

1 **Revision 1**

2 **Sound Velocities of Iron-Nickel (Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub>) Alloy up to 8 GPa and 773 K: The Effect of**  
3 **Nickel on the Elastic Properties of bcc-Iron at High *P-T***

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5 **Siheng Wang<sup>1,\*</sup>, Nao Cai<sup>2,†</sup>, Xintong Qi<sup>2</sup>, Sibao Chen<sup>1</sup>, and Baosheng Li<sup>1,2</sup>**

6  
7 <sup>1</sup>Department of Geosciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

8 <sup>2</sup>Mineral Physics Institute, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

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10 \*Corresponding author: Siheng Wang ([siheng.wang@stonybrook.edu](mailto:siheng.wang@stonybrook.edu)), Department of  
11 Geosciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

12 †Current addresses: College of Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of  
13 Sciences, Beijing, China.

14 **Abstract**

15 Sound velocities of iron and iron-based alloys at high pressure and high temperature are crucial  
16 for understanding the composition and structure of Earth's and other telluric planetary cores. In  
17 this study, we performed ultrasonic interferometric measurements of both compressional ( $V_P$ )  
18 and shear ( $V_S$ ) velocities on a polycrystalline body-centered-cubic (bcc)-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> up to 8 GPa  
19 and 773 K. The elastic moduli and their pressure and temperature derivatives are derived from  
20 least square fits to third-order finite strain equations, yielding  $K_{S0} = 154.2(8)$  GPa,  $G_0 = 73.2(2)$   
21 GPa,  $K_{S0}' = 4.6(2)$ ,  $G_0' = 1.5(1)$ ,  $\partial K_S/\partial T = -0.028(1)$  GPa/K, and  $\partial G/\partial T = -0.023(1)$  GPa/K. A  
22 comparison with literature data on bcc-Fe suggests that nickel not only decreases both P and S  
23 wave velocities but also weakens the temperature effects on the elastic moduli of Fe-Ni alloys.

24 **Key words:** Fe-Ni alloy; sound velocity; high pressure and high temperature; ultrasonic  
25 interferometry

## 26 1. Introduction

27 Understanding the nature of Earth's core, which is the least accessible region of the Earth, is one  
28 of the most challenging tasks in geophysical research. Seismic waves can travel inside the Earth  
29 and serve as a powerful tool to probe the physical properties of Earth's interior, such as the  
30 density, compressional (P) and shear (S) wave velocities depth profiles; see for example the  
31 Preliminary Reference Earth Model (Dziewonski and Anderson 1981). Comparing seismic  
32 results with lab-based mineral physics investigations, as well as other evidence from  
33 geochemical and cosmochemical studies, it has been widely accepted that Earth's core is  
34 composed of iron alloyed with approximately 10 wt.% nickel and several percent of light  
35 elements (such as Si, O, H, S, C, etc.) (e.g., Birch 1952, 1964; Li and Fei 2014; McDonough and  
36 Sun 1995). However, direct studies on the behavior and elasticity properties of iron alloys at high  
37 pressure and high temperature are still scarce.

38 Iron-nickel alloys can exist in several crystallographic structures: body-centered-cubic (bcc)  
39 structure ( $\alpha$  phase), face-centered cubic (fcc) structure ( $\gamma$  phase), and hexagonal close-packed  
40 (hcp) structure ( $\epsilon$  phase), etc., depending on the pressure ( $P$ ) and temperature ( $T$ ) conditions and  
41 the nickel concentration (**Fig. 1**). At ambient conditions, iron crystallizes in bcc structure while  
42 nickel prefers the fcc structure; when the nickel concentration exceeds ~20 wt.%, Fe-Ni alloys  
43 will gradually transform from bcc to fcc structure. However, there is no conclusive consensus on  
44 the phase diagram of Fe-Ni systems at high pressure and high temperature (e.g., Dubrovinsky et  
45 al. 2007; Kuwayama et al. 2008; Mao et al. 1990; Sakai et al. 2011; Tateno et al. 2012; Tateno et  
46 al. 2010). While there are several experimental and theoretic predictions arguing that the bcc  
47 structure could be the stable phase (e.g., Dubrovinsky et al. 2007; Vocadlo et al. 2003) at Earth's  
48 core conditions, these predictions were not supported by later experiments (e.g., Sakai et al. 2011;

49 Tateno et al. 2012; Tateno et al. 2010). The more recent calculations by Stixrude (2012)  
50 demonstrate a wide stability field of hcp Fe to 23 Mbar (2,300 GPa) and 19,000 K, supporting  
51 the later high *P-T* experiments. With the complexity of alloying with light elements, the phase  
52 diagram is even more controversial. Thus, more information about the physical and chemical  
53 properties (such as, density, sound velocity, bulk modulus, shear modulus, anisotropy, etc.) of  
54 the different phases of the Fe-Ni alloys are needed to further constrain the composition and  
55 structure of the Earth's core.

56 Sound velocities of pure iron (Fe) have been experimentally accessed by ultrasonic  
57 interferometry (UI), inelastic X-ray scattering (IXS), nuclear resonant inelastic X-ray scattering  
58 (NRIXS), and laser pulses (LP), etc.] at room temperature (e.g., Chigarev et al. 2008; Decremps  
59 et al. 2014; Fiquet et al. 2001; Gleason et al. 2013; Mao et al. 1998; Murphy et al. 2013) and  
60 high temperature (e.g., Antonangeli et al. 2012; Lin et al. 2005; Liu et al. 2014; Mao et al. 2012;  
61 Ohtani et al. 2013; Shibazaki et al. 2016). In contrast, experimental studies on the sound velocity  
62 of iron-nickel (Fe-Ni) alloys are still limited (Kantor et al. 2007; Lin et al. 2003; Morrison et al.  
63 2019; Wakamatsu et al. 2018), especially for the shear properties under simultaneous high  
64 pressure and high temperature conditions.

65 In the present study, we have carried out ultrasonic interferometric (UI) measurements on a  
66 polycrystalline bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> sample at simultaneous pressure and temperature conditions.  
67 Compared to other sound velocity measurement techniques, UI in large volume apparatus  
68 embeds the advantages of stable and uniform heating of sample and direct measurement of both  
69 P and S wave velocities simultaneously. We applied a third-order finite strain approach for data  
70 analysis; the resultant compressional and shear velocities as well as the bulk and shear moduli

71 for bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> are compared with those for pure iron to evaluate the effects of nickel content on  
72 the elastic properties of Fe-Ni alloys.

## 73 **2. Experimental methods**

74 The polycrystalline sample of Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> (10 wt.% Nickel) was a cylindrical disk cut from a rod  
75 purchased from Princeton Scientific Cooperation. Before the ultrasonic measurements, the  
76 sample was annealed at 3 GPa, 773 K. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) analysis was  
77 conducted on the recovered sample and the results (**Fig. 2**) indicated that the sample was  
78 homogenous with an average grain size less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . There was no detectable oxygen  
79 observed in the Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS), suggesting that no oxidation  
80 reactions occurred during the high temperature annealing process.

