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1	Revision1
2	Zinc transport in hydrothermal fluids:
3	on the roles of pressure and sulfur versus chlorine complexing
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15	Abstract
16	We provide an experimental confirmation of the suggestion, based on thermodynamic
17	simulations and extrapolations (Zhong et al. 2015), that Zn is transported in the form of chloride
18	complexes in most acidic, shallow hydrothermal systems; while bisulfide complexes become
19	increasingly important in deep, pH neutral to basic hydrothermal systems. We used in situ X-ray
20	absorption spectroscopy (XAS) diamond anvil cell experiments to determine Zn(II) speciation
21	in a 1 m NaHS + 0.2 m HCl solution in contact with sphalerite. XANES data indicate that Zn
22	coordinates to oxy/hydroxyl/chloride ligands from room temperature up to and including 200 °C,
23	and then at higher temperatures (\geq 300 °C) and pressures (> 2 kbar) changes to complexing with
24	sulfur. Our data confirm that bisulfide complexes become increasingly important in neutral-
25	alkaline solutions at high pressure and temperature, due to an increase in sulfur solubility and to
26	favorable entropy contributions for bisulfide versus chloride complexes.
27 28	Keywords: Zinc, Sulfur, Chloride, Hydrothermal, High temperature and pressure.

29 Introduction

Knowledge of metal complexation is important for predicting the solubility, transport and deposition of metals leading to the formation of hydrothermal ore deposits. Most zinc (Zn) deposits share a hydrothermal origin. As chloride is the most abundant anion in hydrothermal fluids (Yardley, 2005) and the sulfide mineral sphalerite (ZnS) is by far the most important Zn ore mineral, the complexation of Zn(II) with chloride and sulfur ligands has been studied extensively (Ruaya and Seward, 1986; Bourcier and Barnes, 1987; Plyasunov and Ivanov, 1991; Anderson et al., 1998; Tagirov et al., 2007; Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

37 Advances in *in situ* synchrotron-based X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) and *ab* 38 initio molecular dynamics simulations (AIMD) provide us with increasingly reliable views of 39 the speciation and thermodynamics of metal complexes at the molecular level (Brugger et al., 40 2016). For example, Mei et al. (2015) combined AIMD simulations with in situ XAS data to 41 demonstrate that Zn(II) is bonded to Cl predominantly in a tetrahedral geometry up to 400 °C 42 and 1 kbar, with a trigonal planar geometry appearing above 500 °C (35% trigonal planar at 43 600 °C), and were able to use this new speciation model to reinterpret available solubility data 44 (e.g., Ruaya and Seward, 1986; Bourcier and Barnes, 1987), demonstrating that discrepancies 45 among the different interpretations of the experimental data arose from erroneous assumptions 46 about Zn(II) complexing rather than experimental errors. A subsequent study (Mei et al., 2016) demonstrated that Zn is coordinated with S in tetrahedral $[Zn(HS)_n(H_2O)_{4-n}]^{2-n}$ complexes up to 47 48 300 °C and 1 kbar, with trigonal planar species predicted to become predominant at lower 49 temperatures than in chloride solutions (i.e., at 400-500 °C for Zn in a 2 m NaHS solution).

The thermodynamic properties proposed by Mei et al. (2015, 2016) suggest that Zn(II) bisulfide complexes grow in importance with increasing temperature in neutral-alkaline solutions, while chloride species are dominant at lower temperatures. This is consistent with the geochemical modeling of Zhong et al. (2015a) that predicted that chloride complexes will predominate in most shallow($\leq \sim 4$ km) rock-buffered hydrothermal systems, while bisulfide

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complexes become increasingly important at high PT (> 10 km), due to an increase in sulfur solubility (>3 molal at $T \ge 500$ °C) and favorable entropy contributions for bisulfide versus chloride complexes in aqueous fluids (Mei et al., 2013). These predictions are based on data collected in fluids containing either chloride or hydrosulfide. The aim of this study is to test the above predictions and determine the predominant Zn species in a mixed Cl + S fluid.

