

1 **Revision 2**

2 **The iron spin transition of deep nitrogen-bearing mineral Fe₃N_{1.2} at**
3 **high pressure**

4
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9
10 **Highlights:**

11 1) *In-situ* X-ray emission spectroscopy measurements were performed on Fe₃N_{1.2} up to 45.8

12 GPa at room temperature.

13 2) The pressure-induced spin transition of iron in Fe₃N_{1.2} starts at relatively low pressures and

14 completes at ~ 30.5 GPa.

15 3) The iron spin transition pressure is highly related to the nitrogen concentration of

16 hexagonal iron nitrides.

17 4) The identity and concentration of light elements, together with crystal structure, may take

18 charge of the spin transition pressure of iron-rich alloys.

19

20 **Abstract**

21 Nitrogen is an essential element for life, one of the most abundant volatiles in the
22 atmosphere, and an important component in the Earth's interior, where iron nitride is an
23 essential host of deep nitrogen. Here, we investigate the pressure-induced electronic
24 spin-pairing transition of iron in siderazot ($\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$) at pressures to 45.8 GPa at room
25 temperature, using diamond-anvil cell techniques coupled with synchrotron x-ray emission
26 spectroscopy. The integrated intensity of the satellite emission peak (K_{β}') decreases once
27 upon compression and remains unchanged at pressures greater than 30.5 GPa. In other words,
28 the high-spin to low-spin transition of iron in $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ starts immediately at very low pressures
29 and completes at ~ 30.5 GPa. The iron spin transition completion pressures increase with the
30 nitrogen concentration of hexagonal close-packed iron nitrides (i.e., $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$, Fe_7N_3 , and
31 Fe_2N). Moreover, the identity and concentration of light elements, together with their crystal
32 structure, could affect the iron spin transition pressure of binary iron-rich compounds such as
33 Fe_3N , Fe_3C , Fe_3P , Fe_3S , Fe_7C_3 , and Fe_7N_3 . The spin transition of iron-rich alloys could alter
34 the bonding nature and the physical properties including the thermal and electrical
35 conductivity, influencing the thermal state and evolution of planetary interiors in turn.

36 **Keywords:** spin transition, x-ray emission spectroscopy, high pressure, deep nitrogen

37 **Introduction**

38 Nitrogen is a key probe to understand the accretion and degassing of volatiles and the
39 differentiation and evolution history of the Earth. It is also one of the most poorly studied
40 elements under the Earth's deep interior pressure and temperature (*P-T*) conditions. Surface
41 and deep nitrogen are largely connected via subduction and volcanic degassing [*Halama et*
42 *al.*, 2012; *Mao and Mao*, 2020; *Halama and Bebout*, 2021]. Notably, the nitrogen
43 concentration in the present-day bulk silicate Earth may be only tens of ppm, severely
44 depleted with respect to other volatiles like carbon and sulfur [*Marty*, 2012; *Bergin et al.*,
45 2015; *Yoshioka et al.*, 2018]. Apart from volatile degassing during accretion, the metallic core
46 has been considered a hidden reservoir to account for the missing nitrogen according to the
47 siderophile nature of nitrogen as revealed in metal-silicate partition experiments [*Hirschmann*,
48 2016; *Li et al.*, 2016; *Dalou et al.*, 2017; *Dalou et al.*, 2019]. Up to 0.5 wt.% nitrogen,
49 together with other candidate light elements of Si, O, C, S, and H, has been suggested in the
50 Earth's core to interpret the core density deficit based on the global seismic models, e.g., the
51 Preliminary Reference Earth Model (PREM) [*Dziewonski and Anderson*, 1981; *Sugiura*,
52 1998]. In addition, the deep mantle becomes relatively reduced with the ~ 1 wt% metallic
53 iron that is saturated at depths greater than 250 km [*Rohrbach et al.*, 2007]. Based on the
54 presence of iron nitrides and carbonitrides in meteorites and deep diamond inclusions,
55 nitrogen may be distributed heterogeneously and enriched in metal phases in the Earth's
56 interior [*Li and Keppler*, 2014; *Litasov et al.*, 2017; *Rubin and Ma*, 2017; *Huang et al.*,
57 2021].