81 To optimize the acoustic signals in the ultrasonic measurement, both sides of the sample were  
82 polished using diamond lapping film to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . The final dimensions of the polished sample were  
83 0.930(2) mm in length and 2.010(2) mm in diameter, with a bulk density of 7.95(3)  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ , as  
84 obtained by the Archimedes' method.

85 High pressure and high temperature ultrasonic measurements were performed to about 8 GPa,  
86 773 K in a 2000-ton uniaxial split-cylinder apparatus (USCA-2000) in the High-Pressure Lab at  
87 Stony Brook University. A sketch of the 14/8 cell assembly used in this study is shown in **Fig. 3**.

88 A dual mode LiNbO<sub>3</sub> transducer (10° Y-cut) was used to generate and receive both the  
89 compressional wave and shear wave simultaneously (50 MHz resonant frequency for P waves  
90 and 30 MHz for S waves). A dense alumina rod was placed on the top of the sample and served  
91 as the acoustic buffer rod. Due to the low yield strength of NaCl at high temperatures, a disk of  
92 NaCl was placed at the back of the sample to provide a pseudo-hydrostatic environment during

93 the experiment (Li et al. 2001). The high temperature environment was generated by a graphite  
94 heater and monitored by W/Re5%-W/Re26% type-C thermocouples. The thermocouple junction  
95 was placed at a location that mirrors the center of the sample position relative to the center of the  
96 high-pressure cell. Even though they were not directly in contact with each other, the  
97 thermocouple reading is believed to closely represent the sample temperatures at high pressure.  
98 The temperature measurement uncertainty in current experiment is approximately  $\pm 10$  K. P and  
99 S wave travel times were acquired using the transfer function technique and analyzed using the  
100 pulse echo overlap (PEO) method by overlapping the buffer rod and sample echoes (**Fig. 4**).  
101 Details about the transfer function technique for data acquisition and processing have been  
102 discussed elsewhere (Li et al. 2002; Li et al. 2004). Cell pressures were calculated from the shear  
103 wave travel times of the alumina buffer rod using the pressure scale at high temperature by  
104 equation:

$$105 \quad P = 242.5(9) \times (1 - t_{S\_bf}/t_{S0\_bf}) + 0.01099(5) \times (T - T_0) \quad (1.)$$

106 where  $P$  is cell pressure,  $t_{S\_bf}$  is the  $S$  wave travel time of the buffer rod, and  $t_{S0\_bf}$  is the  $S$  wave  
107 travel time at ambient conditions (for further details of the use of alumina as a pressure marker,  
108 see Wang et al. 2015). The details of the experimental data on buffer rod are listed in  
109 supplementary **Table S1**. The pressure uncertainty is estimated to be around  $\pm 0.2$  GPa in current  
110 study.

111 The experimental  $P$ - $T$  path is shown in the **Fig. 1**, superimposed with the previously determined  
112 phase diagram from the diamond anvil cell (DAC) experiments (Huang et al. 1988). The sample  
113 was first compressed at room temperature to a maximum pressure of  $\sim 8$  GPa, followed by  
114 heating to a peak temperature of 773 K to release the deviatoric stress in the cell, then the

115 ultrasonic data were collected at 100 K intervals along cooling paths to room temperature while  
116 the sample was under nearly hydrostatic environment (Li et al. 2001). Multiple heating and  
117 cooling cycles were performed during decompression to provide a dense coverage of  
118 experimental data in  $P$ - $T$  space. The P and S wave travel times were obtained at 35 and 27 MHz,  
119 respectively, in this study, to maximize the signal-to-noise ratio.

### 120 **3. Data analyses**

121 After the experiment, the sample length and diameter were 0.926(2) mm and 2.010(5) mm  
122 respectively, indicating that, within 0.4% uncertainty, the sample can be considered to have  
123 undergone elastic compression under pseudo-hydrostatic conditions during the entire course of  
124 the experiment. As indicated by the P and S wave signals obtained at 7.6 GPa and 776 K in **Fig.**  
125 **4**, the reflections from the front (buffer rod/sample) and rear (sample/backing) surfaces are  
126 highly distinguishable from the background, providing a reliable measurements of travel times  
127 with 0.1-0.6% in precision.

128 The travel time results at all experimental conditions from this study are summarized in **Table 1**.  
129 As shown in previous studies, velocities ( $V_P$  and  $V_S$ ), and elastic moduli ( $K_S$  and  $G$ ) as well as  
130 their pressure and temperature derivatives ( $K_S$ ,  $G$ ,  $K_S'$ ,  $G'$ ,  $\partial K_S/\partial T$ , and  $\partial G/\partial T$ ) can be obtained  
131 by a third-order finite strain approach (Davies and Dziewonski 1975; Li and Zhang 2005).

132 First, because the sample has undergone nearly hydrostatic deformation during cooling along  
133 decompression the experiment, it is reasonable to assume that density ( $\rho$ ), volume ( $V$ ), and  
134 length ( $l$ ) have the following relationships:

$$135 \quad \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} = \frac{V_0}{V} = \left(\frac{l_0}{l}\right)^3 \quad (2.)$$

136 The elastic properties at high pressure and temperature can be calculated through the sound  
137 velocities  $V_{(P,S)} = \frac{2l}{2t_{(P,S)}}$  and densities  $\rho$  by the relationships  $K_S = \rho(V_P^2 - \frac{4}{3}V_S^2)$  and  $G = \rho V_S^2$   
138 for the bulk and shear modulus, respectively. Under adiabatic compression, the finite strain  
139 equations are expressed as the following:

$$140 \quad \rho V_P^2 = (1 - 2\varepsilon)^{\frac{5}{2}}(L_1 + L_2\varepsilon) \quad (3.)$$

$$141 \quad \rho V_S^2 = (1 - 2\varepsilon)^{\frac{5}{2}}(M_1 + M_2\varepsilon) \quad (4.)$$

$$142 \quad K_{S(0,T)} = L_1 - \frac{4}{3}M_1 \quad (5.)$$

$$143 \quad G_{(0,T)} = M_1 \quad (6.)$$

$$144 \quad K'_{S(0,T)} = \frac{5L_1 - L_2}{3K_{S(0,T)}} - \frac{4G'_{(0,T)}}{3} \quad (7.)$$

$$145 \quad G'_{(0,T)} = \frac{5M_1 - M_2}{3K_{S(0,T)}} \quad (8.)$$

146 where the subscript  $(P,T)$  indicates values at the pressure  $P$  and temperature  $T$ , and the Eulerian

147 strain  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\rho_{(P,T)}}{\rho_{(0,T_{foot})}} \right)^{2/3} \right]$  (The  $T_{foot}$  here refers to the foot temperature of an adiabat at

148 ambient pressure and  $T$  refers to the temperature along this adiabat at pressure  $P$ ). All

149 temperatures reached in the entire experiment are assumed to be raised along separate adiabats

150 from different foot temperatures  $T_{foot}$ . Thus, the adiabatic foot temperature for each data point as

151 well as the corresponding density and elastic properties at ambient pressure and  $T_{foot}$  can be

