

1 **Revision 1**

2 **Fast diffusion path for water in silica glass**

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13

14 **Abstract**

15 Diffusion experiments of $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at 900-750°C and water vapor pressure of 50 bar found
16 more than one-order of magnitude faster diffusion of water in SiO_2 glass than that reported
17 previously. The fast diffusion profile of water was observed as an extended tail of the normal water
18 diffusion profile by a line scan analysis with SIMS, and it can be fitted with a diffusion model with
19 a constant diffusivity. The obtained fast diffusion coefficient suggests that the diffusion species
20 responsible for the fast diffusion is not molecular hydrogen but molecular water. The diffusivity
21 and activation energy for the fast water diffusion can be explained by the correlation between
22 diffusivities of noble gases in silica glass and their sizes. Because noble gases diffuse through free
23 volume in the glass structure, we conclude that molecular water can also diffuse through the free
24 volume. The abundance of free volume in the silica glass structure estimated previously is higher
25 than that of ^2H observed in the fast diffusion in this study, suggesting that the free volume were not
26 fully occupied by ^2H under the present experimental condition. This implies that the contribution of
27 the fast water diffusion to the total water transport in volcanic glass becomes larger under higher
28 water vapor pressure conditions.

29 Key words: water, silica glass, SIMS, diffusion pathway, free volume

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INTRODUCTION

32 Water inside the Earth changes physical and chemical properties of rocks, minerals, and
33 magma. Water circulates into the mantle through subduction zones and back to the surface through
34 arc volcanism. The arc volcanism is affected by water in magma because water changes the
35 physical and chemical properties of magma. For instance, water influences eruption styles through
36 changing magma ascent rates via its influence on bubble nucleation, bubble growth, and degassing
37 (e.g., Sparks, 1978; Rutherford, 2008). Bubble growth in magma is controlled by viscous
38 relaxation and water diffusion, the relative influence of which depends on magma properties such
39 as temperature, pressure, and chemical compositions.

40 Water diffusion in magma is therefore one of the important basic parameters to control
41 water degassing from magmas. Water diffusion in various silicate glasses, as an analog of silicate
42 melts, has been intensively studied (e.g., Zhang et al., 2007 and references therein). Although the
43 dependences of water diffusion on temperature, water concentration, and pressure have been
44 obtained and formulated, water diffusion in silicate glasses is not yet fully understood as an
45 atomistic-scale process. Kuroda et al. (2018) performed water diffusion experiments in silica glass,

46 and proposed a water diffusion model, where water molecules diffuse through pathways formed by
47 hydroxyls. They also showed that the model is applicable to the water diffusion in various silicate
48 glasses to explain the concentration dependence of water diffusion in rhyolite and basalt glasses.

49 Here we report a new diffusion pathway of water molecules in silica glass, through which
50 water can be transported at a rate of one-order of magnitude faster than that previously reported
51 values in similar conditions as Kuroda et al. (2018). We discuss the mechanism of water molecule
52 diffusion through the fast pathway and its potential contribution to the water transport in silicate
53 glasses.

54

55 **EXPERIMENTAL AND ANALYTICAL METHODS**

56 Diffusion experiments were performed using the same protocol as in Kuroda et al. (2018).
57 An optical silica glass plate (5 mm × 3 mm × 2 mm; SIGMA KOKI CO.) was flame-sealed in a
58 silica glass tube (3.5 mm and 4.7 mm in inner and outer diameters, and 80 mm in length) with
59 deuterated water ($^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) (7.10-8.17 μL) under atmospheric pressure. The sealed glass tubes were
60 heated in a box furnace at temperatures of 900, 850, 800 and 750 °C for different durations (Table

61 1). The $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ vapor pressure inside the glass tube was controlled to be 50 bar by complete
62 evaporation of deuterated water.

63 Polished cross sections of the run products were prepared for measurements of
64 concentration profiles of ^1H , ^2H , and ^{30}Si along the diffusion direction from the glass surface with a
65 secondary ion mass spectrometer (SIMS; Cameca ims-6f) at Hokkaido University. A 15-20 nA
66 Cs^+ primary beam was focused to form a 20-25- μm spot on the sample, and negatively charged
67 secondary ions of ^1H , ^2H , and ^{30}Si were counted by an electron multiplier for 2, 10, and 1 seconds,
68 respectively, with a 5 μm step. A normal electron flood gun was used for charge compensation. A
69 field aperture was used to permit transmission of ions from the central area of 10 μm in diameter of
70 the sputtered region to minimize the hydrogen signals from absorbed water on the sample surface.
71 A few profiles (mostly three) were obtained for each sample to assess the analytical reproducibility.
72 A starting material glass sample was also measured as a reference with the same analytical
73 condition. The position of the glass surface was determined as being the point from which ^{30}Si
74 counts became constant.

