

Manuscript Number: GCA-D-19-00862R1

Title: Aluminium distribution in an Earth's non-primitive lower mantle

Article Type: Article

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Abstract: The aluminium incorporation mechanism of perovskite was explored by means of quantum mechanics in combination with equilibrium/off-equilibrium thermodynamics under the pressure-temperature conditions of the Earth's lower mantle (from 24 to 80 GPa). Earth's lower mantle was modelled as a geochemically "not-primitive" object because of an enrichment by 3 wt% of recycled crustal material (MORB-component). The chemical composition of the "non primitive" lower mantle takes into account both chondrite and pyrolite reference models to represent the lower mantle's primitive composition.

The capacity of perovskite to host Al was modelled through an Al₂O₃ exchange process in an unconstrained Mg-perovskite+Mg-Al-perovskite+free-Al₂O₃(corundum) system. Aluminium is globally incorporated principally via an increase in the amount of Al-bearing perovskite [Mg-Al-pv(80 GPa)/Mg-Al-pv(24 GPa) = 1.17], rather than by an increase in the Al₂O₃-content of the average chemical composition which changes little (0.11-0.13, mole fraction of Al₂O₃) and tends to decrease in Al. The Al₂O₃ distribution in the lower mantle was described through the probability of the occurrence of given compositions of Al-bearing perovskite. The probability of finding Mg-Al-perovskite is comparable to Al-free Mg-perovskite's. Perovskite with Al₂O₃ mole fraction up to 0.15 has an occurrence probability of ~28% at 24 GPa, increasing up to ~43% at 80 GPa; on the contrary, perovskite compositions in the range 0.19-0.30 Al₂O₃ mole fraction drop their occurrence probability from 9.8 to 2.0%, over the same P-range. In light of this, the distribution of Al in the lower mantle shows that, among the possible Al-bearing perovskite phases, the (Mg_{0.89}Al_{0.11})(Si_{0.89}Al_{0.11})O₃ composition is the likeliest, providing from 5 to 8% of the bulk perovskite in the pressure range from 24 to 80 GPa. The occurrence of the Al-richest composition, i.e. (Mg_{0.71}Al_{0.29})(Si_{0.71}Al_{0.29})O₃, is a rare event (probability of occurrence < 1.7%). This study predicts that perovskite may globally host Al₂O₃ in terms of 4.3 and 4.8 wt% (with respect to the non-primitive lower mantle mass), thus accounting for ~ 90% and 100% of the bulk Al₂O₃ estimated in the framework of pyrolite and chondrite reference models, respectively. A calcium-ferrite-type phase (on the MgAl₂O₄-NaAlSiO₄ join) seems to be the only candidate that can compensate for the 10% gap of the perovskite Al-incorporation capacity, in the case of a pyrolite non-primitive lower mantle model.



**Università
degli Studi
di Ferrara**

TO: Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta -Editor in chief:

Jeffrey Catalano

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript “**Aluminum distribution in an Earth’s *non-primitive lower mantle***” by Marcello Merli, Costanza Bonadiman (corresponding author) and Alessandro Pavese for potential publication with Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta.

The text has been revised according to the Associate Editor’s and referees’ suggestions.

Thank you very much for your consideration and handling.

For the authors,

Costanza Bonadiman

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Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript “**Aluminum distribution in an Earth’s *non-primitive lower mantle***” by Marcello Merli, Costanza Bonadiman (corresponding author) and Alessandro Pavese for potential publication with Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta.

The responses to the Associated Editor and Reviewer’s comments, along with the changes introduced in the revised version, are discussed and reported in red below.

With best regards,

Costanza Bonadiman

Associate Editor Report:

Dear Dr. Bonadiman,

The new version of your manuscript entitled "Aluminium distribution in an Earth's non-primitive lower mantle" for which you are corresponding author has been seen by one of the original reviewers and I have also looked through it myself. The reviewer and myself find that you successfully taken into account the vast majority of criticisms made and generally clarified the contribution. However, the reviewer raises a couple of minor issues that would benefit from modification. Furthermore, while I acknowledge that the English has been greatly improved the text still has some rough edges. I would just like to point out line 241 where the word "sheer" is probably not of use, and line 619 where the sentence appears to be missing something.

Reply: The text has been revised accordingly.

Reviewer #1: The authors have addressed all of my concerns, particularly in explaining their model and assumptions in significantly more detail. For example, they have added appendices that describe their procedure and have expanded the methodology section. They have also added references where needed and improved the English throughout the manuscript. Although there are many assumptions in their model, the authors have now explained the reasons for these assumptions (e.g., the choice to omit iron, how the Gibbs free energy was calculated, the omission of thermal/vibrational contributions, and the choice of Mg/Si ratio), and they have changed the wording of the text to be less dismissive of the implications of these assumptions. I believe that the study's findings on aluminum's distribution in the lower mantle is indeed important for our understanding of the chemistry of the deep Earth and combined with their thorough explanation of the methodology, this manuscript would be a good contribution to GCA. Below are just a couple questions.

- Apologies about the repeated question, but I still don't understand how a saturation of perovskite's capacity to host aluminum is a sign for a phase transition to post-perovskite when you don't have post-perovskite in your model?

Authors reply: We agree with R1 that care must be paid about the inferences we drew from the *cor*/perovskite ratio. In such a view, we have changed the text of the revised version accordingly and removed any mention to the question above from the Abstract. However, given that we think that these inferences might be an interesting starting point for a further discussion, we have reported, in the "Discussion" section, arguments to uphold our statements (lines 642-650). With this in mind, the caption of Fig.4 has been changed accordingly.

Also, it seems strange to describe that region as quasi-independent of pressure when you fit a polynomial that clearly has a minimum after which you add an arrow upwards to indicate the possibility of an increase in Al₂O₃ relative to Mg-Al-pv at higher pressure.

Authors reply: We have discussed the nature of the region 60-80 GPa in a more general way, to include the occurrence of a weak *P*-dependence or a poorly defined minimum (lines 565-566). The use of the arrow (Fig.4) is therefore to be considered in the frame of the comment above.

- line 608: "the phase fraction of Mg-Al-pv remarkably grows upon increasing P" -- I'm not sure what is implied by "remarkably" as there is only a modest increase from 0.41 to 0.48.

Authors reply: "Remarkably" has been removed; however, to underline the Al-content change we mention its relative percentage of increase (16%) in the revised version (line 609);

- line 591: if the error is in fact 2.2 kJ/mol for Navrotsky's measurement, your value is in excellent agreement

Authors reply: In the revised version, we stressed that "...observation and theoretical estimate are in good agreement with one another." (line 594).

1 **Aluminium distribution in an Earth's *non-primitive* lower mantle**

2 Marcello Merli¹, Costanza Bonadiman^{2*}, Alessandro Pavese³

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14 **Key-words:** Aluminium distribution, Earth's lower mantle; aluminium bearing perovskite;
15 pyrolite, chondrite reference model; MORB-component; enriched lower mantle composition;
16 open system.

17 **ABSTRACT**

18

19 The aluminium incorporation mechanism of perovskite was explored by means of quantum
20 mechanics in combination with equilibrium/off-equilibrium thermodynamics under the
21 pressure-temperature conditions of the Earth's lower mantle (from 24 to 80 GPa). Earth's
22 lower mantle was modelled as a geochemically "not-primitive" object because of an
23 enrichment by 3 wt% of recycled crustal material (MORB-component). The chemical
24 composition of the "non primitive" lower mantle takes into account both chondrite and
25 pyrolite reference models to represent the lower mantle's primitive composition.

26 The capacity of perovskite to host Al was modelled through an Al₂O₃ exchange process in an
27 unconstrained Mg-perovskite+Mg-Al-perovskite+free-Al₂O₃(corundum) system. Aluminium
28 is *globally* incorporated principally *via* an increase in the amount of Al-bearing perovskite
29 [$Mg-Al-pv(80\text{ GPa})/Mg-Al-pv(24\text{ GPa})\approx 1.17$], rather than by an increase in the Al₂O₃-content
30 of the average chemical composition which changes little (0.11-0.13, mole fraction of Al₂O₃)
31 and tends to decrease in Al. The Al₂O₃ distribution in the lower mantle was described through
32 the probability of the occurrence of given compositions of Al-bearing perovskite. The
33 probability of finding Mg-Al-perovskite is comparable to Al-free Mg-perovskite's. Perovskite
34 with Al₂O₃ mole fraction up to 0.15 has an occurrence probability of ~28% at 24 GPa,
35 increasing up to ~43% at 80 GPa; on the contrary, perovskite compositions in the range 0.19-
36 0.30 Al₂O₃ mole fraction drop their occurrence probability from 9.8 to 2.0%, over the same *P*-
37 range. In light of this, the distribution of Al in the lower mantle shows that, among the
38 possible Al-bearing perovskite phases, the (Mg_{0.89}Al_{0.11})(Si_{0.89}Al_{0.11})O₃ composition is the
39 likeliest, providing from 5 to 8% of the bulk perovskite in the pressure range from 24 to 80
40 GPa. The occurrence of the Al-richest composition, *i.e.* (Mg_{0.71}Al_{0.29})(Si_{0.71}Al_{0.29})O₃, is a rare
41 event (probability of occurrence < 1.7%). This study predicts that perovskite may *globally*
42 host Al₂O₃ in terms of 4.3 and 4.8 wt% (with respect to the non-primitive lower mantle mass),

43 thus accounting for ~ 90% and 100% of the bulk Al_2O_3 estimated in the framework of pyrolite
44 and chondrite reference models, respectively. A calcium-ferrite-type phase (on the MgAl_2O_4 -
45 NaAlSiO_4 join) seems to be the only candidate that can compensate for the 10% gap of the
46 perovskite Al-incorporation capacity, in the case of a pyrolite non-primitive lower mantle
47 model.

48 1. INTRODUCTION

49

50 The mantle is the Earth's largest division by volume, originally marked by a planetary
51 Siderophile/Lithophile element fractionation. Refractory Lithophile Elements (RLE)
52 condensed from a gas of solar nebula composition at the highest temperature (>1400 K at 10^{-4}
53 atm) compatible with the nebula's physical constraints (Lodders, 2003). RLEs' chemical
54 behaviour prevented metal and sulphide phases from entering both chondrites and metallic
55 cores during the planetary differentiation (Lodders, 2003; Kaminski and Javoy, 2013; Mahan
56 et al., 2018). RLEs include Ca and Al among the major elements, the full group of rare earth
57 elements (REE), U and Th. The chemical characteristics of such elements support the
58 primitive Earth's mantle model that preserves the solar ratios of RLEs (Wasson and
59 Kallemeyn, 1988; Lodders et al., 2009; Wang and Jacobsen, 2016).

60 Aluminium is the sixth most abundant element on Earth: it is a purely refractory lithophile
61 element and its natural abundance is provided by the stable isotope ^{27}Al . The radioactive
62 isotope ^{26}Al quickly decayed in ^{26}Mg (^{26}Al half-life = $7.17 \pm 0.24 \times 10^5$ yr; Norris et al., 1983,
63 Wu and Browne, 1997) during the early stage of the solar system's evolution (Lee et al.,
64 1977; Lodders, 2003; Baker et al., 2012). The ^{26}Al decay provided substantial heating to the
65 proto planetary bodies, and its isotopic daughter is one of the most widely used extinct
66 radioactivity chronometers (Bizzarro, et al., 2005; Spivak-Birndorf et al. 2009; Wimpenny et
67 al., 2019).

68 Taking into account the geochemical behaviour of aluminium, it is unlikely that a large
69 amount of such element may enter the Earth's core, though it provides a major constituent of
70 many minerals at any depth of the Earth's mantle and crust. Aluminium is also one of the
71 main components of any melt generated from the upper mantle, in terms of 9-21 wt% Al_2O_3
72 on average (source: PetDB Petrological Database). Melt crystallization, segregation, rise and
73 cooling, led to the formation of the crust over the Earth's history. An intriguing aspect is that

74 Al, as a crustal component, partially, or entirely, was transported into the mantle, through
75 subduction. Such a process could involve mantle portions well below the magma source
76 regions (Young et al., 2005; Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2008; Wang and Jacobsen, 2016).

77 Seismic tomography reveals that near the Earth's mantle transition zone, which marks the
78 boundary between upper and lower mantle, repositories of crustal material occur (Christensen
79 and Yuen, 1984; Billen, 2010, King et al., 2015). They exhibit different dynamic behaviours:

80 i) stagnation in the mantle transition zone (Japan trench; Honda, 2017 and references therein);

81 ii) stagnation in the uppermost lower mantle (Peruvian Andes; Fukao and Obayashi 2013); iii)

82 continuous descent, seemingly unhindered, into the lower mantle (Farallon plate, North
83 America; Sigloch et al., 2008). Such tomographic observations suggest a mechanism of global

84 mantle convection with an abundant mass exchange between distinct geochemical reservoirs
85 lying in both the upper and lower mantle (van der Hilst et al., 1997; Nolet et al., 2007).

86 More recently, geochemical models, aimed at explaining the isotopic evolution of the silicate
87 Earth (Kumari et al., 2016; Jones et al., 2019) or at tracing the distribution of key components
88 (H₂O and Fe-Mg) in the lower mantle (Walter et al., 2015; Merli et al., 2016; 2017), have
89 depicted the Earth's mantle as a chemical reservoir ("pyrolite") involving uninterrupted
90 geochemical reactions and energy/matter flows.

91 In particular, Kumari et al. (2016) estimated that about 60% of the entire mantle is as depleted
92 in fusible elements (*i.e.* Al and Ca) as its upper portion, whereas the remaining mantle is non-
93 primitive, containing a small fraction of transient and isolated recycled crustal materials.

94 Jones et al. (2019), combining the geodynamic model of mantle convection with isotope and
95 trace element geochemistry, suggest that the subduction and accumulation of dense oceanic
96 crust produce in the deep mantle a large mass of material enriched in incompatible trace
97 elements. The quoted authors also state that an equivalent of 50-70% of the current
98 continental crust mass was accumulated earlier than 3 Ga ago, and that the crustal recycling
99 and reworking dominated over juvenile additions to the continental crust, since the end of the

100 Archean (2.5 Ga). This suggests that since the end of the Hadean age (~ 4.6-3.8 Ga) the
101 Earth's lower mantle has been enriched with crustal components.

102 Understanding the structure and chemical-physical behavior of the slabs subducted into the
103 mantle is out of the scope of the present work. Conversely, we focus on the chemical
104 rearrangement of the main lower mantle mineral phases in the case of a full mixing between
105 crustal slabs and primordial lower mantle. In such a view, aluminium may be an effective
106 “probe” among the major elements.

107 The present work deals with the modelling of Al-incorporation in perovskite, the major phase
108 in the lower mantle, and the resulting Al-distribution, by means of quantum mechanics
109 calculations in combination with equilibrium/off-equilibrium thermodynamics and cluster
110 expansion technique. The cluster expansion approach allows the investigation of large atom
111 clusters, thus providing an effective tool to model solid mixing in a statistical framework (see
112 Merli et al. 2015, and references therein). Because of the complexity of the natural processes,
113 it is convenient to start from a “reference” mineral phase, *i.e.* MgSiO₃-perovskite, whose Al-
114 enrichment is investigated. We explore the *P*-range from 24 to 80 GPa, to unquestionably
115 leave the perovskite-to-post perovskite transition aside (Murakami et al., 2004; Tsuchiya and
116 Tsuchiya, 2008; Shim et al., 2008).

117 Our main goal is to estimate the maximum intrinsic capacity of perovskite to incorporate
118 aluminium and its phase proportion with respect to the Al-free perovskite fraction, as a
119 function of *P-T*. Subsequently, the resulting Al-partitioning will be used to discuss the global
120 mechanism of storage of aluminium in the lower mantle.

121

122 **2. GEOCHEMISTRY**

123

124 **2.1 Lower mantle geochemical model**

125

126 Cosmochemical arguments supporting a chondritic bulk Earth composition (chondrite
127 reference model) imply that the lower mantle must be enriched in Si with respect to a
128 primitive upper mantle (PUM; Javoy et al., 2010; Murakami et al., 2012; Kaminski, and Javoy
129 2013), save that the Earth's core should be able to host ~4-6 wt% Si (McDonough 2014,
130 Badro et al., 2014) to balance the Earth's Si-budget against the Sun's and chondrite's
131 $[Mg/Si_{(PUM)} \sim 1.21-1.31 \text{ versus } Mg/Si_{(lower\ mantle)} \sim 1.01]$. Conversely, according to petrological
132 data and chondritic constraints the lower mantle is chemically equivalent to the primitive
133 upper mantle (pyrolite reference model; McDonough and Sun, 1995; Lyubetskaya and
134 Korenaga, 2007).

135 Tomographic images of subducted slabs plunging into the deep mantle have been interpreted
136 in terms of an efficient mass transfer between upper and lower mantle domains. This supports
137 large scale mixing and therefore a homogenous Mg/Si distribution (*i.e.* pyrolite) throughout
138 the mantle (Sigloch et al., 2008; van der Hilst et al., 1997). However, only a limited number
139 of slabs actually sink into the lower mantle, given that most of the subducted ones flatten and
140 seem to stagnate at either ~660 km or ~1,000 km depth (Fukao and Obayashi 2013). This
141 points towards a comparatively ineffective mixing process and contrasts the notion of a
142 vigorous global mantle convection. Recently, Ballmer et al. (2017) have hypothesised the
143 presence of stable large-scale high-viscosity bridgmanite-enriched ancient mantle structures
144 (BEAMS) that have been residing in the Earth's lower mantle since the early stage of our
145 planet's formation. Their numerical model also predicts the incorporation of limited amounts
146 of crustal material from shallow to deep mantle, particularly during the early stages. Such
147 crustal portions provide stretched and stirred long-lived "fossil" fragments, in keeping with
148 tomographic observations. Therefore, large-scale heterogeneities may account for the Earth's
149 bulk composition, bringing the lower mantle's Mg/Si ratio closer to the solar-chondritic one
150 unlike the upper mantle.

151 Hereafter, we shall refer to either the “pyrolite model” (based on the pyrolite composition
152 throughout the mantle) or the “chondrite model” (relying on different compositions between
153 upper and lower mantle) to describe the lower mantle.

154 Whatever bulk composition model is used to interpret the mantle’s dynamics, the crustal
155 components plunging into the lower mantle cause large/small-scale changes of its phase
156 composition (Irifune et al. 1996; McDonough, 2016; Nestola et al., 2018).

157

158 2.2 Enriched (*non-primitive*) lower mantle bulk composition

159

160 Both chondrite and pyrolite lower mantle models are used here to estimate the non-primitive
161 lower mantle compositions. The bulk chemical composition of the lower mantle is generally
162 described in terms of its five major oxides (MgO, FeO, CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂), which account
163 for ~98.5 wt% of the Earth’s mantle mass (Mc Donough, 2016; Palme and O’Neill, 2014).

164 Na₂O occurrence, even if of modest impact on the large-scale geophysical and geochemical
165 modelling (Bina and Helffrich, 2014; Palme and O’Neill, 2014 Chust et al., 2017), is still
166 important in terms of the resulting minor mineral phases that affect the Al distribution in the
167 lower mantle. Experiments and observations on natural samples reveal that potential Al-
168 bearing lower mantle phases may also include K, Fe³⁺ and OH as major elements (*i.e.*: Kato et
169 al., 2013; Wang et al., 2015; Pamato et al., 2015; Harte and Richardson, 2012). In particular,
170 Al-bearing phases are able to host potassium if they form in a system containing at least ~
171 0.09 wt% K₂O (Kato et al., 2013). Note that the mid-ocean-ridge basalt (MORB) average
172 composition has 0.08-0.12 wt% K₂O (Gale et al., 2013), whereas pyrolite and chondrite lower
173 mantle models are estimated to bear ~0.03 and <0.01 wt% K₂O, respectively (McDonough
174 and Sun, 1995; Javoy et al., 2010). Therefore, K-bearing phases are not expected to play a
175 relevant role as potential aluminium hosts among the lower mantle phases. Although ferric
176 iron is able to affect Al³⁺ storage in perovskite-like structures *via* Fe³⁺↔Al³⁺ replacement

177 (Kurnosov et al., 2017), the $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\sum\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$ ratio in the primitive Earth's mantle is supposed to be
178 very small, *i.e.* ~ 0.03 , according to mass balance calculations (Palme and O'Neill, 2014).
179 Bulk H_2O (hosted as OH-group) in the lower mantle influences the aluminium content
180 incorporated by perovskite through the formation of Al-bearing hydrous phases. However, the
181 bulk H_2O content is comparatively modest and estimated ~ 1500 ppm, in both pyrolite and
182 chondrite lower mantle models (Merli et al., 2016; Muir and Brodholt, 2018).

183 Let us consider the lower mantle as a geochemically non-primitive object because it is mixed
184 with a fraction of recycled crustal material (*i.e.* MORB-component). In this view, Al_2O_3 and
185 CaO , hosted in lower mantle minerals, are potential “*probes*” which mark the occurrence of
186 such a geodynamic process (Guignot and Andraut, 2004, Hirose et al., 2005; Korenaga,
187 2009; Irifune et al., 2010; Ricolleau et al., 2010).

188 The MORB chemical composition is enriched in incompatible major elements (aluminium,
189 calcium and, to a lesser extent, iron) and depleted of compatible elements (magnesium) with
190 respect to the mantle (Table 1). Therefore, a MORB-like composition at lower mantle P - T
191 conditions cannot give Fe-periclase, whereas high-pressure SiO_2 -rich phases (*e.g.* Ca-
192 perovskite and bridgmanite) and additional aluminium-rich phases are expected to occur.
193 Following experimental results about MORB bulk compositions (14-16 wt% Al_2O_3) under
194 lower mantle conditions (30-90 GPa), the newly formed Al_2O_3 -rich phases (NAL-type phase
195 and CaFe_2O_4 -type phase, *i.e.* CF-phase, on the join MgAl_2O_4 - NaAlSiO_4) may account for
196 about 10-12 mol% by phase composition (Guignot and Andraut, 2004, Ricolleau et al.,
197 2010).

198 Assuming that subducted crustal fragments have been sliding down into the mantle over the
199 past 4 billion years (the most generous estimate is about 11 wt% of the whole mantle; Li and
200 McNamara, 2013), aluminium-rich domains should have developed, in contrast to
201 expectations from a primitive lower mantle's composition (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni,
202 2012).

203 We model such an enrichment using the simple binary mixing equation of Faure (1986) to
204 combine primitive lower mantle compositions (pyrolite and chondrite, corresponding to the
205 end-members “A” and “A1”, respectively; see Table 1) with a crust-type-composition (end-
206 member “B”; MORB-like silicate glass; see Table 1). End-member B is close to the N-MORB
207 average of Gale et al. (2013) and has been largely used in HP experiments (*i.e.* Hirose et al.,
208 1999; 2005 Funamori et al., 2000; Guignot and Andraut, 2004; Ricolleau et al., 2010).
209 According to the extensive compilation provided by the PetDB-database of chemical data
210 from mid-ocean ridge basalts, the water concentrations lie in the range 0.05-1.0 wt%. The
211 amount of H₂O stored in the deep mantle, computed by experiments and mass balance models
212 (Ghosh et al., 2014; Marty, 2012), is in the range 800-2700 ppm (*i.e.* 0.08-0.27 wt%). Taking
213 into account such figures and the tomographic observations that suggest that only small
214 fractions of descending slabs reach the lower mantle (Ballmer et al. 2017), we model a non-
215 primitive lower mantle composition by a chemical mixing of primitive pyrolite/chondrite
216 compositions with a 3 wt% end-member B’s contribution (0.1 wt% of H₂O). The resulting
217 compositions are reported in Table 1. Such chemical mixing ideally reproduces a non-
218 primitive lower mantle as predicted by modelling the isotopic evolution of the silicate Earth:
219 ~3 wt% of the total mantle mass is expected to be stored and ultimately mixed within ~1 Ga
220 in the lower mantle (Christensen and Hofmann 1994; Kumari et al., 2016; White, 2015).

221

222

3. METHODS

223

3.1 Chemical probability of formation: aluminium-bearing phases in the lower mantle

225

226 The probability that a phase “J” forms at P - T , *i.e.* $p(J|P,T)$, can be roughly estimated in terms
227 of $p(J|P,T) \propto p(J, \text{chem}) \times \exp(-\Delta G(P,T)_{\text{formation}}/RT)$, where $p(J, \text{chem})$ is the probability of having
228 the required chemical species for J under the constraint of a given available elemental budget

229 and $\Delta G(P,T)_{\text{formation}}$ is the formation Gibbs energy. $p(\text{J,chem})$ is termed “*chemical probability*
230 *of formation*”, to underline that it reflects the likelihood of having the required elements to
231 form the J-phase, and it is calculated as follows.

232 Let us assume X_k to represent the fractional abundance value of the k^{th} -oxide, in a generic
233 system. Given that

$$234 \sum_{k=1,M} X_k = 1 \quad (1)$$

235 then X_k can also be associated with the *probability* of having the k^{th} -oxide, if the oxides are
236 supposed to be uniformly distributed as a function of space. The chemical composition of the
237 J-phase is then expressed formally as

$$238 \text{J} = \sum_k n_k X_k \quad (2)$$

239 Therefore, the probability of finding one mole of the J-phase as a function of its pure chemical
240 composition, $p(\text{J,chem})$, is provided by the joint events of i) having (n_1 -moles of X_1)(n_2 -moles
241 of X_2).... and ii) not having any species with stoichiometric coefficient equal to 0. This
242 corresponds to the following joint probability:

$$243 p(\text{J, chem}) \propto \prod_k p(k)^{n_k} \times (1 - \sum_m p(m)) \propto \prod_j X_j^{n_j} \times (1 - \sum_m X_m) \quad (3)$$

244 where $p(k)$ and $p(m)$ are the probabilities of finding the k^{th} and m^{th} oxide, respectively; the
245 subscript k is associated with the chemical species with stoichiometric coefficients other than
246 zero, whereas m is related to those with stoichiometric coefficients equal to zero. The
247 $p(\text{J,chem})$ values calculated in this way are then normalized so that their sum yields unity.

248 [Table 2](#) reports major phases and potential Al-bearing phases that experiments, numerical
249 modelling and exceptional observations on natural findings indicated as possible minerals in a
250 non-primitive lower mantle ([Table 1](#)).