152 extracted through the following equations:

$$153 \quad \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial P} \right)_S = \frac{\gamma T}{K_S} \quad (9.)$$



$$154 \quad \rho_{(0,T_{foot})} = \rho_{(0,T_0)} e^{-\int \alpha dT} \quad (10.)$$

$$155 \quad K_{S(0,T_{foot})} = K_{S(0,T_0)} + (T_{foot} - T_0) \left( \frac{\partial K_S}{\partial T} \right)_P \quad (11.)$$

$$156 \quad G_{(0,T_{foot})} = G_{(0,T_0)} + (T_{foot} - T_0) \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P \quad (12.)$$

$$157 \quad K'_{SS(0,T_{foot})} = K'_{SS(0,T_0)} + (T_{foot} - T_0) \left( \frac{\partial^2 K_S}{\partial P \partial T} \right)_P + \left( \frac{\partial K_S}{\partial T} \right)_P \frac{\gamma T}{K_S} \quad (13.)$$

$$158 \quad G'_{S(0,T_{foot})} = G'_{S(0,T_0)} + (T_{foot} - T_0) \left( \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial P \partial T} \right)_P + \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial T} \right)_P \frac{\gamma T}{K_S} \quad (14.)$$

$$159 \quad P = -3K_{S(0,T_{foot})} (1 - 2\varepsilon)^{5/2} \left( 1 + \frac{3}{2} (4 - K'_{SS(0,T_{foot})}) \varepsilon \right) \varepsilon \quad (15.)$$

160 The sample lengths, as well as the thermoelastic properties  $K_S$ ,  $G$ ,  $K_S'$ ,  $G'$ ,  $\partial K_S/\partial T$ ,  $\partial G/\partial T$  at  
 161 ambient conditions, were refined using a least-square fit by minimizing the difference between  
 162 the observed compressional and shear velocities ( $V_{(P,S)} = \frac{2l}{2t_{(P,S)}}$ ) and pressures from **Eq.(1)** with  
 163 those calculated by finite strain theory [**Eqs. (3), (4), and (15)**]. More details about the data  
 164 analysis procedures can be found elsewhere (Li and Zhang 2005). In the  $P$ - $T$  range of the current  
 165 experiment, the thermal expansivity  $\alpha$  was assumed to be a constant value of  $4.67 \times 10^{-5}$  (Zhang  
 166 and Guyot 1999); the Grüneisen parameter  $\gamma$  was constrained by the assumption of  $\rho\gamma = \text{constant}$   
 167 with  $\gamma_0 = 1.65$  (Quareni and Mulargia 1988); cross derivatives  $(\partial^2 K_S/\partial P \partial T)_P$  and  $(\partial^2 G/\partial P \partial T)_P$   
 168 were assumed to be zero in the current  $P$ - $T$  range. The minimization usually takes only a few  
 169 iterations to achieve convergence, and the results for the elastic properties are shown in **Table 2**.

#### 170 4. Results and discussion

171 According to **Fig. 1**, some of our experimental data were collected close to the bcc-fcc boundary  
172 or within the stability field of the fcc phase of Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> as suggested by DAC experiments from  
173 Huang et al. (1988). However, a recent electrical resistivity measurement in the large volume  
174 press with a similar experimental setup as current study suggested the bcc-to-fcc phase transition  
175 of Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> would not occur until ~900 K at the pressure range of 4.5 GPa and 8 GPa (Pommier  
176 2020). A close examination of the recorded waveforms as well as the subsequent analysis of P  
177 and S wave travel times did not suggest a phase transition to fcc phase in our *P-T* range. This  
178 was further tested by performing a separate fit without the data at 773 K. As indicated by the  
179 results shown in **Table 2**, within the uncertainty, the inclusion of the data at 773 K has an  
180 insignificant effect on the fitting results and can be reliably treated as the representative values  
181 for the bcc phase.

182 The compressional and shear wave velocities data obtained in this study are compared in **Fig. 5**  
183 with those from ultrasonic measurements (Shibazaki et al. 2016) and an IXS study on bcc-Fe  
184 (Liu et al. 2014), as well as data from NRIXS studies on both bcc-Fe and bcc-Fe<sub>91</sub>Ni<sub>09</sub> (Morrison  
185 et al. 2019). At room temperature, the velocities of both P and S waves for bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> are  
186 consistently lower than pure Fe from Shibazaki et al. (2016) by 5% and 6%, respectively, which  
187 is in good agreement with the ~6% velocity depression observed in NRIXS studies on Fe-Ni  
188 alloys with 0 and 9 at.% (which corresponding to ~10 wt.%) nickel (Morrison et al. 2019).  
189 However, the absolute values for both P and S waves from NRIXS are systematically lower than  
190 those from other techniques (UI, IXS), which could be attributed to the fact that NRIXS is based  
191 on the Debye model to analyze the data instead of measuring the sound velocity directly.  
192 Comparing to those for bcc-Fe from Shibazaki et al. (2016),  $V_P$  of bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> from current

193 study exhibits a slower rate of increase with pressure [ $\sim 5.1 \times 10^{-2}$  km/s/GPa versus (*vs.*)  $6.9 \times 10^{-2}$   
194 km/s/GPa for Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> and Fe, respectively] while  $V_S$  increases at a relatively similar rate  
195 ( $\sim 2.1 \times 10^{-2}$  km/s/GPa *vs.*  $2.0 \times 10^{-2}$  km/s/GPa for Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> and Fe, respectively).

196 With increasing temperature, both  $V_P$  and  $V_S$  decrease within the entire  $P$ - $T$  range of the current  
197 experiment with a larger reduction in  $V_S$  than  $V_P$ . For example, at  $\sim 3$  GPa, the depressions in  $V_P$   
198 and  $V_S$  from 300 K to 800 K are 4%, 7% for Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> and 6%, 8% for pure Fe, respectively. The  
199 compressional velocity ( $V_P$ ) decrease from 300 to 700 K reported by Liu et al. (2014) is about  
200 5%, which is larger than the 4% for bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> observed in current study. In addition, nonlinear  
201 elastic anomalies indicative of a magnetic transition at high temperature (e.g., Dever 1972) were  
202 not observed in the current study, which could possibly be explained by the limited temperature  
203 range (300-773 K).

204 The adiabatic bulk modulus ( $K_S$ ) and shear modulus ( $G$ ) calculated in current study are plotted in  
205 **Fig. 6** as a function of pressure and temperature. **Table 2** is a comparison of the thermoelastic  
206 properties of Fe and Fe-Ni alloys obtained from this study and previous experimental studies.  
207 Note in this table that our study reports for the first time the temperature dependences of the  
208 elastic bulk and shear moduli ( $\partial K_S/\partial T$  and  $\partial G/\partial T$ ) of bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub>. Comparing with previous  
209 ultrasonic studies listed in **Table 2**, the bulk and shear moduli of bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> at ambient  
210 conditions [ $K_{S0} = 154.2(8)$  GPa and  $G_0 = 73.2(2)$  GPa] are lower than those values of bcc-Fe ( $K_{S0}$   
211 = 165-168 GPa and  $G_0 = 78$ -82 GPa) by approximately 7% and 9%, respectively (Adams et al.  
212 2006; Dever 1972; Isaak and Masuda 1995; Leese and Lord Jr 1968; Shibazaki et al. 2016). The  
213 effect of nickel content on bulk modulus observed in this study is consistent with previous

214 suggestions based on pressure-volume ( $P$ - $V$ ) measurements in DAC (Morrison et al. 2018;  
215 Takahashi et al. 1968).

