Geodynamics Seminar

第304回ジオダイナミクスセミナー

Decomposition of forsterite with existence of H_2 under high pressure and temperature

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Abstract

C-O-H fluids play important roles in the dynamics and evolution of the Earth's mantle. For example, the existence of H₂O significantly affects some key physical properties of mantle minerals, such as melting temperature, elastic properties, electric conductivies, and phase transitions pressures, which are important in addressing these phenomena and possess within the mantle. The composition of C-O-H fluids depends on the surrounding oxidation states in the mantle. The oxidation state of the mantle is known to be reduced with depth. In deeper part of the upper mantle, even H₂-fluids exist in addition to H₂O fluids. Olivine is the most abundant mineral in the upper mantle. The reaction of H₂O with olivine has been shown to significantly influence its melting temperature, reduce electric conductivity, and decrease the phase transition pressure. Influence of H₂ to stability of olivine is also great interest. In the present study, high pressure-temperature experiments using a mixture of forsterite (Mg₂SiO₄) and H₂ were performed in a laser heated diamond anvil cell. At 8.8 GPa to 15.4 GPa and above 1600K, decomposition of olivine and formation of periclase (MgO), and stishovite/coesite (SiO₂) were observed from XRD measurements. Such decomposition was not observed in dry olivine and H₂O-olivine system, indicating that decomposition of olivine was occurred by the reaction with H₂ fluids. Dissolution of SiO₂ into H₂-fluids was suggested by TEM observations.