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3 **Atomistic insight into the ferroelastic post-stishovite transition by high-pressure single-**
4 **crystal X-ray diffraction refinements**

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19 Running title: atomistic insight of post-stishovite transition

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21 **ABSTRACT**

22 The post-stishovite transition is a classic pseudo-proper typed ferroelastic transition with a
23 symmetry-breaking spontaneous strain. This transition has been studied using high-pressure
24 spontaneous strains, optic modes, and elastic moduli (C_{ij}) based on the Landau modeling, but its
25 atomistic information and structural distortion remain poorly understood. Here we have
26 conducted synchrotron single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurements on stishovite crystals up to
27 75.3 GPa in a diamond-anvil cell. Analysis of data reveals atomic positions, bond lengths, bond
28 angles, and variations of SiO_6 octahedra across the transition at high pressure. Our results show
29 that the oxygen coordinates split at approximately 51.4 GPa where the apical and equatorial Si-O
30 bond lengths cross over, the SiO_6 octahedral distortion vanishes, and the SiO_6 octahedra start to
31 rotate about the c axis. Moreover, distortion mode analysis shows that an in-plane stretching
32 distortion (GM_1^+ mode) occurs in the stishovite structure at high pressure while a rotational
33 distortion (GM_2^+ mode) becomes dominant in the post-stishovite structure. These results are used
34 to correlate with elastic moduli and Landau parameters (symmetry-breaking strain $e_1 - e_2$ and
35 order parameter Q) to provide atomistic insight into the ferroelastic transition. When the bond
36 lengths of two Si-O bonds are equal due to the contribution from the GM_1^+ stretching mode, C_{11}
37 converges with C_{12} and the shear wave $V_{S1[110]}$ propagating along $[1\bar{1}0]$ and polarizing along
38 $[110]$ vanishes. Values of $e_1 - e_2$ and Q are proportional to the SiO_6 rotation angle from the
39 occurrence of the GM_1^+ rotational mode in the post-stishovite structure. Our results on the
40 pseudo-proper type transition are also compared with that for the proper-type in albite and
41 improper-type in CaSiO_3 perovskite. The symmetry-breaking strain in all these types of
42 transitions arises as the primary effect from the structural angle (such as SiO_6 rotation or lattice
43 constant angle) and its relevant distortion mode in the low-symmetry ferroelastic phase.

44

45 **Keywords:** single-crystal X-ray diffraction, stishovite, post-stishovite, ferroelastic transition,
46 structural angle, distortion mode, Landau model, spontaneous strain

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48

INTRODUCTION

49 Ferroelastic phase transitions occur in silicate minerals in the Earth's interior because of
50 temperature and pressure perturbations. These transitions in crystals involve a change in point
51 group with a symmetry-breaking strain (Aizu, 1969; Aizu, 1970). According to the Landau
52 theory, there are different types of the ferroelastic transitions, including proper, pseudo-proper,
53 and improper types, which have different transition mechanisms (Carpenter and Salje, 1998;
54 Wadhawan, 1982). The proper-type transition is driven by the symmetry-breaking spontaneous
55 strain, whereas the pseudo-proper- and improper-type transitions are driven by other physical
56 properties that are linearly and nonlinearly coupled to the symmetry-breaking strain, respectively
57 (Carpenter et al., 1998; Wadhawan, 1982). These types of the ferroelastic phase transitions are
58 also well known to be associated with elastic and optic mode anomalies including sound wave
59 velocity softening, which could occur in some naturally abundant minerals under high pressure-
60 temperature (P - T) conditions in the Earth's crust and mantle (Carpenter, 2006; Salje, 1990; Salje,
61 1992). Knowing their transition mechanisms and elastic properties in relevant P - T conditions can
62 help us understand geophysics and geodynamics of the Earth's interior. For example, the proper-
63 type ferroelastic transition in feldspar, comprising of approximately 41 wt% of the continental
64 crust (Rudnick et al., 2003), has been linked to seismic low-velocity anomaly in the crust (Brown
65 et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2018; Waesermann et al., 2016; Zhang and Klempner, 2005; Zhao et al.,
66 2001). The stishovite and CaSiO_3 perovskite (CaPv) are abundant phases in the subducted mid-
67 ocean ridge basalt (MORB) in the lower mantle (Ishii et al., 2019). Their transition mechanisms

68 and elastic anomalies have been used to explain seismic heterogeneities, to infer the presence of
69 the subducting slabs, and to constrain mantle convection at depths (Helffrich, 2006; Kaneshima,
70 2016; Niu et al., 2003; Sun et al., 2020; Thomson et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020). As a prototype
71 of six-fold coordinated silicates, the ferroelastic transition in stishovite is particularly important
72 not only to aid our understanding in physical properties of subducting slabs in the mantle
73 (Lakshtanov et al., 2007; Tsuchiya, 2011; Yang and Wu, 2014; Zhang et al., 2021), but also to
74 shed light on similar phase transitions in other rock-forming silicate and oxide minerals at
75 depths.

76 The ferroelastic transition across the stishovite to post-stishovite phases at 50-55 GPa has been
77 relatively well investigated using multiple experimental data sets including optical Raman
78 modes, lattice constants from powder X-ray diffraction, and elastic moduli (C_{ij}) derived from
79 sound velocities (Andraut et al., 2003; Buchen et al., 2018; Kingma et al., 1995; Lakshtanov et
80 al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2021). These data are further complemented by Landau theory modeling
81 (Carpenter et al., 2000; Hemley et al., 2000) and ab initio calculations (Karki et al., 1997a; Karki
82 et al., 1997b; Yang and Wu, 2014). Importantly, experimental optic modes and lattice parameters
83 across the transition have been used in the pseudo-proper type Landau modeling to show that the
84 transition is driven by the soft B_{1g} mode and accompanied by a symmetry-breaking spontaneous
85 strain and a significant shear softening (Andraut et al., 2003; Carpenter et al., 2000; Hemley et
86 al., 2000; Kingma et al., 1995). A recent experimental study on C_{ij} of stishovite across the post-
87 stishovite transition has further showed that C_{11} converges with C_{12} at the transition pressure,
88 where the shear wave $V_{S1[110]}$ propagating along $[1\bar{1}0]$ and polarizing along $[110]$ vanishes
89 (Zhang et al., 2021). These results reveal macroscopic physical phenomena that need to be
90 integrated with microscopic atomic displacements in order to have a complete understanding of

91 the transition and its physical properties. Along this line, crystal structural parameters, such as
92 oxygen positions, bond lengths, and bond angles, are key to microscopically quantifying elastic
93 anomalies and some Landau parameters such as the symmetry-breaking spontaneous strain. A
94 previous powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) study has refined crystal structures of stishovite and
95 post-stishovite phases at high pressure using the Rietveld structural analysis method (Andraut et
96 al., 1998). However, the refined structural parameters showed considerable scattering at high
97 pressure due to difficulties in solving crystal structures from the powder diffraction data (Harris
98 et al., 2001). On the other hand, high-resolution single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SCXRD)
99 studies on the stishovite are limited to 30 GPa, far below the transition pressure (Hill et al., 1983;
100 Ross et al., 1990; Sinclair and Ringwood, 1978; Sugiyama et al., 1987; Yamanaka et al., 2002).
101 This limitation was mainly due to the technical difficulty in conducting high-resolution SCXRD
102 experiments at high pressure using a laboratory X-ray source. Recent advance in synchrotron X-
103 ray diffraction technique now enables reliable crystal structure refinements to better understand
104 the transition and elastic anomalies from the microscopic atomic perspective (Boffa Ballaran et
105 al., 2013; Chariton et al., 2020; Clegg, 2019; Dera, 2010)

106 In this study, we performed synchrotron SCXRD experiments on stishovite crystals up to 75.3
107 GPa in a diamond anvil cell (DAC) with large X-ray opening equipped with Boehler-Almax
108 anvils and seats. The crystal structure of the stishovite or post-stishovite phase has been solved
109 and refined at each experimental pressure. Refined structural parameters show that the oxygen
110 coordinates split at the transition pressure of ~ 51.4 GPa where the bond lengths of apical and
111 equatorial Si-O bonds are equal. This atomic information is further used to evaluate deformation
112 and rotation of the SiO_6 octahedron across the transition. Two symmetry modes, GM_1^+ and
113 GM_2^+ , are analyzed to reveal crystal structure distortion at high pressure. Our results show that a

114 rotational mode with GM_2^+ symmetry occurs at the transition pressure where the SiO_6
115 octahedron starts to rotate about the c axis. Furthermore, we correlate the microscopic bond
116 length difference of two Si-O bonds with the macroscopic elastic properties in the literature, such
117 as C_{11} , C_{12} , and $V_{\text{Si}[110]}$ (Zhang et al., 2021). The symmetry-breaking spontaneous strain $e_1 - e_2$
118 and order parameter Q in a pseudo-proper type Landau model are quantified using the SiO_6
119 rotation angle Φ that comes from the GM_2^+ mode. Together with early studies on other types of
120 the ferroelastic transitions (Kroll et al., 1980; Zhao et al., 1993a; Zhao et al., 1993b), we
121 therefore conclude that the symmetry-breaking strain changes linearly with a given structural
122 angle in all types of ferroelastic transition.