60 Experimental Methods

61 X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure (XANES) data were collected using a 62 Hydrothermal Diamond Anvil Cell (HDAC) at beamline 20-ID at the Advanced Photon Source 63 (APS) at Argonne National Lab, Illinois. The APS is a 7 GeV ring with a maximum current of 64 102 mA. Beamline 20-ID is an undulator beamline with a Si(111) monochromator with an energy resolution ($\Delta E/E$) of 1.4 x 10⁻⁴ (at 10 keV). A focused beam size of 5 μ m² was used. The 65 66 incident and transmitted beam intensities I₀ and I₁ were measured using ion chambers. A 4-67 element Si-drift detector, used for detecting fluorescence data, was positioned at 90° to the 68 incident X-ray beam.

Solutions were prepared using: NaHS(s) (Alfa Aesar), ZnBr2 (GFS, reagent grade), S (Alfa 69 70 Aesar, 99.5 %), ZnCl₂ (Sigma, reagent grade), HBr (48%, Sigma) and HCl (37% Sigma). The 71 requisite amounts were diluted/dissolved in water to prepare the solutions listed in Table 1. A 72 stopped PTFE solution cell was used to measure XAS data for the standard solution (Sol2, 73 Table 1) under ambient conditions, to aid comparison with data collected previously at 1 kbar at 74 the European Synchrotron Research Facility (ESRF; Grenoble, France) (Mei et al. 2016). 75 Solutions were loaded with a small piece of sphalerite (Picos del Europa mine, Spain; sample 76 M4983, Museum Victoria) into the modified Bassett-style HDAC (Bassett et al., 2000, Yan et 77 al., 2011). XANES data were collected in situ up to 500 °C and ~4.5 kbar upon heating. The 78 solution, loaded using a micro syringe, was contained in a cylindrical hole (500 µm in diameter) 79 drilled in a Rhenium gasket of 125 µm thickness (Figure 1). Similar to previous studies (e.g., 80 Mayanovic et al., 2002), the HDAC was mounted on a rotating stage on the XAS experimental 81 table with a vertical optical window, allowing simultaneous optical observation of the sample 82 from the top using a microscope and video camera, and XAS measurement with the X-ray beam 83 entering horizontally from the side via a laser-drilled recess (150 µm diameter, 100 µm deep) 84 through one of the anvils (Figure 1a,b). A temperature controller (PES Enterprises Inc.) was 85 used to control the temperature to within ± 1 °C, based on two thermocouples positioned next to 86 the bottom and top diamonds and sealed with zirconia cement. The pressure at elevated 87 temperature was approximated using the equation of state (EOS) of sodium chloride solutions 88 (Driesner and Heinrich, 2007) with similar stoichiometric ionic strength as the experimental 89 solutions, based on the observed homogenization temperatures (Table 1).

As noted in previous HDAC studies (e.g., Mayanovic et al., 1999; Bassett et al., 2000; Hong et al., 2009), diffraction from the diamond interferes with the XAS signal. To overcome this, the HDAC was rotated and spectra were collected at a number of angles with differences of 1-3°. Changing the angle changes the location of the diffraction peaks, allowing the data to be deglitched following the procedures described by Mayanovic et al. (1999) and Hong et al. (2009).

96 Ab initio Molecular Dynamics Simulations

To extend the pressure range beyond those in the experiments to conditions typical of lower crust/upper mantle and shallow subduction zones, AIMD simulations of Zn(II)-Cl-HS complexes were run at 100 °C, 1.5 kbar and 500 °C, 1.5-20 kbar. AIMD simulations were performed using the Car-Parrinello MD code "CPMD" version 3.17.1 (Car and Parrinello, 1985). A box containing 1 Zn²⁺, 5 HS⁻, 1 Cl⁻, 4 Na⁺, 111 H₂O was used for each simulation. Details of the calculation procedures are given in Mei et al. (2015, 2016).

