

Valence state partitioning of V between pyroxene and melt for martian melt compositions Y 980459 and QUE 94201: The effect of pyroxene composition and crystal structure

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Introduction. A spiked (with REE, V, Sc) martian basalt Y980459 composition was used to synthesize olivine, spinel, and pyroxene at 1200 °C at 5 oxygen fugacities: IW-1, IW, IW+1, IW+2, and QFM. The high spike levels for REE were used for two specific reasons. First, we wanted to be able to analyze REE by both electron microprobe and ion probe. Second, we wanted the most important “Others” components, (i.e., those outside the pyroxene quadrilateral such as Al, Cr³⁺, Fe³⁺, REE³⁺, V³⁺, V⁴⁺, etc.) to be REE³⁺Mg (Si,Al)₂O₆. At the doped levels we used, the most important “Others” component is REE³⁺ in the M2 site coupled with Al in the tetrahedral site. The goal of this paper is to explain the significant increase in the value of $D_V^{\text{pyroxene/melt}}$ with increased Wo content of the pyroxene. We compare augite (Wo ~ 33), pigeonite (Wo ~ 13) and orthopyroxene (Wo ~ 3.8). We also show olivine for comparison. The crystal chemical factors which account for this remarkable increase of D_V with Wo are twofold. First, with Ca in the M2 site (as in diopside, CaMgSi₂O₆) the site is large and 8-coordinated while Mg in the M2 site (as in enstatite, Mg₂Si₂O₆) the site is smaller and 6-coordinated. Second, tetrahedral Al in the pyroxene chains provides charge balance and makes the M2 site larger and more compliant for the introduction of REE.

Crystal chemical basis for different pyroxene Ds for V.

An early demonstration of the effect of the Wo content of pyroxene on Ds for REE was presented by McKay (1989). He showed that with increasing Wo content, the Ds for REE increased dramatically especially for the LREE. McKay states, “I interpret the partition coefficient variations in terms of the substitution of REE for Ca in the M2 site, and the principle is that the larger the difference between the size of the cation and the site which it will enter the more incompatible is the cation in that site. The M2 site can accommodate the HREE much more readily than the LREE...” Papike et al. (2005) laid the foundation for valence state partitioning of Cr, Fe, Ti, and V among crystallographic sites in olivine, pyroxene, and spinel from planetary basalts. These authors showed the importance of cation size and also charge balance in substitution mechanisms. Figure 1 shows the importance of the effect of Wo content on the V Ds for pyroxene. Also shown is olivine for comparison. Olivine/melt is a better oxybarometer than V in pyroxene because olivine is

not significantly affected by differences in Ca content. Karner et al. (2008) address the V substitution in the pyroxene structure. Coupled substitution is required to incorporate V³⁺ and V⁴⁺ into the pyroxene crystal structure because these cations are replacing divalent Mg and Fe in the M1 site (Papike et al. 2005), thus creating an excess charge of +1 or +2. Crystal charge balance must be maintained and can be accomplished by simultaneously substituting 1) an Al cation(s) into the tetrahedral site for Si or 2) a Na cation(s) into the M2 site for Ca. Both of these substitutions create a charge deficiency of -1 (or -2), and thus neutralize the crystal charge. Therefore, an increase in D_V from pigeonite to augite can be explained by the ease with which Al and Na can enter augite (compared to pigeonite) for the required charge-balancing coupled substitution. This explanation is supported by Fig. 2, which clearly shows that Al and Na increase from pigeonite to augite. We emphasize, however, that the Ca content, and structure of augite compared to pigeonite does not sufficiently explain V partitioning into pyroxene. Vanadium partitioning is dependent on both the structure of augite compared to pigeonite, (which allows more Na and Al to enter the structure) as well as on the coupled substitution. While the above discussion explains the difference of D_V between augite and pigeonite, it does not explain the much lower D_V for orthopyroxene. For that explanation refer to Papike (1987) who shows that there is a very important difference between augite (monoclinic space group C2/c) and pigeonite (monoclinic space group P2₁/c) versus orthopyroxene (orthorhombic space group Pbca). The difference involves the stacking of TOT layers (tetrahedra-octahedra-tetrahedra). In monoclinic pyroxenes, the stacking is + + + + (indicates the direction), a stacking pattern that produces the monoclinic offset. In orthopyroxene the stacking is + - +, which produces an orthorhombic structure. The M2 site is located between the reversed TOT units and is highly constrained to 6-coordination and thus cannot contain significant Ca which requires 8-coordination. Therefore the charge balance exchange is vacancies for V³⁺, V⁴⁺, as in olivine [5]. This results in a different slope for D_V for orthopyroxene [5].