123

124 **EXPERIMENTAL METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS**

125 Stishovite single crystals were synthesized using a 1000-ton Kawai-type multi-anvil apparatus
126 at the Institute for Planetary Materials, Okayama University (run# 1K1642). The synthesis and
127 characterization of the crystals has been reported elsewhere (Xu et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2021).
128 Briefly, reagent-grade silicic acid of 99.9% purity (SiO_2 with 13 wt% H_2O) was used as the
129 starting sample which was loaded into a platinum capsule. The sample assemblage was
130 compressed to 12 GPa and then heated to 1873 K. The temperature of the assemblage was slowly
131 cooled down to 1473 K with a rate of 100 K/hour (4 hours in total) before quenched to ambient
132 temperature and then decompressed to ambient pressure. Stishovite crystals recovered from the
133 sample capsule are transparent and free of twinning domains and inclusions under optical and
134 petrographic microscopes (Zhang et al., 2021). Electron microprobe analyses of a number of
135 selected crystals show a chemical formula of SiO_2 without any other detectable elements.
136 Analysis of unpolarized Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopic spectra shows ~ 19 ppm wt.

137 water content in the selected crystals (Xu et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2021). The amount of water
138 in the Al-free stishovite crystals is consistent with previous reports (Litasov et al., 2007; Pawley
139 et al., 1993).

140 Three stishovite crystals were loaded into a short-symmetric DAC with a pair of Boehler-
141 Almax designed diamond anvils mounted onto WC seats with a large aperture of $\sim 80^\circ$ (4 θ). This
142 allowed us to obtain reflections at a wide two theta range (2θ , Figure S1). The culet size of the
143 diamond anvils is 200 μm in diameter. A rhenium gasket with an initial thickness of 260 μm was
144 pre-indented to ~ 24 μm thick and subsequently a hole of 120 μm diameter was drilled in the
145 center of the pre-indented area and used as the sample chamber. To obtain more reflections from
146 stishovite, we selected three stishovite crystals with (2.4, 4.7, 1.7), (-0.8, 0.3, 1.6), and (0.8, 2.2, -
147 0.9) orientations, respectively, which were determined by SCXRD measurements. The crystals
148 were double-side polished down to approximately 7 μm thick using 3M diamond films. They
149 were then cut into ~ 10 -20 μm big platelets before being loaded into the sample chamber (Figure
150 1). Au powder (Goodfellow; 99.95% purity) was pressed into 2 μm thick, cut into ~ 5 μm wide
151 disks, and placed close to the center of the sample chamber as the pressure calibrant (Fei et al.,
152 2007). The three stishovite platelets were loaded at an equal distance to the Au calibrant to
153 minimize possible pressure gradient across the crystals in the chamber (Figure 1c). Neon gas was
154 loaded into the sample chamber as the pressure medium using a gas loading system at the
155 Mineral Physics Laboratory of the University of Texas at Austin.

156 High-pressure SCXRD experiments were conducted up to 75.3 GPa at room temperature at
157 13ID-D beamline of the GSECARS, Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory
158 (Figures 1a and 1b). An incident X-ray beam of 0.2952 \AA wavelength (42 keV energy) was
159 focused down to a beam size of $\sim 3 \times 3$ μm^2 at the sample position. Approximately 10% intensity

160 of the incident X-ray was used for the measurements to avoid peak saturations. The sample stage
161 was rotated over $\pm 31^\circ$ about the vertical axis of the DAC during data collections. The XRD
162 patterns were collected using a CdTe Pilatus 1M detector with 1 or 2 s exposure time at every
163 0.5° step of the rotation. A membrane was used to increase and control pressure in the sample
164 chamber. After each pressure increase, we monitored the pressure of the sample chamber until it
165 was stabilized before SCXRD measurements were conducted. Pressure uncertainties were
166 evaluated from analysis of XRD spectra of Au collected right before and after each set of
167 SCXRD measurements (Fei et al., 2007). Additionally, SCXRD measurements at ambient
168 conditions were conducted in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin.
169 A stishovite crystal with dimensions of approximately $0.94 \times 0.44 \times 0.17$ mm was selected for
170 the experiment. A SuperNova dual source diffractometer equipped with a Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
171 source ($\lambda = 0.71073\text{\AA}$) and collimating mirror monochromators was used to collect XRD data.
172 2103 frames of data were collected using Omega scan with a scan range of 1° and a counting
173 time of 1 s per frame.

174 The measured SCXRD data were used to solve the crystal structure and refine the atomic
175 positions of the stishovite or post-stishovite phase at high pressure following a previous SCXRD
176 processing method (Bykova, 2015). At a given pressure, we initially used CrysAlis^{PRO} software to
177 find unit cell, determine lattice parameters, extract intensity for each hkl reflection, and perform
178 absorption corrections for each crystal (Rigaku, 2015). The reflection datasets from the three
179 stishovite crystals were combined for the further analysis. JANA software was then used to
180 determine the space group, resolve structure using a charge-flipping algorithm, and refine atomic
181 coordinates and isotropic/anisotropic displacement parameters of the crystal (Petříček et al., 2014).
182 On the other hand, the stishovite structure at ambient conditions was solved by direct methods and

183 then refined together with anisotropic displacement parameters of Si and O atoms using SHELXL
184 software (Sheldrick, 2015). Structural analysis of the Si and O atomic positions, bond lengths and
185 bond angles was evaluated using the programs PLATON (Spek, 2009) and OLEX2 at ambient
186 conditions (Dolomanov et al., 2009). The quality of the refinements at each pressure were
187 evaluated by residual R -factors such as R_{int} and R_1 (Bykova, 2015). The refined parameters of the
188 crystal structure were viewed and graphed using VESTA software (Momma and Izumi, 2011).

189 The refined structural parameters were further used to perform distortion mode analysis across
190 the post-stishovite transition using AMPLIMODES program (Orobengoa et al., 2009). The
191 program is used to evaluate symmetry-adapted structural distortion between high- and low-
192 symmetry phases across a displacive phase transition. Our input high-symmetry structural data are
193 refined lattice parameters and atomic positions of stishovite at ambient conditions, while input
194 low-symmetry data are those of stishovite and post-stishovite phases at high pressure. The
195 AMPLIMODES program is used to calculate the maximum atomic displacement and global
196 structural distortion in the distorted low-symmetry structure relative to the reference high-
197 symmetry structure (Perez-Mato et al., 2010). The program then decomposes the global distortion
198 into different symmetry-adapted distortion modes. Amplitude of the individual mode can reflect
199 its contribution to the global structural distortion (Gawryluk et al., 2019).

200

201

RESULTS

202 Crystallographic analysis

203 Analysis of the collected SCXRD images shows that reflection spots of the three crystals
204 display a round shape with a full-width at half maximum (FWHM) of less than 0.1° . The FWHM
205 is almost invariant up to 75.3 GPa, indicating that the single-crystal quality of stishovite was

206 preserved in compression in neon medium (Yamanaka et al., 2002) (Figures 1c and 1d). We
207 observed 66 to 239 total reflections from the crystals at high pressure (Figures 1a and 1b). These
208 reflections were then grouped into 31 to 55 unique reflections which were used to determine
209 lattice parameters at high pressure (Table 1). Furthermore, 24 to 63 reflections of $I > 3\sigma(I)$,
210 where I is the intensity and σ is the standard deviation, were used to determine the space group
211 and to refine atomic positions of the crystal at high pressure. Our analyses show that the crystal
212 is in the tetragonal stishovite structure with $P4_2/mnm$ (No. 136) space group at pressures up to
213 49.8 GPa (Figures S2 and S3; Tables 1 and S1). From 52.4 GPa to 75.3 GPa, the crystal is stable
214 in an orthorhombic structure with $Pnmm$ (No. 58) space group, called the CaCl_2 -type post-
215 stishovite phase (Figures S2 and S3; Tables 1 and S1). These results indicate that the post-
216 stishovite phase transition occurs between 49.8 and 52.4 GPa, consistent with previous studies
217 (Andrault et al., 1998; Hemley et al., 2000; Kingma et al., 1995; Zhang et al., 2021). Values of
218 R_{int} and R_1 are 0.6-14.9% and 1.3-9.4%, respectively, indicating the refined crystal structures are
219 of good quality (Table 1).