58 Iron nitrides have been widely suggested as the primary hosts of deep nitrogen in the
59 reduced Earth's interior; their thermostability and phase relations have attracted extensive
60 attention. Among these Fe-N intermediates, orthorhombic ζ -Fe₂N (space group: *Pbcn*), cubic
61 γ' -Fe₄N (space group: *Pm $\bar{3}m$*), and nonstoichiometric siderazot ϵ -Fe₃N_{*x*} ($0.75 < x < 1.5$) are
62 stable at ambient conditions [Nielsen and Burghwald, 1981; Minobe et al., 2015; Litasov et al.,
63 2017; Yoshioka et al., 2018]. Under compression, ϵ -Fe₃N_{*x*} forms from Fe₂N and Fe₄N at 9-15
64 GPa and 1400-1600 K [Schwarz et al., 2009; Guo et al., 2013]. It has either a *P3₁2* or *P6₃22*
65 space group with hexagonal close-packed iron atoms while nitrogen atoms occupy part of the
66 octahedral voids [Sifkovits et al., 1999; Guo et al., 2013; Bette et al., 2021]. The ϵ -Fe₃N_{*x*}
67 phase is the same as the ϵ -Fe₇N₃ phase when *x* is equal to ~ 1.3 . Fe₇N₃ undergoes the
68 pressure-induced phase transition from ϵ to β crystal structures at pressures greater than 41
69 GPa and ~ 1000 K while the β -Fe₇N₃ has been considered a candidate nitrogen-bearing phase
70 in the Earth's core [Minobe et al., 2015; Kusakabe et al., 2019]. Additionally, previous
71 studies reported that the ϵ -Fe₃N_{*x*} phase is stable at least up to 60 GPa at room temperature [Lv
72 et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2021]. To date, the effects of nitrogen concentration on the stability
73 and physical properties of nonstoichiometric ϵ -Fe₃N_{*x*} have not been investigated.

74 The iron 3*d* orbitals collapse under extremely high pressures of the deep Earth, leading to
75 the high-spin to low-spin transition of iron-bearing minerals. The configuration and
76 interaction of the outermost shell electrons of iron, which are dramatically altered by pressure,
77 are essentially significant for materials' physical and chemical properties [Liu et al., 2019;
78 Zhao et al., 2020]. The pressure-induced spin transition of iron greatly changes the chemical

79 bonding of relevant minerals and thus, affects thermodynamic properties, rheology, and the
80 thermal and electrical conductivity of iron-bearing minerals [Lin *et al.*, 2013]. The iron spin
81 transition occurs widely in the deep mantle for both iron-bearing oxide-hydroxides and
82 metallic compounds [Lin *et al.*, 2004a; Lin and Tsuchiya, 2008; Gu *et al.*, 2014; Chen *et al.*,
83 2018; Su *et al.*, 2021]. At ambient conditions, the 3d-orbit electrons of Fe in all iron nitrides
84 are in a high-spin ferromagnetic arrangement [Sifkovits *et al.*, 1999]. The magnetic moment
85 of Fe-N compounds generally decreases with increasing nitrogen concentration, and it is
86 about $2.0 \mu_B$ for ϵ -Fe₃N [Panda and Gajbhiye, 1997; Leineweber *et al.*, 2001; Guo *et al.*,
87 2013]. The iron spin transition has been widely reported for the Fe-C, Fe-S, and Fe-P systems,
88 while it has only been investigated in the Fe-N system for γ' -Fe₄N and ϵ -Fe₇N₃ under high
89 pressure [Ishimatsu *et al.*, 2003; Lv *et al.*, 2020]. Lv *et al.* [2020] revealed that the iron spin
90 transition of ϵ -Fe₇N₃ completes at 43 GPa and 300 K, but it may not apply to other ϵ -Fe₃N_x
91 compositions. Thus far, the effects of nitrogen on the iron spin transition pressure remains
92 poorly constrained with respect to other light elements because the crystal structure and
93 arrangement of iron 3d-orbital electrons could be affected by nitrogen concentration
94 [Widenmeyer *et al.*, 2014].

