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- 2 Transformation
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- 7 George M. Amulele^{1,2}, Anthony W. Lanati¹*, and Simon M. Clark¹
- 8

- 9 Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Core to Crust Fluid Systems
- 10 (CCFS)/GEMOC,
- 11 Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences,
- 12 Macquarie University
- Balaclava Road, North Ryde
- 14 NSW, 2109, Sydney, Australia
- 15 ²Present Address:
- 16 Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences
- 17 Case Western Reserve University
- 18 10900 Euclid Avenue, OH 44106
- 19 U. S. A.
- 20
- 21 *: Corresponding author
- 22
- 23
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- 26 Coesite; High-pressure.

27 Abstract

28	Starting with the same sample, the electrical conductivities of quartz, and
29	coesite have been measured at pressures of 1, 6 and 8.7 GPa, respectively, over a
30	temperature range of 373 – 1273K in a multi-anvil high-pressure system. Results
31	indicate that the electrical conductivity in quartz increases with pressure as well as
32	when the phase change from quartz to coesite occurs, while the activation enthalpy
33	decreases with increasing pressure. Activation enthalpies of 0.89 eV, 0.56 eV and
34	0.46 eV, were determined at 1, 6, and 8.7 GPa, respectively, giving an activation
35	volume of -0.052 \pm 0.006 cm ³ mol ⁻¹ . FTIR and composition analysis indicate that the
36	electrical conductivities in silica polymorphs is controlled by substitution of silicon by
37	aluminum with hydrogen charge compensation. Comparing with electrical
38	conductivity measurements in stishovite, reported by Yoshino et al. (2014), our
39	results fall within the aluminum and water content extremes measured in stishovite at
40	12 GPa. The resulting electrical conductivity model is mapped over the
41	magnetotelluric profile obtained through the tectonically stable Northern Australian
42	Craton. Given their relative abundances, these results imply potentially high electrical
43	conductivities in the crust and mantle from contributions of silica polymorphs.
44	Key Points
45	• The electrical conductivity of silica polymorphs are determined by impedance
46	spectroscopy up to 8.7 GPa.
47	• The activation enthalpy decreases with increasing pressure indicating a
48	negative activation volume across the silica polymorphs.
49	• The electrical conductivity results are consistent with measurements observed
50	in stishovite at 12 GPa.
51	

52 Introduction

53	The mineral silica, SiO ₂ , occurs naturally as a constituent in many igneous and
54	sedimentary rocks. Silica exists in three major phases in the Earth. Firstly, as alpha
55	and beta quartz at pressures below 3-4 GPa with a transition temperature at about
56	550°C, secondly as coesite at pressures above 3-4 GPa and transition temperature
57	around 400-750°C, and thirdly as stishovite at pressures above 8-9 GPa with transition
58	temperatures around 750-1200°C. The crystal structures of these phases change from
59	hexagonal (quartz) to monoclinic (coesite) and finally to tetragonal (stishovite).
60	Silicon in quartz and coesite has a coordination number of four with oxygen at the
61	tetrahedral corners and this changes to six in stishovite. The relative abundance of all
62	three phases at the respective depths in the Earth is high and all have different
63	physical properties. A recent study has shown SiO ₂ to crystallize from cooling of a Fe
64	- Si $-$ O alloy, indicating the presence of stishovite on top of the Earth's outer core
65	(Hirose et al., 2017). Silica is also known to be able to incorporate other elements,
66	which contribute significantly to its physical properties. (Griggs and Blacic, 1965;
67	Holyoke and Kronenberg, 2013; Kronenberg et al., 1986; Stipp et al., 2006), and
68	many references therein, have discussed hydrolytic weakening in quartz as a result of
69	the uptake of water while Renner et al. (2001) have carried out similar studies on
70	coesite. With the incorporation of aluminum in its structure, stishovite can hold
71	substantial amounts of water, as a hydroxyl ion (Panero, 2006; Panero and Stixrude,
72	2004), contributing significantly to its physical and chemical properties. It is
73	important, therefore, to study the role of silica in mantle properties and dynamics
74	from the measurement of the electrical conductivities of its polymorphs and determine
75	how they relate to each other.