103 XANES Results

104 XANES spectra reflect (i) the oxidation state of the target atom, (ii) the geometry and 105 (iii) composition (nature of ligands) of the surrounding coordination sphere. The positions of the 106 absorption edge and of the white line (historically defined as the most intense peak just above 107 the edge in the spectrum) tend to shift as a function of these parameters (Bunker, 2010; Penner-108 Hahn, 2005). These shifts can be accounted for electrostatically: (i) the higher the oxidation 109 state, the higher the charge on the target atom, and the higher the X-ray energy required to eject 110 a core electron. (ii) Six ligands will induce a higher charge in the vicinity of the central atom 111 compared to four ligands; thus, octahedral complexes tend to have a white line at a higher 112 energy than tetrahedral complexes. (iii) Metal-bisulfide complexes tend to have a white line at a 113 lower energy than metal-oxide/halide complexes. S has a lower electronegativity than O/Cl, so it 114 induces a lower formal charge on the metal atom.

115 Figure 1c,d shows the stacked normalized XANES spectra, and Figure 1e,f shows the 116 stacked first derivative of the XANES of Zn in H₂O/OH⁻/Cl⁻/HS⁻ solutions (Table 1). Data 117 shown in Figures 1c, e were collected previously using a large volume autoclave (Mei et al., 118 2015, 2016) and clearly demonstrate the shift to lower energy in both the white line and the 119 position of the peak of the first derivative of the XANES due to a change in the geometry of the 120 complexes, from octahedral to tetrahedral to trigonal planar (SolsB, C, D; see Table 1), followed 121 by a further shift to lower energies when the complexing ligand is changed to HS⁻ (SolE) from 122 Cl⁻/H₂O/OH⁻, with increasing temperature. Sphalerite solubility in SolE was estimated to be 123 13(3) mmolal at 500°C, 1 kbar, which compares well with the predictions using Zn bisulfide 124 complexes properties from Mei et al. (2016) (70 mmolal; details in Table 1).

125 Reassuringly, the data collected with the HDAC show the same trend as those collected 126 with the large volume autoclave (Figure 1c-f). The results for the Cl-free Sol10 (sphalerite + 127 2 m NaHS + S) are identical to those collected previously (SolE), and indicate the presence of 128 Zn(II) bisulfide complexes at high temperature as a result of prograde solubility. It should be 129 noted that it was necessary to add extra S into the system for Sol10 (HDAC) compared to SolE 130 (autoclave). Attempts using just the NaHS solution + sphalerite resulted in the dissolution of the 131 Re gasket; geochemical modeling demonstrated that the S-free solution (e.g., $pH_{400^{\circ}C}=7.5$) is 132 much more basic than the S-bearing solution ($pH_{400^{\circ}C}$ =4.4). Excess sulfur both ensures buffering

of the S content of the fluid despite reaction with the gasket, and a pH closer to neutral (4.8 @
400 °C, 2.95 kbar).

The only source of sulfur in Sol6 (sphalerite in 0.2 m HCl) was due to the dissolution of sphalerite. Under these conditions the concentration of available chlorine was so much higher than that of sulfur that it dominated complexation to Zn; acidic pH also decreases the stability of bisulfide complexes, since $H_2S(aq)$ predominates over HS⁻ (reaction HS⁻ + H⁺ = H₂S(aq)).

139 The most exciting result from the HDAC experiments is that Sol5 (sphalerite in 1 m NaHS + 140 0.2 m HCl) clearly demonstrates a change in ligand type from ambient up to and including 141 200 °C to HS⁻ (from 300 °C and above). Note that according to available thermodynamic 142 properties (review in Zhong et al. 2015, supplemented by Mei et al. 2015, 2016), Zn bisulfide 143 complexes should dominate Zn speciation even at room T in Sol5; given the basic pH of the 144 solution (Table 1), and given the small amount of experimental data available under these conditions (Tagirov and Seward 2010), this could indicate the importance of hydroxide 145 146 complexes yet to be fully characterized.