220 Atomic coordinates, bond lengths, and bond angles can be derived from the refined crystal
221 structures (Figures 2 and 3; Table 2). Using Si atom positions in the stishovite structure as the
222 reference, the x (or y) coordinate of oxygen relative to the Si positions changes slightly from
223 0.306 at ambient conditions to 0.303 at 49.8 GPa (Figures 2a and 3a). Crossing into the post-
224 stishovite phase, the x coordinate of oxygen drastically decreases from 0.303 at 52.4 GPa to
225 0.279 at 75.3 GPa whereas the y coordinate drastically increases from 0.303 to 0.323 (Figure 3a).
226 This splitting of oxygen coordinates corresponds to a splitting of a - and b -axis in the post-
227 stishovite phase (Figure S2a). On the other hand, the Si-O bond lengths decrease continuously
228 with increasing pressure up to 75.3 GPa (Figures 2 and 3b). The apical Si-O3 bond length is

229 initially much longer than the equatorial Si-O1(2) bond length at ambient conditions, but it
230 decreases with increasing pressure much faster than the equatorial Si-O1(2) bond length. This
231 anisotropic linear incompressibility behavior leads to an equal bond length of 1.703 Å for the
232 two Si-O bonds at ~51.4 GPa where the post-stishovite transition occurs (Figures 3b). In the
233 post-stishovite structure, the apical Si-O3 bond becomes shorter than the equatorial Si-O1(2)
234 bond (Figures 2b and 3b). Additionally, the bond angles between Si and O atoms in the stishovite
235 structure are almost unaffected by increasing pressure up to ~51 GPa: $\angle\text{O1(2)-Si-O3} = 90^\circ$,
236 $\angle\text{O1-Si-O2} = \sim 81.3^\circ$, and $\angle\text{O1(2)-Si-O1(2)} = \sim 98.7^\circ$ (Figure 3c). Crossing into the post-
237 stishovite phase, the bond angles are slightly changed: $\angle\text{O1-Si-O2}$ increases by 0.5° , $\angle\text{O1(2)-Si-}$
238 O1(2) decreases by 0.5° , and $\angle\text{O1-Si-O3}$ or $\angle\text{O2-Si-O3}$ remains almost unchanged within
239 uncertainties ($\sim 0.1^\circ$) up to 75.3 GPa. Accordingly, the O1-O2 interatomic distance remains
240 unchanged under compression whereas the O1(2)-O1(2), O1-O3, and O2-O3 distances decrease
241 with increasing pressure and the difference between O1-O3 and O2-O3 distance is negligible
242 (Figure S4).

243 The aforementioned structural parameters are used to further analyze the volume, deformation,
244 and rotation of the SiO₆ octahedron across the post-stishovite transition (Figures 2 and 4; Table
245 3). These analyses show that the SiO₆ volume decreases continuously with increasing pressure
246 up to 75.3 GPa, resulting in a continuous decrease of the unit-cell volume (Figures S2b and S5).
247 The deformation of SiO₆ octahedron can be quantitatively determined by the distortion index and
248 the bond angle variance based on the refined bond lengths and bond angles, respectively. The
249 distortion index is defined as $D (\%) = \frac{100}{6} \sum_{n=1}^6 |l_i - l_{av}| / l_{av}$ where l_i is the Si-O bond length
250 and l_{av} is the average Si-O bond length (Renner and Lehmann, 1986). The bond angle variance
251 is defined as $\sigma^2(\text{deg}^2) = \frac{1}{11} \sum_{i=1}^{12} (\alpha_i - 90^\circ)^2$ where α_i is the O-Si-O bond angle (Robinson et

252 al., 1971). In the stishovite phase, the distortion index decreases from 1.3% at ambient pressure
253 to zero at ~51.4 GPa whereas the bond angle variance remains invariant at approximately 27
254 deg^2 with increasing pressure up to ~51.4 GPa (Figures 4a and 4b). Crossing into the post-
255 stishovite phase, the distortion index increases to approximately 0.3% whereas the bond angle
256 variance decreases to approximately 24 deg^2 at ~75 GPa (Figures 4a and 4b). On the other hand,
257 the rotation of the SiO_6 octahedron about the c axis can be evaluated with respect to the
258 stishovite structure using a formula, Φ ($^\circ$) = $45^\circ - \arctan(ax_o/by_o)$, where y_o and x_o are the
259 y - and x -coordinate of oxygen atoms, respectively (Bärnighausen et al., 1984; Range et al., 1987)
260 (Figure 4c). These analyses show that the SiO_6 octahedron does not rotate in the stishovite phase
261 but starts to rotate about the c axis crossing into the post-stishovite phase. At 75.3 GPa, the SiO_6
262 octahedral rotation is about 5.4° .

263 Our structural refinement results for stishovite are, for the first order, consistent with previous
264 SCXRD studies up to 30 GPa (Hill et al., 1983; Ross et al., 1990; Sinclair and Ringwood, 1978;
265 Sugiyama et al., 1987; Yamanaka et al., 2002) (Figures 3 and 4). Additionally, our results across
266 the post-stishovite transition are generally consistent with a PXR study using the Rietveld
267 structural analysis (Andrault et al., 1998), except for the octahedral volume (Figure S5). We note
268 that our SCXRD data have much higher resolutions and are denser in the vicinity of the
269 transition pressure such that detailed structural evolutions are clearly revealed across the post-
270 stishovite transition. On the other hand, comparisons between ab initio calculations and
271 experimental results show very large discrepancies in the structural parameters especially for the
272 post-stishovite phase (Figures 3 and 4). For example, theoretical calculations show equal
273 equatorial and apical Si-O bond lengths in the post-stishovite structure at high pressure (Karki et
274 al., 1997b), which is contrary to our results. This could be due to difficulties in properly

275 optimizing spontaneous strains in the post-stishovite phase to account for exchange-correlation
276 interactions in the local-density approximation (LDA). This in turn can affect accuracy in
277 theoretically-predicted elastic moduli across the ferroelastic post-stishovite transition which are
278 quite different from experimentally-derived elastic moduli (Karki et al., 1997a; Yang and Wu,
279 2014; Zhang et al., 2021). Our study here not only provides reliable structural models of the
280 stishovite and post-stishovite phases, but also serves as benchmarks for future ab initio
281 calculations.

282

283 **Distortion mode analysis**

284 As shown in the previous section, the stishovite phase has the space group of $P4_2/mnm$ while
285 the post-stishovite phase has the space group of $Pnmm$, revealing a group-subgroup relationship
286 between these two space groups across the transition. In other words, the low-symmetry post-
287 stishovite structure can be considered as the high-symmetry stishovite structure undergoing a
288 symmetry-adapted lattice distortion. Therefore, analysis of the symmetry mode is another useful
289 way to describe crystal structures in terms of the displacement of a set of atoms that are related
290 by a given symmetry, as compared to standard crystallographic descriptions in terms of
291 individual bond length and bond angle. Particularly, amplitude of symmetry modes represents
292 magnitude of lattice distortions with different symmetry representations. This information can
293 thus help better understand symmetry-adapted structure distortions across the ferroelastic post-
294 stishovite transition.

295 Using the refined structural data from our study, we have calculated maximum atomic
296 displacements and distortion mode amplitudes in a distorted crystal structure at a given pressure
297 with respect to the reference structure at ambient conditions (Figure 5 and Table 4). The

298 displacement of Si atoms remains zero at high pressure because they remain stationary at (0, 0,
299 0) coordinate in the lattice. The displacement of oxygen atoms increases linearly from zero at
300 ambient conditions to 0.022 Å at ~51.4 GPa. The oxygen atoms then start to move significantly
301 upon further compression with the maximum atomic displacement of 0.1343 Å at 75.3 GPa
302 (Figure 5a). This atomic displacement results in an occurrence of two symmetry-related
303 distortion modes: GM_1^+ and GM_2^+ (Figure 5b). GM_1^+ is an in-plane stretching mode acting on the
304 oxygen atoms (Figure 5c). Its amplitude increases linearly with pressure across the post-
305 stishovite transition up to 0.0609 Å at 75.3 GPa. The GM_2^+ mode, which is related to oxygen
306 rotations about c axis (Figure 5d), emerges at ~51.4 GPa. Its amplitude increases significantly
307 with pressure and is much larger than that of GM_1^+ (e.g., 0.2616 Å at 75.3 GPa). These results
308 therefore reveal that the stishovite phase undergoes an in-plane stretching distortion at high
309 pressure while a rotational distortion becomes dominant in the post-stishovite structure.

310

311

DISCUSSION

312 Our single-crystal X-ray diffraction refinements on the refined Si and O coordinates, Si-O
313 bond lengths, and O-Si-O bond angles across the post-stishovite transition can be used to
314 correlate with previous elasticity and Landau modeling studies to shed new light on the pseudo-
315 proper type ferroelastic transition (Carpenter et al., 2000; Hemley et al., 2000; Zhang et al.,
316 2021). Firstly, we co-plot Si-O bond length difference and elastic properties at given
317 experimental pressures (Figure 6). The elastic moduli of stishovite and post-stishovite are taken
318 from a recent study that derived the moduli from measured sound velocities using combined
319 Brillouin and impulsive stimulated light scattering techniques at high pressure (Zhang et al.,
320 2021). The elastic modulus C_{11} increases with decreasing Si-O bond length difference but

321 flattens when the difference is below 0.01 Å, while C_{12} increases significantly across the
322 transition (Figure 6a). As a result, the elastic modulus $(C_{11} - C_{12})/2$, which reflects the strain
323 response to the shear stress along the [110] direction in the stishovite structure (Bell and
324 Rupprecht, 1963), becomes zero when the apical and equatorial Si-O bond lengths become equal
325 due to the stretching displacement of oxygen atoms in the GM_I^+ mode (Figures 5b and 5c).
326 Accordingly, $C_{11} - C_{12}$, one of Born criteria of the tetragonal stishovite phase, becomes zero at
327 the phase transition (Zhang et al., 2021). Crossing into the post-stishovite phase, C_{11} splits into
328 C_{11} and C_{22} as the oxygen coordinates split (Figures 3a and 6a). As the equatorial Si-O1(2) bond
329 length becomes longer than the apical Si-O3 bond length with increasing amplitude of the GM_I^+
330 stretching mode, the elastic moduli C_{11} , C_{22} , and C_{12} of the post-stishovite phase increase
331 (Figures 5a and 6a). The corresponding Born criterion, $C_{11}C_{22} - C_{12}^2$, becomes positive in the
332 post-stishovite phase, indicating its stability after the crossover of the equatorial and apical Si-O
333 bond lengths.

