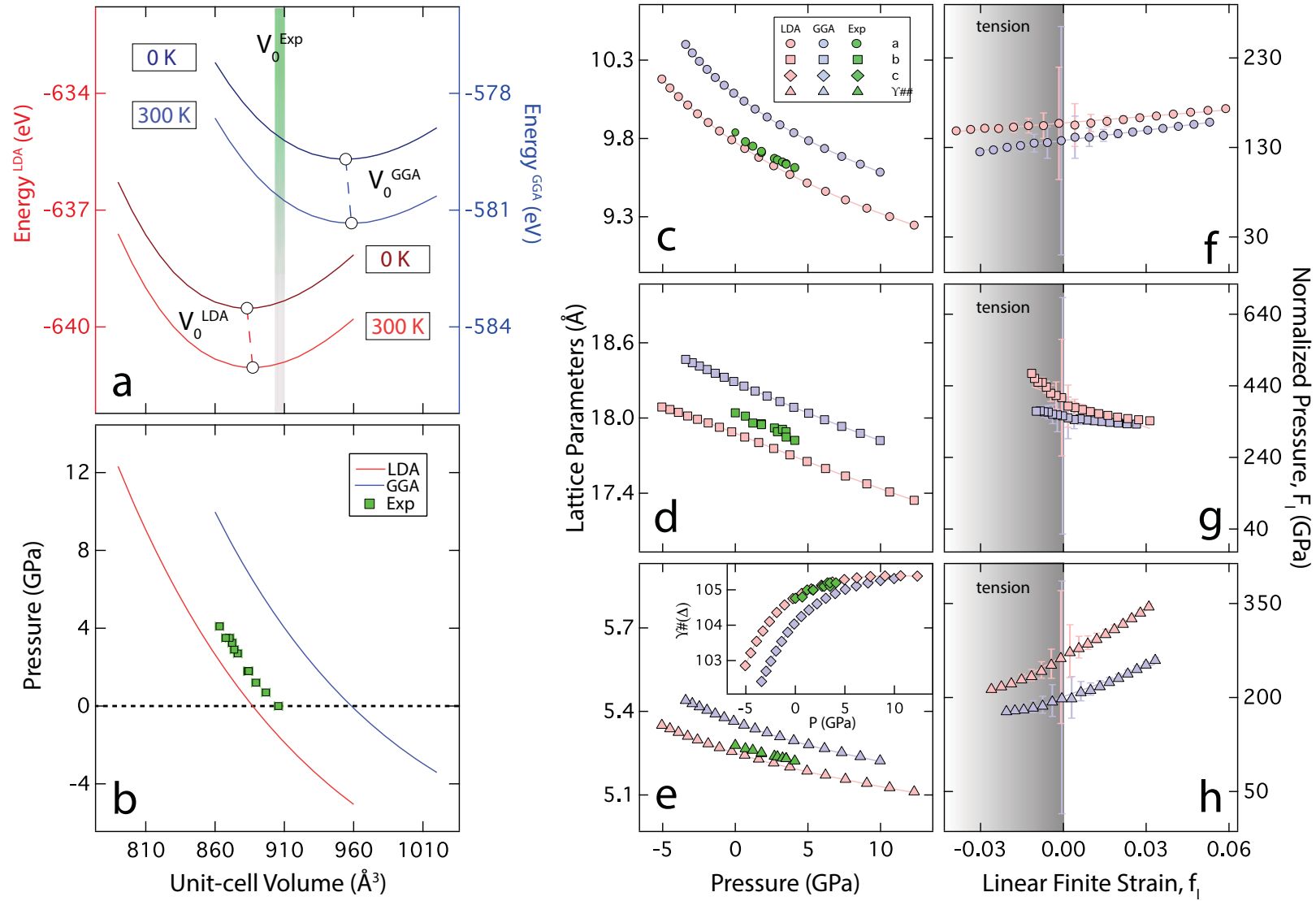


Figure 2