147 **AIMD Results**

148 The results of simulations of Zn(II) speciation in solutions containing 2.5 m HS⁻ and 149 0.5 m Cl⁻ at experimental pressures and at 20 kbar are listed in Table 2. The simulations show 150 that (i) at 100 °C, 1.5 kbar, four-fold tetrahedral complexes are stable; (ii) at 500 °C, 1.5 and 151 4.5 kbar three-fold complexes predominate with four-fold complexes being present for a small 152 percentage of the time; and (iii) at 500 °C, 20 kbar four-fold species once again predominate. It 153 was not possible to observe ligand exchange between Cl⁻/HS⁻/H₂O as the exchange kinetics are 154 too slow to be observed by AIMD on the scale of picoseconds, even at elevated temperatures 155 (Mei et al., 2015, 2016).

156 At low pressures (≤ 4.5 kbar), the AIMD results are consistent with experimental 157 measurements. The increase in coordination from three ($Zn(HS)_3^-$) to four ($Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$) ligands of 158 the Zn bisulfide complexes with increasing pressure is similar to that observed previously with increasing HS⁻ concentration (Mei et al., 2016). Much like higher HS⁻ concentrations, higher pressures enhance the stability of the $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$ complex, which in turn enhances Zn solubility in sulfur-rich fluids at high pressures.

162 **Discussion**

The hypothesis offered by Zhong et al. (2015a), stating that chloride is the dominant ligand controlling Zn mass transfer at low PT conditions whereas sulfur becomes increasingly important at higher PT conditions, has been verified experimentally. Our XANES results show that when sufficient sulfur and chlorine are available, in neutral-alkaline solutions, Zn bonds preferentially to OH⁻/H2O/Cl⁻ at lower PT conditions and then with HS⁻ with increasing PT conditions, (e.g., Sol5, calculated pH_25°C = 7.4).

169 This can be accounted for on a macroscopic scale by noting that the reduction of the dielectric constant of water with increasing temperature (from 78 at 25 °C to 18.3 at 500 °C and 170 171 4.5 kbar, Fernandez et al, 1995) drives complexing of metal species towards having lower 172 overall charge (eventually neutral charge) with increasing temperature. This can be achieved in 173 two ways: (i) the geometry changes from octahedral to tetrahedral to trigonal, thereby 174 decreasing the overall charge of the complex, and, (ii) the bond polarity decreases, i.e. Zn will 175 preferentially bond with ligands with decreasing electronegativity with increasing temperature 176 (Pauling electronegativity: Zn=1.65, O = 3.44, Cl = 3.16, S = 2.58).

177 On a microscopic level, the increase in entropy associated with (i) reduction in 178 coordination number (Crerar et al., 1985; Susak and Crerar, 1985) and/or (ii) reduction of the number of hydration waters (i.e., less solvation) of Cl⁻ and HS⁻ is the impetus for forming these 179 180 metal-Cl⁻/HS⁻ complexes (Sherman, 2010). The reduction of hydration waters of HS⁻ is larger 181 than that of Cl⁻ (Sherman, 2010; Mei et al., 2013) resulting in a preference for complexing to 182 HS⁻ compared to Cl⁻. In these and previous experiments (Mei et al., 2015, 2016), it was found that Zn speciation transitions to a lower coordination with S (trigonal complex at 300 °C to 183 184 400 °C) at a lower temperature than with Cl (evidence for trigonal complex around 500 °C).

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However, this is the first direct experimental demonstration that given sufficient amounts of Cl
and S in the aqueous system, Zn undergoes a transformation from predominant chloro/aqua ion
to bisulfide complexing with increasing P and T conditions.

188 AIMD calculations show that at 20 kbar the coordination of Zn(II) reverts towards 189 tetrahedral, which is associated with an increase in the number of bisulfide ligands coordinated 190 to Zn. The effect of pressure on mineral solubility is complex (e.g. Crerar et al. 1985; Brugger et 191 al., 2016). The type of coordination change affecting Zn complexing as a function of pressure is 192 not taken into account by popular extrapolation algorithms (e.g., Sverjensky et al. 2014). In this 193 case, the change in coordination will tend to increase Zn solubility in S-rich fluids with 194 increasing pressure: MD simulations suggest that this effect counterbalances a general trend 195 towards stronger dissociation at high pressures (Seward and Barnes, 1997) driven by pressure-196 dependent changes (i.e. solution density) in the hydration of the free ions (Cl⁻ and HS⁻).

