

Structural properties of Carbonate-Silicate melts: An EXAFS Study on Y and Sr

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Carbonatite volcanism generally occurs in intraplate settings associated with continental rifting. The only active carbonatitic volcano is the Oldoinyo Lengai, generating sodium-rich carbonatites. The processes of carbonatite genesis are still unresolved; however carbonate-bearing melts play a crucial role during mantle melting, in diamond formation and as metasomatic agents. Silicate and carbonate melts are immiscible at low pressures invoking trace element fractionation [1]. Using extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) spectroscopy, we investigate the influence of carbonate concentration on the structural incorporation of the geo-chemically important trace elements Y and Sr in silicate and carbonate melts in the system $\text{Na}_2\text{O}-\text{CaO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2-\text{CO}_2$. Data of silicate glasses with up to 10 wt% CO_2 , quenched from melts under high pressure/temperature (HP/HT), indicate no or only a slight effect of CO_2 on the local structure of Y and Sr. Compositions with higher CO_2 contents could not be quenched to glasses. In-situ data along the join from silicate to carbonate composition were collected under HP/ HT using the Paris Edinburgh-Press. In-situ experiments reveal shorter Y-O-bond lengths (~ 2.2 instead of ~ 2.3 Å) as well as a higher degree of disorder (σ^2 of ~ 0.02 instead of ~ 0.005 Å²) compared to the glasses. Furthermore, there is a slight increase in Y-O bond length along the join silicate – carbonate composition from ~ 2.2 to ~ 2.3 Å. The XANES region of the spectra show distinct differences between the glass and in-situ data as well as along the join silicate – carbonate, which implies significant changes in average site symmetry. Information derived from the trace elements' local structure is used to develop a structural model for carbonate-silicate melts in order to better understand chemical fractionation processes in carbonate-bearing magmatic systems.

[1] I.V. Veksler, C. Petibon, G.A. Jenner et al., *J. Petrol.* **1998**, 39, 2095.