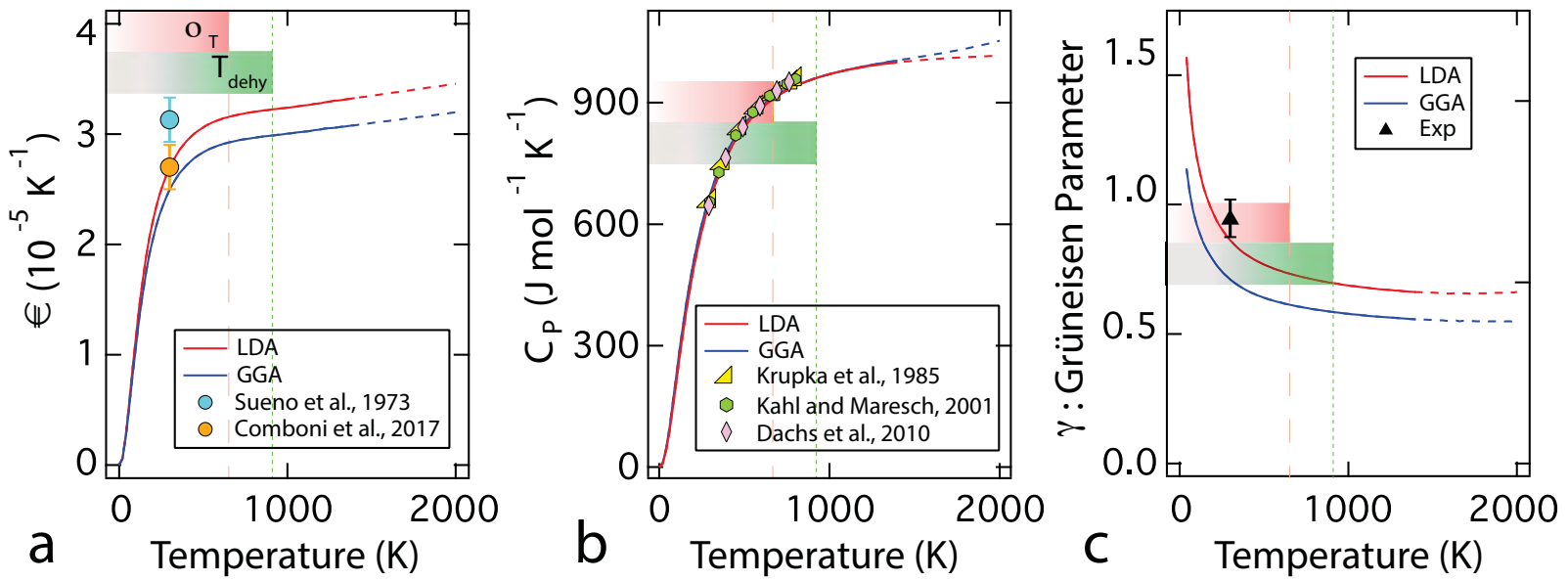
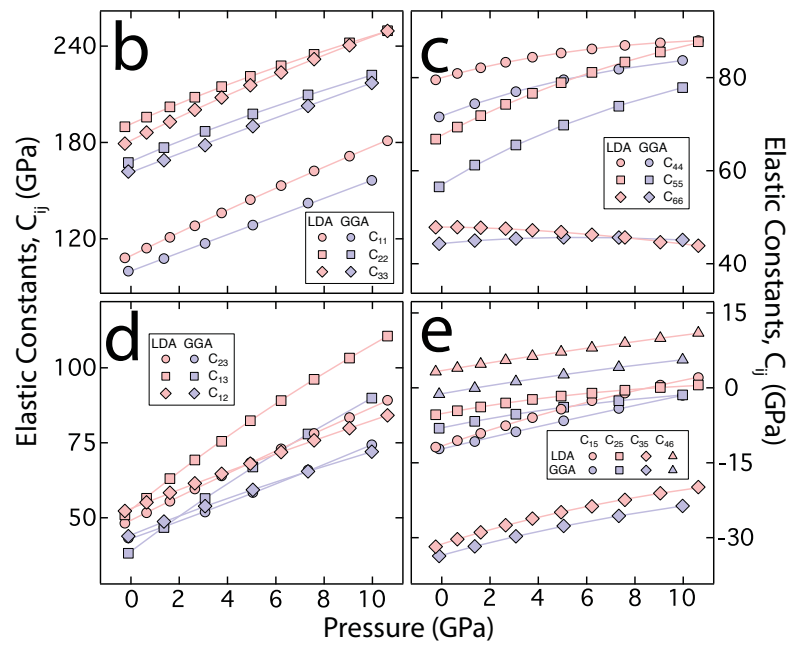