197 Implications

198 The new experiments provide the first experimental confirmation that Zn(II) bisulfide 199 complexes may dominate Zn transport in high temperature neutral-alkaline fluids, including 200 metamorphic fluids (e.g., Zhong et al., 2015b, Mei et al., 2016). MD simulations suggest that 201 pressure-driven coordination changes may be important in controlling Zn speciation (and hence 202 solubility) in deep geological fluids, e.g. subduction zones. Sulfate/polysulfide/bisulfide 203 equilibria in subduction zone is a subject of intense scrutiny and debate (e.g., Debret and 204 Sverjensky; 2017; Rielli et al. 2017). Pons et al. (2016) used the fact that the fractionation of 205 stable Zn isotope between mineral and fluid is sensitive to the predominant Zn(II) complexes 206 (Fuji et al., 2011) to infer that Zn(II) sulfate complexes may be important for Zn transfer from 207 slab to mantle as a result of slab dehydration and deuteric mantle metasomatism. Debret and 208 Sverjensky (2017) used thermodynamic modeling to show that the predominance of sulfate 209 versus bisulfide ligand in fluids resulting from serpentinite dehydration depends upon the 210 amount of dissolved sulfide (pyrrhotite) at 20 kbar and 630-660°C. Our study confirms that

under conditions where reduced sulfur predominates in solution, $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$ (Fuji et al., 2011) and/or $Zn(HS)_3^{2-}$ (Mei et al., 2016) are the most likely Zn complexes accounting for Zn mobility.

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- 310 Figure 1. (a) Experimental setup on beamline 20-ID. (b) View of sample containing solid and air bubble. The sample is located in a 500 µm Re-gasket. The diamond is fluorescent under the 311 X-ray beam; as a result the outer edge of the diamond is "glowing", and the green line across 312 313 shows X-rays travelling through the diamond above the gasket. The black circle in the center is 314 a recess drilled into the top diamond, which allows for solution measurement by the micro-beam 315 travelling parallel to the gasket. (c-d) Stacked the normalized XANES spectra (c) previously 316 published data collected in large volume autoclave (Mei et al., 2015, 2016) and (d) HDAC data. (e-f) Stacked first derivative of the normalized XANES spectra (e) large volume and (f) HDAC 317 data. Note the white line and the maximum of the first derivative shifts to lower energy with 318 319
- 320



323

- **Table 1**. Solution compositions for HDAC (APS) and large volume autoclave (ESRF)
- 325 experiments
- 326

APS-HDAC exp	periments	Max T,P*	Calculated pH, Eh			
Sol2 (RT cell)	0.12 g ZnBr ₂ in 1.16 m NaBr + 0.002 m HBr		Room temperature	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 2.8$		
Sol5	Sphalerite in 1.03 m NaHS + 0.20 m HCl	Th = 211 °C, density ~ 0.85	500 °C, P ~ 4.5 kbar	$\begin{array}{c} pH_{25^{\circ}C}=7.4\\ pH_{500^{\circ}C}=6.7\\ Eh_{500^{\circ}C}=-1.08 \end{array}$		
Sol6	Sphalerite in 0.20 m HCl	$Th = 218 \ ^{\circ}C,$ density ~ 0.85	500 °C, P ~ 4.5 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 0.8$ $pH_{500^{\circ}C} = 1.9$ $Eh_{500^{\circ}C} = -0.27$		
Sol10	Sphalerite in 1.84 m NaHS + excess S	Th = 229 °C, density ~ 0.91	400 °C, P ~ 2.95 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 7.8$ $pH_{400^{\circ}C} = 4.4$ $Eh_{400^{\circ}C} = -0.50$		
ESRF - large vo	lume autoclave (FAME	cell) experiments. S	Solutions A-D were acid	ified to prevent		
hydrolyzed com	plexes.					
SolA	ZnBr ₂ in 0 m NaBr + 0.01 m HBr		600 °C, 1 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 2.0$ $pH 600^{\circ}C = 2.3$		
SolB	ZnCl ₂ in 0 m NaCl + 0.01 m HCl	Mei et al. 2015	500 °C, 1 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 2.1$ $pH_{500^{\circ}C} = 2.7$		
SolC	$ZnCl_2 in 0.5 m NaCl + 0.01 m HCl$	Mei et al. 2015	600 °C, 1 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 2.1$ $pH_{600^{\circ}C} = 5.4$		
SolD	ZnCl ₂ in 3.5 m NaCl + 0.01 m HCl	Mei et al. 2015	500 °C, 1 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 2.2$ $pH_{500^{\circ}C} = 4.6$		
SolE*	ZnS in 2m NaHS	Mei et al. 2016	500 °C, 1 kbar	$pH_{25^{\circ}C} = 10.3$ $Eh_{25^{\circ}C}C = -0.53$ $pH_{500^{\circ}C} = 10.0$ $Eh_{500^{\circ}C} = -1.58$		

