

F and CI release by hydrous melting of subducted oceanic crust

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In this study, we quantify the distribution of F and CI between residual minerals and hydrous melts at upper-mantle conditions. The aim is to characterize the release of halogens upon melting of subducting oceanic crust by means of high-P-T piston cylinder experiments. Upon subduction, when the slab is sufficiently heated, slab melting will occur and transfer volatile elements to overlying arc mantle. F and CI are potentially useful geochemical tracers of water in arc magmatic processes, but to our knowledge, no F or CI partitioning data exists that is directly applicable to slab melting. The present study is necessary to establish F-CI systematics as an anion-based diagnostic petrogenetic tracer for metasomatic processes and magma generation at the source of arc magmatism.

We will present results from an extensive set of equilibrium crystallization experiments on a starting composition representative of subducted hydrous metabasalt. The starting composition was enriched by addition of equilibrium liquid (based on Klimm et al., Journal of Petrology 2008) to optimize the experimental textures for SIMS and EPMA analyses. Experiments were performed in Au₈₀Pd₂₀ double capsules and buffered by the Re-ReO or Ni-NiO equilibrium, at pressures of 1.3 to 3.0 GPa and temperatures of 750 to 1000 °C.

Mineral assemblages in equilibrium with trondhjemitic liquids vary over the P,T-range (e.g. for P = 2.5GPa we observe amphibole + clinopyroxene + garnet + epidote + rutile at 750 °C, amphibole + clinopyroxene + garnet + allanite + rutile at 850 °C, and clinopyroxene + garnet at 900 °C). We will present detailed phase assemblage and compositional data at the conference. Most significantly, we find that F partitions mainly into the silicate liquid and amphibole (with $D_F(Amph/Liq) \approx 1.5$ and a bulk D for amphibolite of ≈ 0.6 , and for eclogite of ≈ 0.11). In contrast, CI is incompatible in all minerals, and it partitions preferentially into aqueous fluid when this is present as a separate phase besides high-Si melt before quenching (i.e., at low P and T in our experiments).

Our results strongly suggest a decoupling between F and Cl as subducted slab undergoes progressive dehydration and hydrous melting. Chlorine appears to be released more readily in the subduction history, whereas F is released upon melting of the slab, with retention of significant concentrations in the solid residue as long as amphibole is stable.