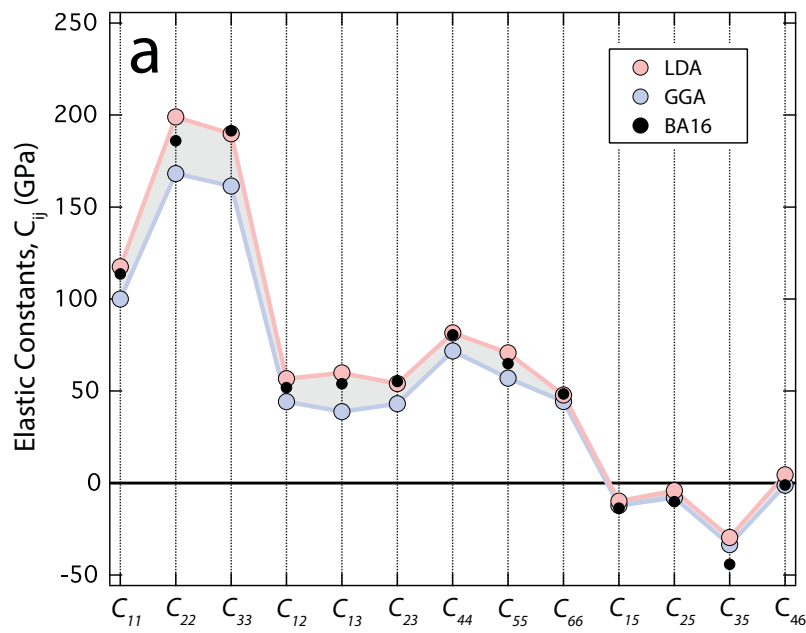
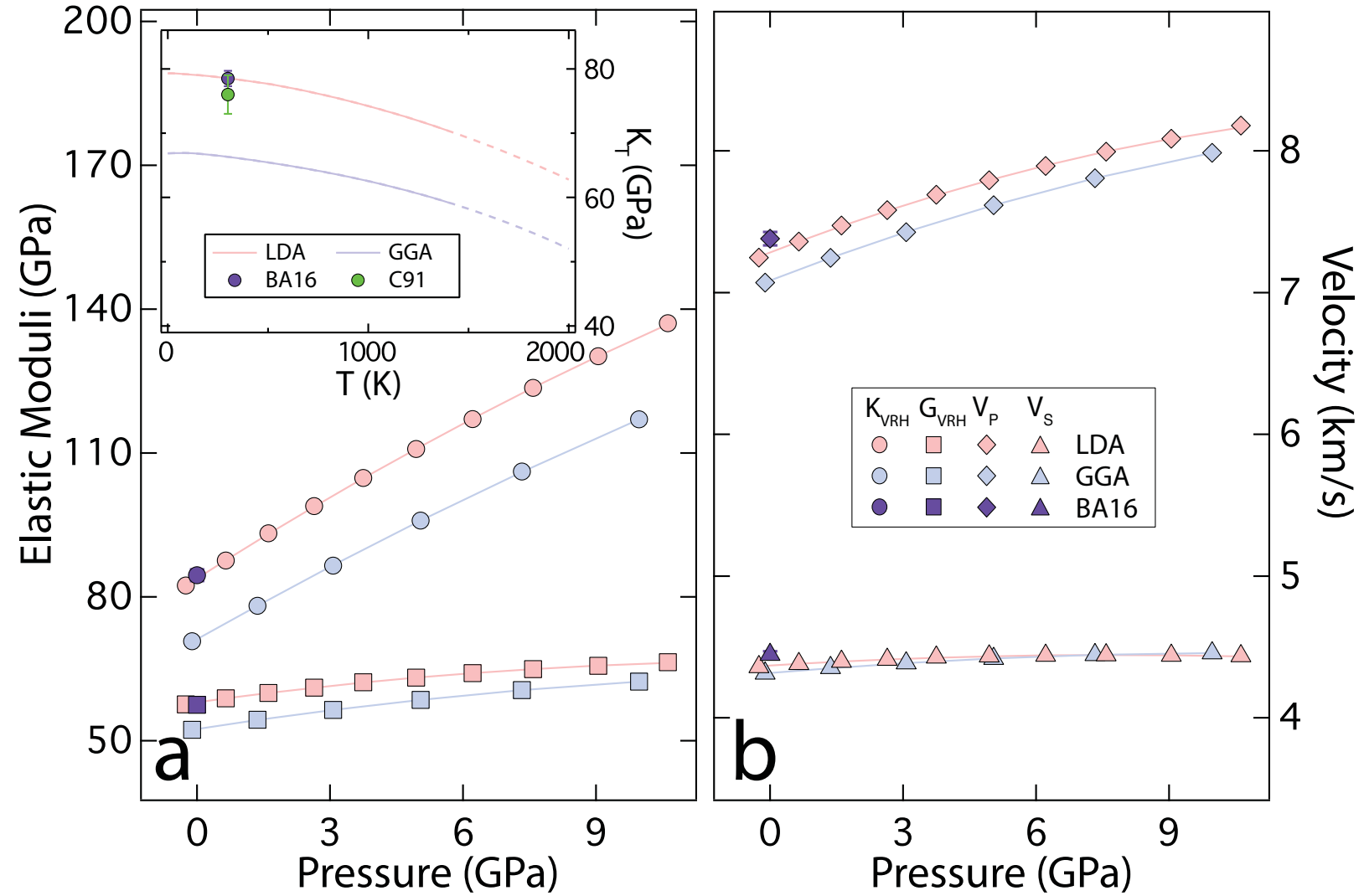