95 In this work, the spin transition of iron in ϵ -Fe₃N_{1.2} is determined in diamond-anvil cells
96 by synchrotron x-ray emission spectroscopy (XES) at high pressure. First, the magnetic spin
97 state of iron in ϵ -Fe₃N_{1.2} is measured up to 45.8 GPa at 300 K. The high-spin to low-spin
98 transition of iron in ϵ -Fe₃N_{1.2} starts at pressures below 9.8 GPa and completes at \sim 30.5 GPa.
99 Then, we evaluate the effects of nitrogen concentration on iron nitrides' spin transition

100 pressure by comparing with previous studies on the spin transition of iron-rich alloys.
101 Furthermore, it is discussed how the identity and concentration of light elements regulate the
102 iron spin transition pressure of candidate iron-rich alloys.

103

104 **Methods**

105 The ϵ -Fe₃N_x polycrystalline (Lot#: RA191101) sample was obtained from Antechology
106 Co., Ltd, Beijing. Previous studies suggested the ideal space group for ϵ -Fe₃N_x is either $P3_12$
107 or $P6_322$ and their structural differences are subtle and challenging to be recognized by x-ray
108 diffraction measurements [Guo *et al.*, 2013]. Moreover, the $P3_12$ space group has been
109 recommended for nonstoichiometric ϵ -Fe₃N_x while $P6_322$ for stoichiometric ϵ -Fe₇N₃
110 [Leineweber *et al.*, 2001; Niewa *et al.*, 2009; Lv *et al.*, 2020]. In this work, the x-ray
111 diffraction pattern of ϵ -Fe₃N_x at ambient conditions confirms its hexagonal crystal structure in
112 the space group of $P3_12$ and unit cell volume of 85.788(75) Å³ with unit cell parameters
113 $a=b=4.740(1)$ Å and $c=4.409(2)$ Å. On the basis of the empirical relationship between the
114 unit cell volume and nitrogen content of iron nitrides [Litasov *et al.*, 2017], the
115 polycrystalline sample has a mildly higher nitrogen content than stoichiometric ϵ -Fe₃N with
116 the chemical formula of Fe₃N_{1.216(7)}. For simplification, Fe₃N_{1.2} is used to represent the
117 ϵ -Fe₃N_{1.216(7)} sample hereafter in this study.

118 The Fe₃N_{1.2} sample of ~ 60 μm in diameter and ~ 8 μm thick was loaded into a diamond
119 anvil cell with a flat culet size of 300 μm. The Be gasket was pre-indented to 20–25 μm thick,
120 and a hole of 200 μm in diameter was drilled into the center of the indentation. Cubic boron

121 nitride (cBN)-epoxy powder was packed into this hole and then compacted to 20 GPa at room
122 temperature. A hole of $\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter was finally drilled into the center of the cBN
123 gasket insert to serve as the sample chamber using the laser drilling system at the Center for
124 High Pressure Science and Technology Advanced Research (HPSTAR), Beijing. Silicone oil
125 was used as a pressure-transmitting medium and two 5–8 μm -sized ruby spheres were placed
126 next to the sample as pressure calibration [Mao *et al.*, 1986]. The pressure was measured and
127 averaged over multiple times before and after XES measurements at a given pressure, and its
128 uncertainty is mostly less than 3%.

129 High-pressure x-ray emission spectra of $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ were collected between 2.9 and 45.8
130 GPa at room temperature at the HPCAT beamline 16-ID-D of the Advanced Photon Source,
131 Argonne National Laboratory. The incident x-ray beam of 11.3 keV with the full width at half
132 maximum (FWHM) of less than 1 eV was focused down to $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$ vertically and
133 horizontally at the sample position. The Fe emission signal was collected from 7020 to 7080
134 eV with an energy step of 0.3 eV using a Peltier-cooled silicon detector after being selected
135 by a silicon analyzer [Liu *et al.*, 2019]. Helium gas was filled into the x-ray path to reduce the
136 absorption by air. Each XES spectrum was collected for ~ 1 hour, and three XES spectra were
137 accumulated at each pressure. All spectra were normalized to the transmitted intensity, and
138 the K_β main peaks were aligned to 7058 eV [Liu *et al.*, 2019]. The intensity difference of the
139 satellite peak K_β' was integrated from 7030 to 7053 eV using the integrated relative difference
140 (IRD) method [Chen *et al.*, 2014]. Compared with the integrated absolute difference (IAD)
141 method, the IRD method aligns the main peaks to the same energy position, which could

142 avoid the broadening effect of the $K_{\beta 1,3}$ peak in modelling the spin momentum reduction with
143 increasing pressure [Mao *et al.*, 2014; Lin *et al.*, 2016].

