

1 **Revision 2**

3 **High pressure silica phase transitions: Implications for deep mantle** 4 **dynamics and silica crystallization in the protocore**

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16 **Abstract**

17 The subsolidus phase diagram of silica in the 80-220 GPa pressure range was determined by density
18 functional theory (DFT). The transition pressures calculated using the generalized gradient
19 approximation (GGA) in the static limit (at 0 K, without zero point vibrational energy) for the β -
20 stishovite (CaCl₂-structure) to seifertite and the seifertite to pyrite-type transitions are 95 and 213
21 GPa, respectively. These are in good agreement with those calculated using hybrid functionals, giving
22 transition pressures of 96 and 215 GPa. This indicates that previous local density approximation
23 (LDA) results underestimate the transition pressure by 10-15 GPa. Density functional perturbation
24 theory calculations, carried out using GGA within the quasi-harmonic approximations, give
25 Clapeyron slopes of 5.4 and -2.8 MPa/K for the β -stishovite to seifertite and seifertite to pyrite-type
26 transitions, respectively. This suggests that the seifertite-forming transition occurs at 109 GPa (470
27 km above the core-mantle boundary, CMB) at an ambient mantle geotherm, whereas the pyrite-type
28 transition occurs at 200 GPa (620 km below the CMB) at 4700 K, which is close to the core adiabat.
29 We also calculate the equation of state and show that the stability of seifertite in the lowermost mantle
30 contributes negative buoyancy to recycled oceanic crust, although not as much as in some previous
31 studies. Nevertheless, the increased density of seifertite over β -stishovite may lead to layers with
32 elevated proportions of basaltic material within the large low S-wave velocity provinces. The
33 seifertite to pyrite-type silica transition in the outer core will affect the silica liquidus surface in the
34 system Fe-Si-O and forms a basis for further investigations of silica crystallisation in the protocore.

36 **1. Introduction**

37

38 High pressure silica minerals are important phases in the lower mantle and potentially
39 in the core. For instance, silica constitutes 15-20 mol% of basaltic material in the lower
40 mantle (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni 2012) and so its density is important for the
41 buoyancy and the fate of subducted oceanic crust (e.g. Thomson et al. 2019). In particular,
42 silica goes through a number of phase transitions which add to its density. Since silica is not
43 a phase in a pyrolytic mantle, densification of basalt due to silica phase transitions will
44 promote the segregation and enrichment of basaltic material in the lowermost mantle. Its
45 density is also important in evaluating whether recycled oceanic crust can be incorporated
46 into the two large low shear-wave velocity provinces (LLSVPs), as suggested by Hirose et al.
47 (2005), Trønnes (2010), Koelemeijer et al. (2018) and Thomson et al. (2019). The change
48 towards neutral buoyancy of basaltic material relative to peridotite from 750 km depth
49 towards the core-mantle boundary, suggested by Ballmer et al. (2016) and Torsvik et al.
50 (2016), will partly be offset by any densifying phase transition.

51 High pressure silica phases may also be important in the Earth's core, as it has been
52 suggested that silica may have crystallized from a cooling and Si-saturated protocore during
53 chemical exchange with a basal magma ocean (Hirose et al. 2017; Trønnes et al. 2019). If so,
54 phase transitions such as the transition from seifertite to pyrite-structured silica at core
55 conditions will affect the topology of the silica liquidus surface in the Fe-rich part of the
56 system Fe-Si-O, which governs the potential crystallization of silica in the protocores of
57 terrestrial planets like Venus, Earth, as well as larger "exo-Earths".

58 Despite the potential importance of silica phase transitions in the deep Earth, there is
59 considerable uncertainty as to where they occur under mantle and core conditions,
60 particularly for the highest pressure transitions. For instance, experimental and theoretical
61 results for the transition from β -stishovite to seifertite at mantle conditions range from about
62 80 to 140 GPa. A transition at 140 GPa would imply that seifertite does not exist in the
63 mantle, whereas a transition to seifertite at lower pressures may add significant density to
64 subducted oceanic crust.

65 Similarly, previous determinations of the seifertite to pyrite-structured silica transition also
66 covers a wide pressure range of about 200 to 260 GPa, so better constraints are needed to
67 gain insights into the conditions of possible silica crystallization in the protocores of Earth
68 and other Earth-like planets.

69 In this paper we seek to clarify the locations and slopes of the β -stishovite to seifertite
70 and seifertite to the pyrite-structured phase transitions, using ab initio computations with the
71 generalised gradient approximation (GGA) combined with the quasi-harmonic approximation
72 (QHA). Because the static limit (0 K) predictions related to the different functionals applied
73 in density functional theory (DFT) vary by about 30 GPa, we have also used the HSE06
74 hybrid functional. Hybrid functionals include an amount of exact (non-local) Fock exchange,
75 which removes part of the artificial self-interaction error that may hamper conventional
76 GGA. A number of studies (Wilson and Muscat 2002; Heyd and Scuseria 2004; Matsushita et
77 al. 2011; Pierre et al. 2011; Xiao et al. 2013) have demonstrated that hybrid calculations
78 improve the prediction of structural and elastic properties and phase stabilities for a number
79 of minerals where accurate experimental data are available, relative to conventional
80 functionals such as GGA and LDA (local density approximation). For example, Heyd and
81 Scuseria (2004) have shown that HSE06 predicts bond lengths with about 50% smaller errors
82 than GGA and LDA functionals for non-metallic system.

83

84 **2. Computational methods**

85 We used DFT with projector augmented wave (PAW) potentials as implemented in
86 Vienna ab-initio simulation package (VASP) (Kresse and Furthmüller 1996; Kresse and
87 Joubert 1999). The PAW potentials provided with VASP explicitly treat the [3s3p]-orbitals
88 for silicon and [2s2p]-orbitals for oxygen as valence states. The pseudopotential core radii
89 were 1.005 a.u. and 0.804 a.u. for Si and O, respectively. To describe exchange-correlations,
90 we used GGA as parameterized by Perdew, Burke and Ernzerhof (PBE) (Perdew et al. 1996)
91 and the hybrid functional parameterized by Heyd, Scuseria and Ernzerhof (HSE06) (Heyd et
92 al. 2003, 2006). The fraction of exact HF exchange was set to 0.25, and the use of screened
93 Coloumb-like potentials makes HSE06 computationally less expensive than the non-screened
94 PBE0 functional, without loss of any accuracy. Because density functional perturbation
95 theory (DFPT) is not available for HSE06 in VASP5, we report only HSE06 transition
96 pressures in the static limit.