75

76

RESULTS

77 Diffusion profiles of ^2H in samples heated at 900 °C for 1, 3, and 20 hours are compared in
78 Fig. 1. The ^2H intensity decreases rapidly from rim to core of the sample with diffusion distances of
79 about 50, 100, and 250 μm for the samples heated for 1, 3, and 20 hours, respectively. This is
80 consistent with the diffusion experiments with $^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Kuroda et al., 2018), and the profile shape
81 can be explained by water concentration-dependent diffusion in silica glass (Kuroda et al., 2018),
82 of which detail is discussed below.

83 It is found that the tail of deuterium profile extends further into the deep region of the
84 sample, where the ^2H ion intensity is higher than the original value in the starting material ($^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$
85 $< 2 \times 10^{-7}$) (Fig. 1). Comparison between the concentration profiles heated at 900°C for 1 and 3
86 hours clearly shows that ^2H migrated into the deeper region of the glass with time (Fig. 1). The ^2H
87 finally seems to have an almost homogeneous distribution inside the glass after 20-hour heating
88 (Fig. 1). This observation clearly shows that a small fraction of deuterium-bearing species migrates
89 at a faster diffusion rate than the dominant fraction that diffuses as the concentration dependent

90 profile. This newly-observed fast diffusion profile was also confirmed in samples heated at 850,
91 800, and 750 °C (Fig. 2).

92 DISCUSSION

93 Profile fitting

94 The profiles of $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ in the run products are used to discuss the $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ diffusion because it
95 has a linear relation to the water concentration (Kuroda et al., 2018). The $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ profiles,
96 normalized to the ratio at the glass surface, are shown in Fig. 2. The concentration-dependent
97 diffusion profiles can be explained by the water diffusion model in silica glass (Kuroda et al.,
98 2018), where molecular water is proposed to diffuse through the pathway formed by hydroxyls
99 (-OH). The model attributes the strong water concentration dependence for water diffusion in silica
100 glass to the limited number of diffusion pathways. If water molecules (H_2O_m) favor a pathway
101 formed by cutting Si-O-Si bonds to diffuse in the polymerized silica glass network, water molecules
102 themselves should form the pathways through the hydroxyl formation reaction ($\text{H}_2\text{O}_m + \text{O} \leftrightarrow$
103 2OH). On the other hand, such pathways preexist in silicate glasses due to the presence of network
104 modifier cations such as Na^+ and K^+ that cut the glass network. This difference results in the

105 stronger water concentration dependence for water diffusion in silica glass than in silicate glasses
106 because the number of diffusion pathways in silica glass depends on water concentration (Kuroda
107 et al., 2018).

108 The total water diffusivity ($D_{H_2O_t}$) in silica glass through the pathways formed by
109 hydroxyls ('normal diffusion' hereafter) is given by

$$110 \quad D_{H_2O_t} = \frac{D^*K}{8} \left(\left(1 + \frac{16X_{H_2O_t}}{K} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - 1 \right) \left(1 - \left(1 + \frac{16X_{H_2O_t}}{K} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right), \quad (1)$$

111 where X_i is the molar fraction of species i , D^* is a concentration independent term and K is an
112 equilibrium constant of the hydroxyl formation reaction (Kuroda et al., 2018). The water diffusion
113 profiles fitted with the diffusion coefficient of Eq. (1) are shown as dotted curved in Fig. 2. The
114 diffusivities for normal diffusion at the glass surface are about $(5-0.8) \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ in the present
115 experimental conditions, and decreases with decreasing $X_{H_2O_t}$ in roughly proportion to $X_{H_2O_t}^2$
116 (Kuroda et al., 2018).

