

3rd Joint AIC-SILS Conference

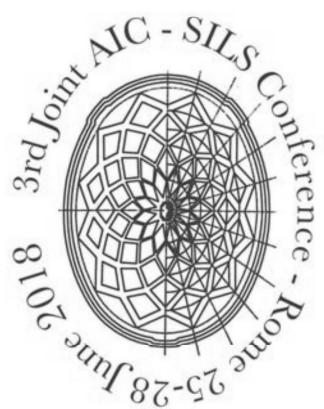
Rome 25-28 June 2018



SILS



Programme and Book of Abstracts



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MS3 – e-P8: High-pressure and high-temperature behaviors of intermediate scapolite by in situ synchrotron X-ray diffraction

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Scapolites represent a complex solid solution of volatiles-bearing aluminosilicate minerals common in metamorphic environments, from the hydrothermal to the granulite facies conditions. The three end members of the solid solution are: marialite ($\text{Na}_4\text{Al}_3\text{Si}_9\text{O}_{24}\text{Cl}$), meionite ($\text{Ca}_4\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}\text{CO}_3$) and silvialite ($\text{Ca}_4\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}\text{SO}_4$). Scapolites usually form for the reaction of plagioclase with salts-bearing metamorphic fluids at non-ambient pressure and temperature and, therefore, may act as reservoirs for volatiles down to the lower crust [1], or induce fluids release if destabilized [2]. To understand and predict the relative stability of a scapolite of a given crystal chemistry in a mineral assemblage at metamorphic conditions, it is crucial to determine the thermo-elastic constants across the solid-solution members, as well as the crystal structure response to varying pressure and temperature. In this light, we have investigated the high- P (at ambient- T) and high- T (at ambient- P) behaviors of a natural sample of scapolite, chemical formula $(\text{Na}_{1.86}\text{Ca}_{1.86}\text{K}_{0.23}\text{Fe}_{0.01})(\text{Al}_{4.36}\text{Si}_{7.64})\text{O}_{24}[\text{Cl}_{0.48}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.48}(\text{SO}_4)_{0.01}]$ intermediate between the end members marialite and meionite, by means of in situ single-crystal and powder X-ray diffraction, using both conventional and synchrotron X-ray sources.

At high pressure, the investigated scapolite undergoes a phase transition, between 9.23 and 9.87 GPa, from the tetragonal $I4/m$ space group (stable at room conditions) toward a triclinic polymorph, characterized by a highly distorted tetrahedral framework. The elastic behavior of the tetragonal scapolite has been described by fitting the experimental V - P data to a III-order Birch-Murnaghan equation of state, which provided a refined $K_{V0} = 70(2)$ GPa ($\beta_{V0} = 0.0143(4)$ GPa $^{-1}$) and $K_V' = 4.8(7)$. A comparison with the refined bulk moduli reported in the literature for three further members belonging to the marialite-meionite joint [3,4], allows to define, at a first approximation, a chemical dependence of the scapolite bulk modulus: K_{V0} (GPa) = $53(2) + 0.45(4)*(\% \text{Me})$, where $\% \text{Me} = 100 * [\text{M}^{2+}/(\text{M}^+ + \text{M}^{2+})]$, M = Na $^+$, Ca $^{2+}$, K $^+$... An anomalous compressibility along the [001] axis and a change in the structure deformation mechanisms at the atomic scale suggest a destabilization at $P > 3$ GPa (at ambient- T).

Preliminary analysis of the high- T experimental data revealed a dramatic anisotropy of the thermal expansion, which is only accommodated within the ($hk0$) plane, whereas for the c unit-cell parameter no T -induced deviations from the ambient value are observed within the experimental uncertainty, in agreement with what previously reported for other scapolite solid solution members [5,6].

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