97 The electronic wave functions were expanded using a set of plane waves with a kinetic
98 energy cutoff (E_{cutoff}) of 700 eV. We used 96-atom simulation cells for all three silica phases:
99 a 2x2x4 supercell for β -stishovite and 2x2x2 supercells for seifertite and pyrite-type silica.
100 Electronic integration over the Brillouin zone was performed using 2x2x3, 2x2x2 and 2x2x2
101 Monkhorst-Pack k-point grid (Monkhorst and Pack, 1976) for β -stishovite, seifertite and

102 pyrite-structured silica phases, respectively. The transition pressures calculated using these k-
103 meshes deviate with less than 0.5 GPa compared to the transition pressures calculated using
104 the denser k-meshes of 7x7x8, 5x5x5 and 7x7x7 for β -stishovite, seifertite and pyrite-type
105 silica, respectively. We relaxed the structures (using the conjugate gradient technique) under
106 strict electronic and ionic convergence criteria of 10^{-8} eV and 10^{-7} eV/atom, respectively.
107 Such tight convergence criteria are necessary for the accurate determination of the vibrational
108 spectra, which in turn is essential to calculate the phase diagram accurately.

109 We used Phonopy (Togo and Tanaka 2015) to calculate thermodynamic properties
110 from the force constants obtained using DFPT. For all the phases, force constants were
111 calculated without constraining their symmetry. Then the thermodynamic properties such as
112 the vibrational contribution to the Helmholtz free energy (F) and entropy (S) were calculated
113 by interpolating, using a 17x17x17 q-point mesh. Such a dense q-mesh is necessary for the
114 accurate calculation of properties at high temperature.

115

116 **3. Results and discussion**

117

118 **3.1 Phase Transitions**

119 The static limit (0 K) pressures of the investigated phase transitions occur when the
120 enthalpy difference (ΔH) is zero between the phases. Fig. 1 shows $\Delta H (= H_{higher\ pressure\ phase} -$
121 $H_{lower\ pressure\ phase})$ against pressure for the GGA-PBE and hybrid HSE06 functionals. We find
122 that the GGA transition pressures are 95 and 213 GPa for β -stishovite to seifertite and
123 seifertite to pyrite type silica, respectively. These are in excellent agreement with the HSE06
124 results of 96 and 215 GPa, respectively.

125 Table 1 summarises the transition pressures (static limit) reported in the literature for
126 the two phase transitions and shows that the different computational studies predict transition
127 pressures that differ by as much as 23 GPa for the β -stishovite to seifertite transition. Our β -
128 stishovite to seifertite static limit transition of 95 GPa is about 11 GPa higher than the
129 corresponding transitions of Teter et al. (1998) and Oganov et al. (2005), obtained with LDA,
130 and Driver et al. (2010) with the WC GGA functional (Wu and Cohen 2006). LDA generally
131 gives 10-16 GPa lower pressure than GGA for such lower mantle phase transitions (Oganov
132 & Ono, 2004; Tsuchiya et al. 2004), and the difference between our results and those of
133 Oganov et al. (2005) are consistent with that. In contrast, our GGA results are about 12 GPa
134 lower than the GGA results of Tsuchiya et al. (2004). However, we note that they used a

135 different space group for seifertite. As with Oganov et al. (2005), we found the Pbcn structure
136 to be most stable, whereas Tsuchiya et al. (2004) found Pbca. It is not clear why Tsuchiya et
137 al. (2004) found a lower energy for the Pbca phase, but nevertheless, this is the most likely
138 explanation for their higher transition pressure. The GGA static limit transition of 213 GPa
139 for the seifertite to pyrite-structured silica (space group: Pa-3 *[typesetter: please print space gr. Pa*
140 *bar 3]*) is also, as expected, about 12 GPa higher than the LDA-results of Oganov et al.
141 (2005).

142 The Clapeyron slopes for the two phase transitions were obtained using DFPT within
143 the QHA as described in section 2. Fig. 2 shows ΔG as a function of temperature along a
144 range of pressure contours. With increasing pressure, the transition temperatures for the β -
145 stishovite to seifertite and the seifertite to pyrite-type transitions increases and decreases,
146 respectively, implying positive and negative Clapeyron slopes. The negative Clapeyron slope
147 for the transition to the pyrite-structure is due to the increase in entropy, which can be
148 explained by the change in polyhedral connectivity of the SiO_6 octahedra following the phase
149 transition. Whereas the SiO_6 octahedra share both corners and edges in seifertite, they only
150 share corners in the more symmetrical pyrite-structured phase. This is confirmed from the
151 phonon density of states in Fig. 3, which shows that the pyrite-type phase has a higher
152 population of vibrational density of states at the lower energy range, indicating a high entropy
153 contribution to the free energy. A simple and qualitative analysis of Clapeyron slopes for
154 such isochemical phase transitions, characterized by negative volume changes, may be done
155 by comparing the phase entropies at a point on the phase boundaries. The entropies calculated
156 for coexisting β -stishovite and seifertite at 2400 K and 109 GPa, on the ambient mantle
157 geotherm of Stixrude et al. (2009), are 4624 and 4603 J (mol K)⁻¹, respectively, yielding a
158 negative ΔS and a positive dp/dT slope. The entropies of seifertite and pyrite-type silica at
159 4650 K and 201 GPa, on an estimated outer core adiabat (e.g. Olson et al. 2015), are 5866
160 and 5888 J (mol K)⁻¹, respectively, resulting in positive ΔS and negative dp/dT .