117 The extended tails of the diffusion profiles ('fast diffusion' hereafter) cannot be explained
118 by the normal diffusion, while they can be fitted by a one-dimensional, semi-infinite diffusion

119 model with a fixed surface concentration and a constant diffusion coefficient (Crank, 1975)
120 assuming that the fast diffusion is independent of the normal diffusion (Fig. 2):

$$121 \quad R(x) = (R_s - R_0) \left[1 - \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) \right] + R_0, \quad (2)$$

122 where x is the distance from the glass surface, $R(x)$ is the normalized $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ at x , R_s is the
123 normalized $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ at the glass surface for fast diffusion, R_0 is the background $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ relative to R_s ,
124 respectively. The fitting curves were obtained for the first $\sim 100\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ of the tails (Fig. 2) because the
125 ^2H intensities in the deeper region became comparable to the detection limit. The obtained
126 diffusion coefficients of fast diffusion (Table 1) are about one-order of magnitude larger than those
127 of normal water diffusion at the glass surface at all temperatures. They are more than one order of
128 magnitude larger than the normal diffusion coefficients inside the glass ($(5-0.8) \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ at the
129 glass surface under the present experimental conditions), where the total water concentration is
130 lower than at the surface.

131 The diffusion model with a constant diffusion coefficient gives R_s of $(2-6) \times 10^{-4}$ at all the
132 temperatures. Although the estimated R_s has a large uncertainty, it is comparable to the

133 homogeneous $R(x)$ within the samples heated for 20 hours ($(4-12) \times 10^{-4}$). This suggests that the
134 assumption of the fixed surface concentration in Eq. (2) is valid.

135

136 **Species and path for fast diffusion of water in silica glass**

137 Mean values of the fast diffusion coefficients at different temperatures, obtained from
138 multiple-line profiles of a single sample, are summarized in Table 1. The Arrhenius plot of the fast
139 diffusion coefficient gives an activation energy of 80.5 ± 40.5 kJ/mol and a pre-exponential factor
140 of 6.1×10^{-9} m²/s (Fig. 3).

141 The obtained diffusion coefficient at 900-750°C (Table 1) is two orders of magnitude
142 smaller than that of H₂ in the same temperature range (Lou et al., 2003), and its activation energy is
143 twice as large as that of H₂ diffusion in silica glass (Lou et al., 2003). Therefore H₂ is unlikely to be
144 a diffusing species for the fast diffusion observed in this study.

145 The activation energy of ~ 80.5 kJ/mol is similar to that of the normal diffusion of water in
146 silica glass (e.g., Kuroda et al., 2018; Wakabayashi and Tomozawa, 1989). This indicates that the

147 main diffusion species for fast diffusion is molecular water and that water molecules jump within
148 the glass structure with a similar energetic barrier (Kuroda et al., 2108).

149 The similar energetic barrier for normal and fast diffusion suggests that the difference in
150 diffusivity should be attributed to factors related to the pre-exponential term for diffusion such as a
151 frequency factor and a diffusion pathway. Here we propose that a small fraction of water molecules
152 diffuse through the pathways connecting free volume (Fig. 4) without reacting with the silica glass
153 structure to form hydroxyls. The free volume is the intrinsic gap formed within the polymerized
154 network (e.g., Cohen and Turnbull, 1959; Vrentas and Duda, 1977), and it has been proposed that
155 noble gases diffuse through the free volume in the network structure of silica and silicate glasses
156 (e.g., Behrens, 2010; Amalberti et al., 2016) (Fig. 4(a)). In the free-volume diffusion model, the
157 free volumes are connected by “doorways” of an average radius r_0 . The activation energy for the
158 diffusion may be given as the energy required to deform the glass network large enough to allow an
159 atom to pass from one side to another. For instance, the following expression has been proposed for
160 the relationship between the activation energy for diffusion and the atomic radius (r) for noble
161 gases;

$$162 \quad E_a = 8\pi G r_0 (r - r_0)^2, \quad (3)$$

163 where G represents a shear modulus of the glass. G and r_0 for silica glass are estimated to be 305
164 kbar and 1.1 Å, respectively (Anderson and Stuart, 1954).