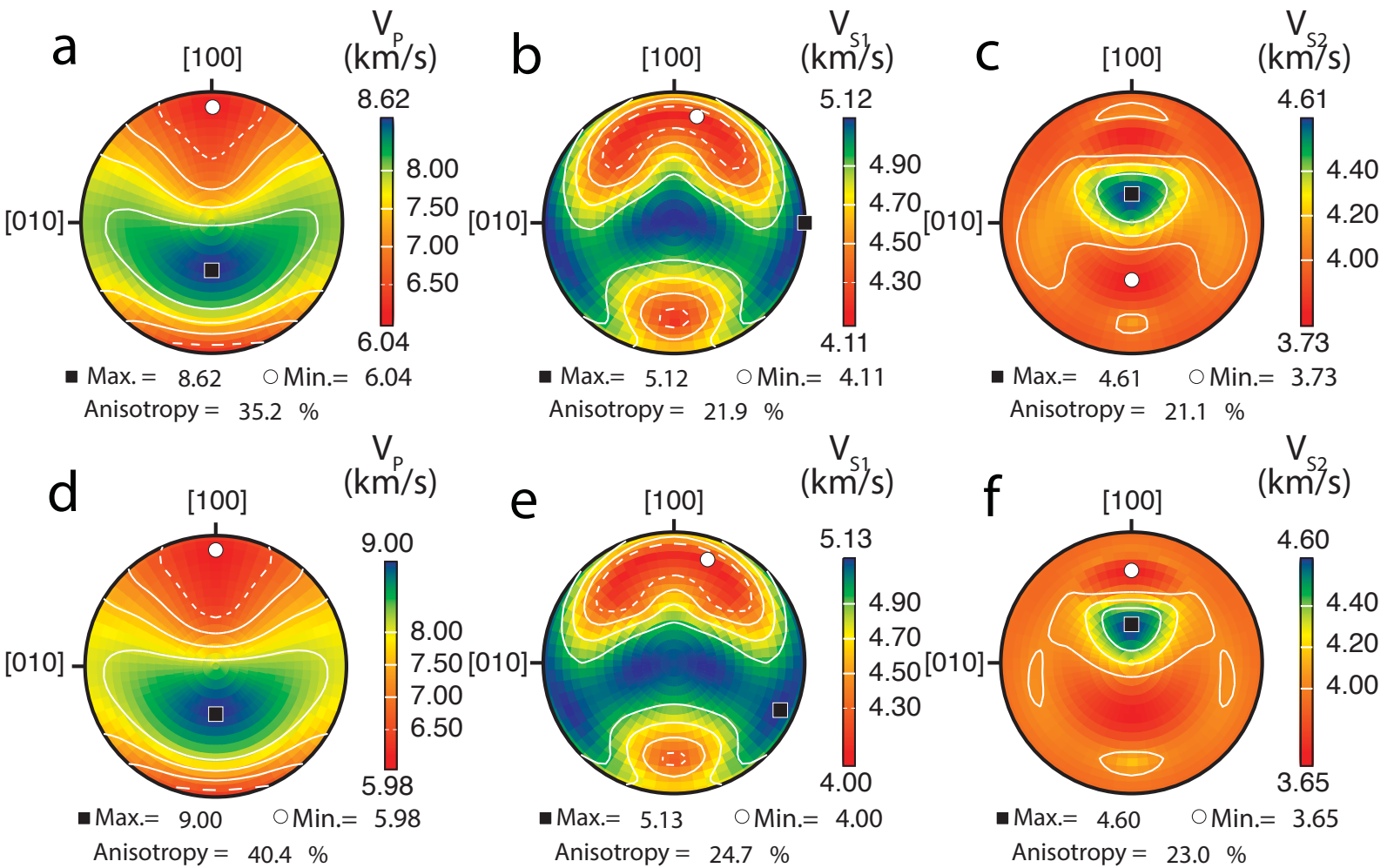
Figure 3