216 It is also worthwhile to note that, comparing with pure bcc-Fe (Shibazaki et al. (2016), bcc-  
217 Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> exhibits a weaker pressure dependence of  $K_S$  than bcc-Fe (**Fig. 6**), which can be  
218 quantified by the pressure derivative  $K_S'$  [4.6(2) for bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> vs. 6.75(33) for pure Fe];  
219 meanwhile for the shear modulus, bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> and bcc-Fe show close agreement with each  
220 other in their pressure derivatives [ $G\theta' = 1.5(1)$  vs. 1.66(14), respectively]. These comparisons  
221 are believed to reveal primarily the intrinsic difference resulted from nickel substitution in the  
222 alloy; the different pressure calibration method used in the current experiments (alumina pressure  
223 gauge) and those of Shibazaki et al. (2016) [equation of state (EOS) of MgO + hBN] may also  
224 contribute, but are not considered to be an appreciable effect. Future investigations on Fe-Ni  
225 alloys with different Ni contents using either of the pressure calibration method could help to  
226 further address this issue.

227 Besides the pressure dependence, we also investigated the effect of 10 wt.% nickel content in our  
228 sample on the temperature dependence of both bulk and shear moduli. For pure bcc-Fe, high  
229 temperature ultrasonic measurements have been conducted at ambient pressure (e.g., Adams et al.  
230 2006; Dever 1972; Isaak and Masuda 1995; Leese and Lord Jr 1968) and high pressure  
231 (Shibazaki et al. 2016), the reported temperature dependence ranges from -0.029 GPa/K ~ -0.046  
232 GPa/K for the bulk modulus ( $\partial K_{S0}/\partial T$ ) and -0.015 GPa/K ~ -0.034 GPa/K for the shear modulus  
233 ( $\partial G_0/\partial T$ ). Our results of  $\partial K_{S0}/\partial T = -0.028(1)$  GPa/K and  $\partial G_0/\partial T = -0.023(1)$  GPa/K for bcc-  
234 Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> are only marginally consistent with the lowest values reported for bcc-Fe, indicating that

235 10 wt.% nickel alloying with Fe can weakly affect the temperature dependence of both bulk and  
236 shear moduli.

237 The current adiabatic value of  $\partial K_{S0}/\partial T = -0.028(1)$  GPa/K can be converted to its isothermal  
238 counterpart using the differentiated form of the thermodynamic identity  $K_T = K_S/(1 + \alpha\gamma T)$ ,  
239 yielding  $\partial K_{T0}/\partial T = -0.038(1)$  GPa/K. Two pressure-volume-temperature ( $P$ - $V$ - $T$ ) investigations  
240 have reported  $\partial K_{T0}/\partial T$  on bcc-Fe based on X-ray diffraction (XRD) studies and the results are  
241 largely discrepant. While Huang et al. (1987) reported a relatively small temperature dependence  
242 [ $\partial K_{T0}/\partial T = -0.010(16)$  GPa/K], Zhang and Guyot (1999) provided a much larger value [ $\partial K_{T0}/\partial T$   
243 =  $-0.049(6)$  GPa/K], which is more consistent with the current ultrasonic results. To the authors'  
244 best knowledge, no  $P$ - $V$ - $T$  investigation on bcc-Fe-Ni alloy has yet been reported to provide a  
245 direct comparison with the current result.

## 246 **5. Implications**

247 Due to the limited coverage in pressure and temperature, our experimental results of velocities  
248 are not directly applicable to the Earth's core. We discuss possible implications for other phases,  
249 such as hcp-Fe-Ni systems, by investigating how the elastic properties are affected by nickel at  
250 high pressure and temperature. We found that the effect of nickel content on P and S wave  
251 velocities observed on bcc phase in this study is roughly consistent with the previously reported  
252 results on hcp Fe-Ni alloys (Lin et al. 2003; Morrison et al. 2019; Wakamatsu et al. 2018). This  
253 nickel effect could lead to a velocity decrease as large as  $\Delta V_P = 0.8$  km/s at inner core boundary  
254 (ICB) for hcp phase, as calculated by Ohtani et al. (2013), suggesting that nickel content plays as  
255 an important factor when we modelling the velocity structure of Earth's core to place constraints  
256 on its composition. From our measurements, we observed  $(\partial V_P/\partial T)_\rho = -0.18(2)$  km/(s $\cdot$ 10<sup>3</sup>K) for

257 bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> at a constant density in current  $P$ - $T$  range. In comparison, the  $(\partial V_P/\partial T)_\rho$  for bcc-Fe  
258 varies from -0.33(4) km/(s·10<sup>3</sup>K) to -0.37(3) km/(s·10<sup>3</sup>K) by UI (Shibazaki et al. 2016) and IXS  
259 (Liu et al. 2014) measurements, respectively, indicating the nickel content can also reduce the  
260 effect of temperature on the  $V_P$ - $\rho$  relationship. This implies that the use of temperature  
261 derivatives of Fe would produce an upper bound or overestimated value of velocity decrease  
262 ( $\Delta V_P$ ) at Earth's core conditions. Furthermore, we also observed a slightly smaller temperature  
263 effect of shear velocity in bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub> [ $(\partial V_S/\partial T)_\rho = -0.28(2)$  km/(s·10<sup>3</sup>K)] than bcc-Fe  
264 [ $(\partial V_S/\partial T)_\rho = -0.39(3)$  km/(s·10<sup>3</sup>K)]. The low value of  $(\partial V_S/\partial T)_\rho$  would introduce even larger  $V_S$   
265 of hcp-Fe-Ni than previous estimations, which would require a more significant pre-melting  
266 effects (Martorell et al. 2013) or other mechanisms to account for the discrepancy of shear waves  
267 with the seismological observations. Thus, the decrease in the temperature effect induced by  
268 nickel alloying needs to be further evaluated in other structures of Fe-Ni alloys in an expanded  
269  $P$ - $T$  range; a better and more precise understanding of the Earth's core should take the effect of  
270 nickel into consideration instead of just ignoring it. Future acoustic measurements of both  $V_P$  and  
271  $V_S$  of various Fe-Ni-light elements alloys and compounds at simultaneous high  $P$ - $T$  conditions  
272 are also needed to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the composition and thermal  
273 structure of Earth's and planetary cores.

## 274 **Acknowledgements**

275 The authors would like to thank Jim Quinn for assistant with SEM at Stony Brook University.  
276 We also thank Robert. C. Liebermann for valuable discussions of this manuscript. We appreciate  
277 the constructive comments and suggestions of two anonymous reviewers. This project is  
278 supported by National Science Foundation (EAR-1524078) and DOE-NNSA (DE-NA0003886).