251 Preliminary calculations led us to rule out periclase as a host of aluminium, save that the Al-
252 incorporation takes place with the contribution of H ([Merli et al., 2016](#)). In such a case, the
253 amount of Al involved would be negligible, anyway. [Panero et al. \(2006\)](#) estimated regular
254 solution parameters of 12 and 66 kJ/mol for perovskite and akimotoite, respectively. Taking

255 into account i) the significantly lower energy for Al-incorporation in perovskite than in
256 akimotoite and ii) the restricted range of occurrence of the latter (Panero et al., 2006), we
257 exclude akimotoite as a possible competitor to uptake Al in the P - T region under investigation
258 (Stebbins et al., 2001; Li et al. 2008; Tschauner et al., 2018). Majorite garnet, which is the
259 main host of aluminium in the mantle transition region in both pyrolite and basaltic
260 compositions (Irifune and Ringwood, 1993; Litasov and Ohtani, 2007), is transformed into
261 Mg-perovskite+Ca-perovskite at pressures corresponding to the uppermost lower mantle.
262 Experiments show that aluminium is mostly incorporated by Mg-perovskite/bridgmanite in
263 pyrolite or chondrite compositions under lower mantle P - T conditions (Irifune et al., 1996;
264 Ricolleau et al., 2008), whereas separate aluminous phases form in basaltic compositions
265 (Hirose et al., 1999; 2005) at the same P - T conditions.

266 In a non-primitive lower mantle, aluminium is partitioned between perovskite/bridgmanite
267 and minor Al-bearing phases, such as:

268 i) alkali rich NAL-structure phases, like those on the join $\text{NaMg}_2\text{Al}_{4.8}\text{Si}_{1.15}\text{O}_{12}$ -
269 $\text{KMg}_2\text{Al}_{4.8}\text{Si}_{1.15}\text{O}_{12}$ (Gasparik et al., 2000; Kato et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2016). However, as
270 stated above, K-bearing phases are unlikely to develop in the lower mantle because of the lack
271 of a sufficient amount of potassium;

272 ii) CF-structure and NAL-structure polymorphs, on the join MgAl_2O_4 - NaAlSiO_4 (Imada et al.,
273 2011; 2012; Irifune et al., 1991). Note that the CF-structure was observed to stabilize at a
274 higher pressure ($\sim >40$ GPa) than the NAL-structure (~ 24 - 40 GPa) (Imada et al., 2011;
275 Guignot and Andraut, 2004);

276 iii) possible hydrous solid solutions involving D-phase, H-phase and δ - AlOOH (Ghosh and
277 Schmidt, 2014; Pamato et al., 2015; Walter et al., 2015; Fukuyama et al., 2017).

278 In the case of NAL- and CF-phases, we chose to calculate a *chemical probability of formation*
279 $p(\text{J,chem})$ for a reference NAL/CF-mineral, that is $\text{Na}_{0.265}\text{Fe}_{0.245}\text{Mg}_{0.375}\text{Ca}_{0.035}\text{Al}_{1.1}\text{Si}_{0.715}\text{O}_4$.
280 Such a composition is obtained from Guignot and Andraut (2004), by averaging those that

281 the authors labelled with “CF^A” and “CF^{B1}”, neglecting Ti and normalizing to 4 oxygen atoms
282 and 3 cations.

283 Hereafter we shall use the following acronyms, for the sake of brevity: *Mg-pv*, “Mg-
284 perovskite”, for perovskite tout court, *i.e.* MgSiO₃; *Mg-Al-pv*, “Al-perovskite”, for Al bearing
285 Mg-perovskite, *i.e.* (Mg,Al)(Si,Al)O₃; *Mg-Fe-pv*, “bridgmanite”, for Fe-bearing Mg-
286 perovskite, *i.e.* (Mg,Fe)SiO₃; *Ca-pv*, “Ca-perovskite”, for Ca-bearing perovskite, *i.e.*
287 (Ca,Mg)SiO₃; “perovskite”, for any solid mixing, or end member, occurring in the lower
288 mantle and having perovskite-type structure; *Fe-pe*, “Fe-periclase”, *i.e.* (Mg,Fe)O; *CF*, “CF-
289 phase”, for a phase in the MgAl₂O₄-NaAlSiO₄ join.

290

291 **3.2 Aluminium incorporation mechanisms of perovskite**

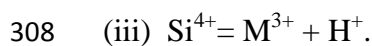
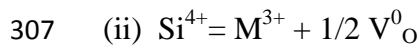
292

293 To evaluate the aluminium distribution in a non-primitive lower mantle, we model the Al-
294 uptake capacity of perovskite, which is the lower mantle phase able to host aluminium to such
295 an extent as to provide a relevant storage by volume (Jeanloz and Knittle, 1989; Ricolleau et
296 al.,2009).

297 We introduce the notion of “maximum Al-uptake capacity” of perovskite. “Maximum Al-
298 uptake capacity”-conditions are set through a *virtual* competition between MgSiO₃ and Al₂O₃
299 (ideal *pure* alumina phase) to accommodate Al, at lower mantle *P-T* conditions and in a SiO₂-
300 MgO-Al₂O₃ system. Corundum (*cor*) is the least “prejudicial” phase as an Al-host, given that
301 it does not require any further chemical species but aluminium to form and is the Al₂O₃-
302 polymorph stable in the *P-T* range of interest (Merli and Pavese 2018).

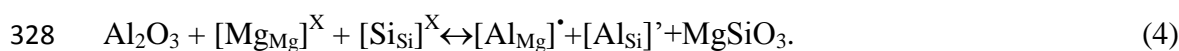
303 The incorporation mechanism of a trivalent cation in perovskite is supposed to occur through
304 three main reactions (Navrotsky et al., 2003; Akber-Knutson et al., 2005 and references
305 therein):





309 Reaction (i), which takes place *via* a charge-coupled-mechanism, is the likeliest one, as shown
310 by energy calculations (Yamamoto et al., 2003; Akber-Knutson et al., 2005; Zhang and
311 Oganov, 2006). A comparison between incorporation mechanisms (i) and (ii) reveals that the
312 former is slightly exothermic, in contrast with the endothermic behaviour of the latter
313 (Navrotsky et al., 2003). NMR-measurements point to the occurrence of a charge-coupled
314 mechanism (Stebbins et al., 2001), in agreement with calculations of Akber-Knutson and
315 Bukowinski (2004), who suggest that Al tends to replace both Si and M^{2+} , in a high pressure
316 and high temperature regime. As to reaction (iii), we assume contents of H_2O , *i.e.* H^+ supplier,
317 and Al_2O_3 as much as 1500 ppm (0.15 wt%) and 4.76 wt%, respectively (Table 1), in keeping
318 with the lower mantle Al-richest composition obtained by mixing pyrolite with 3% MORB-
319 component (Table 1). In such a case, even if all the hydrogen from the dissociation
320 $\text{OH}_2 \rightarrow \text{OH}^- + \text{H}^+$ contributed to an exchange mechanism like (iii), just 0.08 mol fraction
321 aluminium might be accounted for. Moreover, according to the H_2O -partitioning estimated by
322 Merli et al. (2016), periclase is able to account for 1/3 of the trapped H_2O , thus reducing
323 further the role of reaction (iii) as a possible relevant mechanism to Al-incorporation in
324 perovskite.

325 Therefore, the Al-uptake in perovskite is modelled by the replacement of Mg-Si with Al-Al,
326 according to the exchange reaction reported below using the formalism of Kröger-Vink
327 (Kröger, 1972)

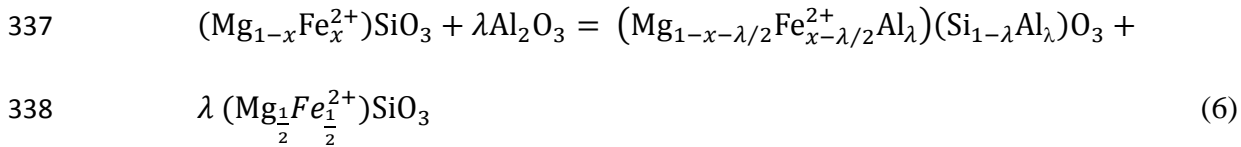


329 Assuming λ -mole of Al_2O_3 to be exchanged in the *Mg-Al-pv*, *Mg-pv* and *cor* system, then
330 equ.(4) leads to



332 In reaction (5) iron can affect the energy through a replacement like $Mg^{2+} \leftrightarrow Fe^{2+}$ and
 333 competes with aluminium in terms of $Al^{3+} \leftrightarrow Fe^{3+}$. However, we chose to neglect Fe as we are
 334 developing a first approximation model, which would provide general trends rather than
 335 details. Our choice can be further supported by the following arguments.

- The general reaction that accounts for Al_2O_3 entering in bridgmanite turns out to be



339 where we assume that Al replaces the same quantity of Mg and Fe^{2+} , the latter
 340 dwelling at the 12-coordination site, only (Kaminsky and Lin, 2017). The
 341 parametrization of the Gibbs energy used in the present work relies upon the cluster
 342 expansion technique (Merli et al., 2015; 2017). Such a method leads to expressing
 343 energy as a function of the number of interacting atomic pairs that belong to the same
 344 cluster determined as a function of the distance between the involved chemical
 345 species. Assuming Fe-Al pair entering the perovskite structure as much as 0.1-0.2
 346 moles (*i.e.* Kurnosov et al., 2017; Kaminsky and Lin, 2017), the probability of having
 347 a Fe-Al interacting pair belonging to the first/second cluster is ~5-6 %. Therefore,
 348 most of the interactions with aluminium atoms are due to the pure Mg-Si matrix,
 349 which governs the “maximum intrinsic capacity” of perovskite to incorporate Al.

350 The role of Fe^{3+} is extensively debated and still largely uncertain. *Mg-Fe-pv* is
 351 potentially the major Fe^{3+} acceptor, but Kaminsky and Lin (2017) indicated that in
 352 natural lower mantle bridgmanites iron most likely occurs as ferrous at the 12-
 353 coordination sites. Conversely, Kurnosov et al. (2017) claim $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe_{tot} = 0.33$, in
 354 synthetic bridgmanite with ferric iron sited at the same coordination site, under lower
 355 mantle conditions ($P \sim 35$ GPa; 1300 km depth; Ismailova et al. 2016). Mass balance
 356 calculations, in turn, predict an impact of ferric iron in terms of $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe_{tot} \sim 0.03$, with

357 respect to the Earth's mantle abundances (Palme and O'Neill, 2014). If we consider as
358 a first level of approximation pyrolite ($Mg-Fe-pv = 76$ wt%; $FeO_{tot} = 8.05$ wt%) and
359 chondrite ($Mg-Fe-pv = 85$ wt%; $FeO_{tot} = 8.12$ wt%) lower mantle models (Table 1),
360 and apply the Kurnosov et al. (2017) Fe^{3+}/Fe_{tot} ratio to $Mg-Fe-pv$, the resulting
361 Al^{3+}/Fe^{3+} mole ratios in bridgmanite are ~ 3.6 and ~ 2.9 for pyrolite and chondrite
362 models, respectively. Tests based on calculations that we carried out to reproduce the
363 replacement schemes $Si + Mg \Leftrightarrow Al + Fe^{3+}$ versus $Si + Mg \Leftrightarrow Al + Al$, indicate that
364 the second reaction is favoured over the former one [in agreement with the results of
365 Nishio-Hamane et al. (2005)].

366

367 3.3 Reaction models

368

369 The Al-uptake mechanism in perovskite according to reaction (5) is addressed using two
370 approaches: i) the *open system model*, which exploits the notion of stationary thermodynamic
371 state and allows an exchange of matter between system and reservoir (Prigogine 1968); ii) the
372 *closed system model*, which relies on equilibrium thermodynamics, therefore excluding any
373 sort of matter exchange. In an open system, the stationary state replaces the equilibrium state
374 and exhibits thermodynamic observables, which remain invariant over time. Details about the
375 open system model are reported in APPENDIX I.1-.2-.3 and a brief overview is given below.

376

377 3.3.1 Open system model

378 We would like to exploit the capacity of an open system to exchange matter with a reservoir,
379 in combination with a formalism as close as possible to the consolidated equilibrium
380 thermodynamics' one. Such a model provides a flexible tool to address problems in which the
381 intrinsic exchanging/incorporation capacity of a given substance can be investigated, without
382 any sort of constraint or restraint (APPENDIX I.1).

383 The key requirement is the fulfilment of the following equation, associated to reaction (5) via
 384 the equilibrium constant K (APPENDIX I.2-3):

$$385 \quad K(P, T, \lambda) = \exp[-\Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda)/RT] = a_{Mg-Al-pv} / (a_{Mg-pv}^{1-\lambda} \times a_{cor}^\lambda) \approx x_{Mg-Al-pv} /$$

$$386 \quad (x_{Mg-pv}^{1-\lambda} \times x_{cor}^\lambda) \quad (7.a)$$

387 where x_j =phase proportion of the j^{th} -component/phase (*cor*: corundum); a_j = j^{th} -
 388 component/phase's activity. In equ.(7.a) the activity coefficient is approximated to unity (see
 389 APPENDIX I.3 and APPENDIX II). Expanding ΔG_0 , it follows that:

$$390 \quad \Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda) = \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} - \lambda \times [\mu_0(P, T)_{cor} - \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv}] - \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv}.$$

$$391 \quad (7.b)$$

392 where μ_0 is the part of the chemical potential depending on λ , P and T , only (Otonello 1997;
 393 2010). For convenience, we split the chemical potential of Al-incorporating perovskite (Mg -
 394 Al - pv) into an Al-free part, *i.e.* pure perovskite (Mg - pv), and a part dependent on aluminium,
 395 that is

$$396 \quad \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} = \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv} + \Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv}, \quad (7.c)$$

397 where $\Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv}$, which accounts for the solid mixing occurrence and provides the
 398 very core of our computational model, is calculated by the cluster expansion method (Merli et
 399 al 2015, 2017).

400 Using equ.(7.c), equ.(7.b) becomes

$$401 \quad \Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda) = \Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} - \lambda [\mu_0(P, T)_{cor} - \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv}]. \quad (8)$$

402 At given (P, T, λ) -values, we seek the $\{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}$ -sets that fulfil

403 a) equ.(7.a),

404 b) $x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor} \geq 0$,

405 c) $x_{Mg-Al-pv} + x_{Mg-pv} + x_{cor} = 1$.

406 Among the solutions that satisfy the constraints a), b) and c), we chose the one that minimizes
 407 the Gibbs energy, namely $x_{Mg-Al-pv} \times \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} + x_{Mg-pv} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv} + x_{cor} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{cor}$. In

408 doing so, we obtain a triple, yielding $Mg-Al-pv/Mg-pv/cor$ phase proportions, for each (P,T,λ)
 409 point, *i.e.* $\{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P,T,\lambda)$. The preservation of the total chemical composition of
 410 the system constituted by each $\{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P,T,\lambda)$ -triple is not required. The
 411 resulting system therefore behaves as an open system that can exchange $2Al \Leftrightarrow Mg+Si$ with a
 412 reservoir. In general, we are interested in modelling *observables* whose values are averages
 413 over the λ -range, so that they depend ultimately on $P-T$ only. For instance:

$$414 \quad \{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P, T) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{\lambda-inf}^{\lambda-sup} \{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P, T, \lambda) d\lambda \quad (9. a)$$

$$415 \quad \lambda_{Al_2O_3}(P, T) = \int_{\lambda-inf}^{\lambda-sup} \lambda \times x_{Mg-Al-pv}(P, T, \lambda) d\lambda / x_{Mg-Al-pv}(P, T) \quad (9. b)$$

$$416 \quad Tot_{Al_2O_3}(P, T) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{\lambda-inf}^{\lambda-sup} [\lambda \times x_{Mg-Al-pv}(P, T, \lambda) + x_{Al_2O_3}(P, T, \lambda)] d\lambda \quad (9. c)$$

417 where: C is a normalization constant; $\lambda-sup=0.3$ and $\lambda-inf=0$, upper and lower thresholds of λ ,
 418 respectively (for $\lambda>0.3$, $x_{Mg-Al-pv}$ is negligible on the $P-T$ range explored); $\lambda_{Al_2O_3}$ of (9.b) is the
 419 *average* Al_2O_3 mole fraction *per* formula unit; $Tot_{Al_2O_3}$ is the total Al_2O_3 stored by the $(Mg-$
 420 $Al-pv)+(Mg-pv)+cor$ system.

421

422 3.3.2 Closed system model

423 For the sake of completeness, we also present the closed system model. We seek the
 424 equilibrium conditions of reaction (5) for a closed system, *i.e.* a chemically adiabatic one. Let
 425 ξ represent the aluminium occupancy factor in $Mg-Al-pv$ [*i.e.* $(Mg_{1-\xi}Al_{\xi})(Si_{1-\xi}Al_{\xi})O_3$].
 426 Therefore, we have to minimize, with respect to ξ , the Gibbs energy of the system $(Mg-$
 427 $pv)+(Mg-Al-pv)+cor$, *i.e.*

$$428 \quad G = n_{cor} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{cor} + n_{pv} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv} + n_{Mg-Al-pv} \times \mu_0(P, T, \xi)_{Mg-Al-pv}, \quad (10)$$

429 under the constraints of the conservation of mass:

$$430 \quad M_{Al_2O_3} = n_{cor} + n_{Mg-Al-pv} \times \xi \quad (11)$$

$$431 \quad M = M_{SiO_2} = M_{MgO} = n_{Mg-pv} + n_{Mg-Al-pv} \times (1-\xi), \quad (12)$$

432 where $M_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, M_{SiO_2} and M_{MgO} are *fixed* total amounts in moles of Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 and MgO .

433 Using the constraints above, equ.(10) becomes

$$434 \quad G = (M_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3} - n_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}} \times \xi) \times \mu_0(P, T)_{\text{cor}} + (M - n_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}} \times (1 - \xi)) \times$$
$$435 \quad \mu_0(P, T)_{\text{Mg-pv}} + n_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}} \times \mu_0(P, T, \xi)_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}}. \quad (13)$$

436 The Gibbs energy minimum condition requires

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial \xi} = 0,$$

437 from which the following equation is derived

$$-\mu_0(P, T)_{\text{cor}} + \mu_0(P, T)_{\text{Mg-pv}} + \frac{\partial \mu_0(P, T, \xi)_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}}}{\partial \xi} = 0. \quad (14)$$

438 Equ.(14) formalises the equilibrium conditions for closed systems (Chust et al. 2017). Its
439 solution, expressed by $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$, yields the composition of Al-bearing perovskite that
440 minimises the Gibbs energy of equ.(13).

441 $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$ also minimises (7.b). In fact, taking into account equ.(7.c), equ.(14) is equivalent
442 to setting $\frac{\partial \Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = 0$ in equ.(8), which implies that $K(P, T, \xi_{\text{closed system}})$ achieves an
443 extreme value that shifts reaction (5) towards its right-hand side member as much as possible.

444

445 3.4 Computational

446

447 Structure relaxations were performed at a given pressure and 0 K by the HF/DFT-
448 CRYSTAL14 program (Dovesi et al., 2009), which implements “Ab-initio Linear-
449 Combination-of-Atomic-Orbitals” for periodic systems. Only static pressure ($P_{\text{static}} = -\partial E_{\text{static}}$
450 $\text{energy} / \partial V$) and zero-point pressure ($P_{\text{zp}} = -\partial E_{\text{vibration energy at 0K}} / \partial V$) were taken into account, given
451 that even adding a correction for thermal contributions would not significantly change our
452 results and the conclusions would be unaffected. A zero-point pressure was estimated by
453 quantum mechanics calculations and using *pure perovskite* only, resulting in ~5 GPa. The

454 WCGGA functional (Wu and Cohen, 2006) was used, with a hybridization rate of 28%. Such
 455 a proportion was adopted because it provides a more satisfactory agreement with observations
 456 in terms of perovskite structure, than other choices do. The tolerances governing the accuracy
 457 of the integrals of the self-consistent-field-cycles were set at (in Ha units): 10^{-8} for coulomb
 458 overlap, 10^{-8} for coulomb penetration, 10^{-8} for exchange overlap, 10^{-8} for exchange pseudo-
 459 overlap in direct space, 10^{-16} for exchange pseudo-overlap in reciprocal space and 10^{-9} for
 460 threshold for SCF-cycles' convergence. The Mg basis set from Causà et al. (1986) was
 461 extended by the addition of diffuse *sp* and *d* shells (85-11G* contraction). Oxygen and
 462 aluminium were modelled by means of the O8-411d1 and 85-11G* basis sets of Corà (2005)
 463 and Catti et al. (1994), respectively. The outer shells' coefficients were optimised by means of
 464 the “billy” utility by Towler (2015). The eigenvalue level shifting technique was used (level
 465 shift of 0.2 Ha) to avoid conducting solutions and accelerate convergence.

466 The approach of Merli et al. (2015 and 2017) relying upon the cluster expansion technique
 467 was adopted to model the solid mixing in *Mg-Al-pv*. Such a method makes it possible to
 468 parametrize energy as a function of pair interactions, thus allowing one to model in a
 469 statistical framework even large atom clusters that would be difficult to handle otherwise. We
 470 expressed the Al-dependent part of the chemical potentials in equ.(7.b) as

$$471 \Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} = \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} - \mu_0(P, T)_{pv} = \lambda \times [\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} -$$

$$472 \mu_0(P, T)_{cor}] + \delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv}. \quad (15)$$

473 $\delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)$, in turn, was developed in terms of

$$474 \delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} = (1 - \lambda) \times \lambda \times \sum_{l=0, L; m=0, M; n=0, N} p_{lmn} P^l T^m \lambda^n. \quad (16)$$

475 We used perovskite's supercells, composed of (2×2×1), (2×1×2) and (1×2×2) elementary
 476 cells. A total of 80 independent Al-configurations were randomly sampled over the interval
 477 24-80 GPa and used to calculate the pair-interaction parameters of the cluster expansion as a
 478 function of *P*, following the strategy of Merli et al. (2017). We then simulated 10^5 - 10^6 *Mg-Al-*

479 pV independent configurations in 1024 atom clusters, using the pair-interaction parameters
480 previously determined, to carry out statistical thermodynamics calculations (Merli et al.
481 2015), and model the Gibbs energy of Al-bearing perovskite thereby.
482 ΔG_0 in equ.(7.b) were calculated neglecting the atomic vibration contribution, *i.e.* the one
483 including zero-point vibration energy, thermal vibration energy and vibration entropy (in full:
484 $\Delta G_{0,vib}$). In general, calculating $\Delta G_{0,vib}$ in a solid mixing that is modelled *via* a super-cell
485 method is a difficult task, because of the complexity of compromising between
486 representativeness of a cluster, computing time and achievable precision (about the role of
487 vibrational components, see: van de Walle and Ceder, 2002). However, combining quantum
488 calculations with semi-empirical potentials (GULP code; Gale 1997; 2005), which allow the
489 investigation of large atomic clusters' lattice dynamics, we estimated, by harmonic
490 approximation, $\Delta G_{0,vib}$ for 4 Al-Al configurations in perovskite at 20 and 70 GPa, with 0.25
491 Al_2O_3 mole fraction. In this way we compared $\Delta G_{0,vib}$ with $\Delta G_{0,stat+conf}$, *i.e.* the static
492 contribution with the addition of configuration entropy, which we actually calculated. We
493 observed $|\Delta G_{0,vib}/\Delta G_{0,stat+conf}| \sim 3\%$, in the thermal range of interest, *i.e.* 2000-3000 K.
494 Therefore, taking into account the modest estimated weight of the thermal contribution in the
495 solid mixing, we chose to leave it aside (as for neglecting vibration contribution, see for
496 instance: Mohn and Trønnes 2016; Burton and van de Walle, 2003).

497

498

4. RESULTS

499

500 4.1 Chemical probability of formation of lower mantle phases

501

502 The bulk aluminium content (largest value: 4.76 wt%, related to pyrolite lower mantle mixed
503 with 3% of crustal component; Table 1) and the available amounts of alkali elements and H_2O
504 make the *chemical probability of formation* [$p(J,chem)$] for the minor Al-bearing phases <

505 0.9% with respect to the total phases formed under the constraint of a non-primitive lower
506 mantle composition (Table 1; Table 2). As expected, the $p(J,chem)$ of $Mg-Fe-pv+Mg-pv+Ca-$
507 $pv+Fe-pe$ in a non-primitive lower mantle is $>78\%$, regardless of the geochemical model
508 used. It is worth noting that $p(J,chem)$ of $Mg-Al-pv$ is as large as $\sim 96\%$, considering the Al-
509 bearing phases only (Table 3). The hydrous phases are *quasi* irrelevant, whereas the NAL/CF-
510 type phase exhibits a $p(J,chem)$ as large as 3.87-3.57% (Table 3).

511 If we used $p(J,chem)$ as an “actual” *probability of finding a given phase*, then Al would
512 distribute in terms of 4/5 *versus* 1/5 between $Mg-Al-pv$ and CF (the CF-phase is able to host
513 almost six times as much aluminium as perovskite). This estimate is to be taken with due care
514 as $p(Mg-Al-pv,chem)$ and $p(CF,chem)$ quantify only the probability of having the “least
515 condition” for a given phase to form, regardless of the energy contribution and inter-phase
516 competition to capture the involved elements. Altogether, perovskite is the main candidate to
517 incorporate aluminium by far, though CF , too, exhibits a potential capacity for Al-storing.

518

519 **4.2 Al-uptake in perovskite: open system model *versus* closed system model**

520

521 The main advantages of using an *open system model* with respect to a *closed system model* are
522 the following:

523 -neglecting the chemical composition invariance allows the system to evolve *unconstrained*,
524 driven by the mixing Gibbs energy of the solid solution of $Mg-Al-pv$. This provides the most
525 favourable condition to estimate the $Mg-Al-pv$'s intrinsic maximum capacity to host Al,
526 resorting to a simple system composed of perovskite in combination with free-alumina (*cor*),
527 the latter accounting for the aluminium not incorporated by the former because of saturation;
528 -such a method makes it possible i) to achieve an average depiction of the output of a given
529 chemical process and ii) to explore a mechanism of Al-storage taking into account not only

530 the Al-occupancy in perovskite, but also the amount of perovskite that is able to host
531 aluminium *versus* the fraction of Al-free perovskite ($Mg-Al-pv/Mg-pv$).

532 Reaction (5) was investigated using the P - T curve parametrised by Merli et al. (2016) as
533 follows

$$534 \quad T(K) = 11.290 \times P \text{ (GPa)} + 1648,$$

535 for $24 < P < 80$ (GPa). Such a curve represents a lower mantle in a whole mantle convention
536 of limited thermal efficiency (Mattern et al., 2005; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005),
537 thus approaching the layered mantle convection models (Brown and Shankland, 1981;
538 Anderson, 1982 ; Valencia-Cardona et al., 2017).