334 The ferroelastic post-stishovite transition is also manifested by vanishing the shear wave
335 $V_{SI[110]}$ (Zhang et al., 2021). $V_{SI[110]}$ decreases from 5.5 km/s to zero as the Si-O bond length
336 difference decreases from 0.05 Å to zero (Figure 6b). We should note that the strong reduction of
337 $V_{SI[110]}$ starts from ~40 GPa where the Si-O bond length difference becomes lower than ~0.01 Å.
338 This non-linear pressure dependence of elasticity is one important consequence of the pseudo-
339 proper typed ferroelastic transition in stishovite whose transition mechanism is the softening of
340 the B_{1g} mode (Carpenter and Salje, 1998). The Si-O bond lengths represent the bonding strength
341 of the lattice that determines the frequency of the optic mode. Previous Raman shift data and a
342 pseudo-proper typed Landau model have shown that squared Raman shift of the B_{1g} mode (ω^2) is
343 proportional to pressure (Carpenter et al., 2000; Hemley et al., 2000; Kingma et al., 1995). That

344 is, $\omega^2 \propto P$ or $\omega \propto \sqrt{P}$. This non-linear relation in the Raman shift of the soft B_{1g} mode with
345 respect to pressure can thus lead to the non-linear behavior in the shear velocity reduction close
346 to the post-stishovite transition pressure. Across into the post-stishovite phase, $V_{S1[110]}$ increases
347 as the Si-O bond length difference increases (Figure 6b).

348 We also use the structural parameters to quantify the spontaneous strains (e_1 and e_2) and order
349 parameter Q in a pseudo-proper type Landau model at high pressure (Figure 7). The splitting of
350 oxygen coordinates leads to a symmetry reduction from tetragonal to orthorhombic structure and
351 an occurrence of the GM_2^+ rotational mode. Because $y_o > x_o$ in the orthorhombic post-
352 stishovite phase (Figure 3a), the a axis becomes shorter whereas the b axis becomes longer with
353 respect to the ideal stishovite structure. All these lead to the occurrence of a negative
354 spontaneous strain e_1 and a positive spontaneous strain e_2 (Figure 7a). Additionally, as the
355 amplitude of GM_2^+ significantly increases (Figure 5a), the SiO_6 octahedron rotates about the c
356 axis in the post-stishovite structure (Figure 7a). Our results further show that the symmetry-
357 breaking strain $e_1 - e_2$, whose eigenvalue is the aforementioned elastic modulus $C_{11} - C_{12}$, can be
358 quantified by the SiO_6 rotation angle Φ (Figure 7b). That is, $e_1 - e_2$ is proportional to Φ . Because
359 the order parameter Q is coupled linearly to the strain $e_1 - e_2$ (Carpenter et al., 2000), Q also
360 changes linearly with Φ (Figure 7c). We should note that the value of Q is obtained from a set of
361 Landau parameters that were derived from combined experimental elastic moduli, lattice
362 parameters, and Raman shift data (Zhang et al., 2021).

363 These crystallographic data and symmetry mode results can be correlated with Landau
364 modeling parameters to have a better understanding of the transition. Previous studies have
365 shown that the post-stishovite transition belongs to the pseudo-proper type which is driven by the
366 soft B_{1g} optic mode (Carpenter et al., 2000; Kingma et al., 1995). The Raman active B_{1g} mode

367 represents a rotational vibration of oxygen atoms about the c axis (Hemley et al., 1986; Traylor
368 et al., 1971). As the two Si-O bond lengths cross over each other due to an in-plane stretching of
369 oxygen atoms with GM_1^+ symmetry (Figures 3b, 5b, and 5c), the Raman shifts of the B_{1g} optic
370 mode decrease and would become zero at the critical pressure ($P_C = 110.2$ GPa) (Kingma et al.,
371 1995; Zhang et al., 2021). However, the transition occurs at a much lower pressure of ~ 51.4 GPa
372 where the two Si-O bond lengths are equal (Figure 3b). The oxygen coordinates split across the
373 transition (Figure 3a), leading to a symmetry breaking from the point group 422 to 222 where
374 one 4-fold axis becomes a 2-fold axis. This symmetry reduction further results in the occurrence
375 of the GM_2^+ rotational mode and the SiO_6 octahedron rotation about the c axis. As a result,
376 symmetry-breaking spontaneous strains appear. The eigenvalue $C_{11} - C_{12}$ and acoustic velocity
377 $V_{\text{SI}[110]}$ accordingly vanish at the transition, leading to significant shear wave velocity softening
378 (Zhang et al., 2021). Therefore, the Si-O bond lengths and SiO_6 octahedron rotation, together
379 with their relevant GM_1^+ and GM_2^+ distortion modes, play a key role in the ferroelastic transition
380 from the stishovite to the post-stishovite phase.

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IMPLICATIONS

383 As discussed in the introduction, pseudo-proper, proper, and improper typed ferroelastic
384 transitions can occur in representative naturally occurring silicate minerals in Earth's deep crust
385 and mantle. The ferroelastic transitions are manifested by appearance of the symmetry-breaking
386 spontaneous strain in the low-symmetry ferroelastic phase, although the driving force is different
387 among these ferroelastic transitions (Wadhawan, 1982). Our study on the post-stishovite
388 transition, a typical pseudo-proper typed ferroelastic transition, reveals the relationship between
389 the macroscopic spontaneous strain and microscopic structural angle. Previous studies on proper

390 and improper typed transitions have also shown a similar relationship. For example, albite
391 (NaAlSi₃O₈ feldspar) undergoes a proper typed ferroelastic transition from monoclinic (space
392 group: $C2/m$) to triclinic (space group: $C\bar{1}$) structure at approximately 1300 K (Salje, 1985; Salje
393 et al., 1985). The spontaneous strain e_4 varies linearly with $-\cos \alpha$ where α is the lattice constant
394 angle (Carpenter et al., 1998; Kroll et al., 1980). Improper typed ferroelastic transition occurs in
395 CaPv from cubic to tetragonal phase at approximately 450 K and 12 GPa with the tetragonal
396 shear strain proportional to the squared rotation angle of the SiO₆ octahedron about the c axis
397 (Φ_{Pv}^2) (Kurashina et al., 2004; Sun et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 1993a; Zhao et al., 1993b). These
398 results reveal that the symmetry-breaking strain occurs as the primary effect from the structural
399 angle in the low-symmetry ferroelastic phase. Furthermore, the structural angles can be linked to
400 given symmetry-adapted distortion modes based on a group-subgroup relation. For example,
401 considering that CaPv has a parent structure with $Pm\bar{3}m$ space group and a low symmetry phase
402 with the subgroup $I4/mcm$, the Φ_{Pv} angle can be attributed to a distortion mode with symmetry
403 R_4^+ (Perez-Mato et al., 2010). Therefore, the change of the structural angle with the occurrence
404 of symmetry-breaking distortion mode is an important consequence of the ferroelastic transition.
405 Our results here can be combined with sound velocity and elastic moduli studies across the three
406 types of ferroelastic transitions in silicates and oxides at high pressure. This helps shed light on
407 the abnormal seismic properties across the transitions especially in the subducting slabs and deep
408 crustal regions.

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410

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413

414

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640 **FIGURE 1.** Representative single-crystal X-ray diffraction data of stishovite and post-stishovite
641 at high pressure. (a) and (b) show original diffraction images at 28.5 GPa for stishovite and at
642 75.3 GPa for post-stishovite, respectively. Sample reflection spots are marked with red open
643 circles. (c) An optical image of the sample chamber showing three crystals (P1, P2, and P3) and
644 gold pressure calibrant (Au) in neon pressure medium (Ne) at 2.8 GPa. (d) Full-width at half
645 maximum (FWHM) of a selected 101 diffraction peak as a function of pressure. FWHM of the
646 peak (red solid circles) remains almost unchanged during compression. The insert panel shows a
647 round 101 reflection spot and its integrated peak with FWHM of 0.07° at 75.3 GPa. These data
648 indicate that the single crystal quality was preserved in compression up to 75.3 GPa.

649
650 **FIGURE 2.** Representative refined crystal structures of stishovite and post-stishovite at high
651 pressure. (a) Stishovite at 49.8 GPa; (b) post-stishovite at 73.8 GPa. Silicon (Si) and oxygen (O1,
652 O2, and O3) atoms are shown as blue and red balls, respectively. Lattice parameters, Si-O bond
653 lengths, and O1-Si-O1 bond angles are labelled in the representative structures, and can also be
654 found in Tables 1 and S1. Black arrows in (b) show Φ rotation angle of 5.1° which is the SiO_6
655 octahedron rotation about the *c* axis with respect to the ideal stishovite structure in (a).