144

145 **Results and Discussion**

146 The magnetic order and spin state of iron in $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ were probed by the K_{β} fluorescence
147 peaks from the XES spectra up to 45.8 GPa (Figure 1). Each K_{β} emission spectrum at a given
148 pressure can be divided into a main $K_{\beta 1,3}$ peak and a lower-energy satellite K_{β}' peak due to the
149 final state interaction between the $3p$ core hole and the electrons of the partially filled $3d$
150 shell of iron [Gu *et al.*, 2016; Liu *et al.*, 2019]. All spectra were normalized to the transmitted
151 intensity and then shifted to set the $K_{\beta 1,3}$ emission lines to 7058 eV. The intensity of the K_{β}'
152 peak is indicative of the spin state and total spin moment of iron in $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$. As the pressure
153 increases, a gradual reduction of the K_{β}' peak corresponds to the pressure-induced high-spin
154 to low-spin transition of iron [Lin *et al.*, 2005]. The integrated intensity of the K_{β}' peak is
155 plotted between 7030 and 7053 eV and fitted to the Boltzmann function in Figure 2. Upon
156 compression, the intensity of the satellite K_{β}' peak decreases gradually up to 30.5 GPa and
157 remains unchanged at higher pressures. The steep slope in the relationship between the
158 high-spin fraction and pressure under relatively low pressures indicates that the spin
159 transition of iron in Fe_3N starts at pressure below 2.9–9.8 GPa. Moreover, the unchanged
160 intensity of the K_{β}' peak at pressures over 30.5 GPa suggests the completion of the iron spin
161 transition of $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ at ~ 30.5 GPa.

162 The magnetic state is highly related to the spin transition of iron in Fe₃N_{1.2}. At ambient
163 conditions, Fe₃N_{1.2} is in a ferromagnetic (FM) state while all the 3d orbitals of Fe are
164 occupied with four unpaired electrons [Leineweber *et al.*, 2001; Lin *et al.*, 2013]. The
165 high-spin to low-spin transition of Fe₃N_{1.2} completes at ~ 30.5 GPa, likely corresponding to
166 the FM to nonmagnetic (NM) transition. We note that the FM to paramagnetic (PM)
167 transition cannot be detected with the XES measurements due to the relative orientations of
168 individual spins [Lv *et al.*, 2020]. The compression behavior may provide an indirect
169 measurement for the FM-PM transition in the Fe-N system, which has been observed in other
170 Fe-light element compounds like Fe₇C₃ [Chen *et al.*, 2014]. Among the Fe-N compounds, the
171 discontinuity of the unit cell volume of Fe₄N at ~ 24 GPa in Zhuang *et al.* [2021] may
172 correspond to the FM-PM transition, as suggested by Ishimatsu *et al.* [2003] using XMCD
173 measurements. However, this method might not be applicable for ε-Fe₃N_x because of its
174 relatively smooth compression behavior [Adler and Williams, 2005; Lv *et al.*, 2020]. It should
175 be noted that the plateau in the relationship between the unit cell volume and pressure in
176 Adler and Williams [2005] is likely caused by the nonhydrostatic conditions. Previous ab
177 initio calculations predicted the spin transition of iron in ε-Fe₃N at ~ 125 GPa and 0 K, which
178 is inconsistent with our XES results [Popov *et al.*, 2015]. Nevertheless, further work is
179 needed to decode the FM-PM transition in the ε-Fe₃N_x by using XMCD or Mössbauer
180 spectroscopy measurements.