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404

405 **Table 1** Experimental ( $P$ ,  $T$ ,  $2t_p$ ,  $2t_s$ ) and calculated (Length,  $\rho$ ,  $V_p$ ,  $V_s$ ,  $K_s$ ,  $G$ ) data of bcc-Fe<sub>90</sub>Ni<sub>10</sub>

$P$ (GPa)	$T$ (K)	$2t_p$ ( $\mu$ s)	$2t_s$ ( $\mu$ s)	Length (mm)	$\rho$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$V_p$ (km/s)	$V_s$ (km/s)	$K_s$ (GPa)	$G$ (GPa)
6.2	323	0.3080(2)	0.5816(28)	0.9148	8.246	5.94(6)	3.15(3)	182.2(33)	81.6(11)
7.6	776	0.3188(4)	0.6188(18)	0.9174	8.176	5.76(6)	2.97(3)	175.0(30)	71.9(8)
7.4	667	0.3150(4)	0.6060(4)	0.9165	8.200	5.82(6)	3.02(3)	177.6(30)	75.0(8)
7.1	570	0.3124(4)	0.5968(8)	0.9160	8.212	5.86(6)	3.07(3)	179.2(31)	77.4(8)
6.7	472	0.3104(2)	0.5868(22)	0.9155	8.228	5.90(6)	3.12(3)	179.5(32)	80.1(10)
6.1	328	0.3080(4)	0.5810(28)	0.9149	8.243	5.94(6)	3.15(3)	181.9(34)	81.8(11)
5.6	322	0.3092(4)	0.5828(22)	0.9157	8.220	5.92(6)	3.14(3)	180.2(33)	81.2(10)
6.9	785	0.3210(12)	0.6208(16)	0.9188	8.140	5.72(6)	2.96(3)	171.6(35)	71.3(8)
6.8	674	0.3172(6)	0.6096(8)	0.9177	8.167	5.79(6)	3.01(3)	174.7(31)	74.0(8)
6.6	576	0.3146(8)	0.5990(10)	0.9170	8.186	5.83(6)	3.06(3)	175.9(33)	76.7(8)
6.2	470	0.3120(2)	0.5900(10)	0.9165	8.201	5.87(6)	3.11(3)	177.5(31)	79.1(8)
5.6	329	0.3098(2)	0.5826(28)	0.9158	8.219	5.91(6)	3.14(3)	179.0(33)	81.2(11)
4.3	309	0.3140(4)	0.5864(12)	0.9178	8.165	5.85(6)	3.13(3)	172.4(31)	80.0(9)
5.6	782	0.3256(2)	0.6244(6)	0.9213	8.073	5.66(6)	2.95(3)	164.8(28)	70.3(7)
5.4	661	0.3214(2)	0.6130(4)	0.9201	8.103	5.73(6)	3.00(3)	168.3(29)	73.0(7)
5.2	573	0.3192(2)	0.6050(2)	0.9195	8.121	5.76(6)	3.04(3)	169.5(29)	75.0(8)
4.9	468	0.3172(2)	0.5984(2)	0.9188	8.139	5.79(6)	3.07(3)	170.8(29)	76.7(8)
4.3	316	0.3150(2)	0.5878(10)	0.9181	8.158	5.83(6)	3.12(3)	171.0(30)	79.6(8)
2.6	310	0.3206(4)	0.6010(18)	0.9211	8.077	5.75(6)	3.07(3)	165.5(30)	75.9(9)
3.1	779	0.3336(2)	0.6406(8)	0.9260	7.950	5.55(6)	2.89(3)	156.4(26)	66.4(7)
2.9	673	0.3300(2)	0.6268(20)	0.9251	7.974	5.61(6)	2.95(3)	158.0(28)	69.5(8)
2.8	571	0.3266(4)	0.6188(26)	0.9240	8.002	5.66(6)	2.99(3)	161.1(29)	71.4(9)
2.7	474	0.3244(4)	0.6134(38)	0.9229	8.030	5.69(6)	3.01(3)	163.0(31)	72.7(12)
2.3	318	0.3218(2)	0.6028(14)	0.9217	8.062	5.73(6)	3.06(3)	164.0(29)	75.4(8)
3.2	776	0.3334(2)	0.6352(16)	0.9259	7.952	5.55(6)	2.92(3)	155.2(27)	67.6(8)
3.0	674	0.3302(2)	0.6244(4)	0.9249	7.978	5.60(6)	2.96(3)	157.0(27)	70.0(7)
2.8	571	0.3270(2)	0.6188(22)	0.9239	8.003	5.65(6)	2.99(3)	160.4(28)	71.4(9)
2.8	473	0.3246(2)	0.6114(4)	0.9229	8.031	5.69(6)	3.02(3)	162.1(28)	73.2(7)
2.5	343	0.3226(2)	0.6050(10)	0.9218	8.060	5.71(6)	3.05(3)	163.4(29)	74.8(8)

Note: The uncertainty of length calculated in this study is approximately  $\pm 1\%$ .

407 **Table 2** Comparison of thermoelastic properties of bcc-Fe and bcc-Fe-Ni alloys

Reference		P range (GPa)	T range (K)	$K_{S0}$ (GPa)	$\partial K_{S0}/\partial P$	$\partial K_{S0}/\partial T$ (GPa/K)	$G_0$ (GPa)	$\partial G_0/\partial P$	$\partial G_0/\partial T$ (GPa/K)	$K_{T0}$ (GPa)	$\partial K_{T0}/\partial P$	$\partial K_{T0}/\partial T$ (GPa/K)	EOS	Notes
This study	Fe <sub>90</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub>	~8	~773	154.2(8)	4.6(2)	-0.028(1)	73.2(2)	1.5(1)	-0.023(1)	–	–	–	3rd Finite strain	Ultrasonic, adiabatic
			~673	153.8(7)	4.7(2)	-0.027(2)	72.7(2)	1.6(1)	-0.022(1)	–	–	–		
Shibazaki et al. (2016)	Fe	~6.3	~800	163.2(15)	6.75(33)	-0.038(3)	81.4(6)	1.66(14)	-0.029	–	–	–	Polynomial	Ultrasonic, adiabatic
Adams et al. (2006)	Fe	0	~500	166.2	–	-0.029	81.5 <sup>a</sup>	–	-0.025	–	–	–	–	Ultrasonic, adiabatic
Isaak and Masuda (1995)	Fe	0	~800	165.7	–	-0.046	82.0 <sup>a</sup>	–	-0.034	–	–	–	–	Ultrasonic, adiabatic
Dever (1972)	Fe	0	~773	167.8	–	-0.035	82.0 <sup>a</sup>	–	-0.029	–	–	–	–	Ultrasonic, adiabatic
Leese and Lord (1968)	Fe	0	~773	168.7	–	-0.041	77.9 <sup>a</sup>	–	-0.015	–	–	–	–	Ultrasonic, adiabatic
Zhang and Guyot (1999)	Fe	~9	~773	–	–	–	–	–	–	155(2)	5.3 <sup>b</sup>	-0.049(6)	3rd Birch Murnaghan	XRD, isothermal
Huang et al. (1987)	Fe	~12	~723	–	–	–	–	–	–	171(8)	4 <sup>b</sup>	-0.010(16)	Birch Murnaghan	XRD, isothermal
	Fe	~15	300	–	–	–	–	–	–	162(5)	5.5(8)	–		
Takahashi et al. (1968)	Fe <sub>92</sub> Ni <sub>5</sub>	~16	300	–	–	–	–	–	–	155(10)	4.2(8)	–	Murnaghan	XRD, isothermal
	Fe <sub>90</sub> Ni <sub>10</sub>	~17	300	–	–	–	–	–	–	155(10)	5.7(8)	–		
Morrison et al. (2018)	Fe <sub>91</sub> Ni <sub>9</sub>	~15	300	–	–	–	–	–	–	146.8(31)	6.39(64)	–	3rd Birch Murnaghan	XRD, isothermal

Notes: <sup>a</sup>: Voigt-Reuss-Hill average; <sup>b</sup>: fixed value.