656
657 **FIGURE 3.** Oxygen coordinates, Si-O bond lengths, and O-Si-O bond angles across the post-
658 stishovite transition at high pressure. (a) Oxygen coordinates as a function of pressure. The *x* and
659 *y* coordinates for oxygen are almost invariant in stishovite; however, *x* coordinate decreases and
660 *y* coordinate increases with increasing pressure in the post-stishovite phase. (b) Si-O bond
661 lengths as a function of pressure. The bond length in the apical Si-O3 and in the equatorial Si-
662 O1(2) becomes equivalent to each other within uncertainties at the post-stishovite transition. (c)
663 O-Si-O bond angles as a function of pressure. The angles remain almost constant in the stishovite
664 phase, while $\angle\text{O1-Si-O2}$ increases and $\angle\text{O1(2)-Si-O1(2)}$ decreases with increasing pressure in
665 the post-stishovite phase. Please refer to Figure 2 for the meaning of the oxygen atom
666 numbering. Solid lines in (b) show the best fits using an axial incompressibility equation of state
667 (Birch, 1947), while those in (a) and (c) are the best polynomial fits to guide the eyes. Note that
668 the data and fit for $\angle\text{O1-Si-O3}$ are drawn in green in order to distinguish it from $\angle\text{O2-Si-O3}$.
669 The gray vertical band shows the phase transition region at ~ 51.4 GPa based on the splitting of
670 the oxygen coordinates. Literature single-crystal and powder XRD and ab initio data are plotted

671 for comparison (Andrault et al., 1998; Hill et al., 1983; Karki et al., 1997b; Ross et al., 1990;
672 Sinclair and Ringwood, 1978; Sugiyama et al., 1987; Yamanaka et al., 2002).

673

674 **FIGURE 4.** Refined SiO₆ octahedron parameters of stishovite and post-stishovite at high
675 pressure. (a) Bond length distortion (D) of the octahedron as a function of pressure. The
676 distortion vanishes at the transition. (b) Angle variance (σ^2) of the octahedron as a function of
677 pressure. It remains constant in stishovite but decreases with increasing pressure in the post-
678 stishovite phase. (c) The rotation of the SiO₆ octahedron about the c axis (Φ) with pressure only
679 occurs in the post-stishovite phase (also see Figure 2 for the rotation). Lines show the best
680 polynomial fits to the data. The gray vertical band represents the transition pressure. Previous
681 studies are also shown for comparison (Andrault et al., 1998; Hill et al., 1983; Karki et al.,
682 1997b; Ross et al., 1990; Sinclair and Ringwood, 1978; Sugiyama et al., 1987; Yamanaka et al.,
683 2002).

684

685 **FIGURE 5.** Atomic displacements and distortion mode amplitudes across the post-stishovite
686 transition at high pressure. (a) Maximum displacement of oxygen atoms in the crystal structure;
687 (b) Amplitude of GM_1^+ and GM_2^+ distortion modes. Black lines are best linear or polynomial fits
688 to guide the eyes. Atomic displacements for GM_1^+ and GM_2^+ are schematically drawn in (c) and
689 (d), respectively. In (c) and (d), blue and red spheres represent silicon and oxygen atoms,
690 respectively, shaded area represents a SiO₆ octahedron, and black lines with arrows represent
691 atomic displacements upon compression.

692

693 **FIGURE 6.** Elastic moduli and shear wave velocity of stishovite and post-stishovite as a
694 function of the bond length difference between the apical and equatorial Si-O bonds. (a) Selected
695 elastic moduli, C_{11} , C_{12} , and C_{22} ; (b) transverse shear wave $V_{S1[110]}$ polarizing along $[1\bar{1}0]$ and
696 propagating along $[110]$ direction. At a given pressure, elastic moduli and sound velocities are
697 taken from Zhang et al. (2021) while bond length data are taken from refined atomic positions in
698 this study and previous reports as shown in the legend (Andrault et al., 1998; Hill et al., 1983;
699 Karki et al., 1997b; Ross et al., 1990; Sinclair and Ringwood, 1978; Sugiyama et al., 1987;
700 Yamanaka et al., 2002). Note that bond length data from this study are shown in solid circles
701 with different colors for figure clarity. Black lines show co-plotting of Landau modeling results

702 for the elastic properties in Zhang et al. (2021) and linear incompressibility fitting results for
703 bond lengths in Figure 3b. When the apical bond length is equal to the equatorial bond length,
704 C_{11} converges with C_{12} in (a) and $V_{Si[110]}$ vanishes in (b). The gray vertical band shows the post-
705 stishovite phase transition region. Early studies are also plotted for comparison.

706

707 **FIGURE 7.** Landau parameters as a function of the SiO_6 rotation angle Φ about the c axis across
708 the post-stishovite transition. (a) Schematics to highlight the rotation of the SiO_6 octahedron and
709 the occurrence of the spontaneous strains e_1 and e_2 in (b). Blue and red spheres represent Si and
710 O atoms, respectively. The ab plane of the post-stishovite unit cell is schematically drawn in the
711 pink area with dashed lines, whereas the aa plane in the stishovite structure is shown in the blue
712 area with solid lines for comparison for the lattice rotation. (b) Symmetry-breaking spontaneous
713 strain $e_1 - e_2$ and (c) order parameter Q as a function of Φ . Crossing into the post-stishovite
714 phase, $e_1 - e_2$ and Q emerge and increase linearly with Φ in (a) and (b), respectively. The gray
715 vertical band shows the transition pressure. Literature data are plotted for comparison (Andrault
716 et al., 1998; Hill et al., 1983; Ross et al., 1990; Sinclair and Ringwood, 1978; Sugiyama et al.,
717 1987; Yamanaka et al., 2002).

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736 **TABLE 1.** Structure refinement results for stishovite and post-stishovite at high pressure

<i>P</i> , GPa	space group	<i>a</i> , Å	<i>b</i> , Å	<i>c</i> , Å	<i>V</i> , Å ³	unique refl ¹	<i>R</i> _{int} , %	<i>R</i> ₁ , %
0	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.1752(1)		2.6642(1)	46.443(3)	2788	4.63	1.29
2.8(1)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.1660(3)		2.6640(3)	46.24(1)	55	0.61	3.48
7.8(1)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.1416(5)		2.6564(3)	45.57(1)	48	1.52	5.93
13.0(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.1200(4)		2.6458(3)	44.91(1)	37	0.78	6.28
16.0(1)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.1066(4)		2.6433(4)	44.58(1)	50	5.89	6.14
16.9(3)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.1045(4)		2.6393(3)	44.464(8)	48	0.35	6.11
19.7(1)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.0891(4)		2.6298(17)	43.97(3)	50	1.65	3.78
21.4(1)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.0875(4)		2.6366(3)	44.05(1)	41	12.74	6.00
26.8(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.0681(5)		2.6259(5)	43.46(1)	43	4.37	7.84
28.5(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.0520(4)		2.6162(18)	42.95(3)	52	1.70	7.73
33.8(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.0318(6)		2.6070(8)	42.38(2)	48	5.80	6.17
40.4(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.0133(7)		2.6000(30)	41.88(5)	34	8.91	5.61
48.7(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	3.9875(7)		2.5840(30)	41.09(5)	46	1.06	5.65
49.8(2)	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	3.9819(10)		2.5810(60)	40.92(10)	36	1.01	5.35
52.4(2)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.9440(30)	4.0150(19)	2.5851(13)	40.93(4)	47	1.25	5.66
54.2(2)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.9320(30)	4.0128(18)	2.5817(12)	40.73(4)	56	0.87	5.38
55.6(2)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.9300(40)	4.0097(10)	2.5750(5)	40.58(4)	54	4.82	6.22
58.6(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.9140(50)	4.0118(12)	2.5717(6)	40.38(5)	31	14.89	4.97
62.0(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.9010(40)	4.0089(12)	2.5656(8)	40.12(4)	41	2.94	6.88
64.4(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.8880(40)	4.0080(20)	2.5681(14)	40.01(5)	46	4.80	6.66
65.8(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.8820(40)	4.0070(10)	2.5667(8)	39.93(4)	41	12.90	6.62
68.0(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.8710(40)	4.0051(10)	2.5616(7)	39.71(4)	41	1.40	6.85
71.0(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.8580(30)	4.0040(9)	2.5580(7)	39.51(3)	46	1.91	4.57
73.8(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.8500(30)	4.0016(8)	2.5557(6)	39.37(3)	45	2.60	6.05
75.3(3)	<i>Pnmm</i>	3.8380(20)	3.9974(7)	2.5498(5)	39.12(2)	46	0.55	4.42

¹unique refl: number of unique observed reflections

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745 **TABLE 2.** Oxygen positions, bond lengths, and bond angles of stishovite and post-stishovite at
 746 high pressure. Please refer to Fig. 2 for the meaning of the atom symbols.