The substitution of silicon with aluminum and an alkali metal or hydrogen is understood to contribute significantly to the electrical conductivity in silica. Studies of the electrical conductivity in quartz have been carried out both in polycrystalline aggregate (Bagdassarov and Delepine, 2004) as well as in single crystal (Wang et al., 2014) quartz. The electrical conductivity in stishovite (Yoshino et al., 2014) has also been recently reported. To our knowledge, no data on the electrical conductivity of coesite at high pressures and temperatures has been reported.

83 In order to understand the electrical conductivity properties in the major 84 phases of silica and how they relate to each other it is important to study the 85 substitution mechanisms of Si for Al (plus an alkali or hydrogen ion) and how these 86 may affect the physical and chemical properties of the individual phases. With the 87 increase in pressure, it could be argued, that the mobility of an alkali ion or hydrogen 88 about the interstitial sites would be more difficult hence causing a decrease in 89 electrical conductivity. Studies on olivine, for example, show a modest reduction of 90 electrical conductivity with increase in pressure (Dai and Karato, 2014). Here we 91 report on the electrical conductivity in quartz and coesite at high pressures and show 92 that the electrical conductivity in quartz increases with pressure while the activation 93 enthalpy decreases, suggesting a negative activation volume. A further increase in the 94 electrical conductivity and decrease in the activation enthalpy is observed upon phase 95 transformation from quartz to coesite.

96

97 **Experimental Details**

Figure 1 shows the pressure-temperature cell assembly configuration used in
the conductivity measurements. Quartz powder, 99.9% purity, from Sigma-Aldrich
was loaded and compressed in an alumina cylinder then closed at both ends with

101	nickel disks. The nickel disks served as electrodes in the electrical conductivity
102	measurements as well as provided an oxygen buffer in the experiments. Two Pt/Pt-
103	10%Rh thermocouples were connected at both ends to the electrodes. These served to
104	measure temperature as well as complete the electrical conductivity path through the
105	sample. Heating was achieved by using a graphite furnace. 18 mm truncated edge
106	length (TEL) MgO-Cr ₂ O ₃ doped octahedra were used and were compressed within a
107	cavity formed by 8, 11 mm TEL tungsten carbide (Toshiba Grade F) anvils using a
108	500-ton multi-anvil high-pressure press housed within Macquarie University High-
109	Pressure Laboratory. At least two temperature cycles were carried out in each
110	experiment, with temperatures held for minimal time during impedance spectra data
111	collection, at high temperatures so as to retain any structural water in the samples. In
112	order to avoid excessive cell moisture the starting powder and all ceramic
113	components, with the exception of the graphite heater, were stored in an oven at 393
114	K prior to assembly. Post-assembly the completed experimental cells were again
115	stored at 393 K for a minimum of 10 hours prior to loading in the press.
116	
117	Three separate experiments were carried out at pressures of 1, 6 and 8.7 GPa, each
118	run made over a temperature range of $373 - 1273$ K, with experiments held at 573 K
119	following the first temperature decrease. A 1260 Solatron Impedance Gain-Phase
120	Analyzer was used to collect impedance spectra over a frequency range of 10 Hz - 1
121	MHz at increasing and decreasing temperatures. The electrical conductivity of the

122 sample at each temperature was then calculated using the expression:

123
$$\sigma = \frac{L}{Z' \cdot S} \tag{1}$$

124 where σ is the electrical conductivity, *L* and *S* is the length and the cross-sectional 125 area of the sample, respectively, and *Z*' is the real part of the electrical impedance.