165 The obtained diffusivity and the activation energy for the fast diffusion of water molecules
166 are compared with those of noble gas diffusion in silica glass (Swets et al., 1961 for He; Wortmann
167 and Shakelford, 1990 for Ne; Carroll and Stolper, 1991 for Ar; Roselieb et al., 1995 for Kr and Xe)
168 (Fig. 4(b)). The radii of noble gasses and molecular water are taken from Zhang and Xu (1995),
169 where molecule radii were obtained by treating the noble gas atoms as ions of zero oxidation states.
170 The free volume diffusion of noble gases in silicate glasses shows the non-Arrhenius relation at
171 temperatures close to the glass transition temperature (e.g., Amalberti et al., 2016) most likely
172 because of the structural change of the glass network. However, the effect of the structural change
173 on the free volume diffusion is negligibly small in this study because the temperature range
174 discussed here is much below the glass transition temperature of silica glass (~1163°C; Calculated
175 with Deubener et al., 2003), where the free volume diffusion of noble gases show a simple
176 Arrhenius relation.

177 The activation energies of noble gas diffusion in silica glass show a clear relation with the
178 atomic radius, and they increase with increasing the atomic size (Fig. 4(b)). Although the reported
179 activation energies of noble gases are not well fit by the relation with Eq. (3), the activation energy
180 for the fast diffusion of molecular water lies on the same trend of noble gas diffusion in silica glass.
181 Moreover, the pre-exponential factor for the fast water diffusion ($6.1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$) fits within the
182 range of those for noble gas diffusion in silica glass (7×10^{-8} and $2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ for He and Kr,
183 respectively) (Fig. 4 (b)). These similarities of activation energy and pre-exponential factors
184 suggest that fast diffusion of molecular water is also governed by molecular jumps between
185 connecting free volume in the silica glass structure.

186

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Implications

188 We found that there are, at least, two different pathways for water diffusion in silica glass
189 (normal diffusion through pathways created by the hydroxyl formation reaction and fast diffusion
190 through connected free volume). We here discuss the possible
191 contribution of the fast water diffusion to water transport in silica glass.

192 The amount of water transported by the fast diffusion can be estimated by integrating the
193 fast diffusion profiles, and it is ~0.5 % of the amount of water transported by normal diffusion at
194 900 °C. The surface concentration of water for the fast diffusion path is 3-4 orders of magnitude
195 smaller than the total water concentration at the surface (Fig. 2). Because the surface concentration
196 of dissolved water under the present experimental conditions is ~0.3 mol% (Kuroda et al., 2018),
197 the surface concentration of fast diffusion is estimated to range from a few ppm to several hundred
198 ppb. The estimated surface concentration of fast diffusion is likely to represent the water
199 concentration in connected free volume at the surface, and is much smaller than the concentration
200 of free volume in silica glass that was estimated from the solubility of Ar (~0.2 mol%; Shackford,
201 1999). This implies that the free volumes were not fully occupied by water molecules at water
202 vapor pressure of 50 bar in the present experiments. We note that water concentration in the
203 starting silica glass is 10 ppm, well below the free volume concentration, such that it should not
204 affect the fast diffusion of $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ even if the initial water was present in glass' free volumes.

205 The solubility of molecular water in the fast diffusion path is expected to increase with
206 increasing the water vapor pressure until free volume saturation. The concentration of molecular

207 water occupying the free volume is likely to increase linearly with the water vapor pressure
208 following the Henry's law as noble gases, while the solubility of water in the bulk glass depends on
209 the square root of water vapor pressure ($< \sim 200$ MPa) (e.g., Zhang et al., 2007).

210 We emphasize that more experimental work is clearly needed to determine the pressure
211 dependence of water solubility in free volume, but the finding in this study may imply that the
212 contribution of fast water diffusion to water transport in silica glass may become larger under
213 higher water vapor pressures. Especially, its contribution could be significant for water diffusion
214 occurring within a timescale shorter than a few hours as seen in this study, which the timescale of
215 magma ascent for explosive eruption (e.g., Lloyd et al., 2014). The fast water diffusion might affect
216 the nucleation and growth of bubbles in ascending magma.

217

218

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273

274 **Figure 1.** Typical ion intensity profiles of ^1H , ^2H and ^{30}Si (900 °C for 1, 3, and 20 hours). ^1H
275 signals inside the glass are from backgrounds.