181 The nitrogen concentration, together with the crystal structure, may control the
182 magnetism properties of iron nitrides such as ζ-Fe₂N, ε-Fe₃N, ε-Fe₇N₃, and γ'-Fe₄N. In the

183 lattices of these Fe-N compounds, nitrogen atoms occupy the octahedral sites with strong
184 covalent $p-d$ bonds, which greatly influences the magnetic moments [Sifkovits *et al.*, 1999;
185 Guo *et al.*, 2013]. At ambient conditions, the γ' -Fe₄N is based on the face-centered cubic
186 structure of iron with 1/4 of the octahedral voids occupied by nitrogen, carrying a moment of
187 about $2.0 \mu_B$. Moreover, ζ -Fe₂N, ε -Fe₇N₃, and ε -Fe₃N are based on the (slightly distorted)
188 hexagonal close-packed lattice of iron with 1/2, 3/7, and 1/3 of the octahedral voids occupied
189 by nitrogen, respectively [Sifkovits *et al.*, 1999]. The number of nearest neighboring nitrogen
190 atoms for each iron atom varies from 2 to 3, resulting in a magnetic moment reduction from
191 2.0 to $1.5 \mu_B$ for these hexagonal iron nitrides [Panda and Gajbhiye, 1997]. In other words,
192 the nitrogen concentration could strongly influence the nature of the pressure-induced spin
193 transition of iron nitrides.

194 The completion pressures of the iron spin transition for all the iron nitrides are higher
195 than pure iron. As shown in Figure 2, the spin transition completion pressures for metallic
196 iron is ~ 13 GPa, which corresponds to the bcc-hcp phase transition at 300 K [Monza *et al.*,
197 2011]. This suggests a positive effect of nitrogen on the spin transition completion pressure.
198 The spin transition completion pressure of Fe₃N_{1.2} in this work is lower than that of Fe₇N₃
199 reported by Lv *et al.* [2020], though the experimental settings are nearly identical. The
200 different completion pressures indicate that nitrogen concentration mostly dictates the iron
201 spin transition of the hexagonal Fe-N compounds. In addition, this trend is further confirmed
202 because Fe₂N with higher nitrogen concentration shows a higher spin transition completion
203 pressure. These results suggest that more nitrogen in the Fe-N hexagonal lattice provides

204 more covalent bonds, which likely enhances the structural stability against compression
205 [*Sifkovits et al.*, 1999]. On the other hand, γ' -Fe₄N shows a relatively high spin transition
206 completion pressure while its nitrogen content is much lower than ϵ -Fe₃N. This may be
207 attributed to the difference in the crystal structure and nature of Fe-N bonding. There are two
208 different Fe sites in γ' -Fe₄N: Fe(I) is similar to fcc-Fe, and Fe(II) has two nearest neighboring
209 nitrogen atoms, whereas all the Fe atoms are equally sited in hexagonal iron nitrides like
210 ϵ -Fe₃N [*Sifkovits et al.*, 1999]. Therefore, nitrogen concentrations, together with crystal
211 structures, primarily control the iron spin transition of iron nitrides at high pressure. The
212 completion pressures of spin transition of iron in Fe₃C and Fe₇C₃ also exhibit a similar trend
213 on how carbon concentration affects the pressure range of the iron spin transition in the Fe-C
214 system [*Chen et al.*, 2018].

215

216 **Implications**

217 The iron spin transition has been widely observed in iron-rich Fe-light element alloys,
218 such as the Fe-C, Fe-N, Fe-S, and Fe-P systems [*Ishimatsu et al.*, 2003; *Lin et al.*, 2004a; *Lin*
219 *et al.*, 2004b; *Chen et al.*, 2014; *Gu et al.*, 2014; *Gu et al.*, 2016; *Chen et al.*, 2018; *Lai et al.*,
220 2020; *Lv et al.*, 2020]. The spin transitions of iron in these Fe-light element alloys are often
221 associated with a volume collapse. Consequently, the equation of state for the low-spin state
222 differs from that for the high-spin state at given *P-T* conditions [*Chen et al.*, 2014; *Lai et al.*,
223 2020; *Lv et al.*, 2020]. The spin transition pressures of various Fe-rich binary alloys are
224 compared in [Figure 3](#). The spin transition completion pressures of iron in the two iron