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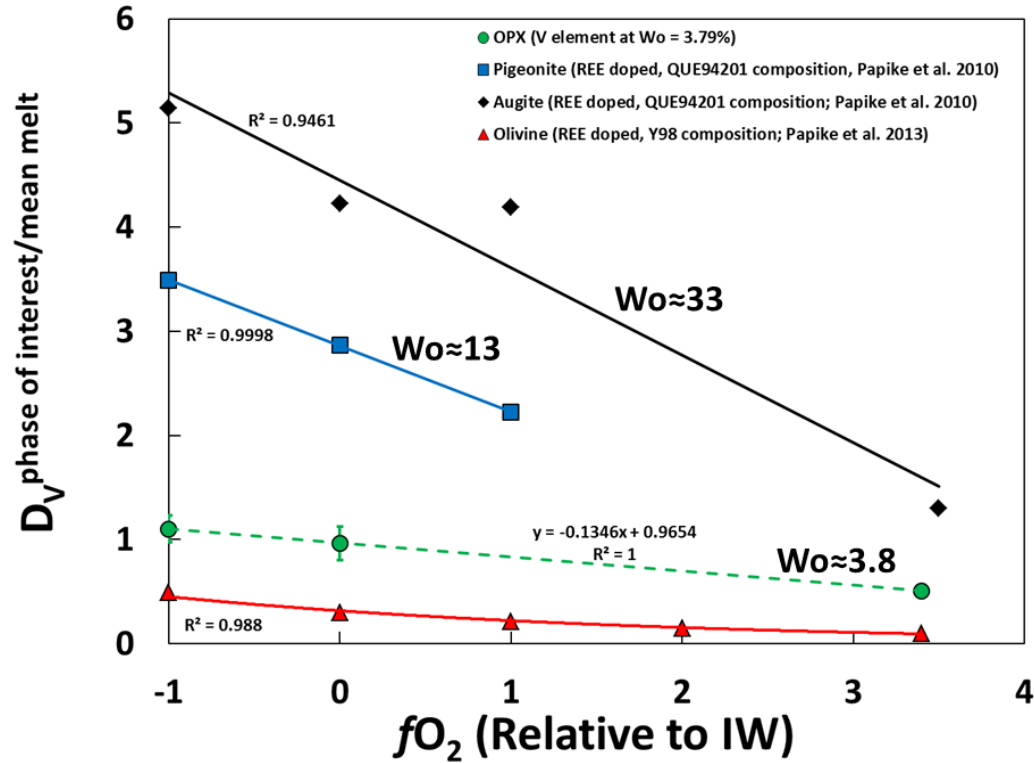


Figure 1.
 D_V for
pyroxene/melt
and
olivine/melt.
Note that in the
current study,
only three
experiments
contained
orthopyroxene
(IW-1, IW and
QFM). The
pigeonite in the
other two
experiments
(IW+1 and
IW+2) has not
been plotted.

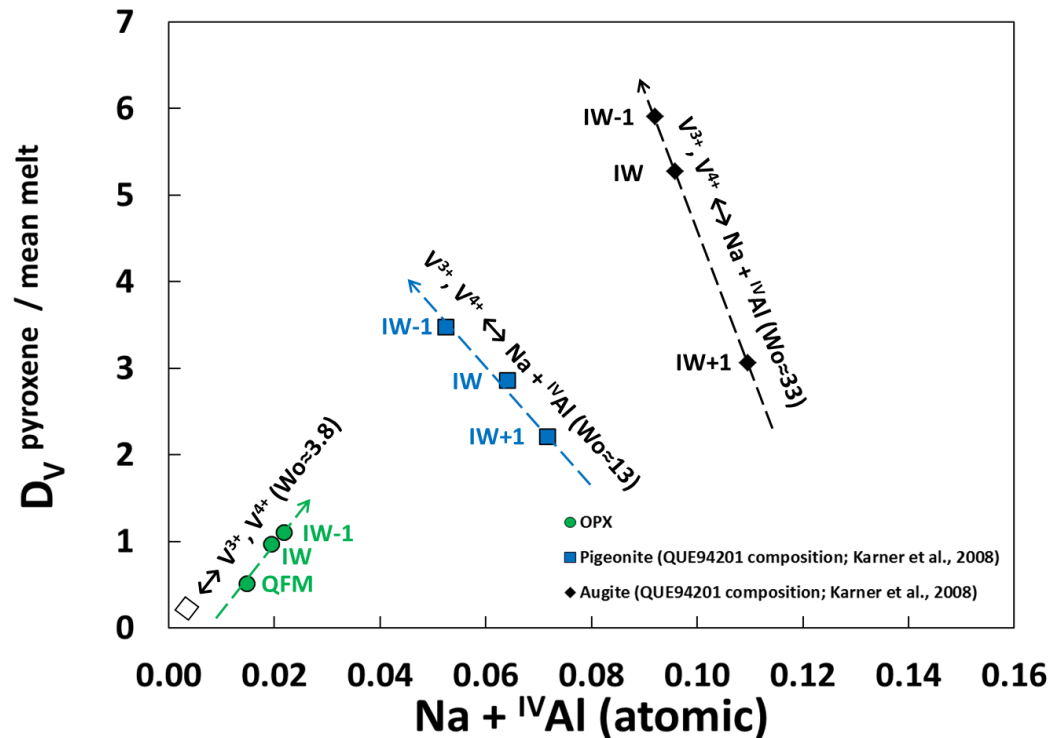


Figure 2. D_V
pyroxene/melt
vs. other
components
($Na + IVAl$,
atomic). Note
that the slopes
for augite and
pigeonite
indicate a
substitution
mechanism,
wherein
 $V^{3+}, V^{4+} \leftrightarrow$
 $Na + IVAl$. Opx
has a different
slope and is
the same
substitution
mechanism as
with olivine,
 $V^{3+}, V^{4+} \leftrightarrow \square$,
where \square =
vacancies.

References. [1] McKay, G.A. (1989) RIM 21,45-77 [2] Papike et al. (2005) Am. Min. 90, 277-290. [3] Karner et al. (2008) MAPS 95. [4] Papike (1987) Reviews of Geophysics, 25, 1483-1526. [5] Papike et al. (2013) Am. Min. in press.