<i>P</i> , GPa	oxygen position		bond length, Å		bond angle, °			
	x	y	Si-O3	Si-O1(2)	∠O1-Si-O3	∠O2-Si-O3	∠O1(2)-Si-O1(2)	∠O1-Si-O2
0	0.3061(1)	0.3061(1)	1.8075(6)	1.7565(4)	90.00(5)	90.00(5)	98.65(5)	81.35(5)
2.8(1)	0.3060(3)	0.3060(3)	1.803(1)	1.755(1)	90.00(7)	90.00(7)	98.74(7)	81.26(7)
7.8(1)	0.3052(5)	0.3052(5)	1.788(3)	1.751(1)	90.00(9)	90.00(9)	98.67(8)	81.33(8)
13.0(2)	0.3046(5)	0.3046(5)	1.775(3)	1.745(1)	90.00(9)	90.00(9)	98.57(8)	81.43(8)
16.0(1)	0.3046(5)	0.3046(5)	1.769(3)	1.742(1)	90.00(9)	90.00(9)	98.70(8)	81.30(8)
16.9(3)	0.3046(3)	0.3046(3)	1.7681(13)	1.7401(9)	90.00(9)	90.00(9)	98.64(8)	81.36(8)
19.7(1)	0.3039(5)	0.3039(5)	1.757(3)	1.736(2)	90.00(9)	90.00(9)	98.45(8)	81.55(8)
21.4(1)	0.3044(6)	0.3044(6)	1.760(3)	1.737(2)	90.00(10)	90.00(10)	98.76(9)	81.24(9)
26.8(2)	0.3048(6)	0.3048(6)	1.754(3)	1.728(2)	90.00(10)	90.00(10)	98.92(9)	81.08(9)
28.5(2)	0.3038(6)	0.3038(6)	1.741(3)	1.725(2)	90.00(10)	90.00(10)	98.64(9)	81.36(9)
33.8(2)	0.3036(4)	0.3036(4)	1.731(2)	1.719(1)	90.00(8)	90.00(8)	98.67(8)	81.33(8)
40.4(2)	0.3036(4)	0.3036(4)	1.7231(17)	1.7125(16)	90.00(10)	90.00(10)	98.78(9)	81.22(9)
48.7(2)	0.3028(5)	0.3028(5)	1.708(3)	1.705(2)	90.00(9)	90.00(9)	98.56(8)	81.44(8)
49.8(2)	0.3023(4)	0.3023(4)	1.702(2)	1.704(3)	90.00(8)	90.00(8)	98.43(8)	81.57(8)
52.4(2)	0.2943(12)	0.3106(5)	1.704(4)	1.705(3)	89.87(15)	90.13(15)	98.59(14)	81.41(14)
54.2(2)	0.2912(12)	0.3121(5)	1.697(4)	1.706(3)	89.92(15)	90.08(15)	98.38(14)	81.62(14)
55.6(2)	0.2927(7)	0.3127(6)	1.702(3)	1.6986(18)	89.91(12)	90.09(12)	98.57(11)	81.43(11)
58.6(3)	0.2877(12)	0.3152(6)	1.693(4)	1.701(3)	89.96(14)	90.04(14)	98.21(13)	81.79(13)
62.0(3)	0.2854(16)	0.3167(8)	1.689(5)	1.699(4)	89.98(16)	90.02(16)	98.06(15)	81.94(15)
64.4(3)	0.2850(14)	0.3175(7)	1.687(5)	1.698(4)	89.91(16)	90.09(16)	98.28(15)	81.72(15)
65.8(3)	0.2841(14)	0.3188(7)	1.688(5)	1.696(3)	89.94(15)	90.06(15)	98.34(15)	81.66(15)
68.0(3)	0.2814(12)	0.3200(6)	1.682(4)	1.696(3)	89.96(14)	90.04(14)	98.09(14)	81.91(14)
71.0(3)	0.2807(9)	0.3211(5)	1.681(3)	1.693(2)	89.90(12)	90.10(12)	98.17(12)	81.83(12)
73.8(3)	0.2794(12)	0.3216(6)	1.677(4)	1.692(3)	89.90(14)	90.10(14)	98.07(14)	81.93(14)
75.3(3)	0.2788(8)	0.3231(4)	1.677(3)	1.687(2)	89.90(11)	90.10(11)	98.17(11)	81.83(11)

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756 **TABLE 3.** Volume (V_{oct}), bond length distortion (D), angle variance (σ^2), and rotation angle
 757 about c axis (Φ) of the SiO_6 octahedron in the stishovite and post-stishovite phases at high
 758 pressure

P, GPa	$V_{oct}, \text{\AA}^3$	D	σ^2, deg^2	$\Phi, ^\circ$
0	7.351(2)	0.01278(3)	27.186(7)	0
2.8(1)	7.319(4)	0.01196(7)	27.75(2)	0
7.8(1)	7.224(8)	0.00923(10)	27.35(3)	0
13.0(2)	7.128(8)	0.00745(8)	26.70(3)	0
16.0(1)	7.075(8)	0.00685(8)	27.52(3)	0
16.9(3)	7.057(9)	0.00711(11)	27.16(3)	0
19.7(1)	6.988(8)	0.00537(6)	25.96(3)	0
21.4(1)	6.994(9)	0.00582(7)	27.92(3)	0
26.8(2)	6.895(8)	0.00662(8)	28.91(3)	0
28.5(2)	6.828(9)	0.00412(5)	27.16(3)	0
33.8(2)	6.738(5)	0.00325(3)	27.32(2)	0
40.4(2)	6.659(5)	0.00276(2)	28.01(2)	0
48.7(2)	6.542(8)	0.00075(1)	26.66(3)	0
49.8(2)	6.522(10)	0.00053(1)	25.85(4)	0
52.4(2)	6.530(13)	0.00036(4)	26.85(5)	2.1(2)
54.2(2)	6.511(13)	0.00225(1)	25.52(5)	2.6(2)
55.6(2)	6.473(8)	0.00076(1)	26.71(3)	2.5(1)
58.6(3)	6.466(13)	0.00204(4)	24.52(5)	3.3(2)
62.0(3)	6.435(16)	0.00270(7)	23.63(6)	3.8(2)
64.4(3)	6.418(18)	0.00274(11)	24.92(7)	4.0(2)
65.8(3)	6.405(14)	0.00221(5)	25.31(5)	4.2(2)
68.0(3)	6.386(13)	0.00366(7)	23.79(5)	4.6(2)
71.0(3)	6.356(9)	0.00304(4)	24.26(3)	4.9(1)
73.8(3)	6.341(13)	0.00396(8)	23.68(5)	5.1(2)
75.3(3)	6.300(8)	0.00259(3)	24.29(3)	5.4(1)

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TABLE 4. Maximum atomic displacement (Δ) and distortion mode amplitude at high pressure

P , GPa	Δ , Å	GM_1^+ , Å	GM_2^+ , Å
0	0.0000	0.0000	-
2.8(1)	0.0006(0)	0.0013(0)	-
7.8(1)	0.0054(1)	0.0107(2)	-
13.0(2)	0.0089(1)	0.0178(3)	-
16.0(1)	0.0089(1)	0.0178(3)	-
16.9(3)	0.0089(1)	0.0178(2)	-
19.7(1)	0.0125(1)	0.0249(2)	-
21.4(1)	0.0101(2)	0.0202(4)	-
26.8(2)	0.0077(2)	0.0155(3)	-
28.5(2)	0.0125(2)	0.0249(4)	-
33.8(2)	0.0148(2)	0.0296(4)	-
40.4(2)	0.0148(2)	0.0296(4)	-
48.7(2)	0.0195(3)	0.0391(6)	-
49.8(2)	0.0225(5)	0.0450(11)	-
52.4(2)	0.0528(18)	0.0432(14)	0.0962(32)
54.2(2)	0.0671(20)	0.0527(16)	0.1234(37)
55.6(2)	0.0624(15)	0.0403(10)	0.1181(28)
58.6(3)	0.0857(36)	0.0550(23)	0.1624(68)
62.0(3)	0.0971(54)	0.0598(34)	0.1848(104)
64.4(3)	0.1001(56)	0.0574(32)	0.1919(108)
65.8(3)	0.1061(52)	0.0550(27)	0.2049(101)
68.0(3)	0.1184(50)	0.0639(27)	0.2279(97)
71.0(3)	0.1232(40)	0.0615(20)	0.2385(76)
73.8(3)	0.1289(55)	0.0663(28)	0.2492(107)
75.3(3)	0.1343(39)	0.0609(17)	0.2616(75)

Note: distortion mode of GM_1^+ occurs in stishovite below ~50 GPa, while both GM_1^+ and GM_2^+ modes are present in post-stishovite above ~52 GPa.