161 The phase relations from our DFT study, as well as from other theoretical and
162 experimental investigations on the two silica phase transitions, are listed in Table 1. Fig. 4
163 shows the stability fields of the three silica polymorphs in the 80-270 GPa range. The
164 previous experimental and theoretical investigations (Akins and Ahrens 2002; Murakami et
165 al. 2003; Tsuchiya et al. 2004; Kuwayama et al. 2005; Oganov et al. 2005; Driver et al. 2010;
166 Grocholski et al. 2013) cover a range of almost 40 GPa for the β -stishovite to seifertite and
167 more than 60 GPa for the seifertite to pyrite-type silica transitions. Our phase boundaries are

168 inside these ranges and in good agreement with the LDA results of Oganov et al. (2005),
169 taking into account that the LDA functional produces 10-16 GPa lower static limit pressures
170 than GGA. Our calculated slopes of about +5.4 and -2.8 MPa/K for the β -stishovite to
171 seifertite and seifertite to pyrite-type silica transitions, respectively, are also similar to the
172 corresponding transition slopes of Oganov et al. (2005) (Table 1).

173 The β -stishovite to seifertite boundary slope of 5.4 MPa/K is also very similar to
174 (slightly lower than) that of Tsuchiya et al. (2004), even if they used a different space group
175 for seifertite. Driver et al. (2010) report a higher dp/dT slope, which is closer to the slopes
176 suggested by the experimental studies of Murakami et al. (2003) and Grocholski et al. (2013).
177 The dp/dT slope proposed in the phase diagram of Akins et al. (2002) has the lowest value of
178 3.9 MPa/K. A common feature for all the experimental studies, however, is that the slopes are
179 ill-constrained, and Murakami et al. (2003) drew a linear phase boundary from their
180 experimental determination of the phase transition at 2300 K and 120 GPa to the static limit
181 (0 K) pressure of 98 GPa from the Karki et al. (1997) LDA-based investigation. Although the
182 phase boundary derived by Grocholski et al. (2013) is broadly consistent with their
183 experiments on a pure SiO_2 composition, it is mostly constrained by experiments on a
184 composition with 90 and 10 mol% SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 , respectively.

185 The extreme pressures involved in the experimental determination of the seifertite to
186 pyrite-structured silica transition by Kuwayama et al. (2005), made it challenging to constrain
187 a Clapeyron slope. The four experiments close to the recorded transition indicate a flat dp/dT
188 slope. The low temperatures of 1400-2000 K, however, might have caused slow kinetics,
189 which has also been observed for the β -stishovite to seifertite transition (Murakami et al.
190 2003), resulting in excessively high pressure before the transition could be seen in the XRD
191 patterns. Because LDA determinations of high pressure phase transitions generally give
192 pressures that are 10-16 GPa lower than the equivalent GGA results (Oganov and Ono 2004;
193 Tsuchiya et al. 2004), the agreement in terms of pT -locations and Clapeyron slopes for the β -
194 stishovite to seifertite and seifertite to pyrite-structured silica transitions derived by Oganov
195 et al. (2005) and this study is reassuring.

196 Our results indicate that the seifertite-forming reaction in basaltic materials may occur
197 as much as 477 km above the core-mantle boundary (CMB) along the ambient mantle
198 geotherm of Stixrude et al. (2009), using the pressure-depth relation of the PREM model
199 (Dziewonski and Anderson 1981). Although the Stixrude et al. (2009) geotherm is drawn to a
200 CMB-temperature of 4100 K, we have adjusted the geotherms to a lower CMB temperature

201 of 4000 K, in accordance with most studies (e.g. Trønnes et al. 2019). Based on a recent
202 experimental investigation of iron melting, Sinmyo et al. (2019) suggest an even lower CMB
203 temperature. Seifertite is stabilised to relatively shallow levels even in a hot mantle, and at
204 500 K above the ambient geotherm, the seifertite-forming transition would occur about 427
205 km above the CMB, using our GGA transition. At a cold slab geotherm about 800 K below
206 ambient conditions at 60-70 GPa (Nishi et al. 2014) and 740 K below ambient conditions at
207 100 GPa, the seiferite transition would occur about 550 km above the CMB. We have not
208 considered here the effect of Al on the phase transitions. Although a strong partitioning of Al
209 into seifertite as indicated by Hirose et al. (2005) would lower the transition pressure further
210 (Andrault et al. 2014), a recent study of Tateno et al. (2018) indicates that Al partitions
211 weakly into β -stishovite relative to seifertite. In any case, our evidence points to a wide
212 stability field of seifertite in basaltic lithologies in the lowermost mantle.

213

214 **3.2 Volumes and equation of state**

215 Fig. 5 shows the equations of state for β -stishovite and seifertite, obtained from GGA
216 and HSE06 functionals, compared to available experimental results (Murakami et al. 2003;
217 Grocholski et al. 2013; Fischer et al. 2018). We find that GGA at 300 K predicts about 2%
218 larger volumes than the experimental results at any given pressure. This is normal behaviour
219 for the GGA functional, which often predicts larger volumes than experiments by a few
220 percent. On the other hand, the HSE06 volume predictions are only about 0.5% above,
221 whereas the LDA results of Yang and Wu (2014) for β -stishovite coincides with, the
222 experimental data. At any given volume, the GGA-based pV-curves for β -stishovite and
223 seifertite are about 15 and 19 GPa above the experimentally determined data, respectively.
224 These deviations are somewhat larger than that of bridgmanite (Zhang et al. 2013), and they
225 reflect the larger bulk moduli of the silica minerals, and especially of seifertite (Table 2). The
226 functional forms of the equations of state based on GGA and the experiments are essentially
227 identical. Van de Walle and Ceder (1999) proposed a linear correction to volume-dependent
228 internal energy, which is equivalent to a constant shift in the pressure. This type of correction
229 was used by several authors, e.g., Oganov et al. (2001), Wentzcovitch et al. (2004), Stixrude
230 and Karki (2005). In order to derive optimal density estimates, we therefore apply pressure
231 corrections of -15 and -19 GPa for β -stishovite and seifertite, respectively, to the GGA
232 results. After this simple adjustment, the corrected GGA pV-curves are in excellent
233 agreement with the experimental results over the full range of pressure.