327 * Zinc solubility at 500 °C, 1 kbar was estimated to be 13(3) mmolal (850 ppm), based on the step height in transmission. This compares to 70 mmolal predicted using the properties from Zn-bisulfide complexes of Mei et al. (2016), and 338 mmolal using those of Tagirov 2010). For all other conditions (ESRF data), solubility was below detection limit based on transmission (≤ 3 mmolal).

Solubility was calculated following $\Delta u = \Delta \sigma$.l.M.m.d (Pokrovski et al., 2005), where Δu is step height = 0.05(1); $\Delta \sigma$ is the difference in X-ray cross section for Zn before (9600 eV) and after (9700 eV) the edge = 215.3 cm²/g; l is path length = 0.4 cm; M is atomic mass of Zn = 0.06538 kg/mol; m is the molal concentration of Zn in solution (mol/kg); and d is the density of fluid, estimated to be similar to that of a 2 m NaCl @ 500 °C, 1 kbar) = 0.66 g/cc (Driesner and Heinrich, 2007).

Table 2. [sep] Simulation results of Zn(II)-Cl/HS complexes at high pressure

Job ID	Т	Р	Total time	Initial	Stabilization time	Stable	Zn-S			Zn-Cl			Zn-O			CN _{tot}
	(ºC)	(kbar)	(ps)	configuration	(ps)	species										
							Ν	r	σ^2	N	r	σ^2	N	r	σ^2	
1a [¶]	100	1.5	14.44	Zn(H ₂ O) ₅ Cl ⁺	2.32	Zn(H ₂ O) ₃ Cl ⁺	0	-	-	1	2.23	0.0046	3	2.00	0.0067	4
1b	100	1.5	14.32	Zn(H2O)5(HS)+	1.45	Zn(H2O)3(HS)+	1	2.25	0.0045	0	-	-	3	2.02	0.0078	4
1c	100	1.5	14.58	$Zn(H_2O)_{6^{2+}}$	5.08	$Zn(H_2O)_{4^{2+}}$	0	-	-	0	-	-	4	1.97	0.0054	4
2	500	1.5	14.43	Zn(HS)3 ⁻	1.45	Zn(HS)3 ⁻	3	2.28	0.0160	0	-	-	0.16	2.10	-	3.16
3	500	4.5	15.01	Zn(HS)3 ⁻	1.45	Zn(HS)3-	3	2.26	0.0125	0	-	-	0.17	2.33	-	3.17
4a	500	20	15.94	Zn(HS)3-	7.62	Zn(HS)42-	4	2.32	0.0195	0	-	-	0	0	-	4
4b	500	20	15.86	$Zn(H_2O)_{6^{2+}}$	4.35	$Zn(HS)_2O_{1-2}^*$	2	2.26	0.0126	0	-	-	1.68	1.97	-	3.68

* 0=H₂0/0H⁻ 340

341 342 343 [¶]Elemental solution composition: 1 Zn^{2+} , 5 HS^{-} , 1 Cl^{-} , 4 Na, $111 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$.







9658 9660 9662 9664 9666 9668 9670