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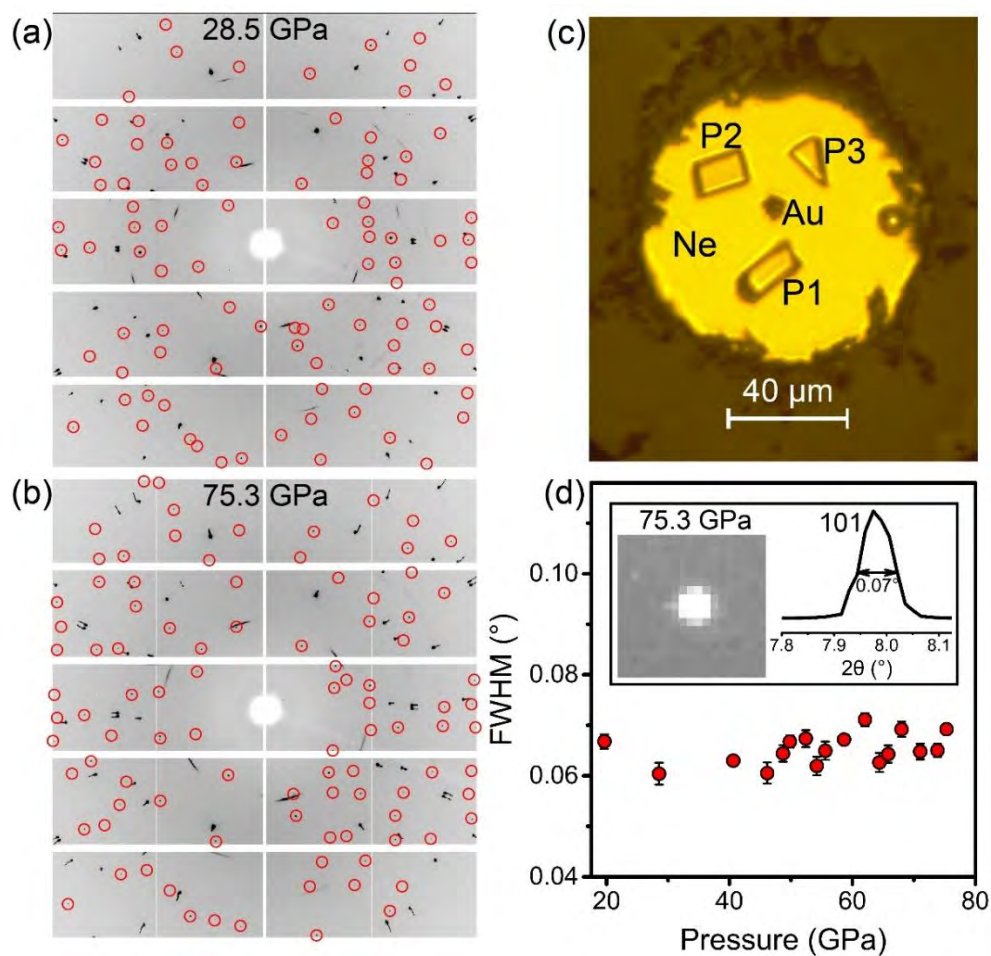
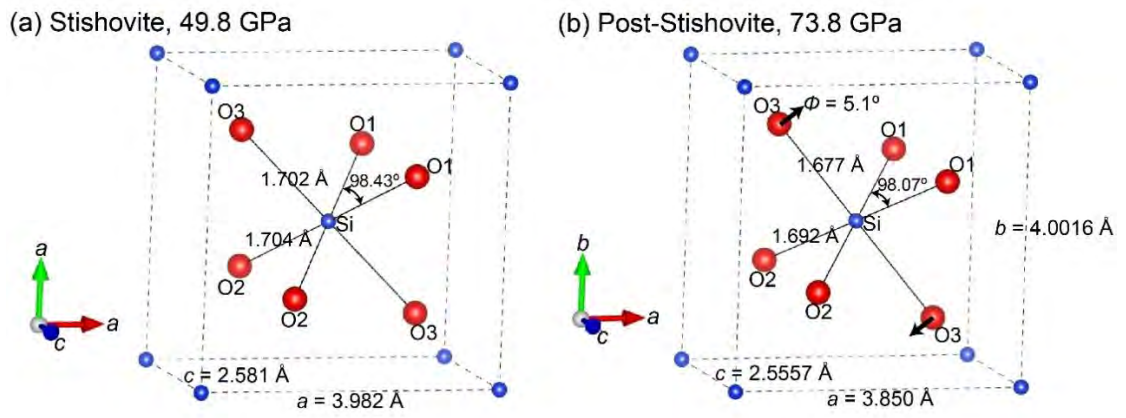