126 The dimensions of the samples were measured on quenched samples, after the 127 experimental runs. The samples were sectioned and polished to the mid sections and 128 measurements carried out using a calibrated 2010 Leica M205C high resolution 129 optical microscope. The electrical conductivity relation with temperature at each 130 pressure was then determined using the Arrhenius relation: $\sigma = Ae^{\left(-\frac{\Delta H}{RT}\right)}$ 131 (2)132 where A is the pre-exponent factor, ΔH the activation enthalpy, R the ideal gas 133 constant, and T is the temperature. Raman spectra were collected after each 134 experiment to verify the phases of the minerals present. A Horiba LABRAM HR 135 Evolution confocal laser Raman microscope was used for this analysis. The samples

136 were then polished down to a thickness of $\sim 200 \mu m$ and unpolarized FTIR

137 measurements carried out in transmission mode to determine the water contents. The

138 FTIR spectra were collected using a ThermoFisher iN10 FTIR spectrometer with

139 spectra collected over a frequency range of 3000- 4000 cm⁻¹ using a 4 cm⁻¹ resolution

140 and averaged over 128 scans. EPMA measurements were also carried out on the run

141 products using a Cameca SX100 probe to determine the sample compositions.

142

143 **Results**

144 Table 1 contains a summary of the experiments carried out and results

145 obtained. Experiments MQ016 and MQ011 were carried out at 1 and 6 GPa,

146 respectively. Figure 2 shows complex impedance spectrums at selected temperatures

147 from experiment MQ038, carried out at 8.7 GPa. Inductance was observed on the first

- 148 temperature increase, however, was absent on the first decrease in temperature and
- subsequent cycles suggesting that any moisture within the experimental assembly was
- 150 driven off and, that the NiO solid state buffer actively buffering (S. Figure 1 and 2)

(Wang and Karato, 2013). Figure 3 shows a summary of the Arrhenius results from the three experiments together with two results of stishovite obtained from Yoshino et al. (2014). Raman analysis at the end of the experiments confirms the samples from experiments MQ016 and MQ011 to be quartz, while that from experiment MQ038 to be coesite (Figure 4).

156

Figure 5 shows the results from the FTIR analysis carried out on the samples after the 157 158 electrical conductivity experiments. For comparison and water content calculation 159 purposes, the amplitudes are plotted in absorption coefficient (cm⁻¹) indicating that individual spectra are normalized to the thickness of that sample. FTIR analysis of 160 161 sample MQ016 shows a broad peak centered at 3400cm⁻¹. This characteristic broad 162 peak is similar to that observed in most feldspars (Johnson and Rossman, 2003; Yang, 163 2012). In quartz (Kronenberg, 1994) identifies this to be that from liquid water. One 164 other possible explanation is that it might be due to multiple OH sites. FTIR spectra from MQ011, at higher pressure, shows more defined sharp peaks, evident of 165 166 structural water, even though it was also obtained from quartz. This implies that 167 structural water incorporation in quartz is only at higher pressures, hence having a 168 direct influence on the electrical conductivity. We use the IR results from Campone 169 et al. (1995) to label the peaks from MQ011. The peak at 3378cm⁻¹ is identified as the 170 AlO₄-H stretching vibration (e₂ band) and peaks at 3428, 3478, and 3594 cm⁻¹ as OH 171 stretching vibrations (s₂, s₃ and s₄ bands). The FTIR spectra measured on MQ038 172 shows the characteristic FTIR peaks of coesite. Peaks are observed at 3457, 3523 and 173 3600 cm⁻¹ over a broad band centered at 3400 cm⁻¹, indicating that both intrinsic and 174 liquid water are present in the sample.

175 Beer-Lambert's law was used to calculate the water contents in the recovered

176 samples using the expression:

177
$$C_{w} = \int_{3000}^{3700} \frac{H(v)}{I \cdot t \cdot \gamma} dv$$
(3)

178 where $\int H(v) dv$ is the absorption per cm integrated over the frequency range 3000 –

179 3700 cm^{-1} , *I* is the specific absorption coefficient of coesite obtained from Koch-

180 Muller et al. (2001) (190,000 l mol⁻¹ cm⁻²), t is the thickness of the sample and γ is the

181 orientation factor (0.5). The water contents calculated in the samples are shown in

182 Table 1.

183

184 Figure 3 shows the Arrhenius relation results of electrical conductivity changes in the

185 three experiments as a function of temperature. Two results from Yoshino et al.

186 (2014) on stishovite are plotted over our data for comparison. The activation enthalpy

187 of coesite at 8.7 GPa is comparable to that of nominally hydrous stishovite at 12 GPa.

