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Elastic behavior and high pressure-induced phase transition in chabazite: new data from a sample from Nova Scotia

L. Leardini (1), S. Quartieri (1), G. Vezzalini (2), A. Martucci (3), and V. Dmitriev (4)

(1) Department of Earth Science, University of Messina, Viale Ferdinando Stagno d'Alcontres 31, I-98166 Messina S. Agata, Italy (lleardini@unime.it; squartieri@unime.it), (2) Department of Earth Science, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Largo Sant' Eufemia, 19, I-41100 Modena, Italy (mariagiovanna.vezzalini@unimore.it), (3) Department of Earth Science, University of Ferrara, Sezione di Mineralogia, Petrografia e Geofisica, Via Saragat 1, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy (mrs@unife.it), (4) Swiss-Norwegian Beam Lines at ESRF, BP220, 38043 Grenoble Cedex, France.

Recently, the high pressure (HP) behavior of a natural chabazite from Vallerano [1] (VALL), and on the synthetic phases SAPO-34 [1] and ALPO-34 [2], was investigated in the frame of a wider project aimed at understanding the role of the framework/extraframework content on the compressibility of CHA-type porous materials.

In this work, further structural information is obtained studying the response to HP of another natural chabazite sample from Nova Scotia (Canada) (NS) (s.g. *R-3mR* [3]), characterized by a different chemical composition with respect to VALL. The study was performed by means of *in situ* synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) and silicone oil as non-penetrating P-transmitting medium. XRPD experiments were performed in DAC at the BM01 beamline at ESRF (Grenoble, France) with a fixed $\lambda=0.7355$ Å. Powder patterns were collected from P_{amb} up to 8.6 GPa and upon decompression. All the features of the P_{amb} pattern and the unit cell parameters are well recovered upon P release. Below 2.1 GPa, a and α cell parameters slightly decrease and increase respectively with a resulting volume reduction of 3.6 %. Above 2.1 GPa, a transition to a triclinic *P-1* pseudo-rhombohedral phase is observed. The rhombohedral to triclinic phase transition is accompanied by an abrupt decrease in the unit cell parameters and in the unit cell volume ($\Delta V=-4.0\%$). Between 2.5 and 5.9 GPa, the triclinic/pseudo-rhombohedral cell parameters decrease regularly and the unit cell volume variation ($\Delta V=-3.0\%$) indicates a lower compressibility with respect to that observed before the transition. In the highest P regime (5.9-7.2 GPa), a further slope change, with an increase in compressibility, is observed. As a whole, ΔV between P_{amb} and 7.2 GPa is -12.6%. The elastic parameters, calculated with a second order BM-EoS, are $V_0 = 826$ (1) Å³, $K_0 = 54$ (3) GPa and $V_0 = 784$ (2) Å³, $K_0 = 91$ (5) GPa, for the rhombohedral and triclinic phase, respectively.

Preliminary results from Rietveld refinements up to about 1 GPa, suggest that the deformation mechanism acting in the low-P regime is a cooperative tilting of the tetrahedra belonging to the double 6-ring – resulting in a decrease of its thickness – accompanied by a simultaneous di-trigonalization of the two 6-rings. A similar mechanism was previously observed during compression of levyne [4].

The HP-induced cell volume contraction of NS (12.6 %) is higher than that of VALL (10.3%) in the same P range. This is congruent with the lower content in large extraframework potassium cations of NS, which contribute to sustain the porous structure in VALL.

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