276 **Figure 2.** Typical diffusion profiles of ^2H , shown as $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ normalized to that at the surface, in
277 silica glass at 900, 850, 800, and 750 °C and a water pressure of 50 bar. The “normal water
278 diffusion” profiles are fitted with the concentration-dependent water diffusion model (dashed
279 curves) (Kuroda et al., 2018), and the “fast water diffusion” profiles are fitted with the
280 constant-independent water diffusion model (solid curves). All $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ ratios are normalized to the
281 $^2\text{H}/^{30}\text{Si}$ at the glass surface. For fitting of the “normal water diffusion” profiles, D^* , K , and the
282 surface water concentration were taken from Kuroda et al. (2018), where diffusion experiments
283 were performed under the same condition as in the present study (850-650 °C). K and D^* for 900
284 °C were obtained by the extrapolation of those in Kuroda et al. (2018), and the surface
285 concentration was assumed to be the same as at 850 °C. The surface water concentration of all run
286 products in this study is estimated to be about ~0.3 mol% based on the experiments by Kuroda et al.
287 (2018).

288 **Figure 3.** The Arrhenius plot of the diffusion coefficient of fast water diffusion (eq. 2). The line is
289 a fit to the data. Error bars represent 2-sigma standard deviations of the diffusion coefficients
290 evaluated from multiple diffusion profiles.

291 **Figure 4. (a)** Schematic illustration of the diffusion mechanism through connected free volume.
292 **(b)** Comparisons of activation energy for fast water diffusion and noble gas diffusion in silica glass
293 (left) and of temperature dependence of diffusion coefficients (right). Activation energies and
294 diffusion coefficients of noble gases in silica glass are taken from Swets et al. (1961) for He,
295 Wortmann and Shakelford (1990) for Ne, Carroll and Stolper (1991) for Ar, and Roselieb et al.
296 (1995) for Kr and Xe. Radii of noble gases and water molecule are taken from Zhang and Xu
297 (1995). The relation between the activation energy and the radius of the diffusing species, obtained
298 with Eq. (3) with $G = 305$ kbar and $r_0 = 1.1$ Å (Anderson and Stuart, 1954), is also shown.

299

300 **Table 1.** Experimental conditions and diffusion coefficients of fast water diffusion in silica glass.
301 Errors are 2-sigma standard deviations of the diffusion coefficients evaluated from multiple
302 diffusion profiles. The samples heated for 1 hour and 20 hours were not used to determine the
303 diffusion coefficients because of their short diffusion profiles and homogeneous ^2H distributions,
304 respectively.

305

Run No.	T(°C)	t (hours)	D (m ² /s)
900-1	900	3	$1.61 (\pm 0.42) \times 10^{-12}$
900-2	900	3	$1.87 (\pm 0.60) \times 10^{-12}$
900-3	900	20	-
900-4	900	1	-
850-1	850	3	$0.92 (\pm 0.25) \times 10^{-12}$
850-2	850	3	$1.58 (\pm 0.41) \times 10^{-12}$
800-1	800	3	$0.42 (\pm 0.14) \times 10^{-12}$
800-2	800	3	$0.66 (\pm 0.11) \times 10^{-12}$
800-3	800	3	$0.57 (\pm 0.37) \times 10^{-12}$
750-1	750	3	$0.67 (\pm 0.17) \times 10^{-12}$
750-2	750	3	$0.55 (\pm 0.08) \times 10^{-12}$
750-3	750	20	-