234 The LDA calculations of Oganov et al. (2005) predicted zero pressure volumes for β -
235 stishovite and seifertite of 23.6 and 22.8 $\text{\AA}^3/\text{SiO}_2$ -unit, respectively, compared to 24.2 and
236 23.6 $\text{\AA}^3/\text{SiO}_2$ -unit from our GGA calculations. The HSE06 calculations predicted zero
237 pressure volumes of 22.7 and 22.2 $\text{\AA}^3/\text{SiO}_2$ -unit for β -stishovite and seifertite, respectively.
238 To calculate HSE06-based equations of state for a temperature of 300 K in Fig. 5, we added
239 the GGA-derived volume increase in the 0-300 K range to the volume predicted by HSE06 at
240 0 K. The HSE06-based equations of state agree well with the experimentally derived values
241 for both SiO_2 phases.

242 Our static limit calculations, using a third order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state, of
243 bulk moduli for β -stishovite and seifertite gave 283 and 312 GPa, respectively, using the
244 GGA functional and 315 and 320 GPa, respectively, with HSE06. These are in good
245 agreement with previous experimental and theoretical studies (Dubrovinsky et al. 2001;
246 Andrault et al. 2003; Murakami et al. 2003; Oganov et al. 2005; Driver et al. 2010;
247 Grocholski et al. 2013).

248 We have also calculated the density of all three phases at high pressure and
249 temperature. The results for β -stishovite agree very well with those measured by Fisher et al.
250 (2018). The pVT volumes were fit to a Mie-Gruneisen-Debye type equation of state, using
251 the BurnMan tool kit (Cottaar et al., 2014), and the EoS parameters are given in Table 2.

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255 **4. Implications**

256 Our wide stability field for seifertite would increase the buoyancy contrast of subducted
257 oceanic crust in the lower mantle, increasing the ability for the recycled crust to segregate
258 into LLSVPs and maintain their stability. The effectiveness of this depends on the density
259 contrast between β -stishovite and seifertite. These densities along the mantle adiabat of
260 (Brown and Shankland 1981) are shown in Fig. 6. We also compare with the HeFESTo-based
261 densities for stishovite (β -stishovite is not differentiated from stishovite in that
262 thermodynamic database) and seifertite of Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2011), as well as
263 the experimentally obtained density for β -stishovite of Fischer et al. (2018). Our β -stishovite
264 density curve is slightly above that of Fischer et al. (2018), but agrees to within 0.25%. In
265 contrast, our seifertite density is about 2% lower than that from the HeFESTo database,
266 which does not provide data for β -stishovite (only for stishovite). We also find a smaller

267 density jump at the phase transition at 109 GPa and 2400 K of about 0.7 %, whereas
268 HeFESTo predicts a larger jump of about 1.5 % from stishovite to seifertite. The small
269 density jump at the transition means that the β -stishovite to seifertite transition is unlikely to
270 produce a significant density increase in subducting slabs, containing 6-7 vol% basaltic crust.
271 Even with as much as 18 mol% silica phases in pure basaltic material, the transition may only
272 add an increment of about 0.1% to the density of potential LLSVP-material containing
273 efficiently segregated (100%) oceanic crust.

274 Unequivocal observations of seismic discontinuities caused by the seifertite-forming
275 reaction in the mantle are not available, although Ohta et al. (2008) tentatively connect a
276 seismic discontinuity about 470 km above the CMB inside the Pacific LLSVP, 7-15° SSE of
277 Hawaii, to the combination of the seifertite- and post-bridgmanite-forming transitions in
278 basaltic material. This depth is in reasonable agreement with our predicted phase transition.

279 At greater pressures, the seifertite to pyrite-structured silica phase transition will affect
280 the shape of the silica liquidus for melt compositions in the Fe-rich part of the Fe-Si-O
281 system. Further constraints on the dT/dp -slopes of silica liquids for relevant core
282 compositions and on outer core adiabat will determine if silica would have crystallised in the
283 uppermost or in the deeper regions of the core (Hirose et al. 2017; Trønnes et al. 2019). This
284 information is required in order to judge whether a stagnant E'-layer, depleted in Si and
285 enriched in O, could have been formed by silica crystallisation (Brodholt and Badro 2017;
286 Trønnes et al. 2019).

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295

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440

441 **Table Captions**

442

443 **TABLE 1:** Phase transition pressures (GPa) and Clapeyron slope (MPa/K).

444 **TABLE 2:** Equation of state parameters for all three silica phases from this study (Mie-
445 Gruneisen EoS). The equation of state parameters were obtained by fitting to the pressure-
446 corrected GGA results, as discussed in the text.

447

448

449

450 **Figure Captions**

451

452 **FIGURE 1.** Enthalpy change upon the phase transition from (a) β -stishovite to seifertite and
453 (b) seifertite to pyrite-type silica as a function of pressure in the static limit, determined using
454 the GGA-PBE (red) and HSE06 (blue) functionals.

455

456 **FIGURE 2.** Gibbs free energy change upon the phase transition from β -stishovite to seifertite
457 (upper panel) and seifertite to pyrite-type silica (lower) as a function of pressure (contour
458 values in GPa) and temperature, calculated with the GGA functional. The transition pressure
459 increases (positive dp/dT slope) and decreases (negative dp/dT slope) with increasing
460 temperature for the β -stishovite to seifertite and seifertite to pyrite-type phase boundaries,
461 respectively.

462

463 **FIGURE 3.** Calculated total phonon density of states of three SiO_2 phases from *ab-initio*
464 lattice dynamics. The *phDOS* is scaled to $3N$ (N = no. of atoms).

465

466 **FIGURE 4.** Phase boundaries for the β -stishovite to seifertite and seifertite to pyrite-
467 structured silica. The present results are displayed together with previous results (dashed and
468 solid lines represent experimental and theoretical results, respectively). Static transition
469 pressures are without zero point energy correction. The seifertite-forming transition of
470 Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2011) is fixed to the Murakami et al. (2003) transition.
471 Experiments on compositions with 10 mol% Al_2O_3 form the lower bracket for β -stishovite
472 stability in the Grocholski et al. (2013) study. Within the adiabatic range, the geotherm of
473 Stixrude et al. is only about 5 K above the Brown and Shankland (1981) geotherm at
474 pressures above 80 GPa.