225 carbides are greater than in iron nitrides, suggesting carbon has a stronger lattice stabilizing
226 effect than nitrogen. The large difference in the spin transition completion pressures between
227 $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ and Fe_3C may result from different crystal structures. On the contrary, the spin
228 transition pressures are comparable between Fe_7N_3 and Fe_7C_3 . We note that Fe_7N_3 , Fe_7C_3 , and
229 $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ have a hexagonal lattice, while Fe_3C has an orthorhombic structure [Caracas, 2016].
230 Moreover, the spin transition completion pressures of iron sulfide Fe_3S and iron phosphide
231 Fe_3P are relatively lower than iron carbides and nitrides. Such pressure differences could be
232 ascribed to the tetragonal crystal structure of Fe_3S and Fe_3P because both sulfur and
233 phosphorus have larger atomic radii [Slater, 1964]. Similarly, the spin transition onset
234 pressures are also different from each other. The iron spin transition of Fe_3N starts at
235 pressures lower than 5-10 GPa, whereas other iron nitrides and all iron carbides undergo the
236 electronic spin-pairing transition of iron at pressures greater than 10 GPa. Notably, the iron
237 spin transition of all the iron-rich phosphides and sulfides starts at very low pressures under
238 compression. Therefore, the identity and concentration of light elements in the metallic cores
239 of terrestrial planets and asteroids may control the spin state of iron at high pressure.

240 The spin transition completion pressure may be positively correlated with high
241 temperatures for iron alloyed with light elements. Previous studies found that the mixed spin
242 state of iron widens with increasing temperature in ferropicriase, iron-bearing carbonate, and
243 metallic iron [Tsuchiya *et al.*, 2006; Lin *et al.*, 2007; Liu *et al.*, 2014; Ono, 2015]. In addition,
244 the onset pressure of the iron spin transition could be slightly increased with increasing
245 temperature, while the completion pressure may be enhanced significantly with increasing

246 temperature. The HS-LS boundary slope varies among previous studies, and it is about 0.045
247 K/GPa for hcp-Fe [Ono, 2015]. Assuming that iron-rich alloys share a similar slope as pure
248 iron under high temperatures, all the Fe-C, Fe-N, Fe-S, and Fe-P systems might be in LS state
249 in the mantle and core of the present-day Earth [Katsura *et al.*, 2010]. On the other hand, the
250 spin crossover of iron-rich alloys may occur under the *P-T* conditions of small terrestrial
251 planets, e.g., Mars and Mercury [Smith *et al.*, 2012; Margot *et al.*, 2018; Stähler *et al.*, 2021].
252 Furthermore, the spin transition of iron in Fe₃N and other iron-rich alloys could have an
253 influence on the compressibility and conductivity of solid metallic cores of terrestrial planets,
254 likely controlling the nucleation pattern, thermal dynamo, and structure of planetary interiors.