539

540 4.2.1 Al-uptake in perovskite from open system model

541 Figure 1 shows $K(P,T,\lambda)$ of equ. (7.a) as a function of λ , at three chosen P - T points. In
542 general, the larger the value of K , the more reaction (5) shifts to the right, *i.e.* towards $Mg-Al$ -
543 pv . For each P - T point, $K(P,T,\lambda)$ has a maximum that changes from about 0.17 (24 GPa/1919
544 K) to 0.26 (80 GPa/2551 K). This means that there is an Al-exchange λ -value that maximises
545 the tendency to promote $Mg-Al-pv$ at each P - T point of the geotherm. We now introduce the
546 function $K(P,T)_{ave}$, which corresponds to the average of the equilibrium constant of reaction
547 (5), *i.e.* $K(P,T)_{ave} = \langle K(P,T,\lambda) \rangle_{\lambda}$. $K(P,T)_{ave}$ provides an overview of the general tendency of the
548 aluminium incorporation process to shift either to the right or left in reaction (5) along the
549 chosen P - T path (Fig. 2). $K(P,T)_{ave}$ calculated over Al-exchange processes between corundum
550 and perovskite from 0 to 0.3 λ -value, tends to increase upon increasing P , *i.e.* reaction (5)
551 shifts more and more to its right-hand side member $[(Mg_{1-\lambda}Al_{\lambda})(Si_{1-\lambda}Al_{\lambda})O_3]$. Two trends of
552 $K(P,T)_{ave}$ are observable: one below and one above ~ 60 GPa, characterised by 0.008 and 0.02
553 GPa^{-1} slopes, respectively (Fig. 2). They are reflective of the growing differences between the
554 $K(P,T,\lambda)$ -curves, for $\lambda > 0.15$ (Fig. 1). On the explored P - T interval, the content of free- Al_2O_3 ,

555 *i.e. cor*, takes a very small average figure of 0.0010(\pm 1), in terms of phase proportion.
556 Conversely, Al-free (*Mg-pv*) and Al-bearing (*Mg-Al-pv*) perovskite phases amount to
557 0.56(\pm 2) and 0.44(\pm 2), respectively (Fig. 3). *Mg-Al-pv* increases from 0.41 to 0.48 phase
558 proportion, from 24 to 80 GPa: this hints at a tendency to develop more and more
559 (Mg,Al)(Si,Al)O₃-phase upon *P* (Fig. 3).

560 The *cor/Mg-Al-pv* ratio monotonically decreases with increasing pressure up to 70 GPa (Fig.
561 4), from more than 0.022 to about 0.017, meaning that some 98 wt% of available Al₂O₃ is
562 taken by perovskite, in agreement with the results shown in Figures 1-3. In the range 60-80
563 GPa the data are rather scattered and weakly *P*-dependent. They indicate either some sort of
564 “saturation” (with respect to perovskite) or a poorly defined minimum. The aluminium uptake
565 capacity of perovskite is described *via* $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, see equ.(9.b), that gives the average Al₂O₃ mole
566 fraction *per* formula unit (Fig. 5). At 32 GPa perovskite hosts Al₂O₃ at its maximum capacity
567 ($\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3} = 0.134$ Al₂O₃ mole fraction) and preserves such an occupancy figure up to ~50 GPa
568 (Fig. 5). The occupancy starts to monotonically decrease beyond 50 GPa, with a slope of
569 about -0.0009 GPa⁻¹ ($\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3} = 0.105$ Al₂O₃ mole fraction, at 80 GPa; Fig. 5). This takes place
570 in combination with an increase of the phase fraction of Al-bearing perovskite.

571

572 4.2.2 Al-uptake in perovskite from a closed system model

573 The Al-occupancy factor $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$, as reported in equations (10)-(11) and (12), minimises
574 the Gibbs energy and maximises the equilibrium constant of equ.(7.a), *i.e.* if $\lambda = \xi_{\text{closed system}}$
575 then $K(P, T, \lambda)$ takes its maximum value. $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$ exhibits a linear and increasing trend,
576 trailing down the mantle (Fig. 6). This implies that the perovskite structure incorporates more
577 and more aluminium as the pressure increases, if the system is *chemically adiabatic* and *cor*
578 only competes to host Al. Such a result can be seen in terms of that if a given amount of Al
579 must be “*perforce*” accommodated over perovskite and *cor*, then aluminium chooses

580 progressively the former with respect to the latter with increasing P , thus yielding a shift of
581 reaction (5) to the right.

582

583 **4.3 Solid mixing model performances with respect to some experimental data**

584

585 We tested the physical soundness of our mixing energy model comparing its predictions with
586 some experimental results related to $Mg-Al-pv$ properties.

587 The enthalpy formation of the reaction $0.05 Al_2O_3 (cor) + 0.95 MgSiO_3 = Mg_{0.9}Si_{0.9}Al_{0.1}O_3$
588 was measured to be as large as $-0.8(\pm 2.2)$ kJ/mol by [Navrotsky et al. \(2003\)](#). Such a figure is
589 to be compared with -1.1 kJ/mol from our calculations. Although our estimation is 40% larger
590 than the experimental value, the exothermic nature of the reaction is correctly predicted and,
591 taking into account the uncertainty of measurements, observation and theoretical estimate are
592 in good agreement. In [Figure 7](#), we report the absolute values of the discrepancy between
593 measurements ([Walter et al., 2004](#)) and our predictions on the Al-bearing perovskite cell
594 volume. In most cases, the deviation lies below 0.8%, and just for three experimental points
595 we observe a discrepancy above 1%. Altogether, the average disagreement is about 0.4% and
596 indicates a chemical-physical soundness of the solid mixing model we are using.

597

598

5. DISCUSSION

599

600 **5.1 Aluminium storage mechanism**

601

602 Our results from the open system model point to a complex mechanism of Al-uptake in
603 perovskite as a function of pressure ([Figs.3-5](#)). In particular, the aluminium storage involves
604 both [the \$Mg-Al-pv\$ phase proportion](#) and the average Al_2O_3 -mole fraction incorporated by Mg -
605 $Al-pv$ (*i.e.* $\lambda_{Al_2O_3}$; see equ.(9.b)). Whereas $\lambda_{Al_2O_3}$ ([Fig. 5](#)) changes comparably little and, in

606 general, moderately decreases at large pressures, the phase fraction of *Mg-Al-pv* grows by
607 ~16% upon increasing *P* (Fig. 3).

608 We underline that our model relies on mass transfer reactions within a chemically
609 unconstrained open system constituted by *Mg-pv+Mg-Al-pv+cor* that act as Al-Mg-Si
610 exchangers with an ideal reservoir; therefore, the calculated maximum Al-uptake capacity in
611 perovskite is independent of the geochemical frame.

612 A lower mantle composition with chondritic Mg/Si ratio of ~1.01 implies an amount of
613 perovskite from 83 up to 90 wt%, juxtaposed to the pyrolitic composition that predicts
614 perovskite in the narrow range of 75-78 wt% (Lyubetskaya and Korenaga, 2007, McDonough,
615 2016). The relative proportion of this phase in a lower mantle mixed with 3% of MORB-like
616 component does not significantly vary with respect to the reference models (Table 1). This is
617 consistent with the fact that the total *chemical probability of formation*, $p(J,chem)$, of the Mg-
618 rich perovskite-type phases (*i.e.* *Mg-pv+Mg-Fe-pv+Mg-Al-pv*) does not significantly change
619 between the primitive (A and A1) and non-primitive (A+3%B and A1+3%B) lower mantle
620 models (Table 2).

621 The predicted *total* Al₂O₃ that *Mg-Al-pv* may accommodate is shown in Figure 8, along with
622 the *bulk* Al-content inferred for primitive and enriched lower mantle compositions. We point
623 out two aspects:

624 (i) the average *total* Al₂O₃ that perovskite (76 and 85 wt% in pyrolite and chondrite reference
625 models, respectively) hosts is 4.28 and 4.78 wt% of the lower mantle mass. Such figures
626 prove that perovskite is able to accommodate *almost* the entire budget of Al₂O₃ estimated for
627 non-primitive lower mantle compositions. Perovskite exhibits an average Al-hosting capacity
628 of ~90%, in the case of pyrolite model (Al₂O₃: 4.76 wt%), and > 100%, in the case of
629 chondrite model (Al₂O₃: 4.31wt%). See also Table 1 and Figure 8;

630 (ii) the *total* Al₂O₃ stored by *Mg-Al-pv* as a function of *P-T* (Fig. 8) varies in a comparatively
631 narrow range from 24 to about 60 GPa (~4.18-4.24 wt% and ~4.67-4.75 wt%, for pyrolite and

632 chondrite models, respectively), while it decreases going down the mantle (3.99 and 4.47
633 wt%, for pyrolite and chondrite models, respectively), at 80 GPa. This may be related to the
634 occurrence of the already mentioned change of trend exhibited by the average equilibrium
635 constant (Fig. 2). The decrease of the $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$ -values (Fig. 5) and the “saturation” of the Al_2O_3 -
636 partitioning between perovskite and *cor* (Fig. 4) point to: i) a progressive reduction in the Al-
637 storage capacity of *Mg-Al-pv*; ii) a change of the *cor/Mg-Al-pv* trend that might reflect the
638 onset of instability in perovskite, probably leading to the formation of other aluminium
639 hosting phases (*i.e.* structural change to post-perovskite; Murakami et al., 2004; Shim et al.,
640 2008; Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2008; Tateno et al., 2009). We believe that it is physically
641 incongruous that at $P \sim 60\text{-}80$ GPa the *cor*/perovskite molar ratio inverts its decreasing trend,
642 as this suggests that *Mg-Al-pv* loses competitiveness with respect to *cor* in hosting aluminium
643 upon increasing P . In fact: i) *cor* undergoes a phase transition to the rhodium-oxide-like phase
644 in the range of $\sim 80\text{-}100$ GPa (Thomson et al., 1996; Funamori and Jeanloz, 1997; Merli and
645 Pavese, 2018); ii) the Al-content in perovskite monotonically decreases with pressure (60-80
646 GPa; Fig.5), thus implying a reduction of the strain, which is due to the occurrence of species
647 other than Mg-Si. Such a reduction of the strain is expected to promote the stability of a
648 perovskite-like structure.

649 Altogether, it can be observed that:

- 650 i) aluminium is *globally* incorporated foremost *via* an increase of the Al-bearing perovskite
651 amount, rather than by an increase of the Al_2O_3 -content in *Mg-Al-pv* chemical composition;
652 ii) the perovskite phase is able to accommodate an Al-excess consistent with 3 wt% MORB-
653 component mixed with primitive lower mantle compositions, up to 100% and 90% of the
654 Al_2O_3 -budget, in the case of chondrite and pyrolite models, respectively.

655 At higher pressure than those investigated here, the transformations of corundum to a more
656 stable structure ($\sim 80\text{-}100$ GPa) as above-mentioned and of perovskite to the CaIrO_3 -like phase
657 (often called post-perovskite) at ~ 120 GPa (Murakami et al., 2004) might account for the

658 change of the trend related to the Al-storage capacity of perovskite (Fig. 4). In fact, calculated
659 phase equilibria in the MgSiO₃-Al₂O₃ system, modelled at P - T conditions relevant for the
660 Earth's deepest mantle (80-140 GPa/2000-4000 K), predict the appearance of (Al-bearing)-
661 post-perovskite coexisting with Mg-perovskite between 90 and 105 GPa, at T =2000 and 3000
662 K, respectively (Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2008). According to the phase diagrams of these
663 authors, the perovskite structure can accommodate up to ~0.19 moles of Al₂O₃ at 80 GPa and
664 2000 K, whereas at 3000 K the solubility of alumina increases up to ~0.4 moles. Interpolation
665 yields ~0.3 moles of Al₂O₃ at 80 GPa and 2550 K. Such results can be compared with ours
666 achieved by the closed system model, which relies on the same equilibrium thermodynamics
667 approach. It is worth noting that the closed system model yields the Al₂O₃-composition of
668 Mg - Al - pv that mostly shifts reaction (5) to the right, *i.e.* $K(P, T, \xi_{\text{closed system}})$ has a maximum.
669 $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$ in turn, has an increasing trend trailing down the lower mantle (Figs. 1 and 6),
670 providing an Al₂O₃-content of ~0.26 moles at P =80 GPa, in agreement with Tsuchiya and
671 Tsuchiya (2008).

672

673 5.2 Composition of Mg - Al - pv in the lower mantle

674

675 There is a controversy on whether the negative buoyancy associated with subducted oceanic
676 crust can overcome the viscous forces in the dynamic regions of Core-Mantle-Boundary
677 (CMB) and accumulate into large thermochemical piles (*i.e.* large low-shear-velocity
678 provinces, LLSVP: Li and McNamara, 2018). Conversely, a general *consensus* is that most of
679 the subducted crust is variably stirred into the background mantle and completely dissolved,
680 in a time span that varies from 0.1 to 1 Ga (Kumari et al., 2016; White, 2015; Foley and Rizo,
681 2017; Yu et al., 2018).

682 Using the phase proportions of Mg - pv , Mg - Al - pv and cor as a function of the exchanged
683 alumina according to reaction (5), we can reconstruct the probability to find Mg - Al - pv with a

684 given composition in Al_2O_3 (*i.e.* occurrence probability: $p_o\%$). Note that $p_o\%$ must not be
685 confused with the *chemical probability of formation*, *i.e.* $p(\text{J,chem})$, discussed in section 3.1
686 and that represents the mere probability to have the right oxide combination to form a given
687 phase.

688 The probability of the occurrence of perovskite with low Al_2O_3 -content *per* formula unit
689 (0.01-0.15 mole fraction) is ~28% at 24 GPa/1919 K, and increases up to ~43% at 80
690 GPa/2550 K. In general, low alumina compositions (0.01-0.15 mole fractions) are dominant at
691 any P - T explored (Fig. 9). On the contrary, the occurrence of *Mg-Al-pv* with high alumina
692 contents in the range 0.19-0.30 mole fraction drops from ~9.8% to ~2%, passing from 24
693 GPa/1919 K to 80 GPa/2550 K, respectively. Compositions of natural Al-bearing perovskite,
694 occurring as diamond inclusions and “*claimed*” to be ascribable to the lower mantle
695 (Kaminsky, 2012; Harte and Richardson 2012; Harte et al. 1999), lie in the Al_2O_3 -range
696 associated with the largest occurrence probability (*i.e.* $p_o\%$). Leaving any opinion about their
697 representativeness of the lower mantle mineralogy aside, there is a consistency between
698 observations and our predictions (Fig. 9).

699 To conclude, *Mg-Al-pv* competes with *Mg-pv* to the phase composition of the lower mantle
700 (Fig. 3) and the probability to find *Mg-Al-pv* in the lower mantle is almost of the same order
701 of magnitude as *Mg-pv* (Fig. 9). In addition, the distribution of Al in *Mg-Al-pv* shows that,
702 among the possible Al-bearing perovskite phases, the $(\text{Mg}_{0.89}\text{Al}_{0.11})(\text{Si}_{0.89}\text{Al}_{0.11})\text{O}_3$
703 composition is the likeliest, providing some 8% of the bulk perovskite at 80 GPa (Fig. 9). The
704 occurrence of the Al-richest composition, *i.e.* $(\text{Mg}_{0.71}\text{Al}_{0.29})(\text{Si}_{0.71}\text{Al}_{0.29})\text{O}_3$, is always a very
705 rare event, *i.e.* $p_o\% < 1.7\%$.

706

707

6. CONCLUSIONS

708

709 We modelled the capacity of perovskite to uptake aluminium in a non-primitive Earth's lower
710 mantle, because of an enrichment by 3 wt% of recycled crustal material (MORB-component).
711 The investigated region stretches from 24 to 80 GPa and is geochemically described in the
712 framework of pyrolite and chondrite reference models. The open system model here used to
713 predict perovskite Al-incorporation capacity is independent of the geochemical framework.
714 Aluminium is *globally* incorporated foremost *via* an increase of the Al-bearing perovskite
715 amount [$Mg-Al-pv(24\text{ GPa})/Mg-Al-pv(80\text{ GPa})\approx 1.17$], rather than by an increase of the Al_2O_3 -
716 content in its chemical composition. At 32 GPa perovskite hosts Al_2O_3 at its maximum
717 capacity ($\lambda_{Al_2O_3}=0.134$ Al_2O_3 mole fraction) and conserves such a figure up to ~ 50 GPa; at
718 higher pressure, a continuous decrease of Al_2O_3 -content in *Mg-Al-pv* composition takes place
719 up to 80 GPa ($\lambda_{Al_2O_3}=0.107$ Al_2O_3 mole fraction).
720 Approaching 80 GPa, perovskite reaches some sort of "saturation" of its capacity to host
721 aluminium, which can be considered as a prelude to instability, most likely leading to the
722 formation of other phases (*i.e.* structural change to post-perovskite) that accommodate Al.
723 This is in keeping with the resulting phase equilibria in the $MgSiO_3-Al_2O_3$ system, earlier
724 modelled at *P-T* conditions relevant for the Earth's deepest mantle (80-140 GPa/2000-4000
725 K).
726 The probability to observe a perovskite composition having an Al_2O_3 mole fraction up to 0.15
727 is about 28% at 24 GPa, increasing to 43% at 80 GPa; on the contrary, compositions in the
728 range 0.19-0.30 Al_2O_3 mole fraction drop their occurrence probability from 9.8 to 2.0%. In
729 light of this, the Al-content of perovskite cannot be directly related to *P-T* conditions of
730 formation, save that "large" Al_2O_3 contents suggest unlikely deep provenance, within the
731 range here explored.
732 The *total* Al_2O_3 that perovskite (amounting to 76 and 85 wt%, in pyrolite and chondrite
733 reference models, respectively) may host is on average 4.3-4.8 wt% of the lower mantle mass.
734 In particular, perovskite alone can account for an Al_2O_3 -storage capacity that accommodates

735 100% Al_2O_3 predicted by a non-primitive chondrite model, and 90% Al_2O_3 , forecast by a non-
736 primitive pyrolite model. Calcium-ferrite type phases are possible competitors of perovskite
737 in hosting aluminium (up to 1/5 of available Al), though their low *chemical probability of*
738 *formation* likely reduces such potential. In the case of a non-primitive pyrolite lower mantle,
739 Al-bearing phases other than perovskite should exist, and the CF-type phase is a candidate
740 that might compensate for the 10% gap in perovskite Al-incorporation capacity.

741

742 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

743

744 This work was partly supported by PRIN-2015 20158A9CBM Grant (C.B) and PRIN 2017 -
745 2017L83S77 (A.P). The paper benefited from the English language editing provided by Steve
746 Deforie and Barbara Galassi (Brighton, U.K). The Authors are indebted to the associated
747 Editor and two anonymous Referees for their comments and suggestions, which remarkably
748 improved the quality of the originally submitted manuscript.

749

750

APPENDIX I

751

752 **I.1 Open and closed systems**

753

754 An open system is permeable to both energy (heat and work) and matter, which are
755 exchanged between the system and a reservoir (De Groot and Mazur 1984; Mikhailov and
756 Ertl 2017). A closed system is able to exchange with a reservoir energy only. Let us assume to
757 have a generic system in which the following reaction occurs (we restrict our discussion to
758 one reaction only, for the sake of simplicity)

$$\sum_j v_j A_j = \sum_k v_k A_k \Rightarrow \sum_l v_l A_l = 0 \quad (\text{I. a})$$

759 where $\{A_j\}$ and $\{A_k\}$ are “reactants and products” or “phases”, which we shall term
 760 “reactants” *tout court*. The evolution as a function of time of the l^{th} -reactant is given by

$$\frac{dn_l}{dt} = \nu_l \frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} + \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} \quad (\text{I. b})$$

761 where n_l means number of moles of the l^{th} -reactant; ε is the reaction rate; the first term of the
 762 right-hand side member represents the change in n_l due to the reaction (I.a); the second term
 763 accounts for a matter exchange with a reservoir.

764 We split the entropy of such a system into two terms (Prigogine 1968):

$$\frac{dS_{ext}}{dt} = \frac{\delta Q}{T} - \sum_l \frac{\mu_l}{T} \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} \quad (\text{I. c})$$

$$\frac{dS_{int}}{dt} = - \sum_l \frac{\nu_l \mu_l}{T} \frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} \quad (\text{I. d})$$

765 where S_{ext} is the contribution by an exchange of heat and matter with an external reservoir; S_{int}
 766 represents the entropy produced by the reaction itself. Combining equ.(I.b), (I.c) and (I.d), it
 767 follows that

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{\delta Q}{T} - \sum_l \frac{\nu_l \mu_l}{T} \left(\frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} + \frac{1}{\nu_l} \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} \right) \quad (\text{I. e})$$

768 where S is the total entropy. We focus our attention on *stationary* processes, which are not
 769 necessarily at equilibrium. They exhibit observables that do not change over time (Pokrovskii
 770 2013), and therefore

$$\frac{dn_l}{dt} = 0 \quad (\text{I. f. 1})$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = 0 \quad (\text{I. f. 2})$$

771 Taking into account (I.b), (I.e) and (I.f.1), the fulfilment of the constraint (I.f.2) requires that
 772 $\delta Q=0$. Therefore, it can be concluded that a stationary system is characterized by a possible
 773 exchange of matter with a reservoir, but not an exchange of heat.

774

775 I.2 Open system representation

776

777 The correct treatment of a system like the one introduced above requires, in principle, to be
778 able to formulate explicitly both (I.c) and (I.d). Our aim is simpler, as we would like to exploit
779 the capacity of an open system to freely exchange matter with a reservoir, in combination
780 with a formalism as close as possible to the consolidated equilibrium thermodynamics' one.
781 Such a model provides a flexible tool to approach problems in which one investigates the
782 intrinsic exchanging/incorporation capacity of a given substance, without any sort of
783 constraint or restraint.

784 An internal observer (*i.e.* an observer who measures the system's observables only, unaware
785 of the matter flow) perceives a stationary open system as one that is under equilibrium
786 conditions (P, T and $\{n_j\}$ do not change over time and $\delta Q=0$). Therefore, all the state functions
787 are invariant *versus* t and the system conserves its composition), with possible forward-
788 backward reactions and without any in/out-flow of energy/matter. Let us represent the
789 chemical potential of the l -reactant by the usual expression below,

$$\mu_l = \mu_{0l} + RT \ln(x_l) + RT \ln(\gamma_{l,int}) \quad (\text{I. g})$$

790 where μ_{0l} is the component that depends on $P-T$ only, and coincides with the Gibbs energy of
791 the l^{th} -reactant alone; $\gamma_{l,int}$ is the activity coefficient of the l^{th} -reactant according to the internal
792 observer and incorporates any sort of deviation from ideal mixing.

793 Let us assume that $\{n_l\}$ can fluctuate, δn_l , in such a way that (I.f.1) is satisfied *on average*, yet
794 preserving the global system's composition. Therefore, the internal observer perceives that the
795 conservation of composition is achieved through a transformation of the reactants into each
796 other, according to the classical relationship below

$$\frac{\delta n_l}{\nu_l} = \delta \hat{\epsilon} \quad (\text{I. h})$$

797 for any l -reactant; $\delta \hat{\epsilon}$ is the infinitesimal change of the reaction ratio, seen by the internal
798 observer. Using the equation above, we have that

$$dG = \left[\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\nu_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,int}^{\nu_l} \right) \right] \delta \hat{\varepsilon} \quad (\text{I. i})$$

799 The internal observer states that $dG=0$, given that the system is supposed at equilibrium, and
 800 from (I.i) the usual chemical equilibrium equation follows

$$\exp \left(- \frac{\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l}}{RT} \right) = \frac{\prod_k x_k^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j x_j^{\nu_j}} \times \frac{\prod_k \gamma_{k,int}^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j \gamma_{j,int}^{\nu_j}} = K(P, T)_{int} \quad (\text{I. k})$$

801 An external observer (*i.e.* an observer that is aware of the matter flow) confirms that $dG=0$ as
 802 the system lies in a stationary state, and using (I.b) expresses dG in terms of

$$dG = \left[\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\nu_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l} \right) \right] \delta \varepsilon \\ + \left[\sum_l \delta \Delta n_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\delta \Delta n_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\delta \Delta n_l} \right) \right] \quad (\text{I. l})$$

803 where $\delta \Delta n_l$ is the fluctuation due to the amount of l -reactant supplied by the reservoir *via* a
 804 matter flow; $\gamma_{l,ext}$ is the activity coefficient estimated by the external observer. Given that the
 805 global system's composition does not change in a stationary state, then the following
 806 relationship must hold for $\delta \Delta n_l$, too,

$$\frac{\delta \Delta n_l}{\nu_l} = \delta \zeta$$

807 which implies

$$dG = \left[\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\nu_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l} \right) \right] (\delta \varepsilon + \delta \zeta) \quad (\text{I. m})$$

808 Equ.(I.m), in combination with $dG=0$, leads to an expression similar to (I.k), save the term
 809 depending on the activity coefficients, *i.e.* $\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l}$, so that

$$\exp \left(- \frac{\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l}}{RT} \right) = \frac{\prod_k x_k^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j x_j^{\nu_j}} \times \frac{\prod_k \gamma_{k,ext}^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j \gamma_{j,ext}^{\nu_j}} = K(P, T)_{ext} \quad (\text{I. n})$$

810 Therefore, the γ activity coefficients “collect” the deviations from equilibrium that the internal
 811 and external observers detect. For (I.n) and (I.k) to coincide with one another, $\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l} =$
 812 $\prod_l \gamma_{l,int}^{\nu_l}$ must hold.

813 An open system may change its composition evolving towards a stationary state, according to
814 the expression below, for the l^{th} -reactant:

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} dt = \Delta n_l(\infty) - \Delta n_l(0)$$

815 where it can be assumed that at $t \rightarrow \infty$ the open system has achieved a stationary state.

