

Experimental Determination of H₂ Solubility in Primitive Melts

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Exoplanet science is a flourishing field. Imminent new data from telescopes such as JWST require the development of models to interpret these data. Geochemical models, however, that are applied to exoplanets are based on Earth's chemistry and petrological relationships, many of which are still not well understood. Models of how solid planets and their atmospheres evolve depend on the solubility of volatile species in molten rock. But, studies of reduced volatiles in magma are not common. H₂ is the most abundant species in primary (nebula-derived) planetary atmospheres, which may be in direct contact with primitive magma oceans for extended durations of time [1]. The degree to which H₂ could be ingassed to, or degassed from, a magma ocean is important because this allocation sets the internal water budget of the planet and can affect future melting behavior and habitability. An increase in mantle H₂ may also lead to more H partitioned into the planet's metallic core.

Here we present the results of H₂ solubility experiments performed at high and near-ambient pressures. Previous work determined the solubility of H₂ in andesitic and basaltic compositions [2]; we extend this data to primitive and pyrolytic silicate compositions at multiple pressures and temperatures. Preliminary data suggest that H₂ is more soluble than previously suggested at all conditions currently probed. Implications of these data will be presented.

[1] Owen et al. (2020), *SpSciRev*, 216 (129).

[2] Hirschmann et al. (2012), *EPSL*, 345–348, 38–48.