The 504th Geodynamics Seminar

New high-pressure phases in the Al₂O₃-SiO₂ system



Dr. Youmo Zhou (Postdoctoral Fellow, GRC)



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We recently clarified the phase relations of Al_2SiO_5 by multi-anvil experiments at pressures of 13-23 GPa and temperatures of 2000-2900 K and discovered two new high-pressure forms of Al_2SiO_5 at temperatures exceeding 2400 K or higher in the pressure ranges of 14-17 and 17-23 GPa, respectively. The new phases are new members to the well-known Al_2SiO_5 polymorphs (andalusite, sillimanite, and kyanite), and they are tentatively named kyanite II and III, respectively. In this presentation, I will first briefly talk about the phase relations of Al_2SiO_5 and the crystal structures of the new phases.

I am looking at the Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system via multi-anvil experiments at the stability conditions of kyanite II and III to clarify the phase relations and search for other new phases. Preliminary experiments yielded an unknown $Al_2Si_2O_7$ phase, which is the third newly discovered intermediate compound in the Al_2O_3 -SiO₂ system, in addition to Al_2SiO_5 kyanite II and III. With increasing temperature, the phase transitions of $Al_2Si_2O_7$ occur as follows: Al_2O_3 corundum (Cor) + 2 SiO₂ stishovite (St) \rightarrow Al_2SiO_5 kyanite (Ky) III (or II) + SiO₂ St \rightarrow $Al_2Si_2O_7$. Similarly, with increasing temperature, the phase assemblages in the Al_2SiO_5 - $Al_2Si_2O_7$ -system include Cor + St, Ky III (or II) + St, and Ky III + $Al_2Si_2O_7$; those in the Al_2SiO_5 -system, the phase assemblages of Cor + St and Cor + Ky III (or II) were obtained, and it was also found that the SiO₂ solubility in Cor significantly increased above 2400 K.

Because of the very high stability temperatures of Ky II, III, and Al₂Si₂O₇ beyond the typical geotherm, I am suffering from searching for any potential implications in geoscience. I am looking forward to being inspired by you.

Contact: Masayuki Nishi, Ph.D. (e-mail: nishi@sci.ehime-u.ac.jp)