475

476 **FIGURE 5.** Equations of state for β -stishovite and seifertite. The HSE06-based EoS (adjusted
477 to 300 K by adding the GGA-derived volume increase from 0 to 300 K) is similar to the 300
478 K experimental data of Grocholski et al. (2013), Murakami et al. (2003) and Fischer et al.
479 (2018). The LDA results of Yang and Wu (2014) coincides with the experimental data and
480 the present GGA-based pV -curve has the same functional form as the experimental EoS. To
481 obtain optimal density estimates in Fig. 6, the GGA-curves were adjusted downwards by 15
482 and 19 GPa for β -stishovite and seifertite, respectively.

483 **Comment to the phase transitions in Fig. 4:** Because the GGA-volume of each phase is
484 about 2% larger than the experimentally based volumes in Fig. 5, this difference will be
485 *roughly* cancelled out in $\Delta V = V_{\text{seif}} - V_{\beta\text{-stish}}$ and the Clapeyron relation, $dp/dT = \Delta S/\Delta V$.
486 Because the static limit GGA and HSE06 pressures for the β -stishovite to seifertite and
487 seifertite to pyrite-type phase transitions differ by only 1.0 and 0.8 %, respectively (Fig. 1),
488 we have not employed any volume or pressure correction to the phase transitions in Fig. 4.

489 **Figure 6.** Density of silica phases calculated by the BurnMan code (Cottaar et al., 2014)
490 along the default adiabat of Brown and Shankland (1981), extended to 136 GPa and about
491 2450 K. Our predicted density for seifertite is 1.5 % lower than the HeFESTo-value of
492 Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2011). The density curves are truncated at the seifertite-
493 forming boundary (at 109 GPa and 2400 K). Note that the Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni
494 (2011) density curve below the seifertite stability range is for stishovite, rather than for β -
495 stishovite.
496

TABLE 1: Phase transition pressures (GPa) and Clapeyron slope (MPa/K).

	β-stishovite \rightarrow seifertite			seifertite \rightarrow Pyrite		
	0 K	2500 K	dp/dT	0 K	2500 K	dp/dT
<i>Theoretical work:</i>						
This work (GGA)	95	109.2	5.4	213	208.4	-2.8
This work (HSE06)	96	-		215	-	
Teter et al., 1998 (LDA)	85					
Tsuchiya et al., 2004 (GGA)	106.3	120.6	5.7			
Tsuchiya et al., 2004 (LDA)	96.3					
Oganov et al., 2005 (LDA)	84	98.4	6.6	201.5	198.5	-2.9
Driver et al., 2010 (GGA, WC)	83.5	100.7	7.2			
<i>Experimental work:</i>						
Akins et al., 2002 (Dyn. Compres.)		91.4	3.9			
Murakami et al., 2003 (LHDAC)		122	9.5			
Kuwayama et al., 2005 (XRD)					262.5	$\sim 0^*$
Grocholski et al., 2013 (DAC)		129.4	6.9			

*tentative slope by Kuwayama et al. (2005)

TABLE 2: Equation of state parameters for all three silica phases from this study (Mie-Gruneisen EoS). The equation of state parameters were obtained by fitting to the pressure-corrected GGA results, as discussed in the text.

	V_0 (cm^3/mol)	K_0 (GPa)	K_0'	γ_0	q_0	θ_r (K)
β -stishovite	14.19 ± 0.01	278 ± 3	4.30 ± 0.05	1.25 ± 0.01	1.18 ± 0.07	1150 ± 10
Seifertite	13.578 ± 0.001	365.7 ± 0.4	3.822 ± 0.003	1.242 ± 0.002	1.23 ± 0.01	1269 ± 6
Pyrite	12.97 ± 0.02	393 ± 5	3.83 ± 0.03	1.448 ± 0.008	1.66 ± 0.04	1219 ± 1