816

817 **I.3 Reactant proportions and probability**

818

819 What does it physically mean to neglect the activity coefficients in equations (I.n) and (I.k)?

820 Let us assume that a system has a known average Gibbs energy value, *i.e.* $\langle G \rangle$ at P - T , and

821 that it may occupy given “states”, each one with a probability $\{p_l\}$. Following a consolidated

822 approach of statistical mechanics and information theory (Jaynes 1957a-b), we state that the

823 likeliest and least prejudicial $\{p_l\}$ -set constrained to yield $\langle G \rangle$ must correspond to an extreme

824 of the expression beneath

$$\Phi = -R \sum_l p_l \ln(p_l) + \psi \left[\sum_l p_l G_l - \langle G \rangle \right] \quad (\text{I. o})$$

825 where G_l is the Gibbs energy of the l^{th} -state; R is the gas constant and ψ is a lagrangian

826 multiplier. If one requires that $\delta\Phi=0$, then

$$p_l \propto \exp\left(-\frac{G_l}{RT}\right) \quad (\text{I. p})$$

827 taking $\psi=1/T$. Let us shape our system in terms of a multi-phase system, in which the “states”

828 are represented by the “reactants” that can occur. Let the system undergo a reaction like (I.a)

829 and be composed of the related reactants. We analyse equ.(I.a) in statistical terms. The

830 occurrence of the left-hand or right-hand side member, can be modelled using the notion of

831 “joint probability”, thus obtaining

$$p_{\text{left-hand side member}} \propto \prod_j p_j^{\nu_j}$$

832 and

$$p_{\text{right-hand side member}} \propto \prod_k p_k^{v_k}$$

833 We take the ratio $p_{\text{right-hand side member}}/p_{\text{left-hand side member}}$, and observe that it can be either written
834 as

$$\prod_l p_l^{v_l}$$

835 or formulated as

$$\prod_l \left[\exp\left(-\frac{G_l}{RT}\right) \right]^{v_l} = \exp\left(-\frac{\sum_l v_l G_l}{RT}\right)$$

836 by means of (I.p). Hence, the equations above lead to

$$\prod_l p_l^{v_l} = \exp\left(-\frac{\sum_l v_l G_l}{RT}\right) \quad (\text{I. q})$$

837 Equ.(I.q) is readily likened to (I.n) and (I.k), neglecting the activity coefficients and setting for
838 each phase $G_l \equiv \mu_{0l}$. Altogether, a chemical equilibrium equation is thus formulated in a very
839 simple and general fashion, which holds for stationary systems, too. Therefore, neglecting the
840 activity coefficient terms in (I.n) and (I.k) leads to revising the notion of “ l^{th} -reactant
841 proportion”, x_l , in terms of “ l^{th} -reactant occurrence probability”, p_l , *i.e.* $x_l \equiv p_l$, once a given
842 reaction is being considered.

843

844

APPENDIX II

845

II.1 Approximation to unity of the activity coefficients term of equ.(7.a)

847

848 The activity coefficient term of equ.(7.a) can be simplified as

$$\gamma = \frac{\gamma_1}{\gamma_2^{1-\lambda} \times \gamma_3^\lambda} \quad (\text{II. a})$$

849 where we replaced $Mg-Al-pv$, $Mg-pv$ and cor with 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Let us introduce
850 the geometric average of the $\gamma_{1,2,3}$ s, *i.e.*

$$\gamma_{ave} = (\gamma_1 \times \gamma_2 \times \gamma_3)^{1/3}$$

851 and

$$\gamma_1 = \gamma_{ave} + \delta_1 \quad (\text{II. b. 1})$$

$$\gamma_2 = \gamma_{ave} + \delta_2 \quad (\text{II. b. 2})$$

$$\gamma_3 = \gamma_{ave} + \delta_3 \quad (\text{II. b. 3}).$$

852 Replacing γ_s in (II.a) with (II.b.1-2-3), then it is obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\delta_1}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\delta_2}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)^{1-\lambda} \times \left(1 + \frac{\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)^\lambda} \approx \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\delta_1}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)}{\left(1 - (1-\lambda)\frac{\delta_2}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \times \left(1 - \lambda\frac{\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)} \approx \\ &\approx \left(1 + \frac{\delta_1}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \times \left(1 + (1-\lambda)\frac{\delta_2}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \times \left(1 + \lambda\frac{\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \\ &\approx 1 + \frac{\delta_1 + (1-\lambda)\delta_2 + \lambda\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}} + o\left(\left(\frac{\delta}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)^2\right) \approx 1 \quad (\text{II. c}) \end{aligned}$$

853 The approximation above requires $\delta/\gamma_{ave} < 1$, which holds in most cases. In fact, earlier excess
854 enthalpy determinations on some HP-minerals (for instance, Fe-periclase: [Srećec et al. 1987](#);
855 garnets: [Geiger et al. 1987](#); olivine: [Kojitani and Akaogi 1994](#); Al-perovskite: [Akber-Knutson
856 and Bukowinski 2004](#); [Panero et al. 2006](#)) exhibit absolute ΔH -maximum-values that yield
857 average activity coefficients [estimated by $\exp(\Delta H_{\max}/RT)$, $T=2000$ K] lying between 1.07 and
858 1.34, with a geometric average of 1.2 and $\langle \delta/\gamma_{ave} \rangle \sim 0.08$. Note that $\delta_1 + \delta_2(1-\lambda) + \delta_3\lambda$ is
859 expected to be in general small as the δ_s compensate each other, due to δ_1 , δ_2 , and δ_3 not
860 being of the same sign. Therefore, given that we can legitimately neglect the activity
861 coefficient in the case of equ.(7.a), x_{iS} and p_{iS} coincide with each other, according to
862 APPENDIX I.3.

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1190

1191 **CAPTIONS TO THE FIGURES**

1192

1193 **Figure 1.** Equilibrium constant, $K(P,T,\lambda)$, of the fundamental alumina exchange reaction (5)
1194 *versus* λ , which expresses the exchanged amount of Al_2O_3 in the *Mg-Al-pv*, *Mg-pv* and *cor*
1195 system. $K(P,T,\lambda)$, calculated by the open system model, is displayed at 24 GPa/1919 K (blue
1196 line), 44 GPa/2145 K (red line) and 80 GPa/2551 K (black line), by way of example. Black
1197 filled circles indicate the maxima at the three chosen P - T points, and correspond to the λ -
1198 values that most shift the reaction $(1-\lambda) \text{MgSiO}_3 + \lambda \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \leftrightarrow (\text{Mg}_{1-\lambda}\text{Al}_\lambda)(\text{Si}_{1-\lambda}\text{Al}_\lambda)\text{O}_3$ to the
1199 right (equ.5, of the text).

1200

1201 **Figure 2.** $K(P,T)_{\text{ave}}$ *versus* P , according to the chosen geotherm and calculated by the open
1202 system model. Blue line and red line show two different trends for the average equilibrium
1203 constant, $K(P,T)_{\text{ave}}$, of the reaction (5). Note that $K(P,T)_{\text{ave}} = \langle K(P,T,\lambda) \rangle_\lambda$ (see 4.2.1 section for
1204 further explanations).

1205

1206 **Figure 3.** Phase proportions of Al-free perovskite (*Mg-pv*), Al-bearing perovskite (*Mg-Al-pv*)
1207 and corundum (*cor*) *versus* P , according to the chosen geotherm. *Mg-Al-pv* fractions have an
1208 average Al_2O_3 composition provided by $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, calculated according to equ.(9.b) on the P - T
1209 range of interest and shown in Fig.5. Al-free perovskite is an extreme notion, which provides
1210 a “limit” to define a tendency of such mineral to incorporate aluminium.

1211

1212 **Figure 4.** Al_2O_3 -partitioning between corundum and perovskite ($\text{cor}(\text{mol})/\text{Mg-Al-pv}(\text{mol})$)
1213 *versus* P , according to the chosen geotherm and calculated by the open system model. The red
1214 box shows the region of maximum Al-uptake for perovskite (saturation region), suggesting
1215 that at such P - T conditions the Al-incorporation is weakly dependent on pressure. At higher
1216 pressure, the $\text{cor}/\text{Mg-Al-pv}$ ratio trend hints at a possible instability of perovskite (transition to
1217 another phase, such as post-perovskite, *ppv*?). See text for further discussion

1218

1219 **Figure 5.** Average Al_2O_3 mole fraction in perovskite, $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, determined by the open system
1220 model and calculated *via* equ.(9.b), as a function of P along the chosen geotherm. In the P -
1221 region 30-50 GPa, $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$ is *quasi* constant (interpolation solid line).

1222

1223 **Figure 6.** Al_2O_3 mole fraction in perovskite, $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$, determined by the closed system
1224 model and calculated *via* equ.(14), as a function of P along the chosen geotherm. At $\lambda=\xi_{\text{closed}}$
1225 system , $K(P,T,\lambda)$ takes an extreme value, so that reaction (5) is shifted to the right as much as
1226 possible.

1227

1228 **Figure 7.** Cell volume disagreement (%), between measurements and our calculations, in the
1229 case of Al-bearing perovskite, as a function of P . Experimental values from Walter et al
1230 (2004).

1231

1232 **Figure 8.** The predicted *total* Al_2O_3 (wt%) stored in Mg-Al-pv , calculated by the open system
1233 model, assuming perovskite amounts of 76% (red dots) and 85% (blue dots) of the lower
1234 mantle mass, in pyrolite and chondrite reference models (Table 1), respectively. Bulk Al_2O_3
1235 contents of pyrolite (A) and chondrite (A1) primitive lower mantle models are shown by red
1236 and blue solid lines, respectively. Bulk Al_2O_3 contents of pyrolite-type and chondrite-type
1237 non-primitive lower mantle models calculated by adding a 3 wt% of MORB-component (B)
1238 are represented by red and blue dotted lines, respectively. MORB composition from Hirose et
1239 al. (1999). P - T region of 24-80 GPa/1919-2550 K is referred to the chosen geotherm.

1240

1241 **Figure 9.** Probability ($p_0\%$) of Mg-Al-pv occurrence with a given Al_2O_3 mole content *per*
1242 formula unit, according to the open system model. Each curve is associated to key P - T values
1243 (P in legend), along the chosen geotherm. The Al_2O_3 contents of natural Al-bearing

1244 perovskite (\leftrightarrow) *claimed* from the lower mantle, are provided by [Kaminsky and Lin \(2017\)](#). In
1245 the inset table, the absolute probability to find Al-bearing perovskite (*Mg-Al-Pv*) against Mg-
1246 perovskite (*Mg-pv*) is reported for the explored *P-T* region of the lower mantle.

1 **Aluminium distribution in an Earth's *non-primitive* lower mantle**

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14 **Key-words:** Aluminium distribution, Earth's lower mantle; aluminium bearing perovskite;
15 pyrolite, chondrite reference model; MORB-component; enriched lower mantle composition;
16 open system.

17 **ABSTRACT**

18

19 The aluminium incorporation mechanism of perovskite was explored by means of quantum
20 mechanics in combination with equilibrium/off-equilibrium thermodynamics under the
21 pressure-temperature conditions of the Earth's lower mantle (from 24 to 80 GPa). Earth's
22 lower mantle was modelled as a geochemically "not-primitive" object because of an
23 enrichment by 3 wt% of recycled crustal material (MORB-component). The chemical
24 composition of the "non primitive" lower mantle takes into account both chondrite and
25 pyrolite reference models to represent the lower mantle's primitive composition.

26 The capacity of perovskite to host Al was modelled through an Al₂O₃ exchange process in an
27 unconstrained Mg-perovskite+Mg-Al-perovskite+free-Al₂O₃(corundum) system. Aluminium
28 is globally incorporated principally via an increase in the amount of Al-bearing perovskite
29 [$Mg-Al-pv(80\text{ GPa})/Mg-Al-pv(24\text{ GPa})\approx 1.17$], rather than by an increase in the Al₂O₃-content
30 of the average chemical composition which changes little (0.11-0.13, mole fraction of Al₂O₃)
31 and tends to decrease in Al. The Al₂O₃ distribution in the lower mantle was described through
32 the probability of the occurrence of given compositions of Al-bearing perovskite. The
33 probability of finding Mg-Al-perovskite is comparable to Al-free Mg-perovskite's. Perovskite
34 with Al₂O₃ mole fraction up to 0.15 has an occurrence probability of ~28% at 24 GPa,
35 increasing up to ~43% at 80 GPa; on the contrary, perovskite compositions in the range 0.19-
36 0.30 Al₂O₃ mole fraction drop their occurrence probability from 9.8 to 2.0%, over the same P-
37 range. In light of this, the distribution of Al in the lower mantle shows that, among the
38 possible Al-bearing perovskite phases, the (Mg_{0.89}Al_{0.11})(Si_{0.89}Al_{0.11})O₃ composition is the
39 likeliest, providing from 5 to 8% of the bulk perovskite in the pressure range from 24 to 80
40 GPa. The occurrence of the Al-richest composition, *i.e.* (Mg_{0.71}Al_{0.29})(Si_{0.71}Al_{0.29})O₃, is a rare
41 event (probability of occurrence < 1.7%). This study predicts that perovskite may globally
42 host Al₂O₃ in terms of 4.3 and 4.8 wt% (with respect to the non-primitive lower mantle mass),

43 thus accounting for ~ 90% and 100% of the bulk Al_2O_3 estimated in the framework of pyrolite
44 and chondrite reference models, respectively. A calcium-ferrite-type phase (on the MgAl_2O_4 -
45 NaAlSiO_4 join) seems to be the only candidate that can compensate for the 10% gap of the
46 perovskite Al-incorporation capacity, in the case of a pyrolite non-primitive lower mantle
47 model.

48 1. INTRODUCTION

49

50 The mantle is the Earth's largest division by volume, originally marked by a planetary
51 Siderophile/Lithophile element fractionation. Refractory Lithophile Elements (RLE)
52 condensed from a gas of solar nebula composition at the highest temperature (>1400 K at 10^{-4}
53 atm) compatible with the nebula's physical constraints (Lodders, 2003). RLEs' chemical
54 behaviour prevented metal and sulphide phases from entering both chondrites and metallic
55 cores during the planetary differentiation (Lodders, 2003; Kaminski and Javoy, 2013; Mahan
56 et al., 2018). RLEs include Ca and Al among the major elements, the full group of rare earth
57 elements (REE), U and Th. The chemical characteristics of such elements support the
58 primitive Earth's mantle model that preserves the solar ratios of RLEs (Wasson and
59 Kallemeyn, 1988; Lodders et al., 2009; Wang and Jacobsen, 2016).

60 Aluminium is the sixth most abundant element on Earth: it is a purely refractory lithophile
61 element and its natural abundance is provided by the stable isotope ^{27}Al . The radioactive
62 isotope ^{26}Al quickly decayed in ^{26}Mg (^{26}Al half-life = $7.17 \pm 0.24 \times 10^5$ yr; Norris et al., 1983,
63 Wu and Browne, 1997) during the early stage of the solar system's evolution (Lee et al.,
64 1977; Lodders, 2003; Baker et al., 2012). The ^{26}Al decay provided substantial heating to the
65 proto planetary bodies, and its isotopic daughter is one of the most widely used extinct
66 radioactivity chronometers (Bizzarro, et al., 2005; Spivak-Birndorf et al. 2009; Wimpenny et
67 al., 2019).

68 Taking into account the geochemical behaviour of aluminium, it is unlikely that a large
69 amount of such element may enter the Earth's core, though it provides a major constituent of
70 many minerals at any depth of the Earth's mantle and crust. Aluminium is also one of the
71 main components of any melt generated from the upper mantle, in terms of 9-21 wt% Al_2O_3
72 on average (source: PetDB Petrological Database). Melt crystallization, segregation, rise and
73 cooling, led to the formation of the crust over the Earth's history. An intriguing aspect is that

74 Al, as a crustal component, partially, or entirely, was transported into the mantle, through
75 subduction. Such a process could involve mantle portions well below the magma source
76 regions (Young et al., 2005; Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2008; Wang and Jacobsen, 2016).

77 Seismic tomography reveals that near the Earth's mantle transition zone, which marks the
78 boundary between upper and lower mantle, repositories of crustal material occur (Christensen
79 and Yuen, 1984; Billen, 2010, King et al., 2015). They exhibit different dynamic behaviours:

80 i) stagnation in the mantle transition zone (Japan trench; Honda, 2017 and references therein);

81 ii) stagnation in the uppermost lower mantle (Peruvian Andes; Fukao and Obayashi 2013); iii)

82 continuous descent, seemingly unhindered, into the lower mantle (Farallon plate, North
83 America; Sigloch et al., 2008). Such tomographic observations suggest a mechanism of global

84 mantle convection with an abundant mass exchange between distinct geochemical reservoirs
85 lying in both the upper and lower mantle (van der Hilst et al., 1997; Nolet et al., 2007).

86 More recently, geochemical models, aimed at explaining the isotopic evolution of the silicate
87 Earth (Kumari et al., 2016; Jones et al., 2019) or at tracing the distribution of key components
88 (H₂O and Fe-Mg) in the lower mantle (Walter et al., 2015; Merli et al., 2016; 2017), have
89 depicted the Earth's mantle as a chemical reservoir ("pyrolite") involving uninterrupted
90 geochemical reactions and energy/matter flows.

91 In particular, Kumari et al. (2016) estimated that about 60% of the entire mantle is as depleted
92 in fusible elements (*i.e.* Al and Ca) as its upper portion, whereas the remaining mantle is non-
93 primitive, containing a small fraction of transient and isolated recycled crustal materials.

94 Jones et al. (2019), combining the geodynamic model of mantle convection with isotope and
95 trace element geochemistry, suggest that the subduction and accumulation of dense oceanic
96 crust produce in the deep mantle a large mass of material enriched in incompatible trace
97 elements. The quoted authors also state that an equivalent of 50-70% of the current
98 continental crust mass was accumulated earlier than 3 Ga ago, and that the crustal recycling
99 and reworking dominated over juvenile additions to the continental crust, since the end of the

100 Archean (2.5 Ga). This suggests that since the end of the Hadean age (~ 4.6-3.8 Ga) the
101 Earth's lower mantle has been enriched with crustal components.

102 Understanding the structure and chemical-physical behavior of the slabs subducted into the
103 mantle is out of the scope of the present work. Conversely, we focus on the chemical
104 rearrangement of the main lower mantle mineral phases in the case of a full mixing between
105 crustal slabs and primordial lower mantle. In such a view, aluminium may be an effective
106 “probe” among the major elements.

107 The present work deals with the modelling of Al-incorporation in perovskite, the major phase
108 in the lower mantle, and the resulting Al-distribution, by means of quantum mechanics
109 calculations in combination with equilibrium/off-equilibrium thermodynamics and cluster
110 expansion technique. The cluster expansion approach allows the investigation of large atom
111 clusters, thus providing an effective tool to model solid mixing in a statistical framework (see
112 Merli et al. 2015, and references therein). Because of the complexity of the natural processes,
113 it is convenient to start from a “reference” mineral phase, *i.e.* MgSiO₃-perovskite, whose Al-
114 enrichment is investigated. We explore the *P*-range from 24 to 80 GPa, to unquestionably
115 leave the perovskite-to-post perovskite transition aside (Murakami et al., 2004; Tsuchiya and
116 Tsuchiya, 2008; Shim et al., 2008).

117 Our main goal is to estimate the maximum intrinsic capacity of perovskite to incorporate
118 aluminium and its phase proportion with respect to the Al-free perovskite fraction, as a
119 function of *P-T*. Subsequently, the resulting Al-partitioning will be used to discuss the global
120 mechanism of storage of aluminium in the lower mantle.

121

122 2. GEOCHEMISTRY

123

124 2.1 Lower mantle geochemical model

125

126 Cosmochemical arguments supporting a chondritic bulk Earth composition (chondrite
127 reference model) imply that the lower mantle must be enriched in Si with respect to a
128 primitive upper mantle (PUM; Javoy et al., 2010; Murakami et al., 2012; Kaminski, and Javoy
129 2013), save that the Earth's core should be able to host ~4-6 wt% Si (McDonough 2014,
130 Badro et al., 2014) to balance the Earth's Si-budget against the Sun's and chondrite's
131 $[Mg/Si_{(PUM)} \sim 1.21-1.31 \text{ versus } Mg/Si_{(lower\ mantle)} \sim 1.01]$. Conversely, according to petrological
132 data and chondritic constraints the lower mantle is chemically equivalent to the primitive
133 upper mantle (pyrolite reference model; McDonough and Sun, 1995; Lyubetskaya and
134 Korenaga, 2007).

135 Tomographic images of subducted slabs plunging into the deep mantle have been interpreted
136 in terms of an efficient mass transfer between upper and lower mantle domains. This supports
137 large scale mixing and therefore a homogenous Mg/Si distribution (*i.e.* pyrolite) throughout
138 the mantle (Sigloch et al., 2008; van der Hilst et al., 1997). However, only a limited number
139 of slabs actually sink into the lower mantle, given that most of the subducted ones flatten and
140 seem to stagnate at either ~660 km or ~1,000 km depth (Fukao and Obayashi 2013). This
141 points towards a comparatively ineffective mixing process and contrasts the notion of a
142 vigorous global mantle convection. Recently, Ballmer et al. (2017) have hypothesised the
143 presence of stable large-scale high-viscosity bridgmanite-enriched ancient mantle structures
144 (BEAMS) that have been residing in the Earth's lower mantle since the early stage of our
145 planet's formation. Their numerical model also predicts the incorporation of limited amounts
146 of crustal material from shallow to deep mantle, particularly during the early stages. Such
147 crustal portions provide stretched and stirred long-lived "fossil" fragments, in keeping with
148 tomographic observations. Therefore, large-scale heterogeneities may account for the Earth's
149 bulk composition, bringing the lower mantle's Mg/Si ratio closer to the solar-chondritic one
150 unlike the upper mantle.

151 Hereafter, we shall refer to either the “pyrolite model” (based on the pyrolite composition
152 throughout the mantle) or the “chondrite model” (relying on different compositions between
153 upper and lower mantle) to describe the lower mantle.

154 Whatever bulk composition model is used to interpret the mantle’s dynamics, the crustal
155 components plunging into the lower mantle cause large/small-scale changes of its phase
156 composition (Irifune et al. 1996; McDonough, 2016; Nestola et al., 2018).

157

158 2.2 Enriched (*non-primitive*) lower mantle bulk composition

159

160 Both chondrite and pyrolite lower mantle models are used here to estimate the non-primitive
161 lower mantle compositions. The bulk chemical composition of the lower mantle is generally
162 described in terms of its five major oxides (MgO, FeO, CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂), which account
163 for ~98.5 wt% of the Earth’s mantle mass (Mc Donough, 2016; Palme and O’Neill, 2014).

164 Na₂O occurrence, even if of modest impact on the large-scale geophysical and geochemical
165 modelling (Bina and Helffrich, 2014; Palme and O’Neill, 2014 Chust et al., 2017), is still
166 important in terms of the resulting minor mineral phases that affect the Al distribution in the
167 lower mantle. Experiments and observations on natural samples reveal that potential Al-
168 bearing lower mantle phases may also include K, Fe³⁺ and OH as major elements (*i.e.*: Kato et
169 al., 2013; Wang et al., 2015; Pamato et al., 2015; Harte and Richardson, 2012). In particular,
170 Al-bearing phases are able to host potassium if they form in a system containing at least ~
171 0.09 wt% K₂O (Kato et al., 2013). Note that the mid-ocean-ridge basalt (MORB) average
172 composition has 0.08-0.12 wt% K₂O (Gale et al., 2013), whereas pyrolite and chondrite lower
173 mantle models are estimated to bear ~0.03 and <0.01 wt% K₂O, respectively (McDonough
174 and Sun, 1995; Javoy et al., 2010). Therefore, K-bearing phases are not expected to play a
175 relevant role as potential aluminium hosts among the lower mantle phases. Although ferric
176 iron is able to affect Al³⁺ storage in perovskite-like structures *via* Fe³⁺ ↔ Al³⁺ replacement

177 (Kurnosov et al., 2017), the $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\sum\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$ ratio in the primitive Earth's mantle is supposed to be
178 very small, *i.e.* ~ 0.03 , according to mass balance calculations (Palme and O'Neill, 2014).
179 Bulk H_2O (hosted as OH-group) in the lower mantle influences the aluminium content
180 incorporated by perovskite through the formation of Al-bearing hydrous phases. However, the
181 bulk H_2O content is comparatively modest and estimated ~ 1500 ppm, in both pyrolite and
182 chondrite lower mantle models (Merli et al., 2016; Muir and Brodholt, 2018).

183 Let us consider the lower mantle as a geochemically non-primitive object because it is mixed
184 with a fraction of recycled crustal material (*i.e.* MORB-component). In this view, Al_2O_3 and
185 CaO, hosted in lower mantle minerals, are potential “*probes*” which mark the occurrence of
186 such a geodynamic process (Guignot and Andraut, 2004, Hirose et al., 2005; Korenaga,
187 2009; Irifune et al., 2010; Ricolleau et al., 2010).

188 The MORB chemical composition is enriched in incompatible major elements (aluminium,
189 calcium and, to a lesser extent, iron) and depleted of compatible elements (magnesium) with
190 respect to the mantle (Table 1). Therefore, a MORB-like composition at lower mantle P - T
191 conditions cannot give Fe-periclase, whereas high-pressure SiO_2 -rich phases (*e.g.* Ca-
192 perovskite and bridgmanite) and additional aluminium-rich phases are expected to occur.
193 Following experimental results about MORB bulk compositions (14-16 wt% Al_2O_3) under
194 lower mantle conditions (30-90 GPa), the newly formed Al_2O_3 -rich phases (NAL-type phase
195 and CaFe_2O_4 -type phase, *i.e.* CF-phase, on the join MgAl_2O_4 - NaAlSiO_4) may account for
196 about 10-12 mol% by phase composition (Guignot and Andraut, 2004, Ricolleau et al.,
197 2010).

198 Assuming that subducted crustal fragments have been sliding down into the mantle over the
199 past 4 billion years (the most generous estimate is about 11 wt% of the whole mantle; Li and
200 McNamara, 2013), aluminium-rich domains should have developed, in contrast to
201 expectations from a primitive lower mantle's composition (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni,
202 2012).

203 We model such an enrichment using the simple binary mixing equation of Faure (1986) to
204 combine primitive lower mantle compositions (pyrolite and chondrite, corresponding to the
205 end-members “A” and “A1”, respectively; see Table 1) with a crust-type-composition (end-
206 member “B”; MORB-like silicate glass; see Table 1). End-member B is close to the N-MORB
207 average of Gale et al. (2013) and has been largely used in HP experiments (*i.e.* Hirose et al.,
208 1999; 2005 Funamori et al., 2000; Guignot and Andraut, 2004; Ricolleau et al., 2010).
209 According to the extensive compilation provided by the PetDB-database of chemical data
210 from mid-ocean ridge basalts, the water concentrations lie in the range 0.05-1.0 wt%. The
211 amount of H₂O stored in the deep mantle, computed by experiments and mass balance models
212 (Ghosh et al., 2014; Marty, 2012), is in the range 800-2700 ppm (*i.e.* 0.08-0.27 wt%). Taking
213 into account such figures and the tomographic observations that suggest that only small
214 fractions of descending slabs reach the lower mantle (Ballmer et al. 2017), we model a non-
215 primitive lower mantle composition by a chemical mixing of primitive pyrolite/chondrite
216 compositions with a 3 wt% end-member B’s contribution (0.1 wt% of H₂O). The resulting
217 compositions are reported in Table 1. Such chemical mixing ideally reproduces a non-
218 primitive lower mantle as predicted by modelling the isotopic evolution of the silicate Earth:
219 ~3 wt% of the total mantle mass is expected to be stored and ultimately mixed within ~1 Ga
220 in the lower mantle (Christensen and Hofmann 1994; Kumari et al., 2016; White, 2015).