**Figure 4**



# Figure 5



# Figure 6

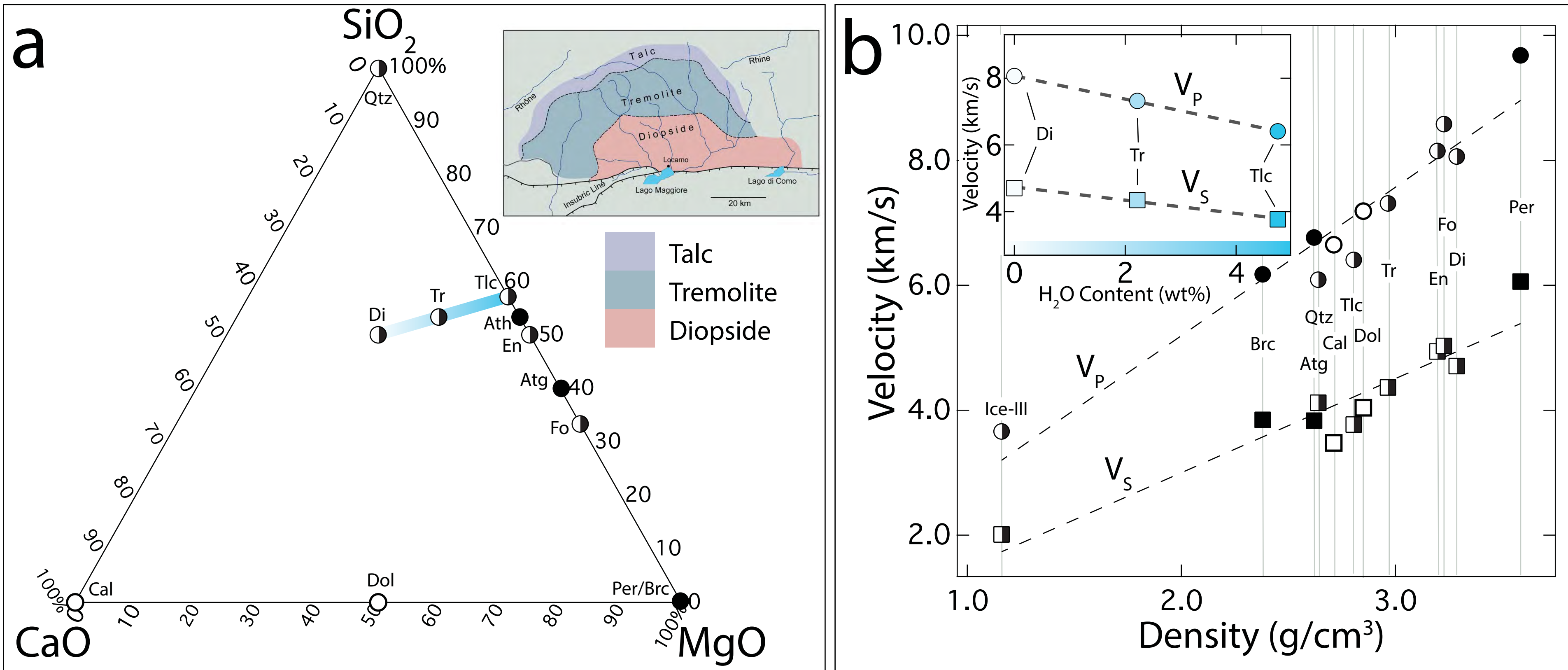