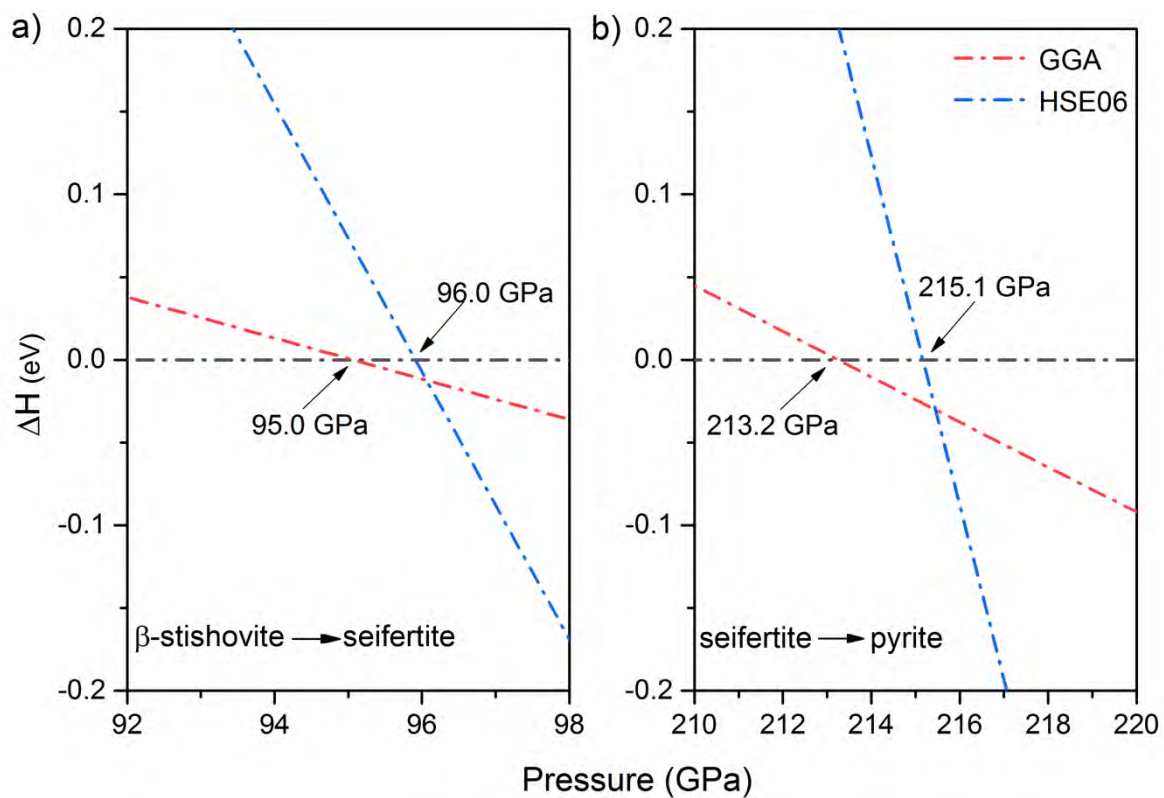


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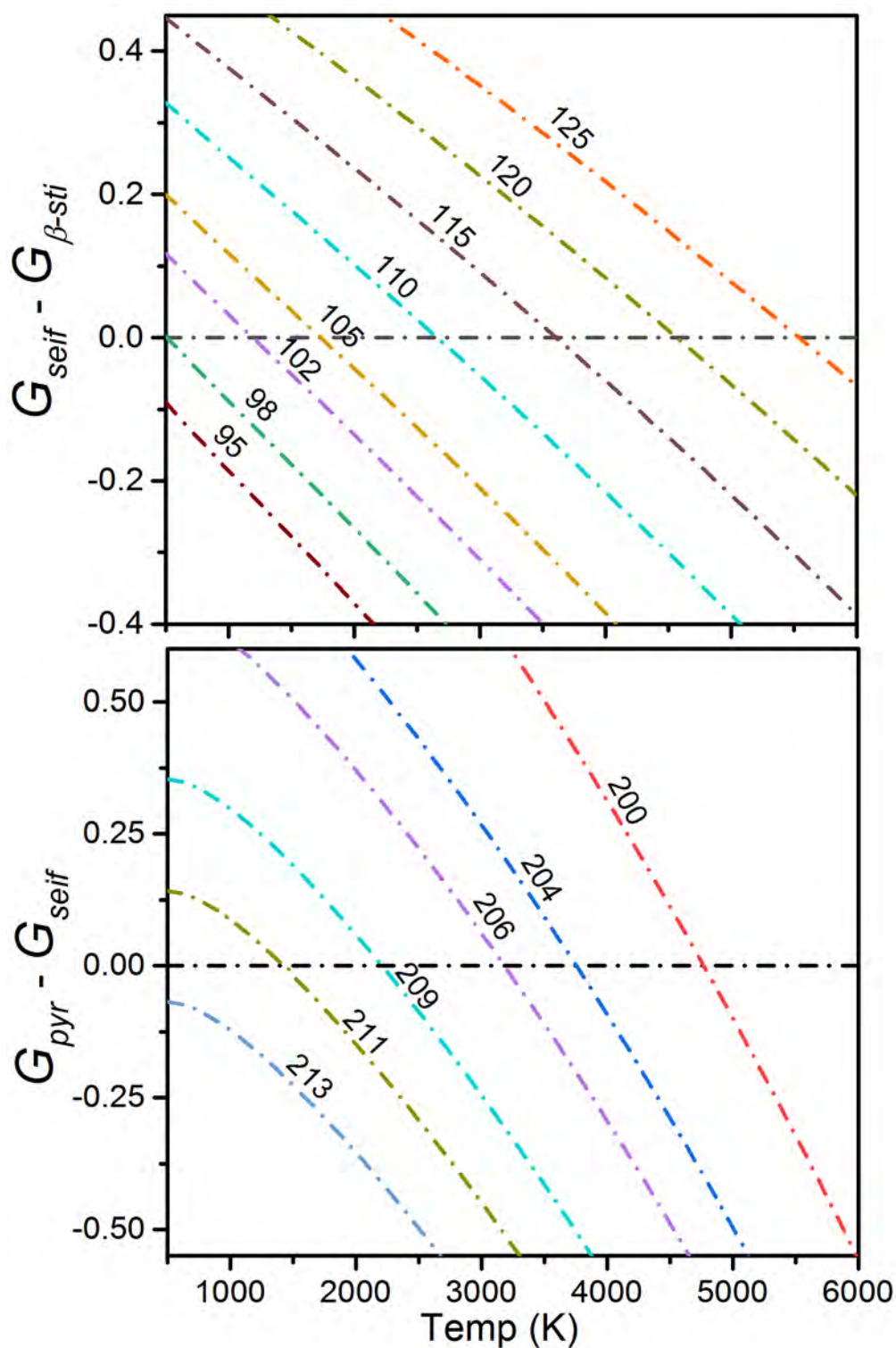


FIGURE 2. Gibbs free energy change upon the phase transition from β -stishovite to seifertite (upper panel) and seifertite to pyrite-type silica (lower) as a function of pressure (contour values in GPa) and temperature, calculated with the GGA functional. The transition pressure increases (positive dp/dT slope) and decreases (negative dp/dT slope) with increasing temperature for the β -stishovite to seifertite and seifertite to pyrite-type phase boundaries, respectively.