188 There is an increase in electrical conductivity and a decrease in the activation

189 enthalpy associated with increase in pressure in quartz, as well as when quartz

190 transforms to coesite. The difference in electrical conductivity in quartz at low

191 temperatures is up to two orders of magnitude but then reduces and becomes

192 comparable at high temperatures. An order in magnitude increase of electrical

193 conductivity, however, is observed with the phase transformation from quartz to

194 coesite. Data from each experiment was fitted to the more general Arrhenius equation:

< A 11

195

$$\sigma = A C_w^r e^{\left(-\frac{\Delta H}{RT}\right)} \tag{4}$$

196 where r is the water content exponent. The fitted results are shown in Table 1.

197

198 Discussion

199	It is important to separate the effect of liquid (molecular) water and structural
200	(intrinsic) water on the electrical conductivity in minerals. The FTIR data of quartz
201	shown in Figure 5a) and b) suggest that water is incorporated in quartz as liquid water
202	at 1 GPa and as structural water at 6 GPa, respectively. This has also been
203	predominantly observed in natural undeformed samples of quartz (Kronenberg et al.,
204	2017). The peaks at 3310, 3378, and 3428 cm^{-1} indicate H ⁺ charge compensation for
205	Al ³⁺ in Si ⁴⁺ sites (Figure 5b) (Aines and Rossman, 1984). Experiments MQ016 and
206	MQ011 suggest that electrical conductivity increases with increasing pressure, while
207	activation enthalpy reduces with increasing pressure, implying a negative activation
208	volume in the mineral. The negative activation volume observed in quartz implies a
209	hopping conduction mechanism in the mineral (Goddat et al., 1999).
210	
211	In experiment MQ038, carried out at 8.7 GPa, coesite shows both liquid and structural
212	water from the FTIR measurement, with a modest increase in the total water content
213	from the quartz experiment at 6 GPa. Koch-Muller et al. (2001) report that hydrogen
214	is only incorporated in the coesite structure at pressures above 5 GPa and 1100°C
215	temperature. In further work they conclude that the hydrogen solubility increases with
216	pressure and temperature (Koch-Muller et al., 2003). Unlike structurally incorporated
217	water, most molecular water would be depleted from a mineral at high temperatures,
218	hence having a direct effect on the electrical conductivity. There is a further decrease
219	in activation enthalpy with pressure from that reported in quartz at 6 GPa. Figure 6
220	shows the relation of activation enthalpy with pressure in quartz and coesite from the
221	three experiments carried out. A mean activation volume of -0.052 ± 0.006 cm ³ mol ⁻¹
222	is calculated from the three experiments. This value is in contrast with that obtained
223	by (Wang et al., 2010), who determined an activation volume of 0.59 ± 0.14 cm ³ mol ⁻

- ¹ for quartz. Their value was determined from experiments carried out over the small
- 225 pressure range of 1 3 GPa which would be expected to give a large error.

226 Importantly, it is widely accepted (see Ito, 2007; and references therein) that multi-

- anvil apparatus' not associated with light sources have effective pressure errors of at
- least \pm 0.5 GPa (Dai and Karato, 2009), dependent on calibration, below 10GPa and
- double that above 10 GPa (Frost et al., 2004). This would therefore place the
- 230 experiments carried out at 1, 2, and 3 GPa within experimental error of one another.
- 231 Furthermore, a positive activation volume would also imply a decrease in electrical
- 232 conductivity with increasing pressure, which is not the case in our experiments,
- 233 carried out over a much larger range of pressure.
- 234
- 235 Within a mineral, the electrical conductivity is expected to decrease with pressure. A
- reduction in the atomic spacing would result in smaller saddle spacing between atoms
- for hopping to occur interstitially, thus decreasing the electrical conductivity and
- 238 increasing the activation enthalpy with pressure. This would imply a positive
- activation volume. Bagdassarov and Delepine (2004), nonetheless, observe a slight
- 240 decrease in electrical conductivity with pressure in quartz over a pressure range of 0.5

241 - 2.0 GPa that they conducted measurements. The result we observed in quartz is the

- 242 opposite. We therefore conclude that with increasing pressure, the alkali to alkali or
- 243 hydrogen to hydrogen ions distances is decreased, and this increases the hopping
- 244 probability for an alkali or hydrogen ion to jump from one interstitial site to the next.
- Goddat et al. (1999) refers to this as an increase in the exchange integral with increase
- in pressure.

