

High Pressure-High Temperature Reactions of CO₂ – SiO₂ systems

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Carbon dioxide and silicon dioxide, both group IV oxides, are two of the fundamental components in the Universe. Under pressure and high temperature, CO₂ is a supercritical solvent and, therefore, is very likely that under the Earth's mantle conditions, may react with silica (SiO₂). The new compounds formed may play an important role in volcanic and seismic activity. This possibility has driven recent experimental investigations on potential reaction between CO₂ and SiO₂. A disordered silicon carbonate was found from the compression of a microporous SSZ-567 zeolite filled with CO₂ at 18-26 GPa and 600-980 K. More interestingly, a crystalline cristobalite-type CO₂-SiO₂ solid solution was obtained from the reaction of CO₂ and molten silica at 16-22 GPa at 4000 K. Here we present results of First-principle density functional-based molecular dynamics (MD) and total energy calculations to study the reaction mechanisms, structures and products of the reactions of CO₂ with SSZ-567, molten silica and stishovite under high pressure and high temperature. The calculations reproduced the different products observed by experiments. In addition, it provides detailed mechanistic information on the novel chemical reactions and the physical and electronic properties of the products.

[1] Santoro, *et.al.*, (2011). *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **108**, 7689-7692. [2]. Santoro M, *et al.* (2014). *Nat Commun* **5**, 3761.