## Optical cells with fused silica windows for the study of geological fluids

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## Outline

- HDAC vs FSCC
- Two types of optical cells with fused silica windows for the study of geologic fluids (C-O-H-N-S-salts) at *P-T* conditions up to 100 MPa and 600 °C:
  - (1) High pressure optical cell (HPOC) for samples with known compositions and adjustable pressures for in-situ experiments
  - (2) Fused silica capillary capsule (FSCC) for samples with mostly uncertain composition and pressure, and suitable for long term (days or weeks) experiments
- Constructions of these optical cells and applications
- Summary









HDAC type V





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SCF: supercritical fluid F: aqueous fluid Sa: sanidine M: hydrous melt Ms: muscovite C: corundum Raman study of synthetic subduction-zone fluids (KAlSi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O) system

#### Mibe, Chou, & Bassett JGR, 113 (2008)







# Some minerals in the system:

KAISi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> - H<sub>2</sub>O



 $AI_2O_3$ 















Molecule <sup>a</sup>	Frequency (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>	Motion <sup>j</sup>
H <sub>4</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> (Mo)	783 (calc) <sup>c</sup> , 785 (exp) <sup>d</sup> , 788 (calc) <sup>e</sup>	n(Si-O)
KH <sub>3</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> (Mo)	748 (calc) <sup>f</sup>	n(Si-O)
$H_{6}Si_{2}O_{7}\left(D\right)$	620 (calc) <sup>e</sup> , 631 (calc) <sup>c</sup> , 638 (calc) <sup>g</sup>	n(Si-O), d(Si-O-Si)
H <sub>6</sub> SiAlO <sub>7</sub> <sup>1-</sup> (D)	585 (calc) <sup>g</sup>	n(T <sup>k</sup> -O), d(Si-O-Al)
H <sub>4</sub> SiAlO <sub>7</sub> <sup>3-</sup> (D)	574 (exp) <sup>d</sup>	n(T-O), d(Si-O-Al)
$H_6Si_3O_9(3R)$	629 (calc) <sup>e</sup>	n(Si-O-Si)
$H_{6}Si_{2}AlO_{9}^{1-}(3R)$	574 (calc) <sup>h</sup>	<b>n</b> ( <b>T-O-T</b> )
$H_{8}Si_{4}O_{12}\left(4R\right)$	490 (calc) <sup>h</sup>	n(Si-O-Si)
$H_8Si_3AlO_{12}^{1-}(4R)$	488 (calc) <sup>h</sup>	<b>n(T-O-T</b> )
Al(OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>1-</sup>	616 (calc) <sup>i</sup> , 620 (exp) <sup>d</sup>	n(Al-O)
KAl(OH) <sub>4</sub>	619 (calc) <sup>f</sup>	n(Al-O)
KH <sub>2</sub> AlO <sub>3</sub>	691 (calc) <sup>f</sup>	n(Al-O)
Al(OH) <sub>3</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O	438 (calc) <sup>i</sup>	n(Al-OH <sub>2</sub> )
КОН	<b>361</b> (calc) <sup>f</sup>	d(K-O-H)
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Synthetic Fluid Inclusions in Quartz (Sterner & Bodnar, 1984)



- Pre-fractured quartz core or prism, together with sample fluid and silica powder, were sealed in a precious-metal capsule.
- The fractures in quartz were healed at a fixed P-T condition in a pressure vessel and captured sample fluid as inclusions.
- To heal the fractures requires high T (> 300 °C) and time (days and weeks).



# Lin (2005)

- Synthesized CH<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O fluid inclusions in quartz in Pt capsules at 300 to 700 °C and 1, 3, and 5 kbars
- $Al_4C_3 + 12 H_2O = 3 CH_4 + 4 Al(OH)_3$
- All inclusions formed at and above 600 °C contain CO<sub>2</sub>
  CH<sub>4</sub>+ H<sub>2</sub>O = CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>





#### **Fused Silica Capillary Tube**



**Round-sectioned tube** 

#### **Square-sectioned tube**

Polymicro Technologies, LLC (www.polymicro.com).





Chou, Burruss, Lu (2005) Chapter 24 in Advances in High-Pressure Technology for Geophysical Applications









Raman scattered light (upward)

- G-2 High-P gauge S-1 & S-2 Syringes 1 to 16 Pressure valves
- T-2 High pressure fluid tank
- PG Pressure generator



# Raman Spectra for CH<sub>4</sub> in Different Phases







Chou et al. (2000) PNAS, v. 97, 13484-13487











#### **Diffusion of Methane in Water**







**≥USGS** 

#### WORLD GAS HYDRATE





Keith Kvenvolden









Growth of methane hydrate in 2 wt% Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution near room temperature





T dropped from ~23°C to ~22°C in one hour







## Sample loading system for a capillary capsule







Room T (50 μm ID) Methane Hydrate

Smackover Oil (50 µm ID)

 $CO_2$ - $H_2O$ 







# Cracking of octadecane (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>38</sub>) with various densities at 350, 375, and 400 °C











- Our understanding of the reaction pathways and decomposition of organic compounds in the presence of water is limited.
  - Raman spectroscopic analysis for the following reactions at 206 °C for 41 hours:

 $- \operatorname{CH}_{4} + \operatorname{H}_{2}\operatorname{O} = \operatorname{CH}_{3}\operatorname{OH} + \operatorname{H}_{2}$  $- \operatorname{C}_{2}\operatorname{H}_{6} + \operatorname{H}_{2}\operatorname{O} = \operatorname{C}_{2}\operatorname{H}_{5}\operatorname{OH} + \operatorname{H}_{2}$  $- \operatorname{C}_{2}\operatorname{H}_{6} + 2 \operatorname{H}_{2}\operatorname{O} = \operatorname{CH}_{3}\operatorname{CO}_{2}\operatorname{H} + 3 \operatorname{H}_{2}$ 























Stretching frenquency of water dissolved in CO<sub>2</sub> at 32 °C as a function of CO<sub>2</sub> density

Berkesi et al. (2009)

Intensity

**USGS** 



Uranyl chloride complexes in LiCl solution (1.5 molal) at 200 °C at vapor satrated (Dargent et al., 2012)



#### Hydrolysis of Polycarbonate in sub-critical water (280 °C) Pan, Chou & Burruss (Green Chem., 2009)







### **INSTEC** Heating-Cooling Stage



## Linkam 500 Capillary Pressure Stage





#### Linkam 500 Capillary Pressure Stage

- 7: Capillary sample holder
- 8: Capillary movement mechanism
- 9: Silver block heater & cover
- **10: Pt sensor protection plate**
- 11: 16 mm glass cover slip

1: Qtz sample carrier for FSCC (25 mm movement) 2: Silver cover

> Linkam 500 Capillary Pressure Stage







# Summary

- Optical cells with fused silica windows, such as HPOC and FSCC, were designed for experiments at pressures up to 100 MPa and temperatures up to 600 °C, such as the *P-T* conditions of sedimentary basins, hydrothermal systems, and low-grade metamorphism.
- These types of cells are particularly suitable for the study of organic compounds and also for the systems containing S.



## Summary

- When compared with the conventional synthetic fluid inclusion method, in which fluid inclusions were formed by healing fractures in quartz chips at elevated *P-T* conditions, the new FSCC method has the following advantages: (1) simple; (2) large and uniform inclusions can be formed; (3) suitable for the studies of organic material and/or S with/without water, and (5) allowing redox control when needed, especially for TSR experiments.
- The HPOC & FSCC have a great potential for studying geologic fluids at various *P-T* conditions, as demonstrated by many examples.