247

248 Earth implications

249 Quartz, and its associated polymorphs, are most prevalent within the crust and mantle 250 regions of the Earth, whilst being some of the most poorly covered with respect to 251 electrical conductivity studies. Within these regions, magnetotellurics has been used 252 to image both shallow and deep structures and features (Kühn et al., 2014; Selway, 253 2014; Selway et al., 2019) and references therein. The silica electrical conductivity 254 model presented in this study can be useful in monitoring of volcanic systems 255 (Aizawa et al., 2014; Aizawa et al., 2009; Aizawa et al., 2005; Díaz et al., 2012; 256 Ingham et al., 2009); in understanding shallow structures such as crustal scale brittle 257 and ductile fracture zones (Karas et al., 2017; Ozaydin et al., 2018; Tank et al., 2018); 258 in understanding deep earth structure and plumbing systems (Bai et al., 2010; Kühn et 259 al., 2014; Unsworth, 2010; Wannamaker et al., 2009); in searching for resource zones 260 (Cherevatova et al., 2015; Heinson et al., 2006); as well as in (volatile sensitive) deep 261 earth soundings studies (Adetunji et al., 2015; Cherevatova et al., 2015; Selway, 262 2014). Our investigations show that, for the same composition, quartz has the lowest 263 value of electrical conductivity among the three silica polymorphs of quartz, coesite 264 and stishovite. Figure 7 contextualizes this by comparing the electrical conductivity -265 depth profiles carried out on quartz and coesite in our investigations with two other 266 investigations. These are values from single crystal measurements on quartz along 267 and perpendicular to the c-axis, carried out by Wang et al. (2010), as well as 268 magnetotelluric survey measurements of the Northern Australian lithosphere 269 (Heinson and White, 2005). The geotherm model suggested by Cull (1989) was used 270 to calculate the electrical conductivity depth profiles. At depths equivalent to 1 GPa 271 $(\sim 30 \text{ km})$, the electrical conductivity of quartz, in our measurements, is of the same 272 order as that obtained perpendicular to the c-axis in Wang et al. (2010) measurements, 273 that is in the order of $10^{-4.5}$ S/m. At much larger depths, and as water gets

274	incorporated into the structures of the high-pressure polymorphs of silica, the
275	electrical conductivity increases by about an order of magnitude, placing the electrical
276	conductivity values of all three polymorphs of silica well within the $10^{-3.5} - 10^{-2}$ S/m
277	range. This would have a significant effect on the electrical conductivities of mineral
278	aggregates that contain large proportions of silica in them.
279	In summary this work undertook several high-pressure electrical conductivity
280	experiments utilizing on quartz and coesite at several pressures over a temperature
281	range of 373K – 1273K generated from the same stating material. Electrical
282	conductivity is found to increase with pressure while the activation enthalpy decreases
283	with pressure. A negative activation volume value of $-0.052 \pm 0.006 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ is
284	calculated, confirming a hopping conductivity mechanism in silica polymorphs. Like
285	in stishovite, the electrical conductivities in quartz and silica is dependent on alumina
286	and water content. The contributions of quartz, coesite and stishovite to the overall
287	electrical conductivities of minerals in the Earth is significant given the proportion of
288	the respective mineral. Combined with studies by Yoshino et al. (2014) on stishovite,
289	this study provides useful results that can be used to model transport properties of
290	silica polymorphs in the Earth's crust and mantle.
291	
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•••	

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312 Author Contributions:

- 313 GA designed the study in consultation with SMC. GA and AWL undertook all
- 314 experiments. GA undertook all analysis and interpretation of results in collaboration
- 315 with AWL. GA wrote the initial manuscript. AWL undertook extensive edits and
- 316 submitted the paper. All authors have contributed to, read, and agreed the final
- 317 manuscript.