Figure 7

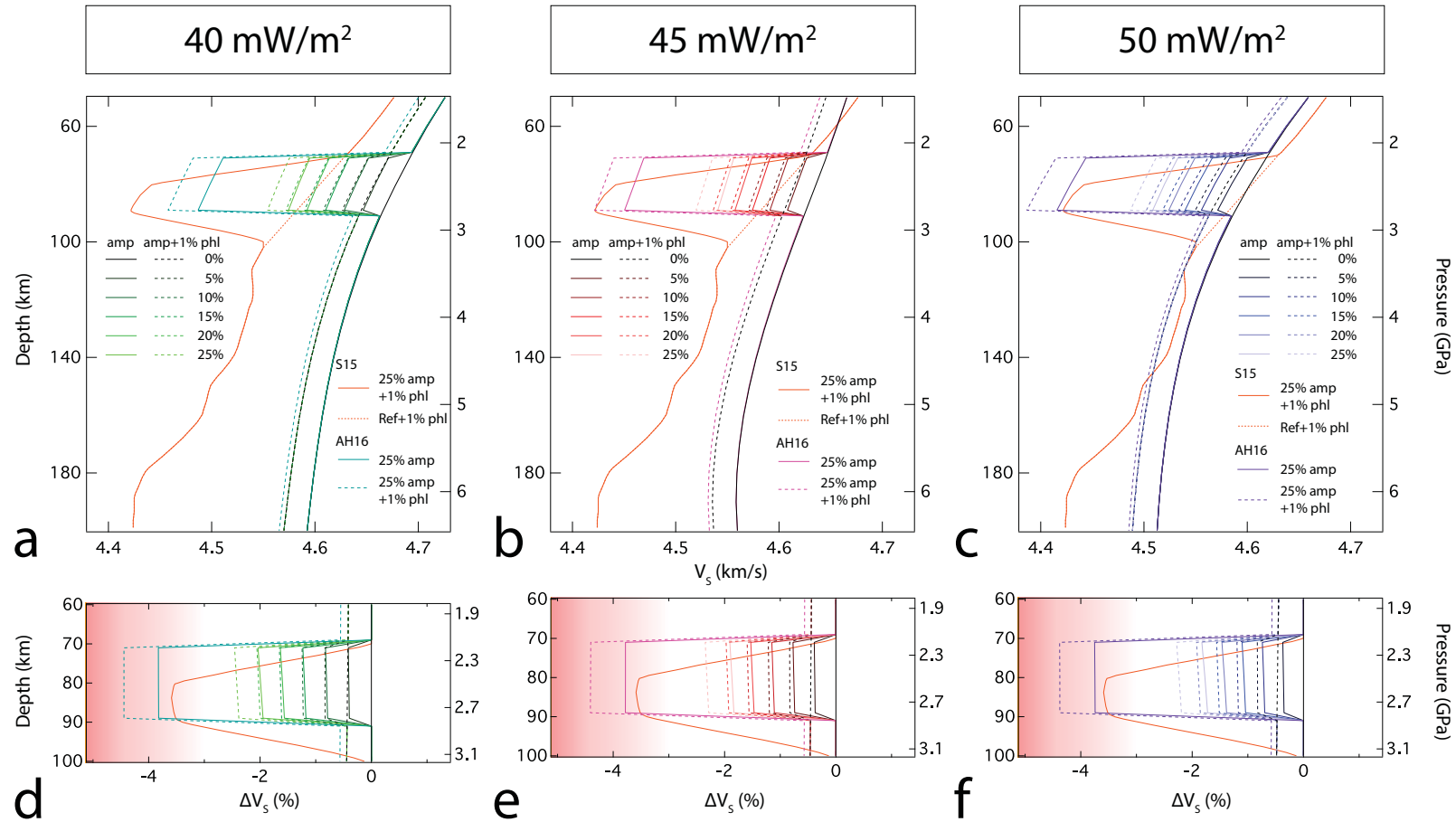


Figure 8