221

222

3. METHODS

223

3.1 Chemical probability of formation: aluminium-bearing phases in the lower mantle

225

226 The probability that a phase “J” forms at P - T , *i.e.* $p(J|P,T)$, can be roughly estimated in terms
227 of $p(J|P,T) \propto p(J, \text{chem}) \times \exp(-\Delta G(P,T)_{\text{formation}}/RT)$, where $p(J, \text{chem})$ is the probability of having
228 the required chemical species for J under the constraint of a given available elemental budget

229 and $\Delta G(P,T)_{\text{formation}}$ is the formation Gibbs energy. $p(\text{J,chem})$ is termed “*chemical probability*
230 *of formation*”, to underline that it reflects the likelihood of having the required elements to
231 form the J-phase, and it is calculated as follows.

232 Let us assume X_k to represent the fractional abundance value of the k^{th} -oxide, in a generic
233 system. Given that

$$234 \sum_{k=1,M} X_k = 1 \quad (1)$$

235 then X_k can also be associated with the *probability* of having the k^{th} -oxide, if the oxides are
236 supposed to be uniformly distributed as a function of space. The chemical composition of the
237 J-phase is then expressed formally as

$$238 \text{J} = \sum_k n_k X_k \quad (2)$$

239 Therefore, the probability of finding one mole of the J-phase as a function of its **pure** chemical
240 composition, $p(\text{J,chem})$, is provided by the joint events of i) having (n_1 -moles of X_1)(n_2 -moles
241 of X_2).... and ii) **not having** any species with stoichiometric coefficient equal to 0. This
242 corresponds to the following joint probability:

$$243 p(\text{J, chem}) \propto \prod_k p(k)^{n_k} \times (1 - \sum_m p(m)) \propto \prod_j X_j^{n_j} \times (1 - \sum_m X_m) \quad (3)$$

244 where $p(k)$ and $p(m)$ are the probabilities of finding the k^{th} and m^{th} oxide, respectively; the
245 subscript k is associated with the chemical species with stoichiometric coefficients other than
246 zero, whereas m is related to those with stoichiometric coefficients equal to zero. The
247 $p(\text{J,chem})$ values calculated in this way are then normalized so that their sum yields unity.

248 [Table 2](#) reports major phases and potential Al-bearing phases that experiments, numerical
249 modelling and exceptional observations on natural findings indicated as possible minerals in a
250 non-primitive lower mantle ([Table 1](#)).

251 Preliminary calculations led us to rule out periclase as a host of aluminium, save that the Al-
252 incorporation takes place with the contribution of H ([Merli et al., 2016](#)). In such a case, the
253 amount of Al involved would be negligible, anyway. [Panero et al. \(2006\)](#) estimated regular
254 solution parameters of 12 and 66 kJ/mol for perovskite and akimotoite, respectively. Taking

255 into account i) the significantly lower energy for Al-incorporation in perovskite than in
256 akimotoite and ii) the restricted range of occurrence of the latter (Panero et al., 2006), we
257 exclude akimotoite as a possible competitor to uptake Al in the P - T region under investigation
258 (Stebbins et al., 2001; Li et al. 2008; Tschauner et al., 2018). Majorite garnet, which is the
259 main host of aluminium in the mantle transition region in both pyrolite and basaltic
260 compositions (Irifune and Ringwood, 1993; Litasov and Ohtani, 2007), is transformed into
261 Mg-perovskite+Ca-perovskite at pressures corresponding to the uppermost lower mantle.
262 Experiments show that aluminium is mostly incorporated by Mg-perovskite/bridgmanite in
263 pyrolite or chondrite compositions under lower mantle P - T conditions (Irifune et al., 1996;
264 Ricolleau et al., 2008), whereas separate aluminous phases form in basaltic compositions
265 (Hirose et al., 1999; 2005) at the same P - T conditions.

266 In a non-primitive lower mantle, aluminium is partitioned between perovskite/bridgmanite
267 and minor Al-bearing phases, such as:

268 i) alkali rich NAL-structure phases, like those on the join $\text{NaMg}_2\text{Al}_{4.8}\text{Si}_{1.15}\text{O}_{12}$ -
269 $\text{KMg}_2\text{Al}_{4.8}\text{Si}_{1.15}\text{O}_{12}$ (Gasparik et al., 2000; Kato et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2016). However, as
270 stated above, K-bearing phases are unlikely to develop in the lower mantle because of the lack
271 of a sufficient amount of potassium;

272 ii) CF-structure and NAL-structure polymorphs, on the join MgAl_2O_4 - NaAlSiO_4 (Imada et al.,
273 2011; 2012; Irifune et al., 1991). Note that the CF-structure was observed to stabilize at a
274 higher pressure ($\sim >40$ GPa) than the NAL-structure (~ 24 - 40 GPa) (Imada et al., 2011;
275 Guignot and Andraut, 2004);

276 iii) possible hydrous solid solutions involving D-phase, H-phase and δ - AlOOH (Ghosh and
277 Schmidt, 2014; Pamato et al., 2015; Walter et al., 2015; Fukuyama et al., 2017).

278 In the case of NAL- and CF-phases, we chose to calculate a *chemical probability of formation*
279 $p(\text{J,chem})$ for a reference NAL/CF-mineral, that is $\text{Na}_{0.265}\text{Fe}_{0.245}\text{Mg}_{0.375}\text{Ca}_{0.035}\text{Al}_{1.1}\text{Si}_{0.715}\text{O}_4$.
280 Such a composition is obtained from Guignot and Andraut (2004), by averaging those that

281 the authors labelled with “CF^A” and “CF^{B1}”, neglecting Ti and normalizing to 4 oxygen atoms
282 and 3 cations.

283 Hereafter we shall use the following acronyms, for the sake of brevity: *Mg-pv*, “Mg-
284 perovskite”, for perovskite tout court, *i.e.* MgSiO₃; *Mg-Al-pv*, “Al-perovskite”, for Al bearing
285 Mg-perovskite, *i.e.* (Mg,Al)(Si,Al)O₃; *Mg-Fe-pv*, “bridgmanite”, for Fe-bearing Mg-
286 perovskite, *i.e.* (Mg,Fe)SiO₃; *Ca-pv*, “Ca-perovskite”, for Ca-bearing perovskite, *i.e.*
287 (Ca,Mg)SiO₃; “perovskite”, for any solid mixing, or end member, occurring in the lower
288 mantle and having perovskite-type structure; *Fe-pe*, “Fe-periclase”, *i.e.* (Mg,Fe)O; *CF*, “CF-
289 phase”, for a phase in the MgAl₂O₄-NaAlSiO₄ join.

290

291 **3.2 Aluminium incorporation mechanisms of perovskite**

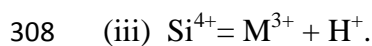
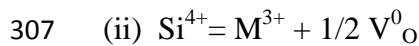
292

293 To evaluate the aluminium distribution in a non-primitive lower mantle, we model the Al-
294 uptake capacity of perovskite, which is the lower mantle phase able to host aluminium to such
295 an extent as to provide a relevant storage by volume (Jeanloz and Knittle, 1989; Ricolleau et
296 al.,2009).

297 We introduce the notion of “maximum Al-uptake capacity” of perovskite. “Maximum Al-
298 uptake capacity”-conditions are set through a *virtual* competition between MgSiO₃ and Al₂O₃
299 (ideal *pure* alumina phase) to accommodate Al, at lower mantle *P-T* conditions and in a SiO₂-
300 MgO-Al₂O₃ system. Corundum (*cor*) is the least “prejudicial” phase as an Al-host, given that
301 it does not require any further chemical species but aluminium to form and is the Al₂O₃-
302 polymorph stable in the *P-T* range of interest (Merli and Pavese 2018).

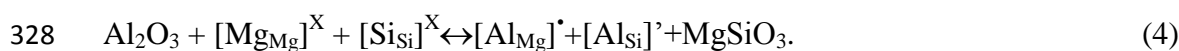
303 The incorporation mechanism of a trivalent cation in perovskite is supposed to occur through
304 three main reactions (Navrotsky et al., 2003; Akber-Knutson et al., 2005 and references
305 therein):





309 Reaction (i), which takes place *via* a charge-coupled-mechanism, is the likeliest one, as shown
310 by energy calculations (Yamamoto et al., 2003; Akber-Knutson et al., 2005; Zhang and
311 Oganov, 2006). A comparison between incorporation mechanisms (i) and (ii) reveals that the
312 former is slightly exothermic, in contrast with the endothermic behaviour of the latter
313 (Navrotsky et al., 2003). NMR-measurements point to the occurrence of a charge-coupled
314 mechanism (Stebbins et al., 2001), in agreement with calculations of Akber-Knutson and
315 Bukowinski (2004), who suggest that Al tends to replace both Si and M^{2+} , in a high pressure
316 and high temperature regime. As to reaction (iii), we assume contents of H_2O , *i.e.* H^+ supplier,
317 and Al_2O_3 as much as 1500 ppm (0.15 wt%) and 4.76 wt%, respectively (Table 1), in keeping
318 with the lower mantle Al-richest composition obtained by mixing pyrolite with 3% MORB-
319 component (Table 1). In such a case, even if all the hydrogen from the dissociation
320 $\text{OH}_2 \rightarrow \text{OH}^- + \text{H}^+$ contributed to an exchange mechanism like (iii), just 0.08 mol fraction
321 aluminium might be accounted for. Moreover, according to the H_2O -partitioning estimated by
322 Merli et al. (2016), periclase is able to account for 1/3 of the trapped H_2O , thus reducing
323 further the role of reaction (iii) as a possible relevant mechanism to Al-incorporation in
324 perovskite.

325 Therefore, the Al-uptake in perovskite is modelled by the replacement of Mg-Si with Al-Al,
326 according to the exchange reaction reported below using the formalism of Kröger-Vink
327 (Kröger, 1972)

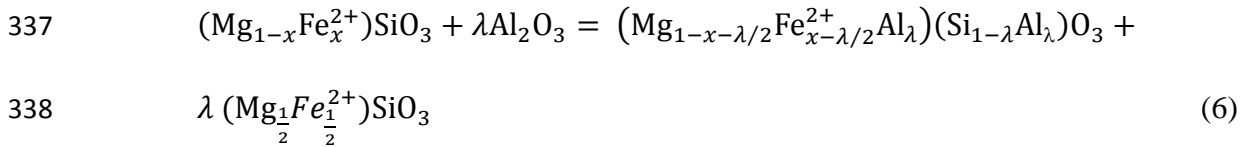


329 Assuming λ -mole of Al_2O_3 to be exchanged in the *Mg-Al-pv*, *Mg-pv* and *cor* system, then
330 equ.(4) leads to



332 In reaction (5) iron can affect the energy through a replacement like $\text{Mg}^{2+} \leftrightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$ and
 333 competes with aluminium in terms of $\text{Al}^{3+} \leftrightarrow \text{Fe}^{3+}$. However, we chose to neglect Fe as we are
 334 developing a first approximation model, which would provide general trends rather than
 335 details. Our choice can be further supported by the following arguments.

- 336 • The general reaction that accounts for Al_2O_3 entering in bridgmanite turns out to be



339 where we assume that Al replaces the same quantity of Mg and Fe^{2+} , the latter
 340 dwelling at the 12-coordination site, only (Kaminsky and Lin, 2017). The
 341 parametrization of the Gibbs energy used in the present work relies upon the cluster
 342 expansion technique (Merli et al., 2015; 2017). Such a method leads to expressing
 343 energy as a function of the number of interacting atomic pairs that belong to the same
 344 cluster determined as a function of the distance between the involved chemical
 345 species. Assuming Fe-Al pair entering the perovskite structure as much as 0.1-0.2
 346 moles (*i.e.* Kurnosov et al., 2017; Kaminsky and Lin, 2017), the probability of having
 347 a Fe-Al interacting pair belonging to the first/second cluster is ~5-6 %. Therefore,
 348 most of the interactions with aluminium atoms are due to the pure Mg-Si matrix,
 349 which governs the “maximum intrinsic capacity” of perovskite to incorporate Al.

350 The role of Fe^{3+} is extensively debated and still largely uncertain. *Mg-Fe-pv* is
 351 potentially the major Fe^{3+} acceptor, but Kaminsky and Lin (2017) indicated that in
 352 natural lower mantle bridgmanites iron most likely occurs as ferrous at the 12-
 353 coordination sites. Conversely, Kurnosov et al. (2017) claim $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}} = 0.33$, in
 354 synthetic bridgmanite with ferric iron sited at the same coordination site, under lower
 355 mantle conditions ($P \sim 35$ GPa; 1300 km depth; Ismailova et al. 2016). Mass balance
 356 calculations, in turn, predict an impact of ferric iron in terms of $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}} \sim 0.03$, with

357 respect to the Earth's mantle abundances (Palme and O'Neill, 2014). If we consider as
358 a first level of approximation pyrolite ($Mg-Fe-pv = 76$ wt%; $FeO_{tot} = 8.05$ wt%) and
359 chondrite ($Mg-Fe-pv = 85$ wt%; $FeO_{tot} = 8.12$ wt%) lower mantle models (Table 1),
360 and apply the Kurnosov et al. (2017) Fe^{3+}/Fe_{tot} ratio to $Mg-Fe-pv$, the resulting
361 Al^{3+}/Fe^{3+} mole ratios in bridgmanite are ~ 3.6 and ~ 2.9 for pyrolite and chondrite
362 models, respectively. Tests based on calculations that we carried out to reproduce the
363 replacement schemes $Si + Mg \Leftrightarrow Al + Fe^{3+}$ versus $Si + Mg \Leftrightarrow Al + Al$, indicate that
364 the second reaction is favoured over the former one [in agreement with the results of
365 Nishio-Hamane et al. (2005)].

366

367 3.3 Reaction models

368

369 The Al-uptake mechanism in perovskite according to reaction (5) is addressed using two
370 approaches: i) the *open system model*, which exploits the notion of stationary thermodynamic
371 state and allows an exchange of matter between system and reservoir (Prigogine 1968); ii) the
372 *closed system model*, which relies on equilibrium thermodynamics, therefore excluding any
373 sort of matter exchange. In an open system, the stationary state replaces the equilibrium state
374 and exhibits thermodynamic observables, which remain invariant over time. Details about the
375 open system model are reported in APPENDIX I.1-.2-.3 and a brief overview is given below.

376

377 3.3.1 Open system model

378 We would like to exploit the capacity of an open system to exchange matter with a reservoir,
379 in combination with a formalism as close as possible to the consolidated equilibrium
380 thermodynamics' one. Such a model provides a flexible tool to address problems in which the
381 intrinsic exchanging/incorporation capacity of a given substance can be investigated, without
382 any sort of constraint or restraint (APPENDIX I.1).

383 The key requirement is the fulfilment of the following equation, associated to reaction (5) via
 384 the equilibrium constant K (APPENDIX I.2-3):

$$385 \quad K(P, T, \lambda) = \exp[-\Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda)/RT] = a_{Mg-Al-pv} / (a_{Mg-pv}^{1-\lambda} \times a_{cor}^\lambda) \approx x_{Mg-Al-pv} /$$

$$386 \quad (x_{Mg-pv}^{1-\lambda} \times x_{cor}^\lambda) \quad (7.a)$$

387 where x_j =phase proportion of the j^{th} -component/phase (*cor*: corundum); a_j = j^{th} -
 388 component/phase's activity. In equ.(7.a) the activity coefficient is approximated to unity (see
 389 APPENDIX I.3 and APPENDIX II). Expanding ΔG_0 , it follows that:

$$390 \quad \Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda) = \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} - \lambda \times [\mu_0(P, T)_{cor} - \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv}] - \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv}.$$

$$391 \quad (7.b)$$

392 where μ_0 is the part of the chemical potential depending on λ , P and T , only (Otonello 1997;
 393 2010). For convenience, we split the chemical potential of Al-incorporating perovskite (Mg -
 394 $Al-pv$) into an Al-free part, *i.e.* pure perovskite ($Mg-pv$), and a part dependent on aluminium,
 395 that is

$$396 \quad \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} = \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv} + \Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv}, \quad (7.c)$$

397 where $\Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv}$, which accounts for the solid mixing occurrence and provides the
 398 very core of our computational model, is calculated by the cluster expansion method (Merli et
 399 al 2015, 2017).

400 Using equ.(7.c), equ.(7.b) becomes

$$401 \quad \Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda) = \Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} - \lambda [\mu_0(P, T)_{cor} - \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv}]. \quad (8)$$

402 At given (P, T, λ) -values, we seek the $\{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}$ -sets that fulfil

403 a) equ.(7.a),

404 b) $x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor} \geq 0$,

405 c) $x_{Mg-Al-pv} + x_{Mg-pv} + x_{cor} = 1$.

406 Among the solutions that satisfy the constraints a), b) and c), we chose the one that minimizes
 407 the Gibbs energy, namely $x_{Mg-Al-pv} \times \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} + x_{Mg-pv} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv} + x_{cor} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{cor}$. In

408 doing so, we obtain a triple, yielding *Mg-Al-pv/Mg-pv/cor* phase proportions, for each (P,T,λ)
 409 point, *i.e.* $\{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P,T,\lambda)$. The preservation of the total chemical composition of
 410 the system constituted by each $\{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P,T,\lambda)$ -triple is not required. The
 411 resulting system therefore behaves as an open system that can exchange $2Al \Leftrightarrow Mg+Si$ with a
 412 reservoir. In general, we are interested in modelling *observables* whose values are averages
 413 over the λ -range, so that they depend ultimately on P - T only. For instance:

$$414 \quad \{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P, T) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{\lambda-inf}^{\lambda-sup} \{x_{Mg-Al-pv}, x_{Mg-pv}, x_{cor}\}(P, T, \lambda) d\lambda \quad (9. a)$$

$$415 \quad \lambda_{Al_2O_3}(P, T) = \int_{\lambda-inf}^{\lambda-sup} \lambda \times x_{Mg-Al-pv}(P, T, \lambda) d\lambda / x_{Mg-Al-pv}(P, T) \quad (9. b)$$

$$416 \quad Tot_{Al_2O_3}(P, T) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{\lambda-inf}^{\lambda-sup} [\lambda \times x_{Mg-Al-pv}(P, T, \lambda) + x_{Al_2O_3}(P, T, \lambda)] d\lambda \quad (9. c)$$

417 where: C is a normalization constant; λ -sup=0.3 and λ -inf=0, upper and lower thresholds of λ ,
 418 respectively (for $\lambda > 0.3$, $x_{Mg-Al-pv}$ is negligible on the P - T range explored); $\lambda_{Al_2O_3}$ of (9.b) is the
 419 average Al_2O_3 mole fraction *per* formula unit; $Tot_{Al_2O_3}$ is the total Al_2O_3 stored by the (*Mg-*
 420 *Al-pv*)+(*Mg-pv*)+*cor* system.

421

422 3.3.2 Closed system model

423 For the sake of completeness, we also present the closed system model. We seek the
 424 equilibrium conditions of reaction (5) for a closed system, *i.e.* a chemically adiabatic one. Let
 425 ξ represent the aluminium occupancy factor in *Mg-Al-pv* [*i.e.* $(Mg_{1-\xi}Al_{\xi})(Si_{1-\xi}Al_{\xi})O_3$].
 426 Therefore, we have to minimize, with respect to ξ , the Gibbs energy of the system (*Mg-*
 427 *pv*)+(*Mg-Al-pv*)+*cor*, *i.e.*

$$428 \quad G = n_{cor} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{cor} + n_{pv} \times \mu_0(P, T)_{Mg-pv} + n_{Mg-Al-pv} \times \mu_0(P, T, \xi)_{Mg-Al-pv}, \quad (10)$$

429 under the constraints of the conservation of mass:

$$430 \quad M_{Al_2O_3} = n_{cor} + n_{Mg-Al-pv} \times \xi \quad (11)$$

$$431 \quad M = M_{SiO_2} = M_{MgO} = n_{Mg-pv} + n_{Mg-Al-pv} \times (1 - \xi), \quad (12)$$

432 where $M_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, M_{SiO_2} and M_{MgO} are *fixed* total amounts in moles of Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 and MgO .

433 Using the constraints above, equ.(10) becomes

$$434 \quad G = (M_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3} - n_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}} \times \xi) \times \mu_0(P, T)_{\text{cor}} + (M - n_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}} \times (1 - \xi)) \times \\ 435 \quad \mu_0(P, T)_{\text{Mg-pv}} + n_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}} \times \mu_0(P, T, \xi)_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}}. \quad (13)$$

436 The Gibbs energy minimum condition requires

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial \xi} = 0,$$

437 from which the following equation is derived

$$-\mu_0(P, T)_{\text{cor}} + \mu_0(P, T)_{\text{Mg-pv}} + \frac{\partial \mu_0(P, T, \xi)_{\text{Mg-Al-pv}}}{\partial \xi} = 0. \quad (14)$$

438 Equ.(14) formalises the equilibrium conditions for closed systems (Chust et al. 2017). Its
439 solution, expressed by $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$, yields the composition of Al-bearing perovskite that
440 minimises the Gibbs energy of equ.(13).

441 $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$ also minimises (7.b). In fact, taking into account equ.(7.c), equ.(14) is equivalent
442 to setting $\frac{\partial \Delta G_0(P, T, \lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = 0$ in equ.(8), which implies that $K(P, T, \xi_{\text{closed system}})$ achieves an
443 extreme value that shifts reaction (5) towards its right-hand side member as much as possible.

444

445 3.4 Computational

446

447 Structure relaxations were performed at a given pressure and 0 K by the HF/DFT-
448 CRYSTAL14 program (Dovesi et al., 2009), which implements “Ab-initio Linear-
449 Combination-of-Atomic-Orbitals” for periodic systems. Only static pressure ($P_{\text{static}} = -\partial E_{\text{static}}$
450 $\text{energy}/\partial V$) and zero-point pressure ($P_{\text{zp}} = -\partial E_{\text{vibration energy at 0K}}/\partial V$) were taken into account, given
451 that even adding a correction for thermal contributions would not significantly change our
452 results and the conclusions would be unaffected. A zero-point pressure was estimated by
453 quantum mechanics calculations and using *pure perovskite* only, resulting in ~5 GPa. The

454 WCGGA functional (Wu and Cohen, 2006) was used, with a hybridization rate of 28%. Such
 455 a proportion was adopted because it provides a more satisfactory agreement with observations
 456 in terms of perovskite structure, than other choices do. The tolerances governing the accuracy
 457 of the integrals of the self-consistent-field-cycles were set at (in Ha units): 10^{-8} for coulomb
 458 overlap, 10^{-8} for coulomb penetration, 10^{-8} for exchange overlap, 10^{-8} for exchange pseudo-
 459 overlap in direct space, 10^{-16} for exchange pseudo-overlap in reciprocal space and 10^{-9} for
 460 threshold for SCF-cycles' convergence. The Mg basis set from Causà et al. (1986) was
 461 extended by the addition of diffuse *sp* and *d* shells (85-11G* contraction). Oxygen and
 462 aluminium were modelled by means of the O8-411d1 and 85-11G* basis sets of Corà (2005)
 463 and Catti et al. (1994), respectively. The outer shells' coefficients were optimised by means of
 464 the “billy” utility by Towler (2015). The eigenvalue level shifting technique was used (level
 465 shift of 0.2 Ha) to avoid conducting solutions and accelerate convergence.

466 The approach of Merli et al. (2015 and 2017) relying upon the cluster expansion technique
 467 was adopted to model the solid mixing in *Mg-Al-pv*. Such a method makes it possible to
 468 parametrize energy as a function of pair interactions, thus allowing one to model in a
 469 statistical framework even large atom clusters that would be difficult to handle otherwise. We
 470 expressed the Al-dependent part of the chemical potentials in equ.(7.b) as

$$471 \Delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} = \mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} - \mu_0(P, T)_{pv} = \lambda \times [\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} -$$

$$472 \mu_0(P, T)_{cor}] + \delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv}. \quad (15)$$

473 $\delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)$, in turn, was developed in terms of

$$474 \delta\mu_0(P, T, \lambda)_{Mg-Al-pv} = (1 - \lambda) \times \lambda \times \sum_{l=0, L; m=0, M; n=0, N} p_{lmn} P^l T^m \lambda^n. \quad (16)$$

475 We used perovskite's supercells, composed of (2×2×1), (2×1×2) and (1×2×2) elementary
 476 cells. A total of 80 independent Al-configurations were randomly sampled over the interval
 477 24-80 GPa and used to calculate the pair-interaction parameters of the cluster expansion as a
 478 function of *P*, following the strategy of Merli et al. (2017). We then simulated 10^5 - 10^6 *Mg-Al-*

479 pV independent configurations in 1024 atom clusters, using the pair-interaction parameters
480 previously determined, to carry out statistical thermodynamics calculations (Merli et al.
481 2015), and model the Gibbs energy of Al-bearing perovskite thereby.
482 ΔG_0 in equ.(7.b) were calculated neglecting the atomic vibration contribution, *i.e.* the one
483 including zero-point vibration energy, thermal vibration energy and vibration entropy (in full:
484 $\Delta G_{0,vib}$). In general, calculating $\Delta G_{0,vib}$ in a solid mixing that is modelled *via* a super-cell
485 method is a difficult task, because of the complexity of compromising between
486 representativeness of a cluster, computing time and achievable precision (about the role of
487 vibrational components, see: van de Walle and Ceder, 2002). However, combining quantum
488 calculations with semi-empirical potentials (GULP code; Gale 1997; 2005), which allow the
489 investigation of large atomic clusters' lattice dynamics, we estimated, by harmonic
490 approximation, $\Delta G_{0,vib}$ for 4 Al-Al configurations in perovskite at 20 and 70 GPa, with 0.25
491 Al_2O_3 mole fraction. In this way we compared $\Delta G_{0,vib}$ with $\Delta G_{0,stat+conf}$, *i.e.* the static
492 contribution with the addition of configuration entropy, which we actually calculated. We
493 observed $|\Delta G_{0,vib}/\Delta G_{0,stat+conf}| \sim 3\%$, in the thermal range of interest, *i.e.* 2000-3000 K.
494 Therefore, taking into account the modest estimated weight of the thermal contribution in the
495 solid mixing, we chose to leave it aside (as for neglecting vibration contribution, see for
496 instance: Mohn and Trønnes 2016; Burton and van de Walle, 2003).

497

498

4. RESULTS

499

500 4.1 Chemical probability of formation of lower mantle phases

501

502 The bulk aluminium content (largest value: 4.76 wt%, related to pyrolite lower mantle mixed
503 with 3% of crustal component; Table 1) and the available amounts of alkali elements and H_2O
504 make the *chemical probability of formation* [$p(J,chem)$] for the minor Al-bearing phases <

505 0.9% with respect to the total phases formed under the constraint of a non-primitive lower
506 mantle composition (Table 1; Table 2). As expected, the $p(J,chem)$ of $Mg-Fe-pv+Mg-pv+Ca-$
507 $pv+Fe-pe$ in a non-primitive lower mantle is $>78\%$, regardless of the geochemical model
508 used. It is worth noting that $p(J,chem)$ of $Mg-Al-pv$ is as large as $\sim 96\%$, considering the Al-
509 bearing phases only (Table 3). The hydrous phases are *quasi* irrelevant, whereas the NAL/CF-
510 type phase exhibits a $p(J,chem)$ as large as 3.87-3.57% (Table 3).