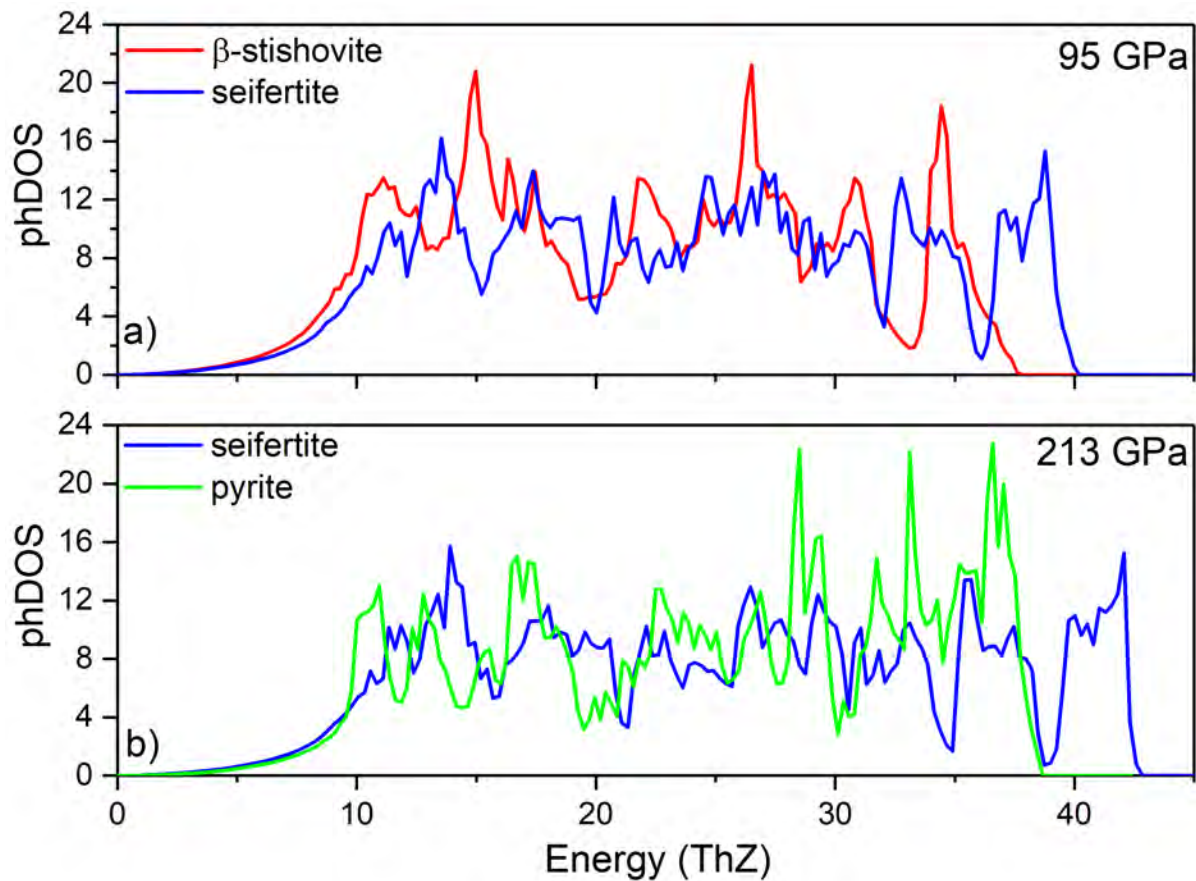


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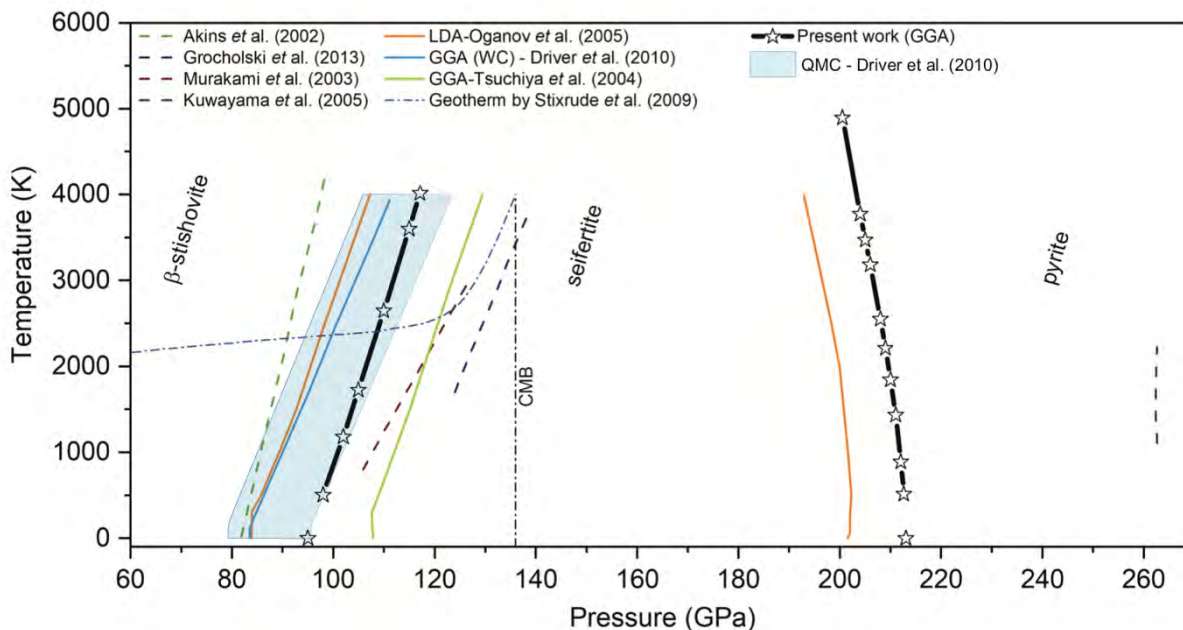