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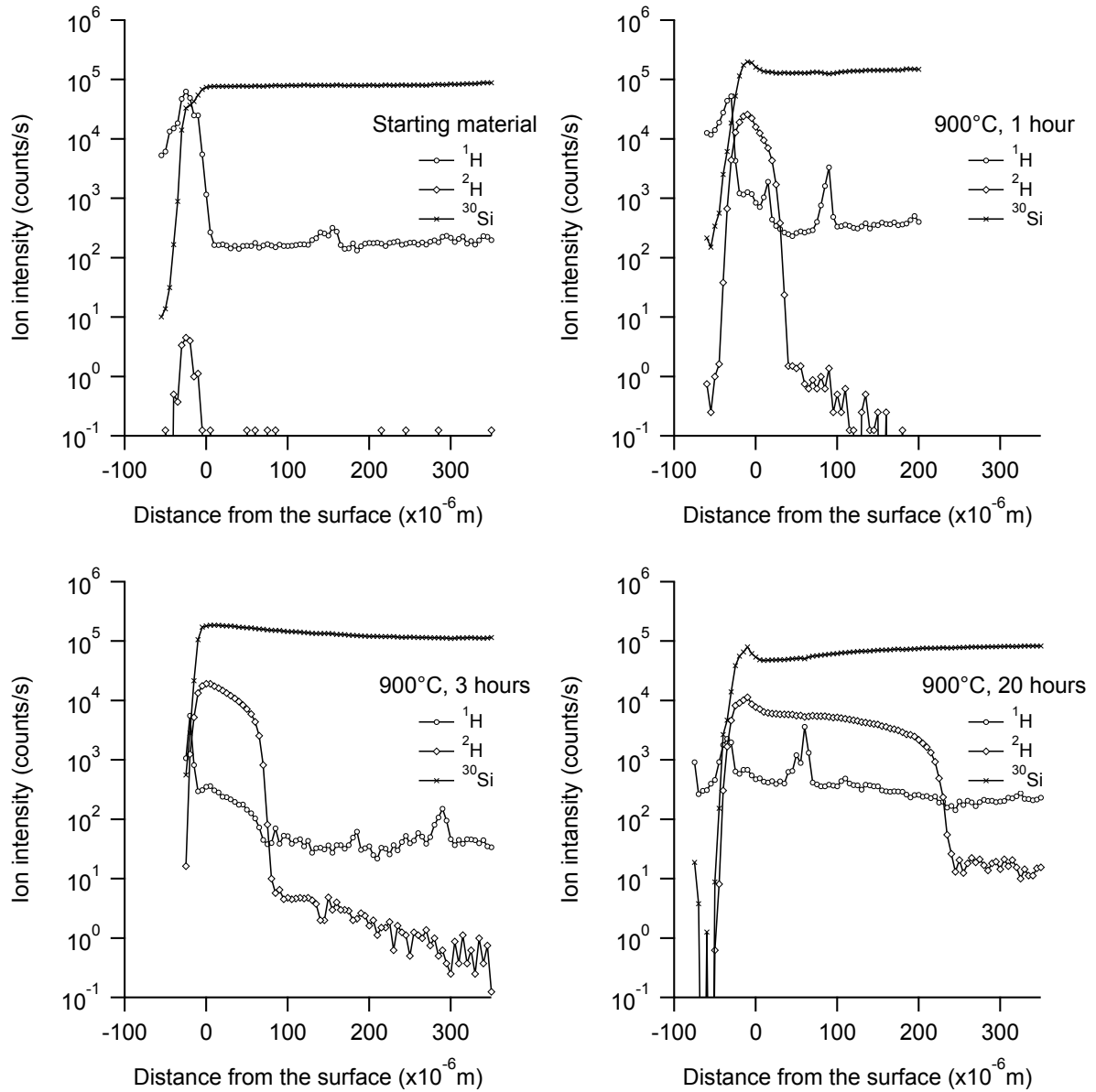