511 If we used $p(J,chem)$ as an “actual” *probability of finding a given phase*, then Al would
512 distribute in terms of 4/5 *versus* 1/5 between $Mg-Al-pv$ and CF (the CF-phase is able to host
513 almost six times as much aluminium as perovskite). This estimate is to be taken with due care
514 as $p(Mg-Al-pv,chem)$ and $p(CF,chem)$ quantify only the probability of having the “least
515 condition” for a given phase to form, regardless of the energy contribution and inter-phase
516 competition to capture the involved elements. Altogether, perovskite is the main candidate to
517 incorporate aluminium by far, though CF , too, exhibits a potential capacity for Al-storing.

518

519 **4.2 Al-uptake in perovskite: open system model *versus* closed system model**

520

521 The main advantages of using an *open system model* with respect to a *closed system model* are
522 the following:

523 -neglecting the chemical composition invariance allows the system to evolve *unconstrained*,
524 driven by the mixing Gibbs energy of the solid solution of $Mg-Al-pv$. This provides the most
525 favourable condition to estimate the $Mg-Al-pv$'s intrinsic maximum capacity to host Al,
526 resorting to a simple system composed of perovskite in combination with free-alumina (*cor*),
527 the latter accounting for **the** aluminium not incorporated by the former because of saturation;
528 -such a method makes it possible i) to achieve an average depiction of the output of a given
529 chemical process and ii) to explore a mechanism of Al-storage taking into account not only

530 the Al-occupancy in perovskite, but also the amount of perovskite that is able to host
531 aluminium *versus* the fraction of Al-free perovskite ($Mg-Al-pv/Mg-pv$).

532 Reaction (5) was investigated using the P - T curve parametrised by Merli et al. (2016) as
533 follows

$$534 \quad T(\text{K}) = 11.290 \times P (\text{GPa}) + 1648,$$

535 for $24 < P < 80$ (GPa). Such a curve represents a lower mantle in a whole mantle convention
536 of limited thermal efficiency (Mattern et al., 2005; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005),
537 thus approaching the layered mantle convection models (Brown and Shankland, 1981;
538 Anderson, 1982 ; Valencia-Cardona et al., 2017).

539

540 4.2.1 Al-uptake in perovskite from open system model

541 Figure 1 shows $K(P,T,\lambda)$ of equ. (7.a) as a function of λ , at three chosen P - T points. In
542 general, the larger the value of K , the more reaction (5) shifts to the right, *i.e.* towards $Mg-Al$ -
543 pv . For each P - T point, $K(P,T,\lambda)$ has a maximum that changes from about 0.17 (24 GPa/1919
544 K) to 0.26 (80 GPa/2551 K). This means that there is an Al-exchange λ -value that maximises
545 the tendency to promote $Mg-Al-pv$ at each P - T point of the geotherm. We now introduce the
546 function $K(P,T)_{ave}$, which corresponds to the average of the equilibrium constant of reaction
547 (5), *i.e.* $K(P,T)_{ave} = \langle K(P,T,\lambda) \rangle_{\lambda}$. $K(P,T)_{ave}$ provides an overview of the general tendency of the
548 aluminium incorporation process to shift either to the right or left in reaction (5) along the
549 chosen P - T path (Fig. 2). $K(P,T)_{ave}$ calculated over Al-exchange processes between corundum
550 and perovskite from 0 to 0.3 λ -value, tends to increase upon increasing P , *i.e.* reaction (5)
551 shifts more and more to its right-hand side member $[(Mg_{1-\lambda}Al_{\lambda})(Si_{1-\lambda}Al_{\lambda})O_3]$. Two trends of
552 $K(P,T)_{ave}$ are observable: one below and one above ~ 60 GPa, characterised by 0.008 and 0.02
553 GPa^{-1} slopes, respectively (Fig. 2). They are reflective of the growing differences between the
554 $K(P,T,\lambda)$ -curves, for $\lambda > 0.15$ (Fig. 1). On the explored P - T interval, the content of free- Al_2O_3 ,

555 *i.e. cor*, takes a very small average figure of 0.0010(\pm 1), in terms of phase proportion.
556 Conversely, Al-free (*Mg-pv*) and Al-bearing (*Mg-Al-pv*) perovskite phases amount to
557 0.56(\pm 2) and 0.44(\pm 2), respectively (Fig. 3). *Mg-Al-pv* increases from 0.41 to 0.48 phase
558 proportion, from 24 to 80 GPa: this hints at a tendency to develop more and more
559 (Mg,Al)(Si,Al)O₃-phase upon *P* (Fig. 3).

560 The *cor/Mg-Al-pv* ratio monotonically decreases with increasing pressure up to 70 GPa (Fig.
561 4), from more than 0.022 to about 0.017, meaning that some 98 wt% of available Al₂O₃ is
562 taken by perovskite, in agreement with the results shown in Figures 1-3. In the range 60-80
563 GPa the data are rather scattered and weakly *P*-dependent. They indicate either some sort of
564 “saturation” (with respect to perovskite) or a poorly defined minimum. The aluminium uptake
565 capacity of perovskite is described via $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, see equ.(9.b), that gives the average Al₂O₃ mole
566 fraction *per* formula unit (Fig. 5). At 32 GPa perovskite hosts Al₂O₃ at its maximum capacity
567 ($\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3} = 0.134$ Al₂O₃ mole fraction) and preserves such an occupancy figure up to ~50 GPa
568 (Fig. 5). The occupancy starts to monotonically decrease beyond 50 GPa, with a slope of
569 about -0.0009 GPa⁻¹ ($\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3} = 0.105$ Al₂O₃ mole fraction, at 80 GPa; Fig. 5). This takes place
570 in combination with an increase of the phase fraction of Al-bearing perovskite.

571

572 4.2.2 Al-uptake in perovskite from a closed system model

573 The Al-occupancy factor $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$, as reported in equations (10)-(11) and (12), minimises
574 the Gibbs energy and maximises the equilibrium constant of equ.(7.a), *i.e.* if $\lambda = \xi_{\text{closed system}}$
575 then $K(P,T,\lambda)$ takes its maximum value. $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$ exhibits a linear and increasing trend,
576 trailing down the mantle (Fig. 6). This implies that the perovskite structure incorporates more
577 and more aluminium as the pressure increases, if the system is *chemically adiabatic* and *cor*
578 only competes to host Al. Such a result can be seen in terms of that if a given amount of Al
579 must be “*perforce*” accommodated over perovskite and *cor*, then aluminium chooses

580 progressively the former with respect to the latter with increasing P , thus yielding a shift of
581 reaction (5) to the right.

582

583 **4.3 Solid mixing model performances with respect to some experimental data**

584

585 We tested the physical soundness of our mixing energy model comparing its predictions with
586 some experimental results related to $Mg-Al-pv$ properties.

587 The enthalpy formation of the reaction $0.05 Al_2O_3 (cor) + 0.95 MgSiO_3 = Mg_{0.9}Si_{0.9}Al_{0.1}O_3$
588 was measured to be as large as $-0.8(\pm 2.2)$ kJ/mol by [Navrotsky et al. \(2003\)](#). Such a figure is
589 to be compared with -1.1 kJ/mol from our calculations. Although our estimation is 40% larger
590 than the experimental value, the exothermic nature of the reaction is correctly predicted and,
591 taking into account the uncertainty of measurements, observation and theoretical estimate are
592 **in good agreement**. In [Figure 7](#), we report the absolute values of the discrepancy between
593 measurements ([Walter et al., 2004](#)) and our predictions on the Al-bearing perovskite cell
594 volume. In most cases, the deviation lies below 0.8%, and just for three experimental points
595 we observe a discrepancy above 1%. Altogether, the average disagreement is about 0.4% and
596 indicates a chemical-physical soundness of the solid mixing model we are using.

597

598

5. DISCUSSION

599

600 **5.1 Aluminium storage mechanism**

601

602 Our results from the open system model point to a complex mechanism of Al-uptake in
603 perovskite as a function of pressure ([Figs.3-5](#)). In particular, the aluminium storage involves
604 both **the $Mg-Al-pv$ phase proportion** and **the average Al_2O_3 -mole fraction** incorporated by $Mg-$
605 $Al-pv$ (*i.e.* $\lambda_{Al_2O_3}$; see equ.(9.b)). Whereas $\lambda_{Al_2O_3}$ ([Fig. 5](#)) changes comparably little and, in

606 general, moderately decreases at large pressures, the phase fraction of *Mg-Al-pv* grows by
607 ~16% upon increasing *P* (Fig. 3).

608 We underline that our model relies on mass transfer reactions within a chemically
609 unconstrained open system constituted by *Mg-pv+Mg-Al-pv+cor* that act as Al-Mg-Si
610 exchangers with an ideal reservoir; therefore, the calculated maximum Al-uptake capacity in
611 perovskite is independent of the geochemical frame.

612 A lower mantle composition with chondritic Mg/Si ratio of ~1.01 implies an amount of
613 perovskite from 83 up to 90 wt%, juxtaposed to the pyrolitic composition that predicts
614 perovskite in the narrow range of 75-78 wt% (Lyubetskaya and Korenaga, 2007, McDonough,
615 2016). The relative proportion of this phase in a lower mantle mixed with 3% of MORB-like
616 component does not significantly vary with respect to the reference models (Table 1). This is
617 consistent with the fact that the total chemical probability of formation, $p(J,chem)$, of the Mg-
618 rich perovskite-type phases (*i.e.* *Mg-pv+Mg-Fe-pv+Mg-Al-pv*) does not significantly change
619 between the primitive (A and A1) and non-primitive (A+3%B and A1+3%B) lower mantle
620 models (Table 2).

621 The predicted total Al_2O_3 that *Mg-Al-pv* may accommodate is shown in Figure 8, along with
622 the bulk Al-content inferred for primitive and enriched lower mantle compositions. We point
623 out two aspects:

624 (i) the average total Al_2O_3 that perovskite (76 and 85 wt% in pyrolite and chondrite reference
625 models, respectively) hosts is 4.28 and 4.78 wt% of the lower mantle mass. Such figures
626 prove that perovskite is able to accommodate almost the entire budget of Al_2O_3 estimated for
627 non-primitive lower mantle compositions. Perovskite exhibits an average Al-hosting capacity
628 of ~90%, in the case of pyrolite model (Al_2O_3 : 4.76 wt%), and > 100%, in the case of
629 chondrite model (Al_2O_3 : 4.31wt%). See also Table 1 and Figure 8;

630 (ii) the total Al_2O_3 stored by *Mg-Al-pv* as a function of *P-T* (Fig. 8) varies in a comparatively
631 narrow range from 24 to about 60 GPa (~4.18-4.24 wt% and ~4.67-4.75 wt%, for pyrolite and

632 chondrite models, respectively), while it decreases going down the mantle (3.99 and 4.47
633 wt%, for pyrolite and chondrite models, respectively), at 80 GPa. This may be related to the
634 occurrence of the already mentioned change of trend exhibited by the average equilibrium
635 constant (Fig. 2). The decrease of the $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$ -values (Fig. 5) and the “saturation” of the Al_2O_3 -
636 partitioning between perovskite and *cor* (Fig. 4) point to: i) a progressive reduction in the Al-
637 storage capacity of *Mg-Al-pv*; ii) a change of the *cor/Mg-Al-pv* trend that might reflect the
638 onset of instability in perovskite, probably leading to the formation of other aluminium
639 hosting phases (*i.e.* structural change to post-perovskite; Murakami et al., 2004; Shim et al.,
640 2008; Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2008; Tateno et al., 2009). We believe that it is physically
641 incongruous that at $P \sim 60\text{-}80$ GPa the *cor*/perovskite molar ratio inverts its decreasing trend,
642 as this suggests that *Mg-Al-pv* loses competitiveness with respect to *cor* in hosting aluminium
643 upon increasing P . In fact: i) *cor* undergoes a phase transition to the rhodium-oxide-like phase
644 in the range of $\sim 80\text{-}100$ GPa (Thomson et al., 1996; Funamori and Jeanloz, 1997; Merli and
645 Pavese, 2018); ii) the Al-content in perovskite monotonically decreases with pressure (60-80
646 GPa; Fig.5), thus implying a reduction of the strain, which is due to the occurrence of species
647 other than Mg-Si. Such a reduction of the strain is expected to promote the stability of a
648 perovskite-like structure.

649 Altogether, it can be observed that:

- 650 i) aluminium is *globally* incorporated foremost *via* an increase of the Al-bearing perovskite
651 amount, rather than by an increase of the Al_2O_3 -content in *Mg-Al-pv* chemical composition;
- 652 ii) the perovskite phase is able to accommodate an Al-excess consistent with 3 wt% MORB-
653 component mixed with primitive lower mantle compositions, up to 100% and 90% of the
654 Al_2O_3 -budget, in the case of chondrite and pyrolite models, respectively.

655 At higher pressure than those investigated here, the transformations of corundum to a more
656 stable structure ($\sim 80\text{-}100$ GPa) as above-mentioned and of perovskite to the CaIrO_3 -like phase
657 (often called post-perovskite) at ~ 120 GPa (Murakami et al., 2004) might account for the

658 change of the trend related to the Al-storage capacity of perovskite (Fig. 4). In fact, calculated
659 phase equilibria in the MgSiO₃-Al₂O₃ system, modelled at P - T conditions relevant for the
660 Earth's deepest mantle (80-140 GPa/2000-4000 K), predict the appearance of (Al-bearing)-
661 post-perovskite coexisting with Mg-perovskite between 90 and 105 GPa, at $T=2000$ and 3000
662 K, respectively (Tsuchiya and Tsuchiya, 2008). According to the phase diagrams of these
663 authors, the perovskite structure can accommodate up to ~0.19 moles of Al₂O₃ at 80 GPa and
664 2000 K, whereas at 3000 K the solubility of alumina increases up to ~0.4 moles. Interpolation
665 yields ~0.3 moles of Al₂O₃ at 80 GPa and 2550 K. Such results can be compared with ours
666 achieved by the closed system model, which relies on the same equilibrium thermodynamics
667 approach. It is worth noting that the closed system model yields the Al₂O₃-composition of
668 Mg - Al - pv that mostly shifts reaction (5) to the right, *i.e.* $K(P, T, \xi_{\text{closed system}})$ has a maximum.
669 $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$ in turn, has an increasing trend trailing down the lower mantle (Figs. 1 and 6),
670 providing an Al₂O₃-content of ~0.26 moles at $P=80$ GPa, in agreement with Tsuchiya and
671 Tsuchiya (2008).

672

673 5.2 Composition of Mg - Al - pv in the lower mantle

674

675 There is a controversy on whether the negative buoyancy associated with subducted oceanic
676 crust can overcome the viscous forces in the dynamic regions of Core-Mantle-Boundary
677 (CMB) and accumulate into large thermochemical piles (*i.e.* large low-shear-velocity
678 provinces, LLSVP: Li and McNamara, 2018). Conversely, a general *consensus* is that most of
679 the subducted crust is variably stirred into the background mantle and completely dissolved,
680 in a time span that varies from 0.1 to 1 Ga (Kumari et al., 2016; White, 2015; Foley and Rizo,
681 2017; Yu et al., 2018).

682 Using the phase proportions of Mg - pv , Mg - Al - pv and cor as a function of the exchanged
683 alumina according to reaction (5), we can reconstruct the probability to find Mg - Al - pv with a

684 given composition in Al_2O_3 (*i.e.* occurrence probability: $p_o\%$). Note that $p_o\%$ must not be
685 confused with the *chemical probability of formation*, *i.e.* $p(\text{J,chem})$, discussed in section 3.1
686 and that represents the mere probability to have the right oxide combination to form a given
687 phase.

688 The probability of the occurrence of perovskite with low Al_2O_3 -content *per* formula unit
689 (0.01-0.15 mole fraction) is $\sim 28\%$ at 24 GPa/1919 K, and increases up to $\sim 43\%$ at 80
690 GPa/2550 K. In general, low alumina compositions (0.01-0.15 mole fractions) are dominant at
691 any P - T explored (Fig. 9). On the contrary, the occurrence of *Mg-Al-pv* with high alumina
692 contents in the range 0.19-0.30 mole fraction drops from $\sim 9.8\%$ to $\sim 2\%$, passing from 24
693 GPa/1919 K to 80 GPa/2550 K, respectively. Compositions of natural Al-bearing perovskite,
694 occurring as diamond inclusions and “*claimed*” to be ascribable to the lower mantle
695 (Kaminsky, 2012; Harte and Richardson 2012; Harte et al. 1999), lie in the Al_2O_3 -range
696 associated with the largest occurrence probability (*i.e.* $p_o\%$). Leaving any opinion about their
697 representativeness of the lower mantle mineralogy aside, there is a consistency between
698 observations and our predictions (Fig. 9).

699 To conclude, *Mg-Al-pv* competes with *Mg-pv* to the phase composition of the lower mantle
700 (Fig. 3) and the probability to find *Mg-Al-pv* in the lower mantle is almost of the same order
701 of magnitude as *Mg-pv* (Fig. 9). In addition, the distribution of Al in *Mg-Al-pv* shows that,
702 among the possible Al-bearing perovskite phases, the $(\text{Mg}_{0.89}\text{Al}_{0.11})(\text{Si}_{0.89}\text{Al}_{0.11})\text{O}_3$
703 composition is the likeliest, providing some 8% of the bulk perovskite at 80 GPa (Fig. 9). The
704 occurrence of the Al-richest composition, *i.e.* $(\text{Mg}_{0.71}\text{Al}_{0.29})(\text{Si}_{0.71}\text{Al}_{0.29})\text{O}_3$, is always a very
705 rare event, *i.e.* $p_o\% < 1.7\%$.

706

707

6. CONCLUSIONS

708

709 We modelled the capacity of perovskite to uptake aluminium in a non-primitive Earth's lower
710 mantle, because of an enrichment by 3 wt% of recycled crustal material (MORB-component).
711 The investigated region stretches from 24 to 80 GPa and is geochemically described in the
712 framework of pyrolite and chondrite reference models. The open system model here used to
713 predict perovskite Al-incorporation capacity is independent of the geochemical framework.
714 Aluminium is *globally* incorporated foremost *via* an increase of the Al-bearing perovskite
715 amount [$Mg-Al-pv(24\text{ GPa})/Mg-Al-pv(80\text{ GPa})\approx 1.17$], rather than by an increase of the Al_2O_3 -
716 content in its chemical composition. At 32 GPa perovskite hosts Al_2O_3 at its maximum
717 capacity ($\lambda_{Al_2O_3}=0.134$ Al_2O_3 mole fraction) and conserves such a figure up to ~ 50 GPa; at
718 higher pressure, a continuous decrease of Al_2O_3 -content in *Mg-Al-pv* composition takes place
719 up to 80 GPa ($\lambda_{Al_2O_3}=0.107$ Al_2O_3 mole fraction).
720 Approaching 80 GPa, perovskite reaches some sort of “**saturation**” of its capacity to host
721 aluminium, which **can be considered as a** prelude to instability, most likely leading to the
722 formation of other phases (*i.e.* structural change to post-perovskite) that accommodate Al.
723 This is in keeping with the resulting phase equilibria in the $MgSiO_3-Al_2O_3$ system, earlier
724 modelled at *P-T* conditions relevant for the Earth's deepest mantle (80-140 GPa/2000-4000
725 K).
726 The probability to observe a perovskite composition having an Al_2O_3 mole fraction up to 0.15
727 is about 28% at 24 GPa, increasing to 43% at 80 GPa; on the contrary, compositions in the
728 range 0.19-0.30 Al_2O_3 mole fraction drop their occurrence probability from 9.8 to 2.0%. In
729 light of this, the Al-content of perovskite cannot be directly related to *P-T* conditions of
730 formation, save that “large” Al_2O_3 contents suggest unlikely deep provenance, within the
731 range here explored.
732 The *total* Al_2O_3 that perovskite (amounting to 76 and 85 wt%, in pyrolite and chondrite
733 reference models, respectively) may host is on average 4.3-4.8 wt% of the lower mantle mass.
734 In particular, perovskite alone can account for an Al_2O_3 -storage capacity that accommodates

735 100% Al₂O₃ predicted by a non-primitive chondrite model, and 90% Al₂O₃, forecast by a non-
736 primitive pyrolite model. Calcium-ferrite type phases are possible competitors of perovskite
737 in hosting aluminium (up to 1/5 of available Al), though their low *chemical probability of*
738 *formation* likely reduces such potential. In the case of a non-primitive pyrolite lower mantle,
739 Al-bearing phases other than perovskite should exist, and the CF-type phase is a candidate
740 that might compensate for the 10% gap in perovskite Al-incorporation capacity.

741

742 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

743

744 This work was partly supported by PRIN-2015 20158A9CBM Grant (C.B) and PRIN 2017 -
745 2017L83S77 (A.P). The paper benefited from the English language editing provided by Steve
746 Deforie and Barbara Galassi (Brighton, U.K). The Authors are indebted to the associated
747 Editor and two anonymous Referees for their comments and suggestions, which remarkably
748 improved the quality of the originally submitted manuscript.

749

750

APPENDIX I

751

752 **I.1 Open and closed systems**

753

754 An open system is permeable to both energy (heat and work) and matter, which are
755 exchanged between the system and a reservoir (De Groot and Mazur 1984; Mikhailov and
756 Ertl 2017). A closed system is able to exchange with a reservoir energy only. Let us assume to
757 have a generic system in which the following reaction occurs (we restrict our discussion to
758 one reaction only, for the sake of simplicity)

$$\sum_j v_j A_j = \sum_k v_k A_k \Rightarrow \sum_l v_l A_l = 0 \quad (\text{I. a})$$

759 where $\{A_j\}$ and $\{A_k\}$ are “reactants and products” or “phases”, which we shall term
 760 “reactants” *tout court*. The evolution as a function of time of the l^{th} -reactant is given by

$$\frac{dn_l}{dt} = \nu_l \frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} + \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} \quad (\text{I. b})$$

761 where n_l means number of moles of the l^{th} -reactant; ε is the reaction rate; the first term of the
 762 right-hand side member represents the change in n_l due to the reaction (I.a); the second term
 763 accounts for a matter exchange with a reservoir.

764 We split the entropy of such a system into two terms (Prigogine 1968):

$$\frac{dS_{ext}}{dt} = \frac{\delta Q}{T} - \sum_l \frac{\mu_l}{T} \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} \quad (\text{I. c})$$

$$\frac{dS_{int}}{dt} = - \sum_l \frac{\nu_l \mu_l}{T} \frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} \quad (\text{I. d})$$

765 where S_{ext} is the contribution by an exchange of heat and matter with an external reservoir; S_{int}
 766 represents the entropy produced by the reaction itself. Combining equ.(I.b), (I.c) and (I.d), it
 767 follows that

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{\delta Q}{T} - \sum_l \frac{\nu_l \mu_l}{T} \left(\frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} + \frac{1}{\nu_l} \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} \right) \quad (\text{I. e})$$

768 where S is the total entropy. We focus our attention on *stationary* processes, which are not
 769 necessarily at equilibrium. They exhibit observables that do not change over time (Pokrovskii
 770 2013), and therefore

$$\frac{dn_l}{dt} = 0 \quad (\text{I. f. 1})$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = 0 \quad (\text{I. f. 2})$$

771 Taking into account (I.b), (I.e) and (I.f.1), the fulfilment of the constraint (I.f.2) requires that
 772 $\delta Q=0$. Therefore, it can be concluded that a stationary system is characterized by a possible
 773 exchange of matter with a reservoir, but not an exchange of heat.

774

775 I.2 Open system representation

776

777 The correct treatment of a system like the one introduced above requires, in principle, to be
778 able to formulate explicitly both (I.c) and (I.d). Our aim is simpler, as we would like to exploit
779 the capacity of an open system to freely exchange matter with a reservoir, in combination
780 with a formalism as close as possible to the consolidated equilibrium thermodynamics' one.
781 Such a model provides a flexible tool to approach problems in which one investigates the
782 intrinsic exchanging/incorporation capacity of a given substance, without any sort of
783 constraint or restraint.

784 An internal observer (*i.e.* an observer who measures the system's observables only, unaware
785 of the matter flow) perceives a stationary open system as one that is under equilibrium
786 conditions (P, T and $\{n_j\}$ do not change over time and $\delta Q=0$). Therefore, all the state functions
787 are invariant *versus* t and the system conserves its composition), with possible forward-
788 backward reactions and without any in/out-flow of energy/matter. Let us represent the
789 chemical potential of the l -reactant by the usual expression below,

$$\mu_l = \mu_{0l} + RT \ln(x_l) + RT \ln(\gamma_{l,int}) \quad (\text{I. g})$$

790 where μ_{0l} is the component that depends on $P-T$ only, and coincides with the Gibbs energy of
791 the l^{th} -reactant alone; $\gamma_{l,int}$ is the activity coefficient of the l^{th} -reactant according to the internal
792 observer and incorporates any sort of deviation from ideal mixing.

793 Let us assume that $\{n_l\}$ can fluctuate, δn_l , in such a way that (I.f.1) is satisfied *on average*, yet
794 preserving the global system's composition. Therefore, the internal observer perceives that the
795 conservation of composition is achieved through a transformation of the reactants into each
796 other, according to the classical relationship below

$$\frac{\delta n_l}{\nu_l} = \delta \hat{\epsilon} \quad (\text{I. h})$$

797 for any l -reactant; $\delta \hat{\epsilon}$ is the infinitesimal change of the reaction ratio, seen by the internal
798 observer. Using the equation above, we have that

$$dG = \left[\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\nu_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,int}^{\nu_l} \right) \right] \delta \hat{\varepsilon} \quad (\text{I. i})$$

799 The internal observer states that $dG=0$, given that the system is supposed at equilibrium, and
 800 from (I.i) the usual chemical equilibrium equation follows

$$\exp \left(- \frac{\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l}}{RT} \right) = \frac{\prod_k x_k^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j x_j^{\nu_j}} \times \frac{\prod_k \gamma_{k,int}^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j \gamma_{j,int}^{\nu_j}} = K(P, T)_{int} \quad (\text{I. k})$$

801 An external observer (*i.e.* an observer that is aware of the matter flow) confirms that $dG=0$ as
 802 the system lies in a stationary state, and using (I.b) expresses dG in terms of

$$dG = \left[\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\nu_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l} \right) \right] \delta \varepsilon \\ + \left[\sum_l \delta \Delta n_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\delta \Delta n_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\delta \Delta n_l} \right) \right] \quad (\text{I. l})$$

803 where $\delta \Delta n_l$ is the fluctuation due to the amount of l -reactant supplied by the reservoir *via* a
 804 matter flow; $\gamma_{l,ext}$ is the activity coefficient estimated by the external observer. Given that the
 805 global system's composition does not change in a stationary state, then the following
 806 relationship must hold for $\delta \Delta n_l$, too,

$$\frac{\delta \Delta n_l}{\nu_l} = \delta \zeta$$

807 which implies

$$dG = \left[\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l} + RT \ln \left(\prod_l x_l^{\nu_l} \right) + RT \ln \left(\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l} \right) \right] (\delta \varepsilon + \delta \zeta) \quad (\text{I. m})$$

808 Equ.(I.m), in combination with $dG=0$, leads to an expression similar to (I.k), save the term
 809 depending on the activity coefficients, *i.e.* $\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l}$, so that

$$\exp \left(- \frac{\sum_l \nu_l \mu_{0l}}{RT} \right) = \frac{\prod_k x_k^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j x_j^{\nu_j}} \times \frac{\prod_k \gamma_{k,ext}^{\nu_k}}{\prod_j \gamma_{j,ext}^{\nu_j}} = K(P, T)_{ext} \quad (\text{I. n})$$

810 Therefore, the γ activity coefficients “collect” the deviations from equilibrium that the internal
 811 and external observers detect. For (I.n) and (I.k) to coincide with one another, $\prod_l \gamma_{l,ext}^{\nu_l} =$
 812 $\prod_l \gamma_{l,int}^{\nu_l}$ must hold.