255

256

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266

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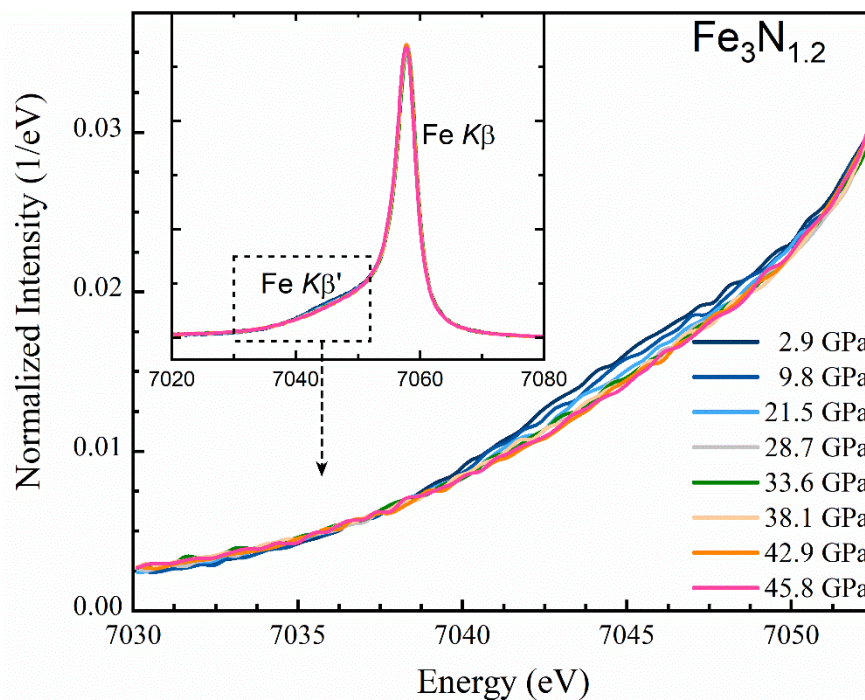
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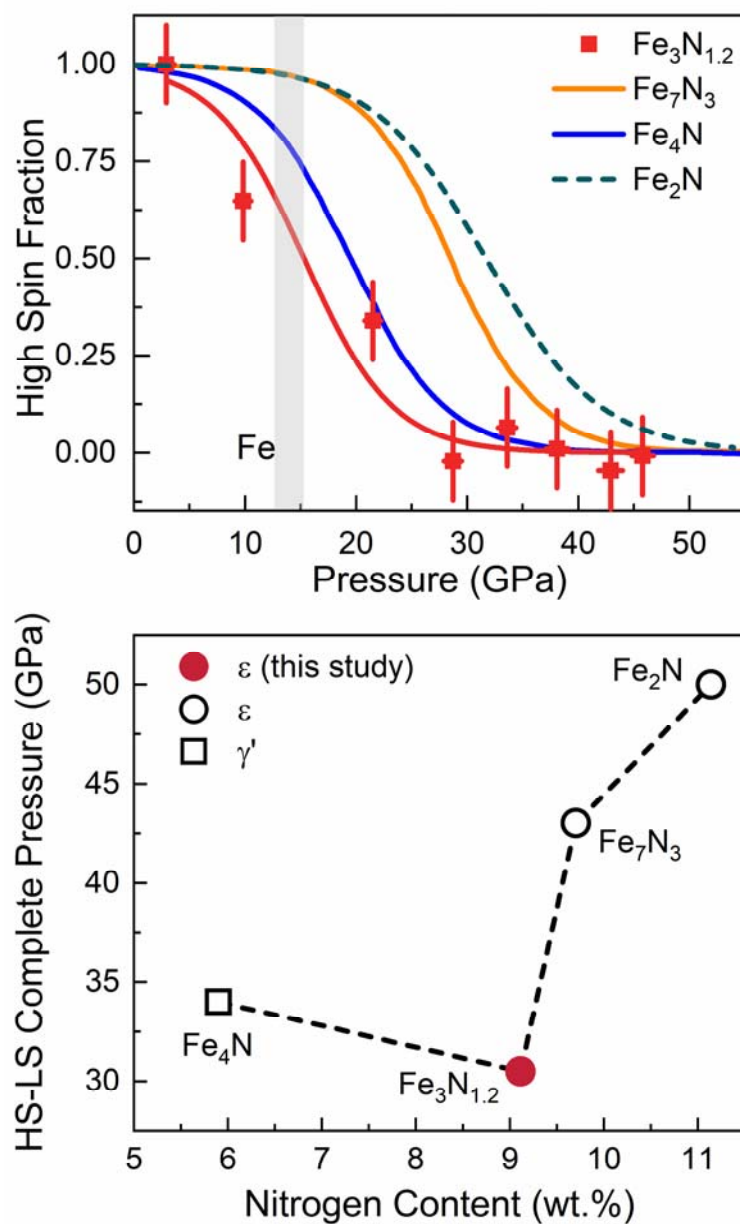
423 **Figure Captions**