408

409

410 **Figure 1** Phase diagram of Fe-Ni alloy system at high  $P$ - $T$  based on the data of Huang et al.  
411 (1988). Solid dots indicate the experimental  $P$ - $T$  conditions where the ultrasonic data were  
412 acquired in this study.

413

414 **Figure 2** Scanning electron microscope image of sample after high temperature annealing.

415

416 **Figure 3** Sketch of the cell assembly used in current study for ultrasonic measurement.

417

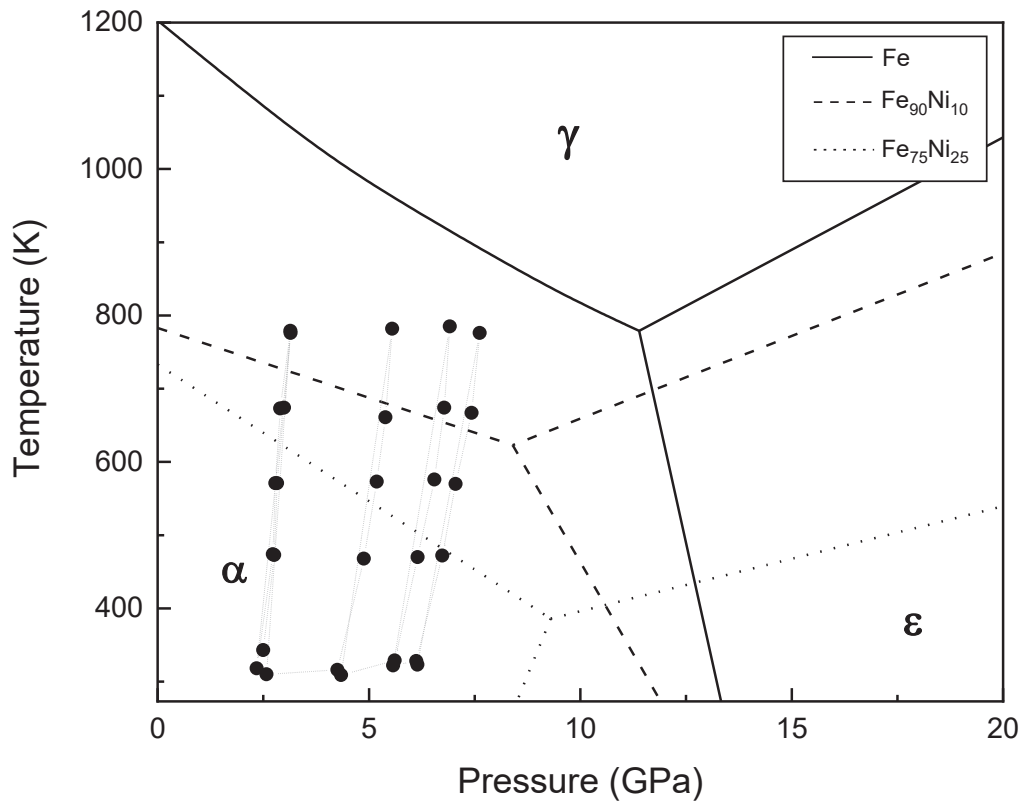
418 **Figure 4** Signal example of (a) P wave and (b) S wave obtained at 7.6 GPa and 776 K.

419

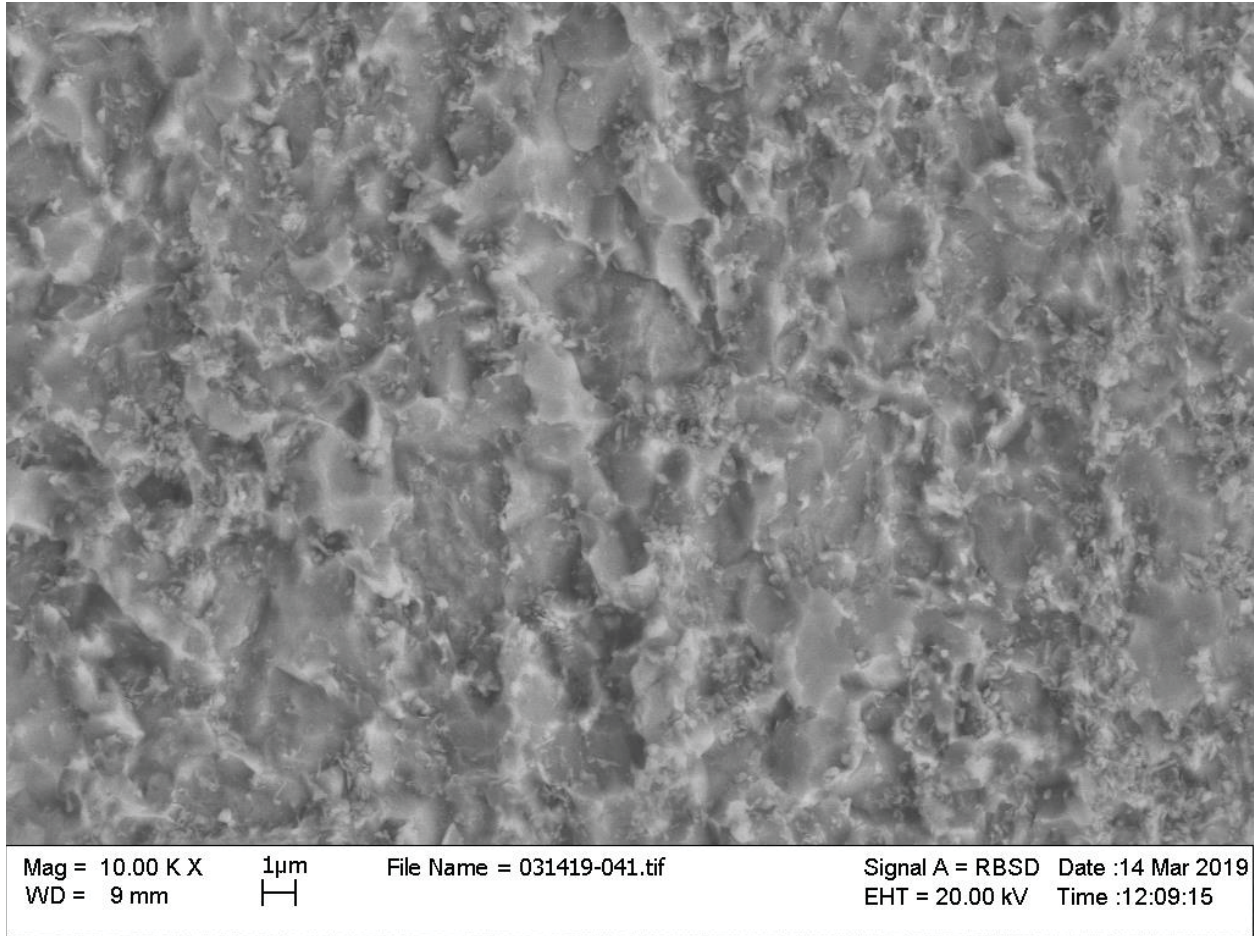
420 **Figure 5** Compressional ( $V_P$ ) and shear ( $V_S$ ) wave velocities as a function of pressure and  
421 temperature. Solid lines are the finite strain fitted curves from this study. Temperature  
422 information are color coded and shown in legend.