813 An open system may change its composition evolving towards a stationary state, according to
 814 the expression below, for the l^{th} -reactant:

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{d\Delta n_l}{dt} dt = \Delta n_l(\infty) - \Delta n_l(0)$$

815 where it can be assumed that at $t \rightarrow \infty$ the open system has achieved a stationary state.

816

817 **I.3 Reactant proportions and probability**

818

819 What does it physically mean to neglect the activity coefficients in equations (I.n) and (I.k)?

820 Let us assume that a system has a known average Gibbs energy value, *i.e.* $\langle G \rangle$ at P - T , and

821 that it may occupy given “states”, each one with a probability $\{p_l\}$. Following a consolidated

822 approach of statistical mechanics and information theory (Jaynes 1957a-b), we state that the

823 likeliest and least prejudicial $\{p_l\}$ -set constrained to yield $\langle G \rangle$ must correspond to an extreme

824 of the expression beneath

$$\Phi = -R \sum_l p_l \ln(p_l) + \psi \left[\sum_l p_l G_l - \langle G \rangle \right] \quad (\text{I. o})$$

825 where G_l is the Gibbs energy of the l^{th} -state; R is the gas constant and ψ is a lagrangian

826 multiplier. If one requires that $\delta\Phi=0$, then

$$p_l \propto \exp\left(-\frac{G_l}{RT}\right) \quad (\text{I. p})$$

827 taking $\psi=1/T$. Let us shape our system in terms of a multi-phase system, in which the “states”

828 are represented by the “reactants” that can occur. Let the system undergo a reaction like (I.a)

829 and be composed of the related reactants. We analyse equ.(I.a) in statistical terms. The

830 occurrence of the left-hand or right-hand side member, can be modelled using the notion of

831 “joint probability”, thus obtaining

$$p_{\text{left-hand side member}} \propto \prod_j p_j^{\nu_j}$$

832 and

$$p_{\text{right-hand side member}} \propto \prod_k p_k^{v_k}$$

833 We take the ratio $p_{\text{right-hand side member}}/p_{\text{left-hand side member}}$, and observe that it can be either written
834 as

$$\prod_l p_l^{v_l}$$

835 or formulated as

$$\prod_l \left[\exp\left(-\frac{G_l}{RT}\right) \right]^{v_l} = \exp\left(-\frac{\sum_l v_l G_l}{RT}\right)$$

836 by means of (I.p). Hence, the equations above lead to

$$\prod_l p_l^{v_l} = \exp\left(-\frac{\sum_l v_l G_l}{RT}\right) \quad (\text{I. q})$$

837 Equ.(I.q) is readily likened to (I.n) and (I.k), neglecting the activity coefficients and setting for
838 each phase $G_l \equiv \mu_{0l}$. Altogether, a chemical equilibrium equation is thus formulated in a very
839 simple and general fashion, which holds for stationary systems, too. Therefore, neglecting the
840 activity coefficient terms in (I.n) and (I.k) leads to revising the notion of “ l^{th} -reactant
841 proportion”, x_l , in terms of “ l^{th} -reactant occurrence probability”, p_l , *i.e.* $x_l \equiv p_l$, once a given
842 reaction is being considered.

843

844

APPENDIX II

845

II.1 Approximation to unity of the activity coefficients term of equ.(7.a)

847

848 The activity coefficient term of equ.(7.a) can be simplified as

$$\gamma = \frac{\gamma_1}{\gamma_2^{1-\lambda} \times \gamma_3^\lambda} \quad (\text{II. a})$$

849 where we replaced $Mg-Al-pv$, $Mg-pv$ and cor with 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Let us introduce
850 the geometric average of the $\gamma_{1,2,3}$ s, *i.e.*

$$\gamma_{ave} = (\gamma_1 \times \gamma_2 \times \gamma_3)^{1/3}$$

851 and

$$\gamma_1 = \gamma_{ave} + \delta_1 \quad (\text{II. b. 1})$$

$$\gamma_2 = \gamma_{ave} + \delta_2 \quad (\text{II. b. 2})$$

$$\gamma_3 = \gamma_{ave} + \delta_3 \quad (\text{II. b. 3}).$$

852 Replacing γ_s in (II.a) with (II.b.1-2-3), then it is obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\delta_1}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\delta_2}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)^{1-\lambda} \times \left(1 + \frac{\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)^\lambda} \approx \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\delta_1}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)}{\left(1 - (1-\lambda)\frac{\delta_2}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \times \left(1 - \lambda\frac{\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)} \approx \\ &\approx \left(1 + \frac{\delta_1}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \times \left(1 + (1-\lambda)\frac{\delta_2}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \times \left(1 + \lambda\frac{\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}}\right) \\ &\approx 1 + \frac{\delta_1 + (1-\lambda)\delta_2 + \lambda\delta_3}{\gamma_{ave}} + o\left(\left(\frac{\delta}{\gamma_{ave}}\right)^2\right) \approx 1 \quad (\text{II. c}) \end{aligned}$$

853 The approximation above requires $\delta/\gamma_{ave} < 1$, which holds in most cases. In fact, earlier excess
854 enthalpy determinations on some HP-minerals (for instance, Fe-periclase: [Srećec et al. 1987](#);
855 garnets: [Geiger et al. 1987](#); olivine: [Kojitani and Akaogi 1994](#); Al-perovskite: [Akber-Knutson
856 and Bukowinski 2004](#); [Panero et al. 2006](#)) exhibit absolute ΔH -maximum-values that yield
857 average activity coefficients [estimated by $\exp(\Delta H_{\max}/RT)$, $T=2000$ K] lying between 1.07 and
858 1.34, with a geometric average of 1.2 and $\langle \delta/\gamma_{ave} \rangle \sim 0.08$. Note that $\delta_1 + \delta_2(1-\lambda) + \delta_3\lambda$ is
859 expected to be in general small as the δ_s compensate each other, due to δ_1 , δ_2 , and δ_3 not
860 being of the same sign. Therefore, given that we can legitimately neglect the activity
861 coefficient in the case of equ.(7.a), x_{iS} and p_{iS} coincide with each other, according to
862 APPENDIX I.3.

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1190

1191 **CAPTIONS TO THE FIGURES**

1192

1193 **Figure 1.** Equilibrium constant, $K(P,T,\lambda)$, of the fundamental alumina exchange reaction (5)
1194 *versus* λ , which expresses the exchanged amount of Al_2O_3 in the *Mg-Al-pv*, *Mg-pv* and *cor*
1195 system. $K(P,T,\lambda)$, calculated by the open system model, is displayed at 24 GPa/1919 K (blue
1196 line), 44 GPa/2145 K (red line) and 80 GPa/2551 K (black line), by way of example. Black
1197 filled circles indicate the maxima at the three chosen P - T points, and correspond to the λ -
1198 values that most shift the reaction $(1-\lambda) \text{MgSiO}_3 + \lambda \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \leftrightarrow (\text{Mg}_{1-\lambda}\text{Al}_\lambda)(\text{Si}_{1-\lambda}\text{Al}_\lambda)\text{O}_3$ to the
1199 right (equ.5, of the text).

1200

1201 **Figure 2.** $K(P,T)_{\text{ave}}$ *versus* P , according to the chosen geotherm and calculated by the open
1202 system model. Blue line and red line show two different trends for the average equilibrium
1203 constant, $K(P,T)_{\text{ave}}$, of the reaction (5). Note that $K(P,T)_{\text{ave}} = \langle K(P,T,\lambda) \rangle_\lambda$ (see 4.2.1 section for
1204 further explanations).

1205

1206 **Figure 3.** Phase proportions of Al-free perovskite (*Mg-pv*), Al-bearing perovskite (*Mg-Al-pv*)
1207 and corundum (*cor*) *versus* P , according to the chosen geotherm. *Mg-Al-pv* fractions **have an**
1208 average Al_2O_3 composition provided by $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, calculated according to equ.(9.b) on the P - T
1209 range of interest and shown in Fig.5. Al-free perovskite is an extreme notion, which provides
1210 a “limit” to define a tendency of such mineral to incorporate aluminium.

1211

1212 **Figure 4.** Al_2O_3 -partitioning between corundum and perovskite ($\text{cor}(\text{mol})/\text{Mg-Al-pv}(\text{mol})$)
1213 *versus* P , according to the chosen geotherm and calculated by the open system model. The red
1214 box shows the region of maximum Al-uptake for perovskite (**saturation** region), suggesting
1215 that at such P - T conditions the Al-incorporation is **weakly dependent on pressure. At higher**
1216 **pressure, the $\text{cor}/\text{Mg-Al-pv}$ ratio trend hints at a possible instability of perovskite (transition to**
1217 **another phase, such as post-perovskite, *ppv*?). See text for further discussion.**

1218

1219 **Figure 5.** Average Al_2O_3 mole fraction in perovskite, $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$, determined by the open system
1220 model and calculated *via* equ.(9.b), as a function of P along the chosen geotherm. In the P -
1221 region 30-50 GPa, $\lambda_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}$ is *quasi* constant (interpolation solid line).

1222

1223 **Figure 6.** Al_2O_3 mole fraction in perovskite, $\xi_{\text{closed system}}$, determined by the closed system
1224 model and calculated *via* equ.(14), as a function of P along the chosen geotherm. At $\lambda=\xi_{\text{closed}}$
1225 system , $K(P,T,\lambda)$ takes an extreme value, so that reaction (5) is shifted to the right as much as
1226 possible.

1227

1228 **Figure 7.** Cell volume disagreement (%), between measurements and our calculations, in the
1229 case of Al-bearing perovskite, as a function of P . Experimental values from Walter et al
1230 (2004).

1231

1232 **Figure 8.** The predicted *total* Al_2O_3 (wt%) stored in Mg-Al-pv , calculated by the open system
1233 model, assuming perovskite amounts of 76% (red dots) and 85% (blue dots) of the lower
1234 mantle mass, in pyrolite and chondrite reference models (Table 1), respectively. Bulk Al_2O_3
1235 contents of pyrolite (A) and chondrite (A1) primitive lower mantle models are shown by red
1236 and blue solid lines, respectively. Bulk Al_2O_3 contents of pyrolite-type and chondrite-type
1237 non-primitive lower mantle models calculated by adding a 3 wt% of MORB-component (B)
1238 are represented by red and blue dotted lines, respectively. MORB composition from Hirose et
1239 al. (1999). P - T region of 24-80 GPa/1919-2550 K is referred to the chosen geotherm.

1240

1241 **Figure 9.** Probability ($p_0\%$) of Mg-Al-pv occurrence with a given Al_2O_3 mole content *per*
1242 formula unit, according to the open system model. Each curve is associated to key P - T values
1243 (P in legend), along the chosen geotherm. The Al_2O_3 contents of natural Al-bearing

1244 perovskite (\leftrightarrow) *claimed* from the lower mantle, are provided by [Kaminsky and Lin \(2017\)](#). In
1245 the inset table, the absolute probability to find Al-bearing perovskite (*Mg-Al-Pv*) against Mg-
1246 perovskite (*Mg-pv*) is reported for the explored *P-T* region of the lower mantle.

Table 1. Lower mantle (pyrolite, end-member A, and chondrite, end-member A1) and MORB-like silicate glass (end-member B) major oxides compositions. Enriched LM models according to Faure(1986) mixing equation.

Pyrolitic lower mantle model	A	A+3% B	
			B
wt%			
SiO ₂	45.00	45.14	49.64
Al ₂ O ₃	4.45	4.76	14.88
FeO _t	8.05	8.15	11.43
MgO	37.80	36.92	8.51
CaO	3.55	3.76	10.52
Na ₂ O	0.36	0.44	2.90
H ₂ O	*0.15	0.149	**0.10
<i>(Mg-pv+Mg-Fe-pv+Mg-Al-pv)</i> ⁺	76.00	75.56	31.30
<hr/>			
Chondritic lower mantle model	A1	A1+3% B	
			B
wt%			
SiO ₂	47.30	47.37	49.64
Al ₂ O ₃	3.99	4.31	14.88
FeO _t	8.12	8.22	11.43
MgO	37.36	36.50	8.51
CaO	2.29	2.54	10.52
Na ₂ O	0.34	0.42	2.90
H ₂ O	*0.15	0.149	**0.10
<i>(Mg-pv+Mg-Fe-pv+Mg-Al-pv)</i> ⁺	85.00	84.89	31.30

end member A from [McDonough and Sun \(1995\)](#)

end member A1 from [Merli et al. \(2016\), modified](#)

end member B= MORB-like silicate glass of [Hirose et al.\(1999\)](#)

+ = global estimates (wt%) of pure perovskite (*Mg-pv*), bridgmanite (*Mg-Fe-pv*) and Al bearing perovskite (*Mg-Al-pv*)

*= lower mantle water estimates from [Merli et al. \(2016\)](#) and [Muir and Brodholt \(2018\)](#)

**= MORB water estimates from [Ghosh et al.\(2014\)](#) and [Marty \(2012\)](#)

Table 2. Probability, expressed in %, of having the appropriate elemental availability to form a given phase (*chemical probability of formation* = $p(J, \text{chem})$; see section 3.1). Calculations are carried out by Pyrolite (A) and Chondrite (A1) lower mantle reference models, and by their compositions mixed with 3 wt% of MORB-component (A+3%B; A1+3%B)

Phase name	Composition	Pyrolite		Chondrite	
		A	A+3%B	A1	A1+3%B
Fe-periclase	$(\text{Mg}_{0.8}\text{Fe}_{0.2})\text{O}$	33.59	33.24	32.22	31.91
Ca-perovskite	CaSiO_3	0.674	0.745	0.452	0.523
Mg-perovskite	MgSiO_3	23.89	23.84	24.63	24.55
Bridgmanite	$(\text{Mg}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.1})\text{SiO}_3$	20.76	20.83	21.44	21.49
Mg-Al-perovskite	$(\text{Mg}_{0.9}\text{Al}_{0.1})(\text{Si}_{0.9}\text{Al}_{0.1})\text{O}_3$	20.24	20.41	20.49	20.66
sum		64.90	65.08	66.56	66.70
δ -phase ¹	$\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$	0.052	0.058	0.044	0.049
H-phase ²	$(\text{MgSi,Al}_2)\text{O}_4\text{H}_2$	0.045	0.047	0.043	0.045
D-phase ³	$\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{OH})_2$	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
NAL/CF ⁴	$\text{Na}_{0.265}\text{Fe}_{0.245}\text{Mg}_{0.375}\text{Ca}_{0.035}\text{Al}_{1.1}\text{Si}_{0.715}\text{O}_4$	0.737	0.825	0.679	0.769
sum		0.836	0.932	0.768	0.865

end-member A from [McDonough and Sun \(1995\)](#)

end-member A1 from [Merli et al.\(2016\), modified](#)

end-member B= MORB-like silicate glass of [Hirose et al. \(1999\)](#)

1: [Ohtani et al. \(2001\)](#); 2: [Ohtani et al. \(2014\)](#); 3: [Pamato et al. \(2015\)](#); 4: [Guignot and Andraut \(2004\)](#)

Table 3. *Chemical probability of formation* [p (J,chem)] expressed in % of potential lower mantle Al-bearing phases.

Phase name	Composition	Pyrolite		Chondrite	
		A	A+3%B	A1	A1+3%B
Mg-Al-perovskite	$(\text{Mg}_{0.9}\text{Al}_{0.1})(\text{Si}_{0.9}\text{Al}_{0.1})\text{O}_3$	96.04	95.63	96.39	95.98
δ -phase ¹	AlO(OH)	0.25	0.27	0.20	0.23
H-phase ²	$(\text{MgSi},\text{Al}_2)\text{O}_4\text{H}_2$	0.21	0.22	0.20	0.21
D-phase ³	$\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{OH})_2$	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
NAL/CF ⁴	$\text{Na}_{0.265}\text{Fe}_{0.245}\text{Mg}_{0.375}\text{Ca}_{0.035}\text{Al}_{1.1}\text{Si}_{0.715}\text{O}_4$	3.50	3.87	3.20	3.57
		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

end-member A from [McDonough and Sun \(1995\)](#)

end-member A1 from [Merli et al.\(2016\), modified](#)

end-member B= MORB-like silicate glass of [Hirose et al. \(1999\)](#)

1: [Ohtani et al. \(2001\)](#); 2: [Ohtani et al. \(2014\)](#); 3: [Pamato et al. \(2015\)](#); 4: [Guignot and Andrault \(2004\)](#)

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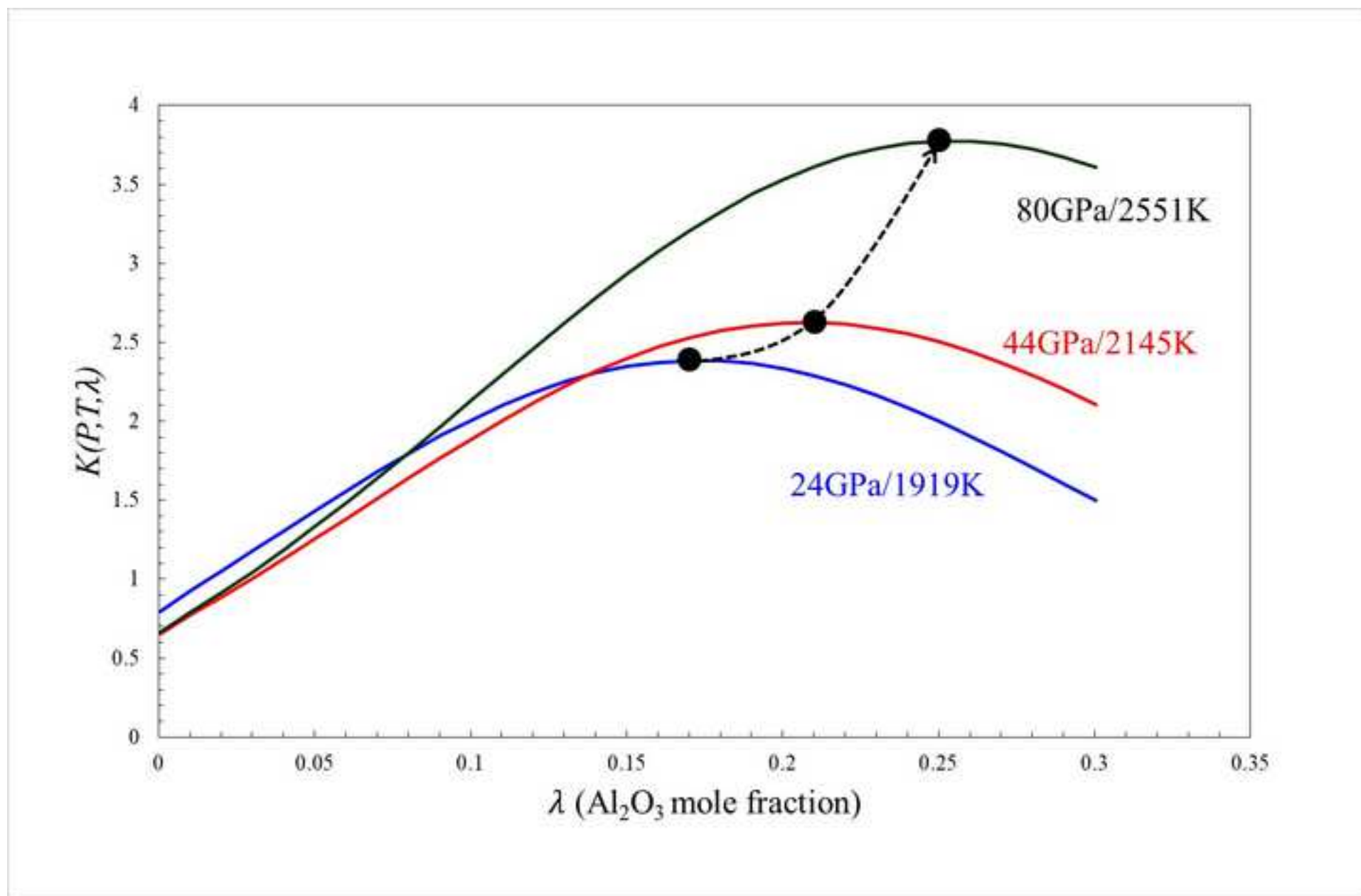


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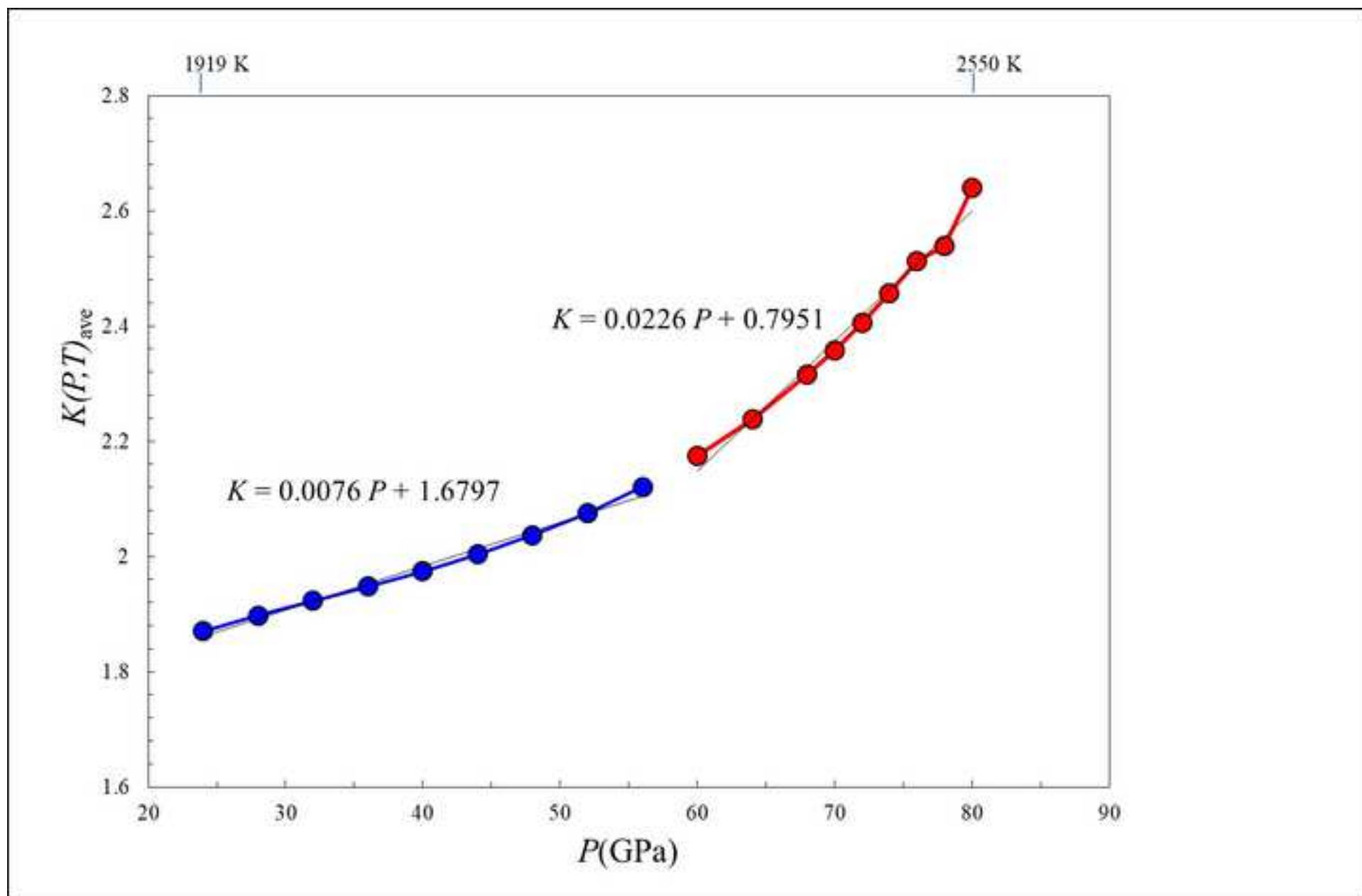