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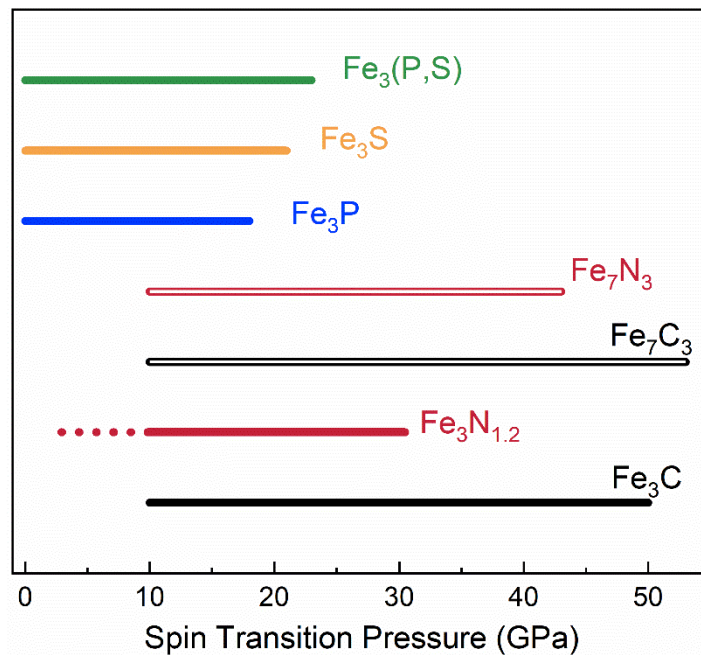
426 **Figure 1.** High-pressure XES spectra of $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ up to 45.8 GPa at 300 K. The XES spectra
427 were normalized to unity in their integrated intensity. The insert is the full view of the Fe-K_β
428 fluorescence spectra from 7020 to 7080 eV, with the main peak aligned to 7058 eV. The
429 reduction of the satellite peak with increasing pressure indicates the high-spin to low-spin
430 transition of $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ under compression.



431

432 **Figure 2.** The complete pressure of spin transition in iron nitrides as a function of nitrogen
433 content. The upper panel shows the high-spin fraction of Fe in iron nitrides as a function of
434 pressure. The red squares show the high-spin fraction of hexagonal Fe₃N_{1.2} derived from the
435 XES measurements in this study. The spectrum at 2.9 GPa is adopted as the high spin
436 reference spectrum while the average of nearly-unchanged spectra at 35–50 GPa is used as

437 the low spin reference spectrum. The red curve is the Boltzmann function fitting to the XES
438 data of $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$. The solid yellow and blue curves represent the high-spin fraction for
439 hexagonal Fe_7N_3 and Fe_4N , respectively, derived from the XES experiments by *Lv et al.*
440 [2020]. The dashed olive curve is the iron spin transition of hexagonal Fe_2N based on the
441 crystal axis ratio as a function of pressure [*Zhuang et al.*, 2021]. The volume jump of Fe_2N at
442 10-20 GPa in *Zhuang et al.* [2021] may correspond to an isostructural phase transition such
443 as the FM-PM transition rather than the HS-LS transition. The grey zone indicates the spin
444 transition pressure (magnetic collapse) of pure Fe, which is accompanied simultaneously by
445 iron's bcc to hcp transition at 300 K [*Monza et al.*, 2011]. The lower panel shows the spin
446 transition complete pressure as a function of nitrogen content. Circle symbols represent
447 hcp-Fe-N phases, and the open square stands for fcc Fe_4N . The dashed lines are drawn to
448 guide the eye.



449

450 **Figure 3.** Spin transition pressure of iron-rich nitrides, carbides, phosphides, and sulfides.

451 Each line shows the pressure range of the iron spin transition for a given phase. The left and

452 right ends of the lines denote the onset and completion pressures of the HS-LS transition,

453 respectively. The dotted line of $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}_{1.2}$ indicates the uncertainty of the onset pressure of the

454 HS-LS transition. Literature data for Fe_3P and $\text{Fe}_3(\text{P,S})$ are from XES experiments in *Gu et al.*

455 [2016], Fe_3S from SMS experiments in *Lin et al.* [2004a], Fe_3C and Fe_7C_3 from XES

456 experiments in *Chen et al.* [2018], and Fe_7N_3 from XES experiments in *Lv et al.* [2020].