Figure 1

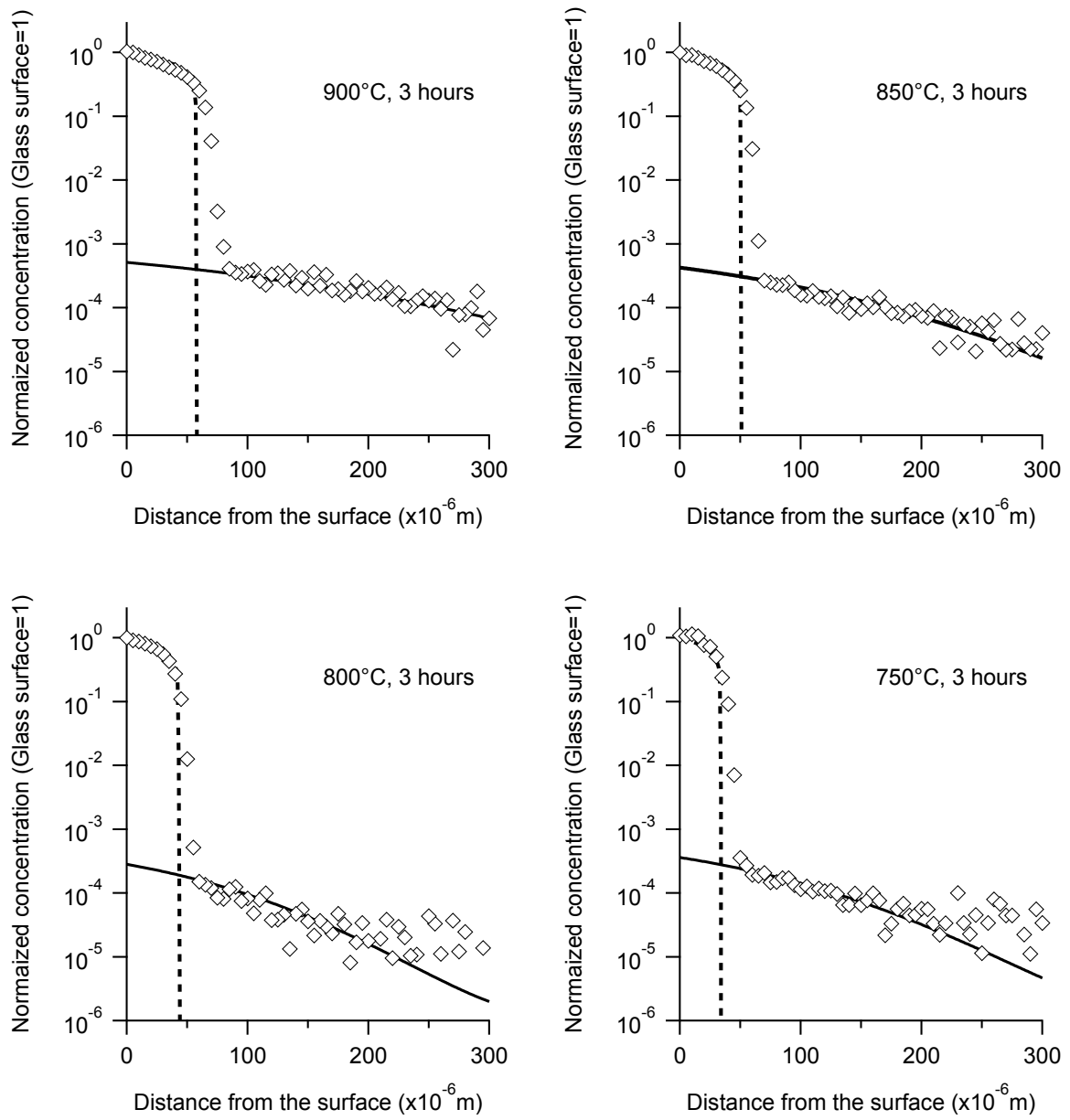


Figure 2

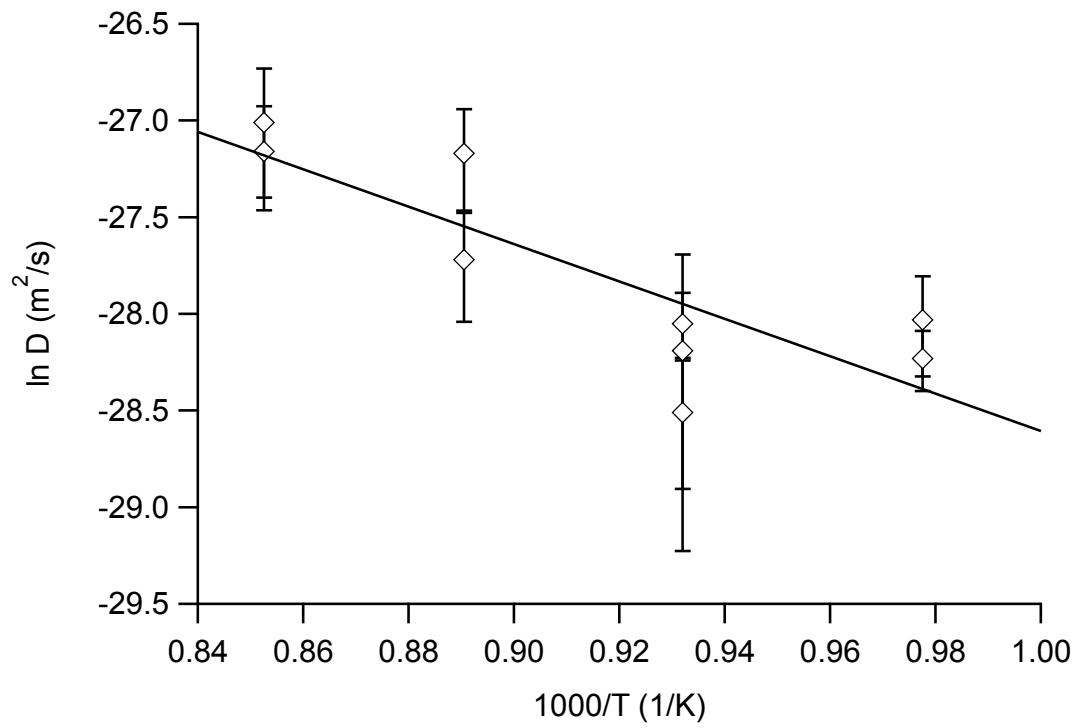