Fig 1

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Fig 2

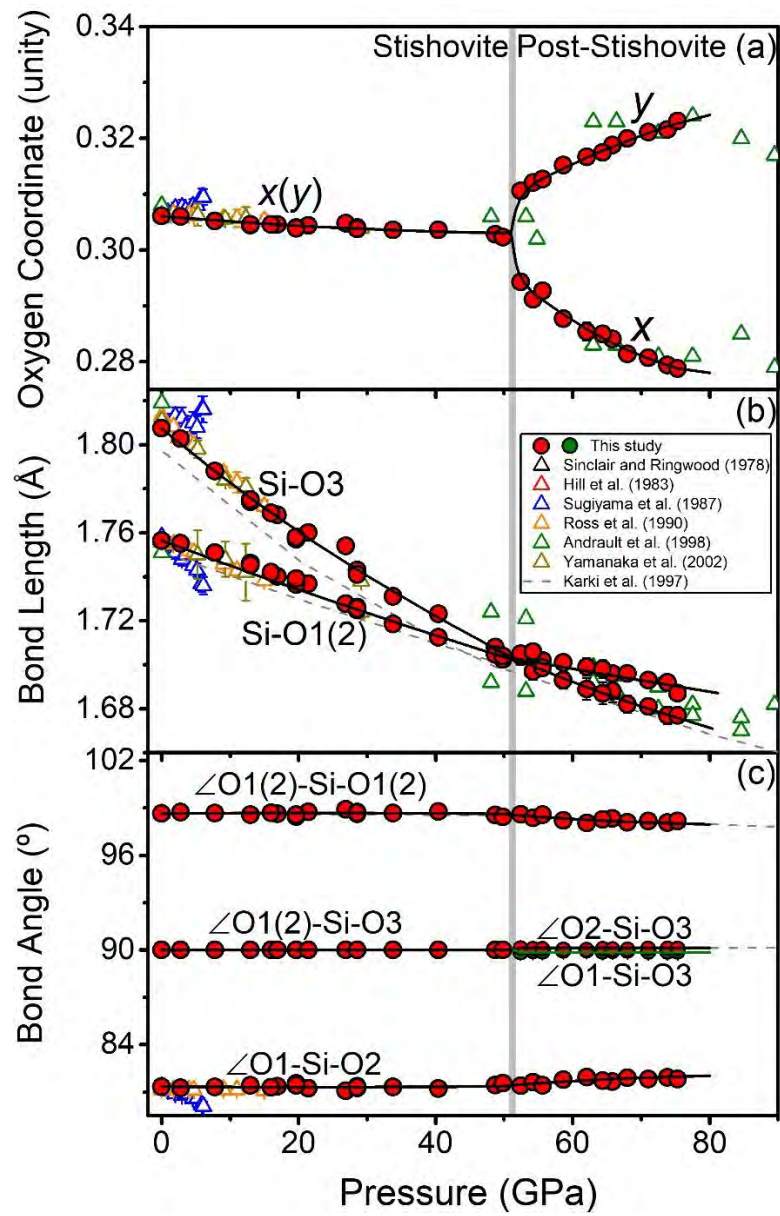


Fig 3

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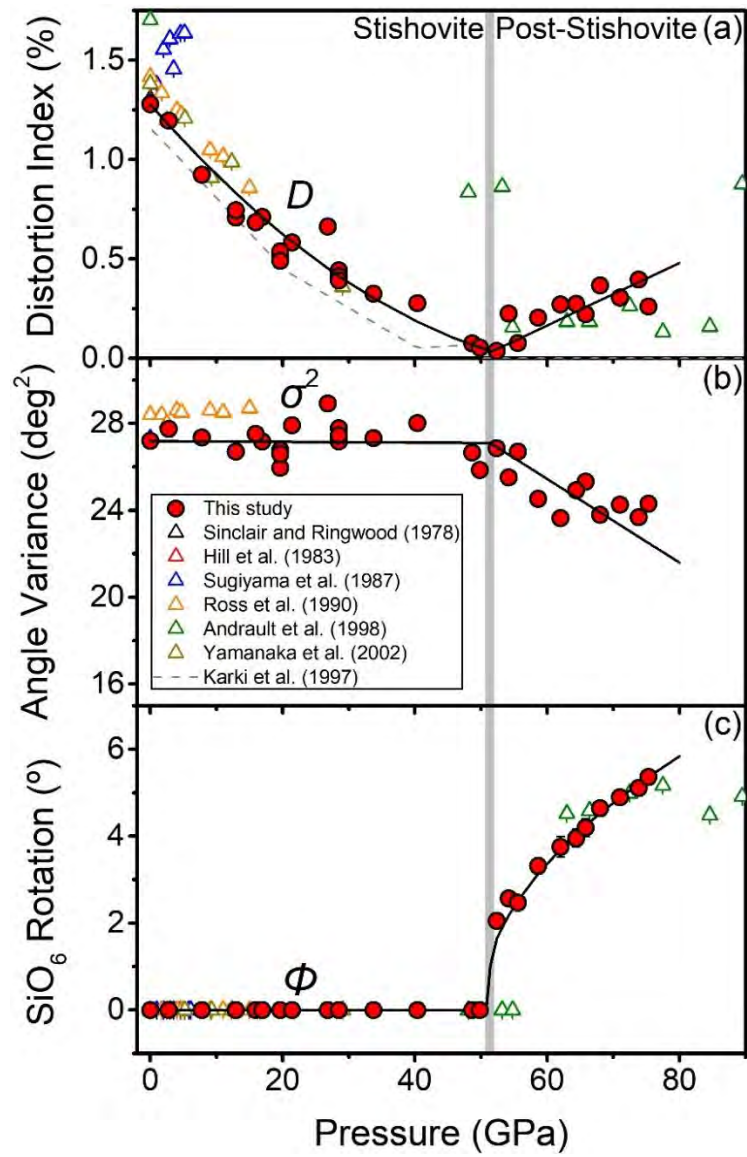
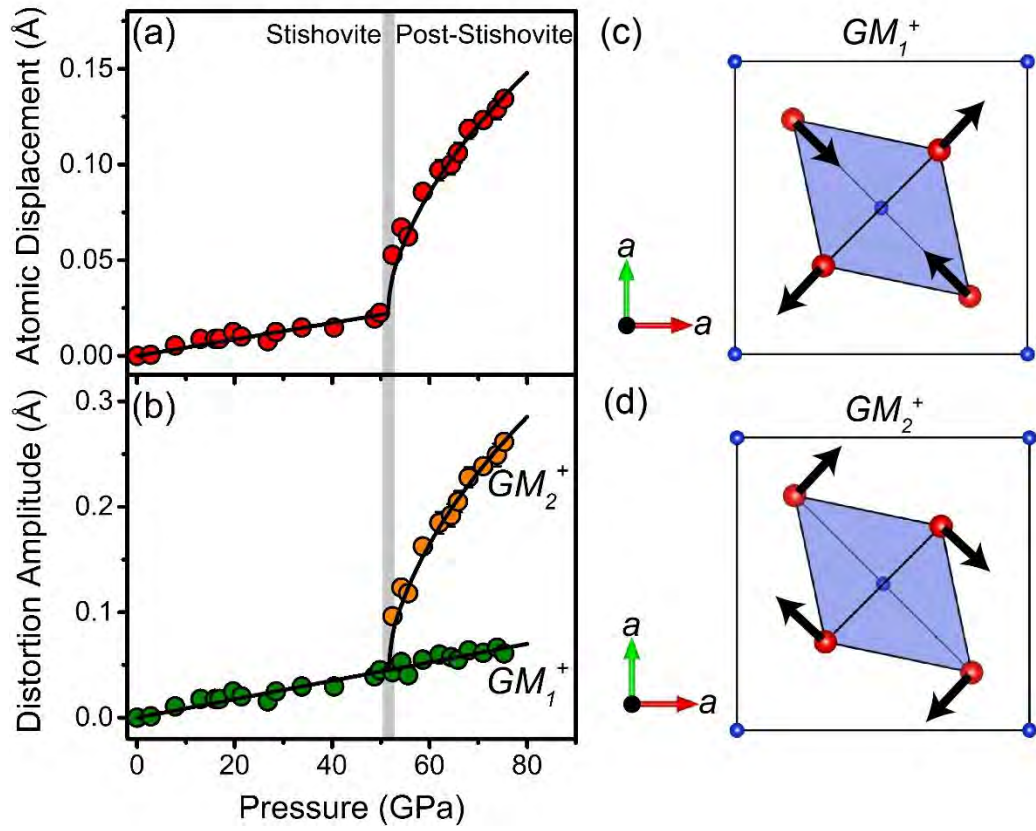


Fig 4

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Fig 5

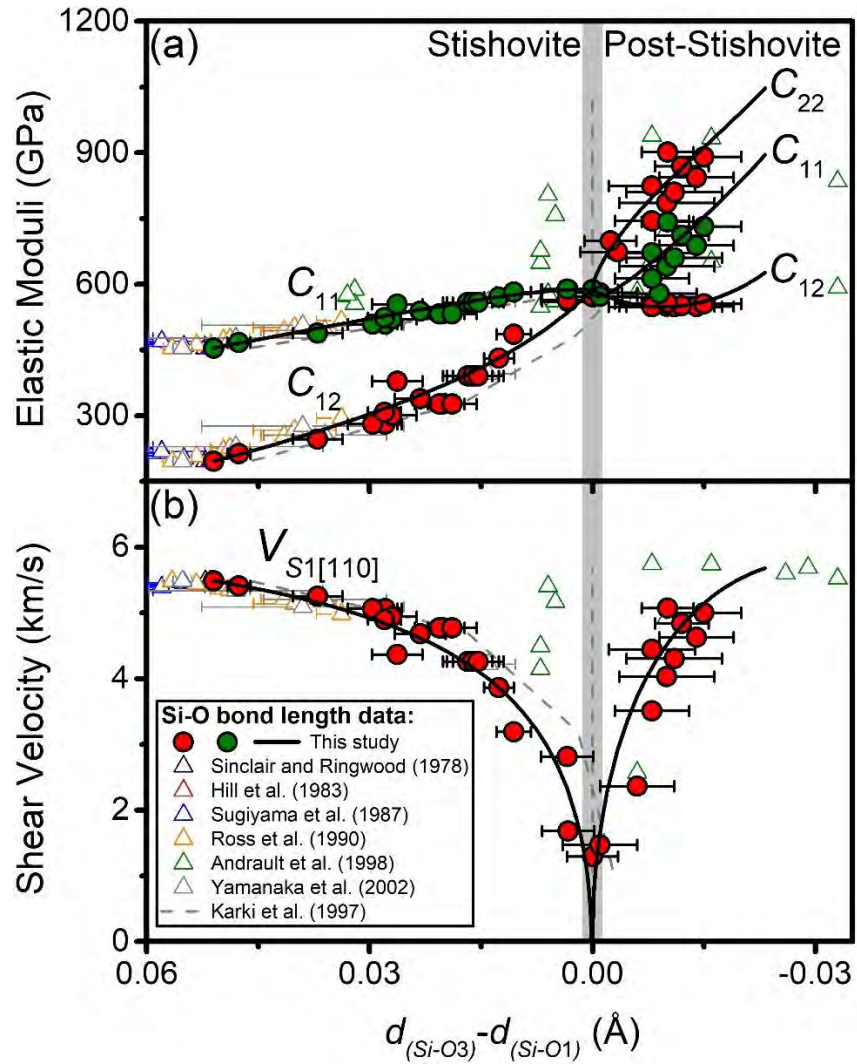


Fig 6

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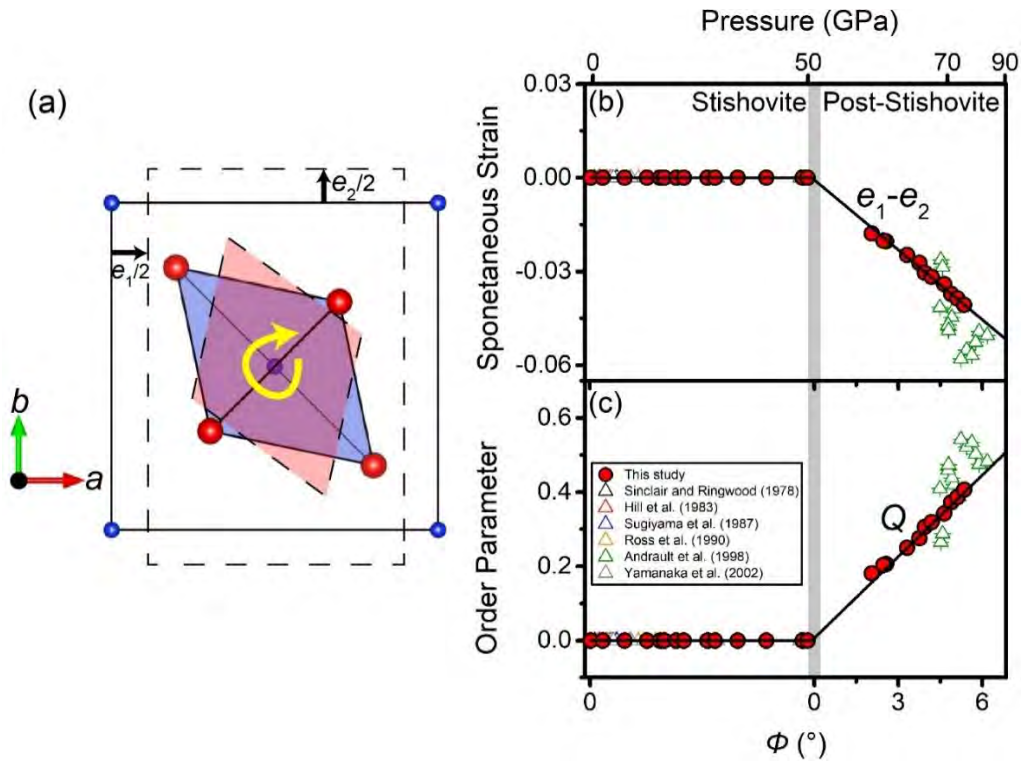


Fig 7

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