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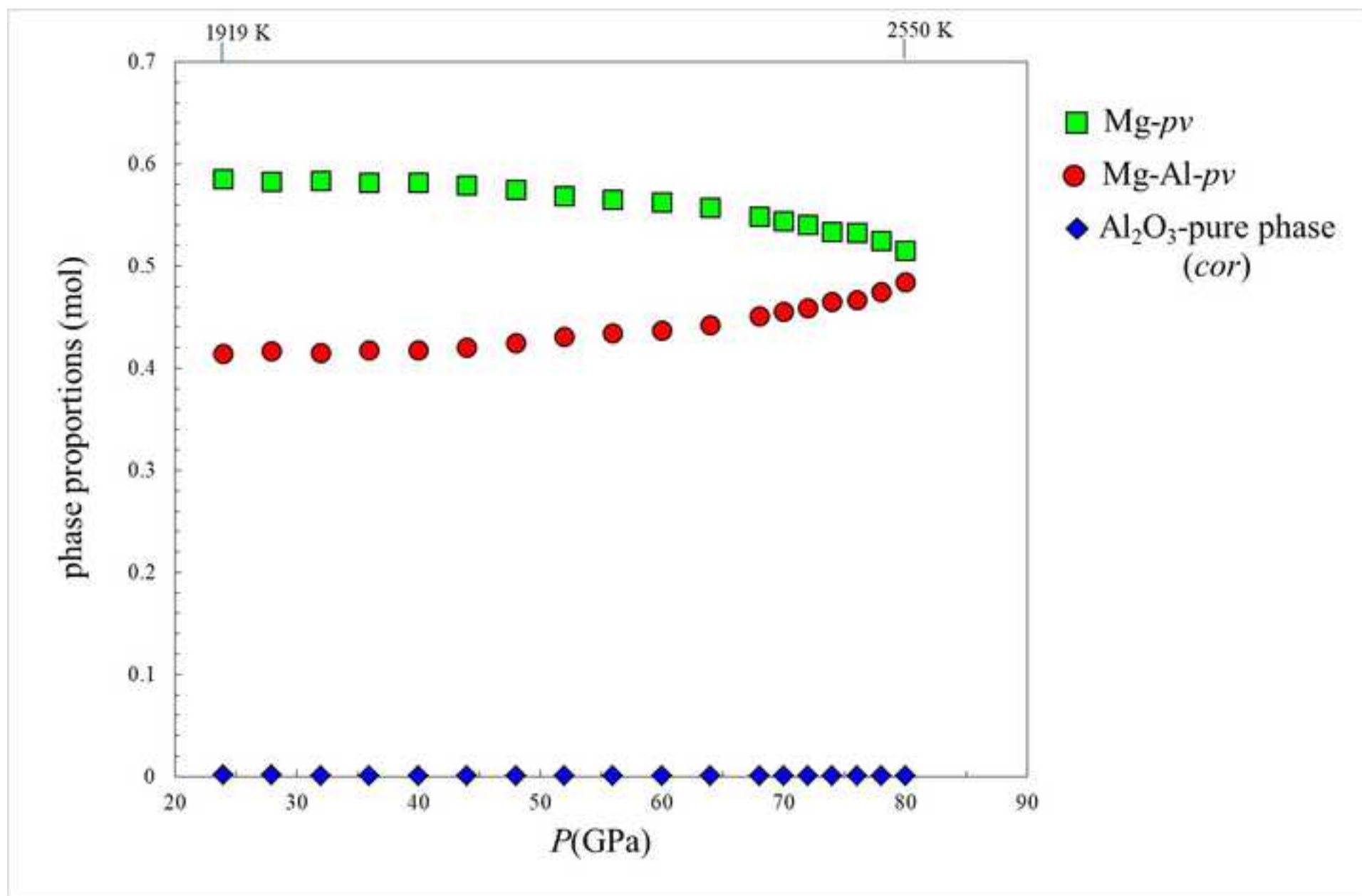


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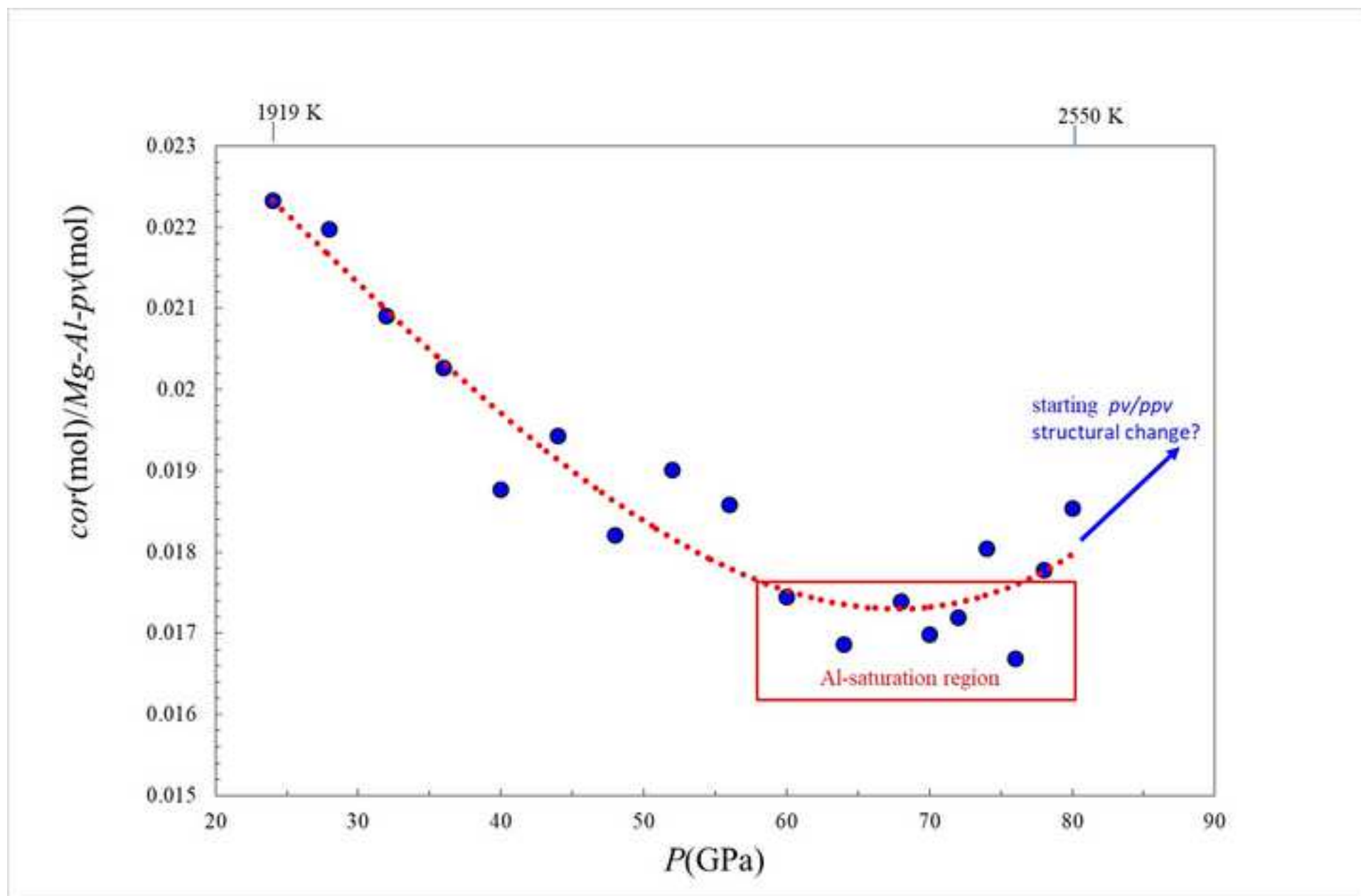


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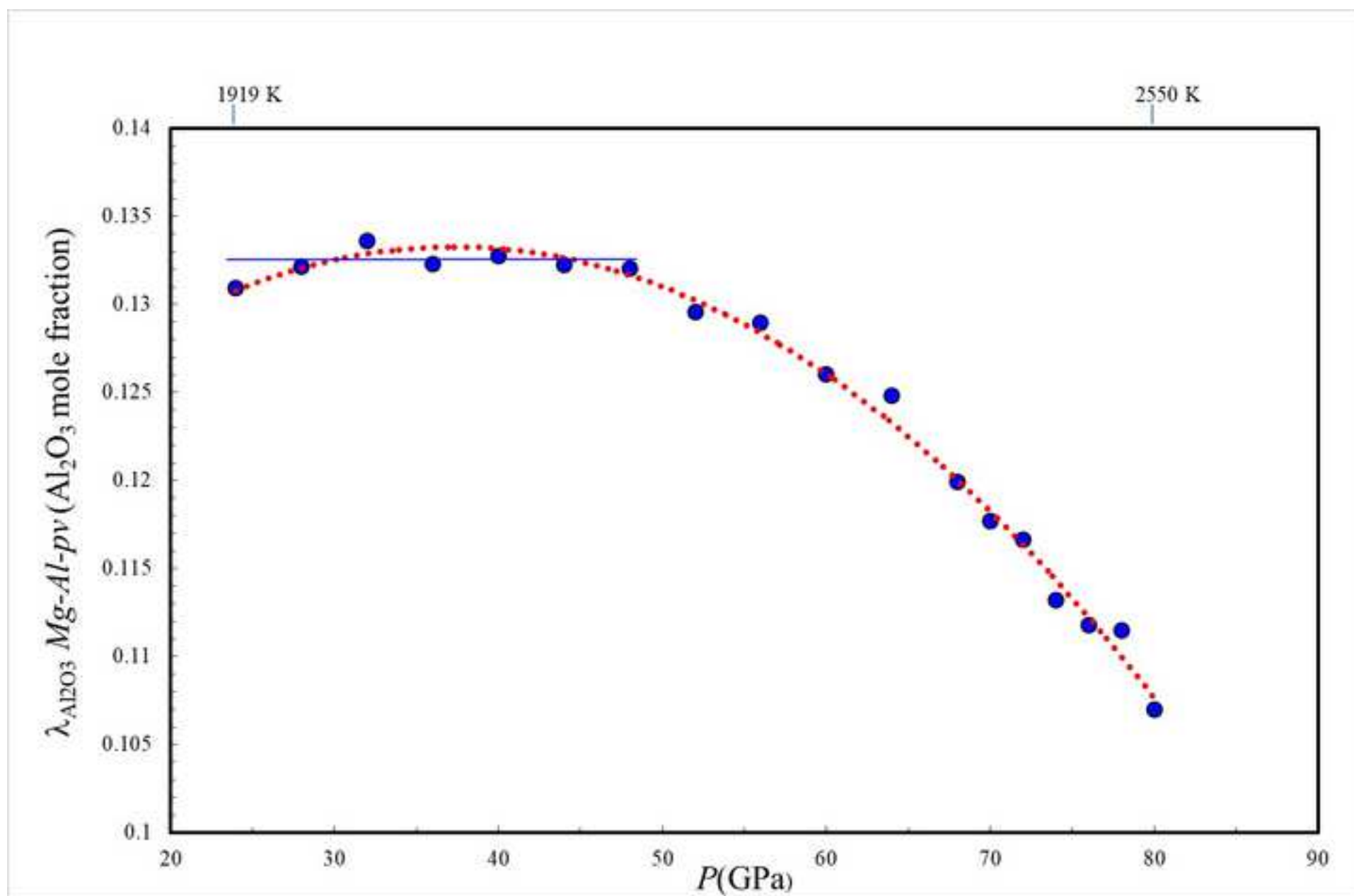


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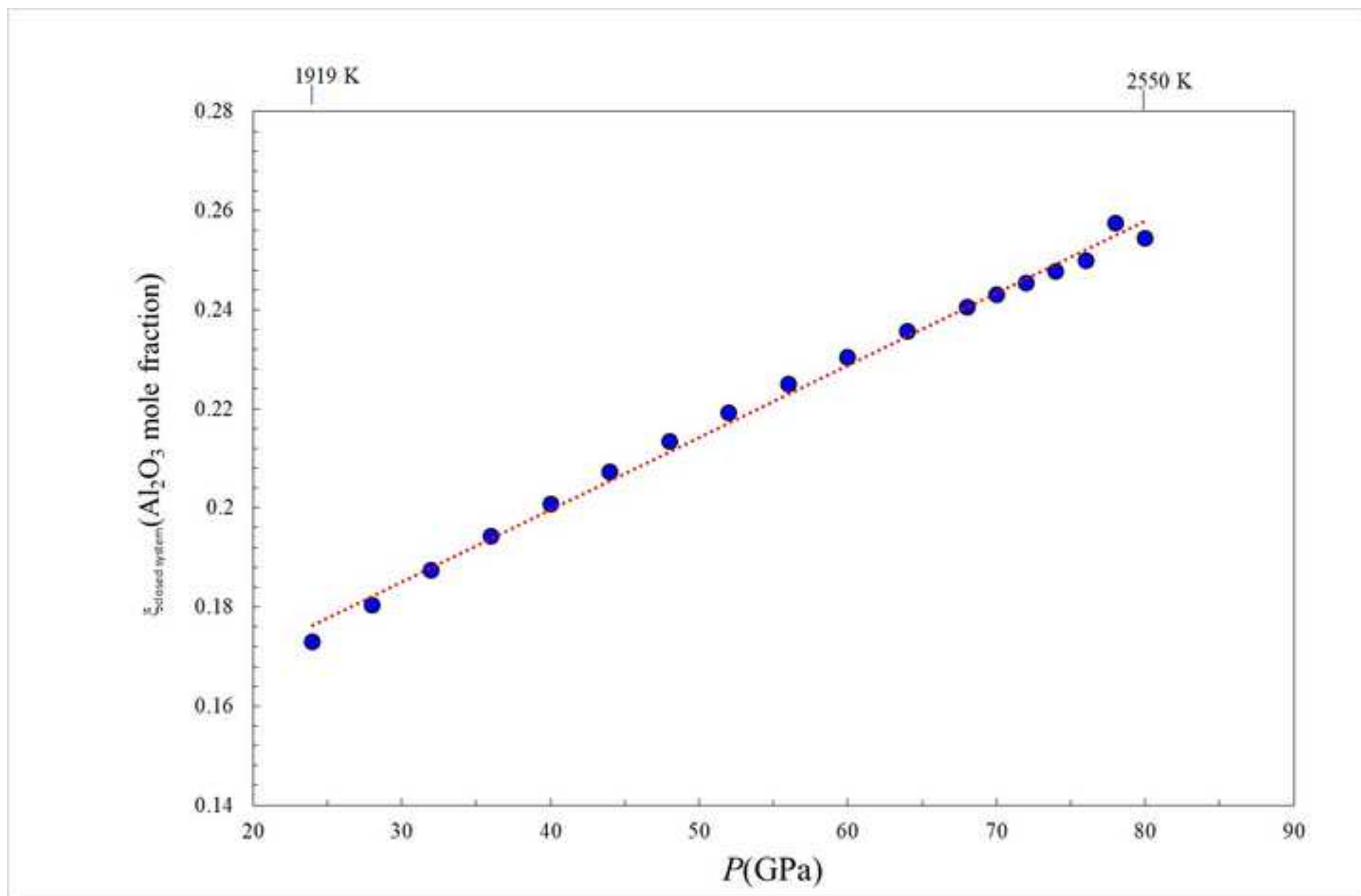


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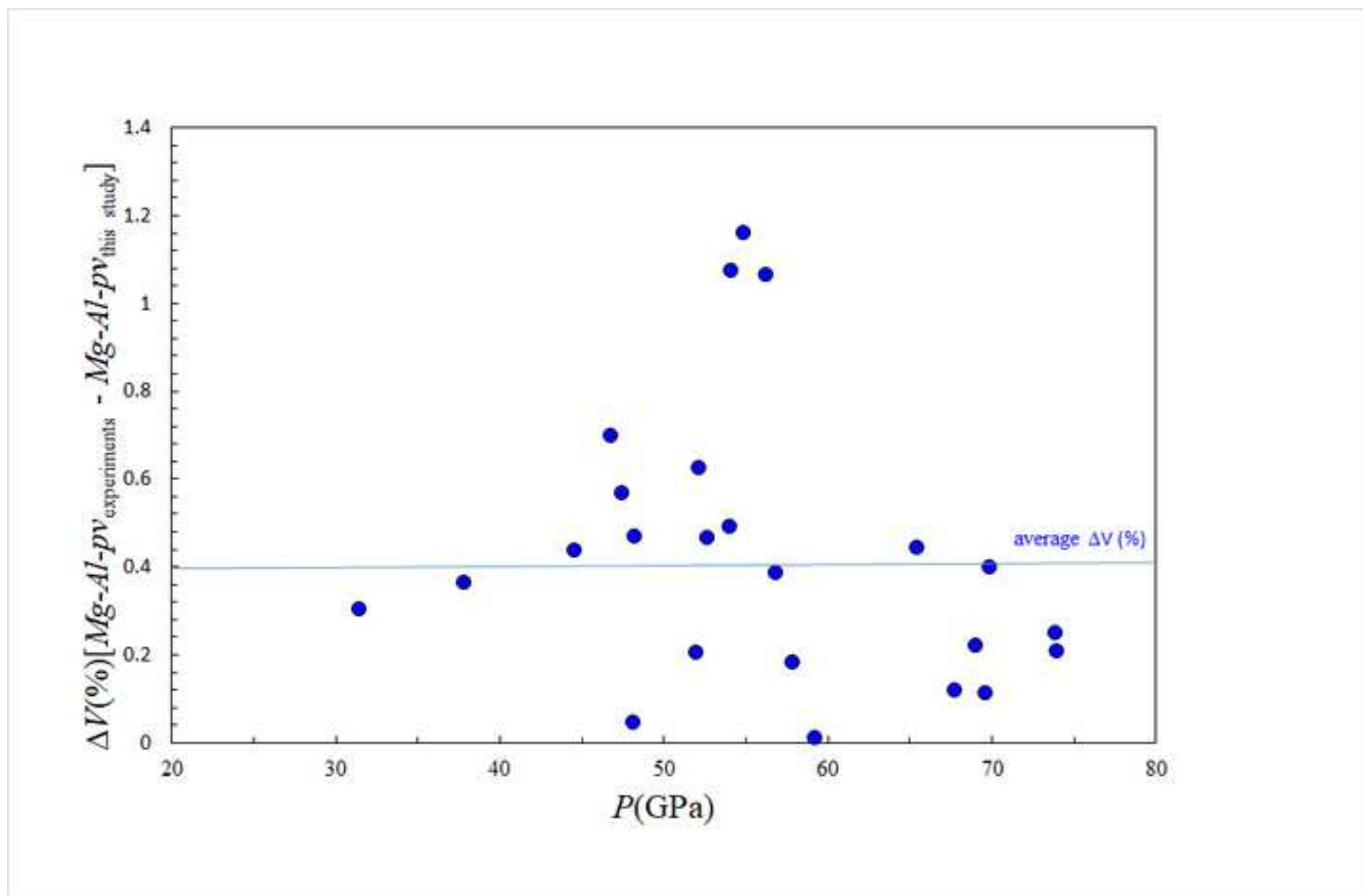


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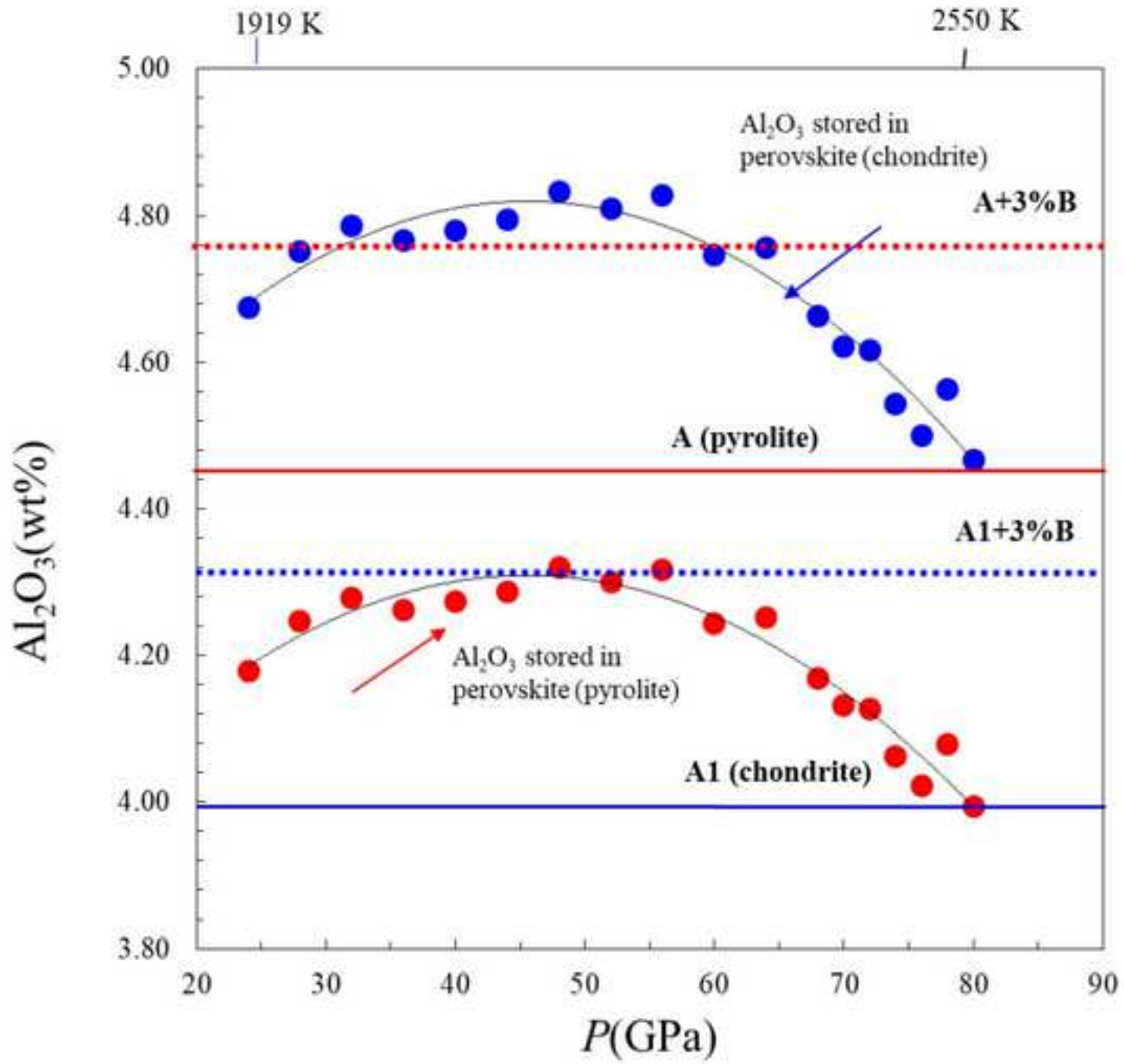
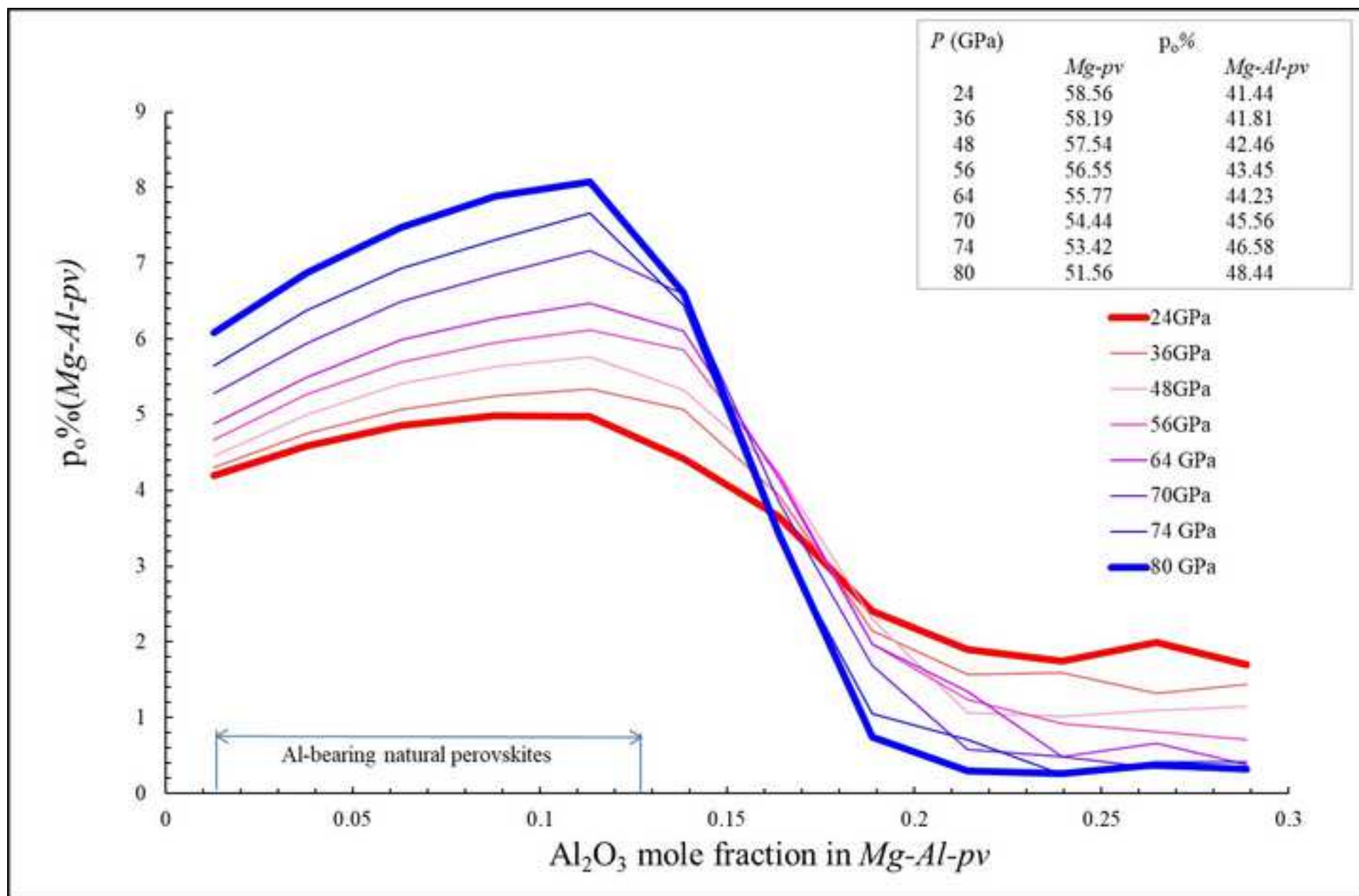


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*Declaration of Interest Statement

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P	T	K
24	1919	1.8701
28	1964	1.8972
32	2009	1.9226
36	2054	1.9479
40	2100	1.9745
44	2145	2.0036
48	2190	2.0367
52	2235	2.0753
56	2280	2.1207
60	2325	2.1746
64	2371	2.2387
68	2416	2.3149
70	2438	2.3582
72	2461	2.4053
74	2484	2.4566
76	2506	2.5125
78	2829	2.5396
80	2551	2.6393

P	T	X	K
24	1919	0.0005	0.7937262
24	1919	0.0105	0.9293135
24	1919	0.0205	1.0568378
24	1919	0.0305	1.1839746
24	1919	0.0405	1.3111602
24	1919	0.0505	1.4376564
24	1919	0.0605	1.5622545
24	1919	0.0705	1.6835027
24	1919	0.0805	1.7998221
24	1919	0.0905	1.9095857
24	1919	0.1005	2.0111818
24	1919	0.1105	2.1030729
24	1919	0.1205	2.1838465
24	1919	0.1305	2.2522621
24	1919	0.1405	2.3072891
24	1919	0.1505	2.3481417
24	1919	0.1605	2.3742988
24	1919	0.1705	2.38552
24	1919	0.1805	2.3818495
24	1919	0.1905	2.3636093
24	1919	0.2005	2.3313859
24	1919	0.2105	2.2860057
24	1919	0.2205	2.2285073
24	1919	0.2305	2.1601033

0.1705 2.3855