Figure 3

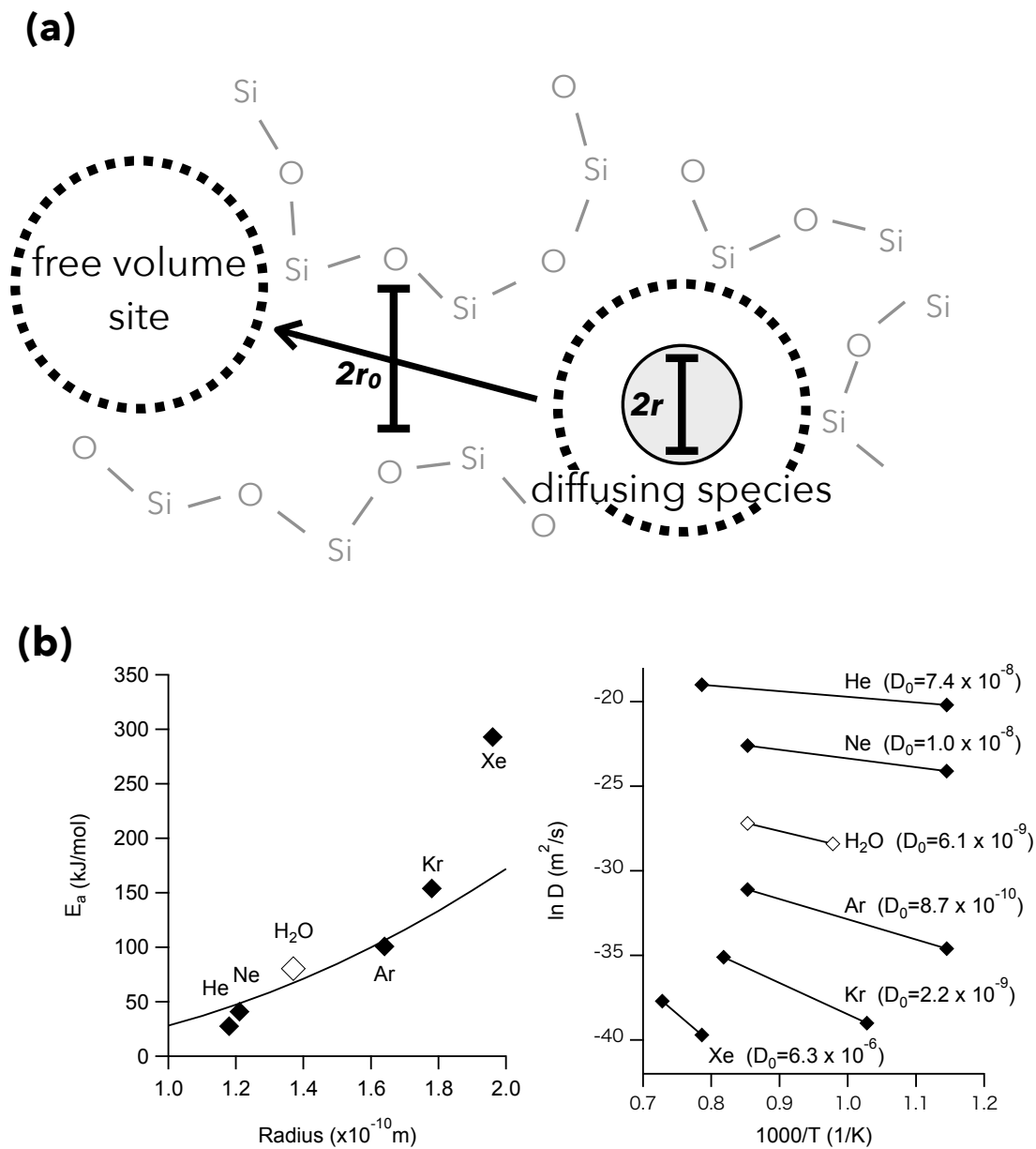


Figure 4