423

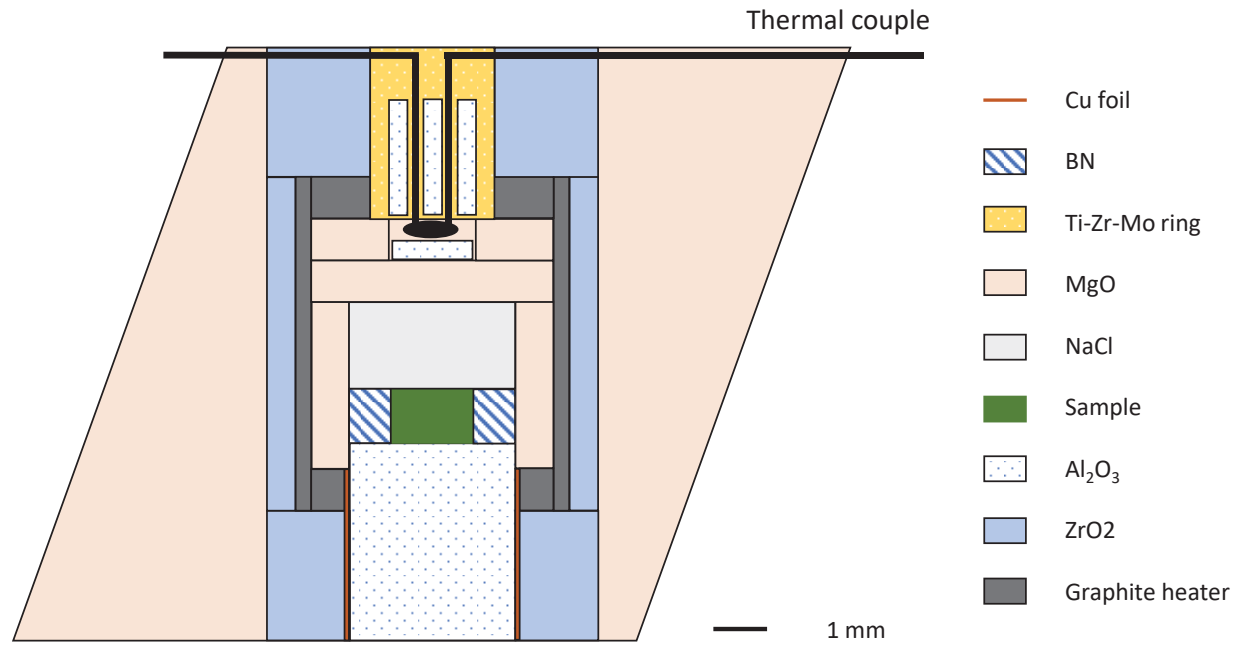
424 **Figure 6** Bulk and shear modulus as a function of pressure and temperature. Solid lines are the  
425 finite strain fitted curves from this study. Dashed lines are calculated from Shibazaki et al.  
426 (2016). Temperature information are color coded and shown in legend.



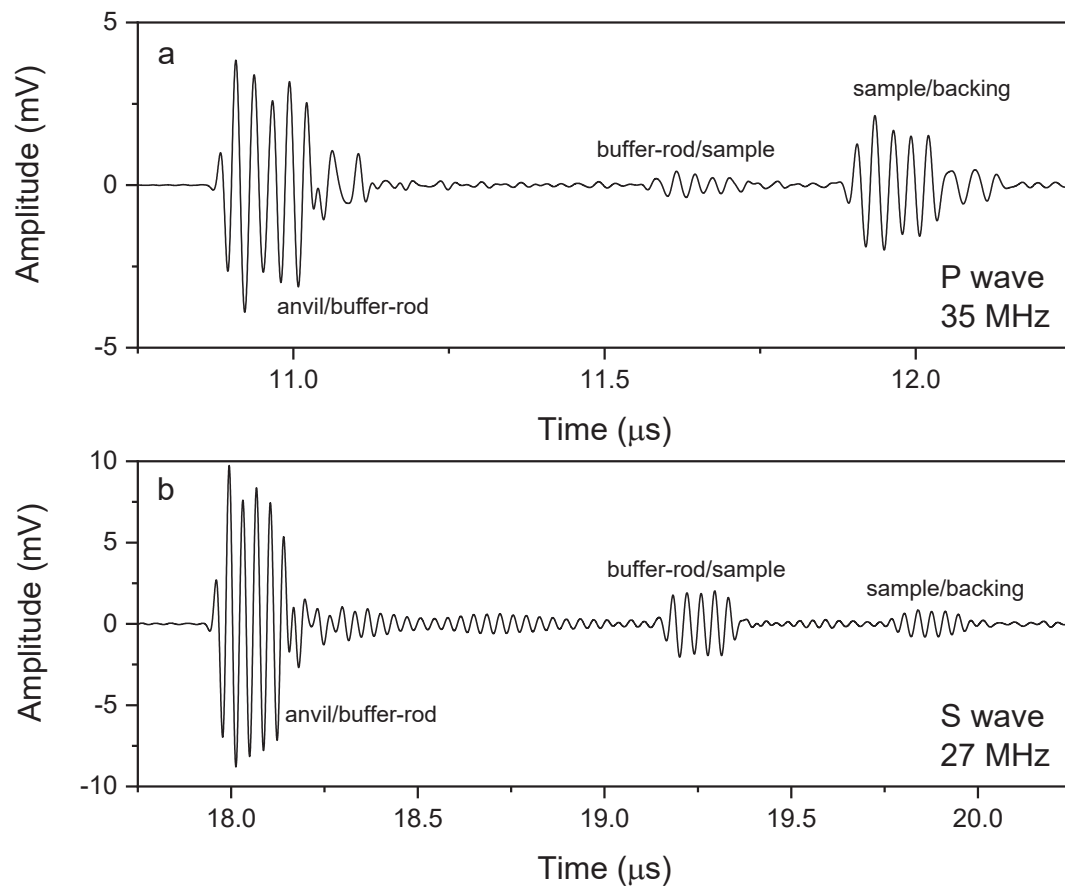
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**