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457 **Figure Captions:**

- 458 Figure 1: Schematic of the electrical conductivity high-pressure cell.
- 459 Figure 2: Complex impedance spectra collected at decreasing temperature in
- 460 experiment MQ038.
- 461 Figure 3: Arrhenius relationships obtained in experiments MQ011, MQ016 and
- 462 MQ038. Also shown are the aluminum and water contents in wt. % measured in the
- 463 samples by EPMA. Comparison is made with stishovite data obtained from Yoshino,
- 464 2014.
- 465 Figure 4: Raman spectra analysis of the different phases of silica obtained in
- 466 experiments MQ011, MQ016 and MQ038. The reference spectra are obtained from
- 467 RRUFF database (Coesite RRUFF ID: X050094; Quartz RRUFF ID: R040031)
- 468 Figure 5: Unpolarized FTIR spectra of the different phases of silica obtained in
- 469 experiments a) MQ016, b) MQ011 and, c) MQ038. H⁺ charge compensation for Al³⁺
- 470 in Si^{4+} can be seen by the occurrence of bands 3310 3378 and 3428 in b).
- 471 Figure 6: Activation energy as a function of pressure in quartz and coesite
- 472 Figure 7: Comparison of electrical conductivity depth profiles between
- 473 laboratory (present study and (Wang et al., 2010)) and transverse electric (TE)
- 474 and transverse magnetic (TM) magnetotelluric field measurements of the crust
- 475 by (Heinson and White, 2005).
- 476

S. Figure 1: Complex impedance plot of MQ011 showing the change in spectral
response as a function of temperature. Note the change from the first increase in
temperature (Red, Green and Black curves) and, the first decrease (Pink and Blue
curves) showing a loss of the second arc at higher temperatures, which has previously
been interpreted as direct measurements of cell moisture and grain boundary (Roberts

- 482 and Tyburczy, 1994; Dai and Karato, 2009b). Importantly, the second arc at higher
- 483 temperatures could be interpreted as a charge transfer, blocking (Dai and Karato,
- 484 2009a; Dai and Karato, 2009b; Dai and Karato, 2014), however this is absent in our
- 485 data.
- 486 S. Figure 2: Complex impedance plot of MQ016 showing the change in spectral
- 487 response as a function of temperature. Negative impedance curves (inductance) is
- 488 commonly associated with the interaction of the current between the sample and
- 489 electrode prior to development of the solid state buffer (i.e. NiO, in this case) or
- 490 dehydration of hydrous phases when present (Wang and Karato, 2013). However
- 491 these hydrous phases are absent in this study, therefore indicating the NiO buffer was
- 492 active in our experiments after the first heating cycle.
- 493
- 494

495

496 *Table 1: Summary of experimental conditions and results obtained from experiments*

Exp.	Pressure	Phase from	Water content		ΔΗ	Log ₁₀ A	r	Electrodes
	(GPa)	Raman	(ppm wt. H ₂ O)		(eV)			
			Initial	Final	_			
MQ016	1.0	Quartz	Dry	3606	0.86 ± 0.01	-2.60	0.56	Ni-NiO
MQ011	6.0	Quartz	Dry	185	0.56 ± 0.04	-1.63	0.50	Ni-NiO
MQ038	8.7	Coesite	Dry	624	0.46 ± 0.01	-2.44	0.46	Ni-NiO





Figure 1: Schematic of the electrical conductivity high-pressure cell



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Figure 2: Complex impedance spectra collected at decreasing temperature in experiment MQ038



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504 Figure 3: Arrhenius relationships obtained in experiments MQ011, MQ016 and MQ038. Also shown are the aluminum and water 505 contents in wt. % measured in the samples by EPMA. Comparison is made with stishovite data obtained from Yoshino et al. (2014).



509 Figure 4: Raman spectra analysis of the different phases of silica obtained in experiments MQ011, MQ016 and MQ038.







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Figure 5: Unpolarized FTIR spectra of the different phases of silica obtained in
experiments a) MQ016, b) MQ011 and, c) MQ038. H⁺ charge compensation for Al³⁺

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Figure 6: Activation energy as a function of pressure in quartz and coesite.



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523 Supplementary Materials:

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- 527 first increase in temperature (Red, Green and Black curves) and, the first decrease (Pink and Blue curves) showing a loss of the second arc at

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