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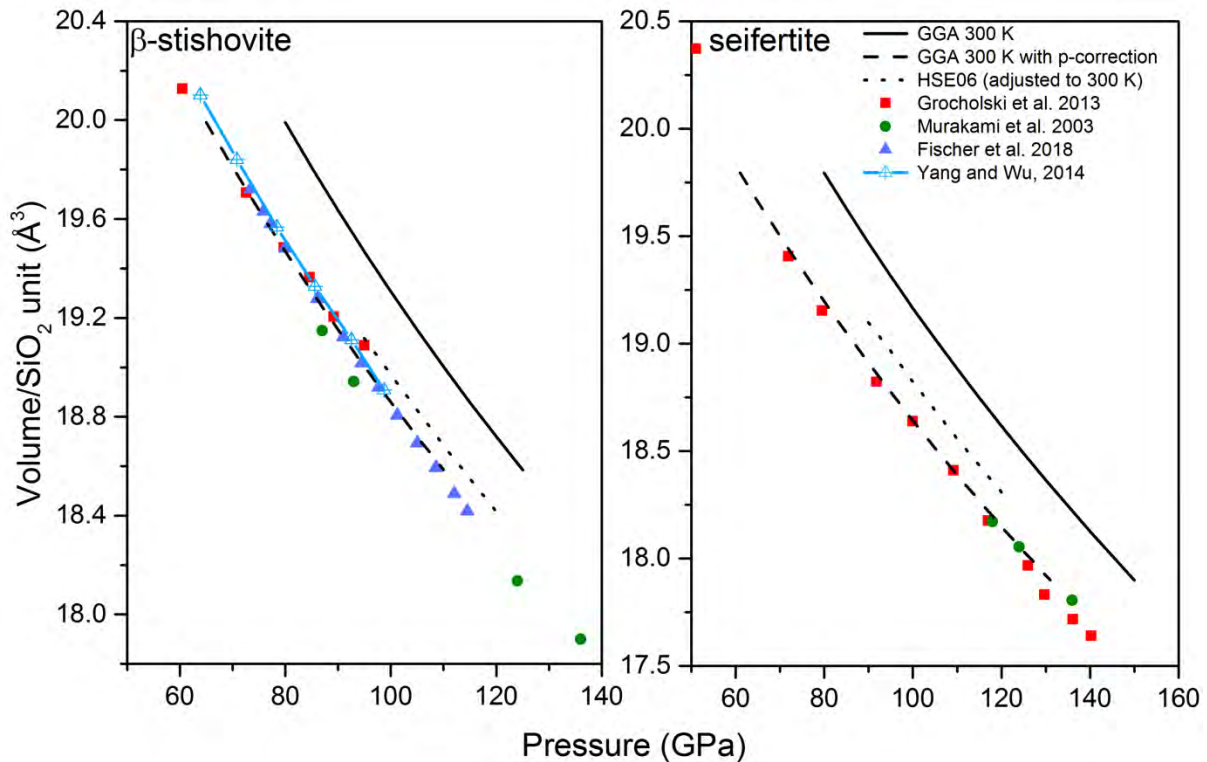


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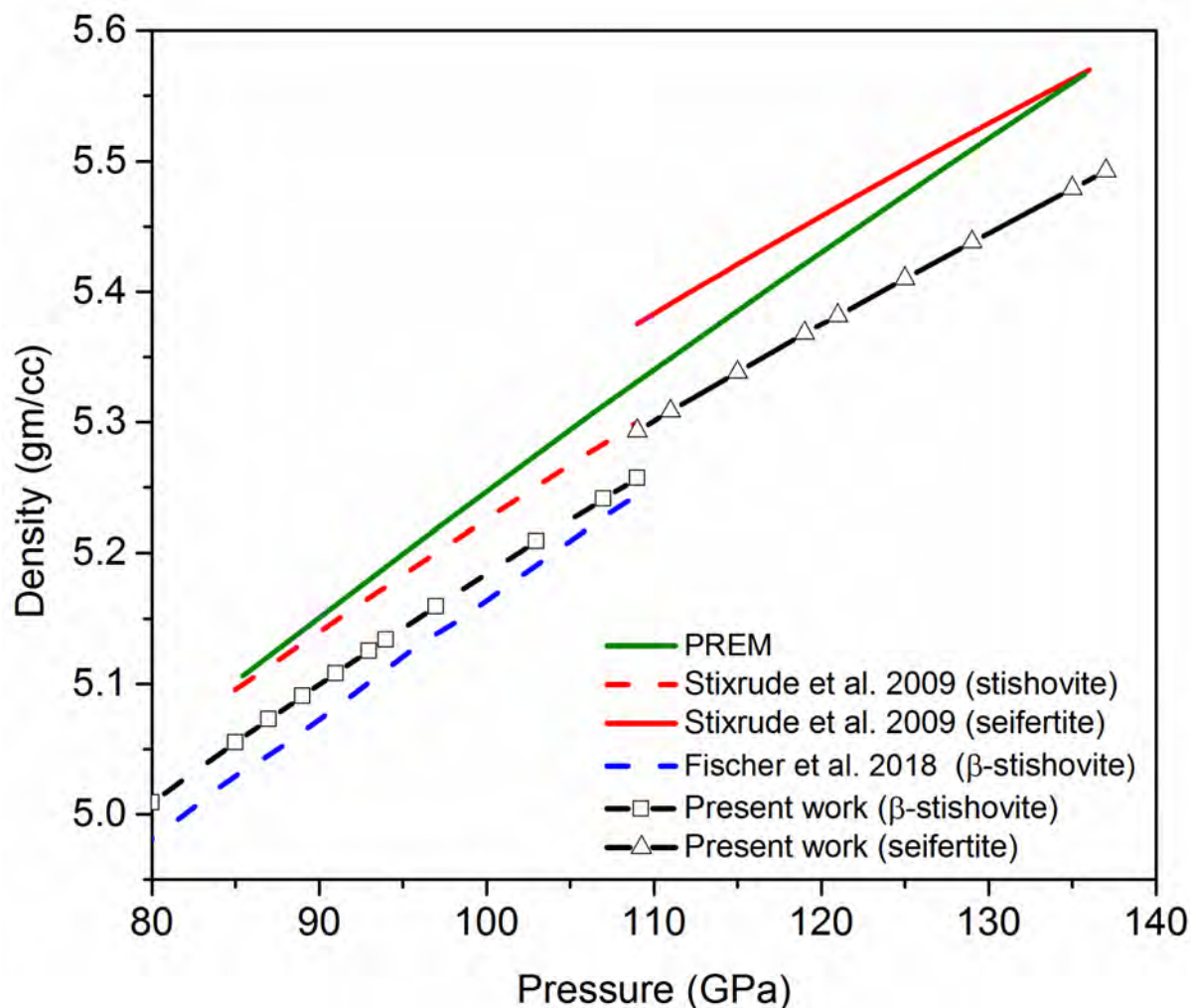


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