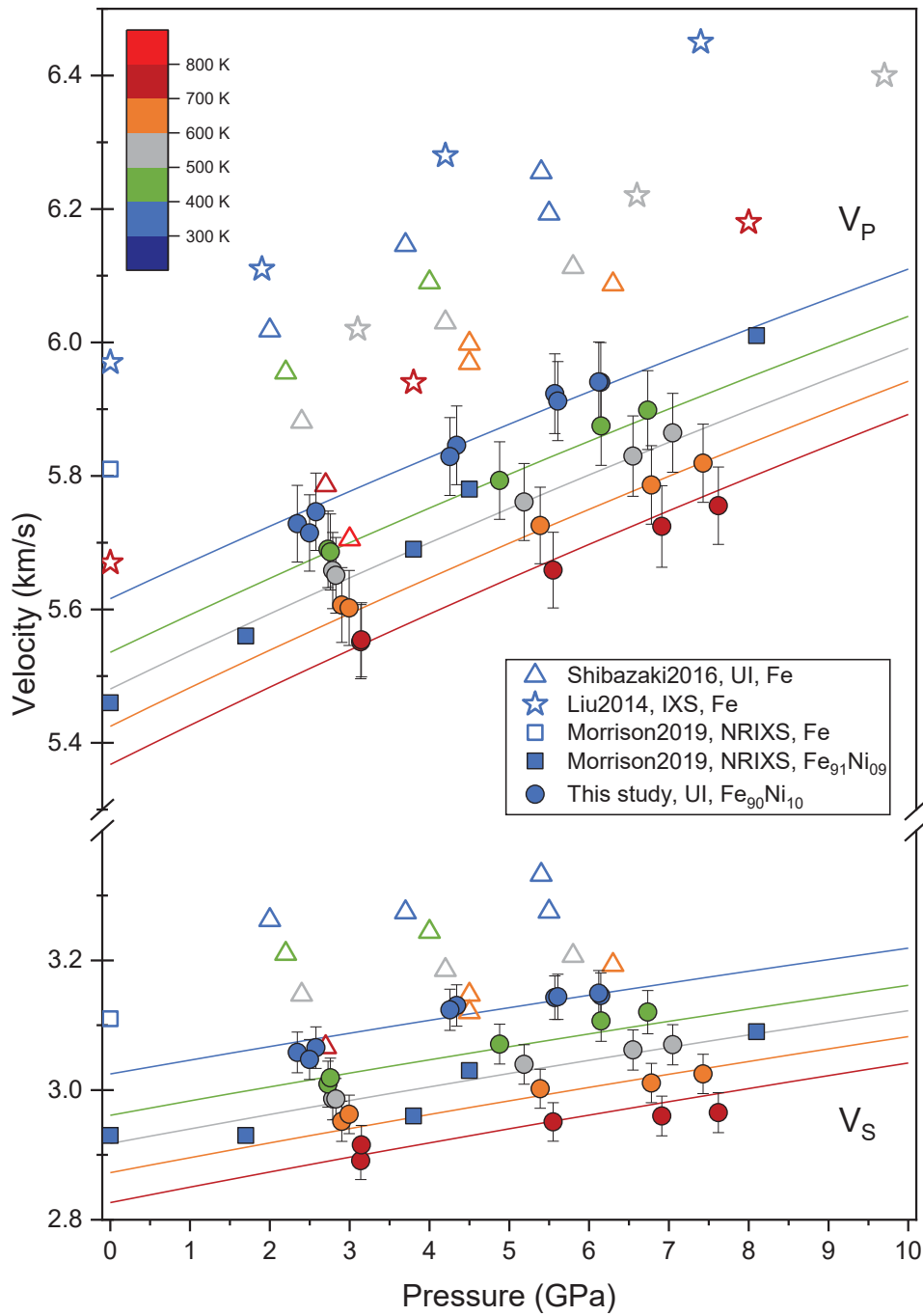


Figure 5

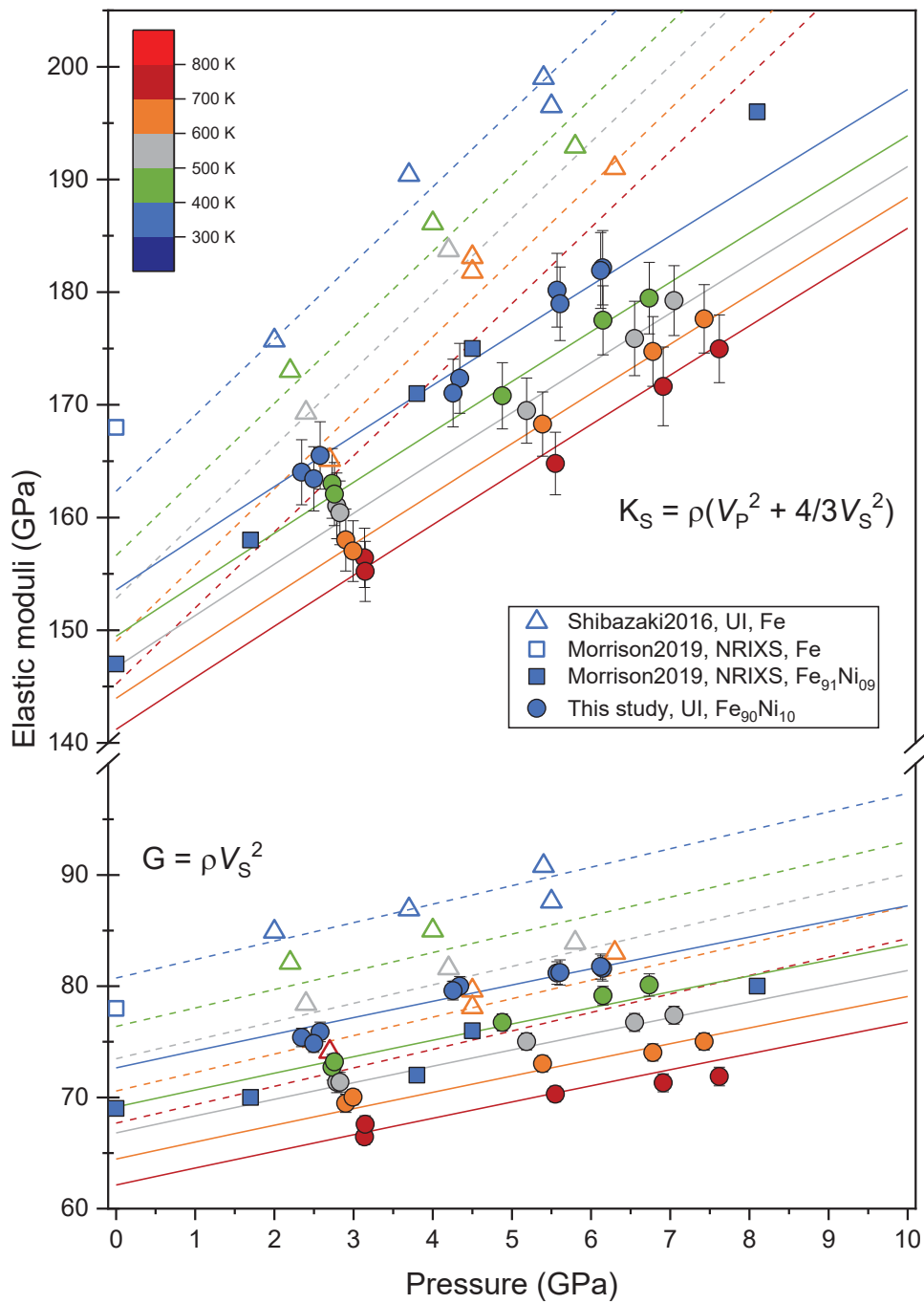


Figure 6