

Cation ordering in Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series

MICHIHIRO MIYAKE

Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Yamanashi University, Takeda, Kofu 400, Japan

HAJIME NAKAMURA, * HIRONAO KOJIMA

Institute of Inorganic Synthesis, Faculty of Engineering, Yamanashi University, Takeda, Kofu 400, Japan

FUMIYUKI MARUMO

Research Laboratory of Engineering Materials, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Nagatsuta, Midori, Yokohama 227, Japan

ABSTRACT

Five Co-Mg olivines ($\text{Co}_{0.23}\text{Mg}_{1.77}\text{SiO}_4$, $\text{Co}_{0.4}\text{Mg}_{1.6}\text{SiO}_4$, $\text{Co}_{0.92}\text{Mg}_{1.08}\text{SiO}_4$, $\text{Co}_{1.45}\text{Mg}_{0.55}\text{SiO}_4$, and $\text{Co}_{1.76}\text{Mg}_{0.24}\text{SiO}_4$) and Co_2SiO_4 have been systematically synthesized by a floating-zone method and investigated by X-ray diffraction methods in order to clarify the intracrystalline distribution of Co^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions between two octahedral sites [M(1) and M(2)]. Anisotropic least-squares refinements of the structures including the cation occupancies indicate that Co^{2+} ions are strongly concentrated on the smaller M(1) octahedral sites over the Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series. The octahedral distortion for the M(1) site shows a larger increase with increasing Co^{2+} content, whereas that for the M(2) site shows a small increase. The intracrystalline distribution coefficient, $K_D = [\text{Mg}_{\text{M(2)}}\text{Co}_{\text{M(1)}}]/[\text{Mg}_{\text{M(1)}}\text{Co}_{\text{M(2)}}]$, attains a maximum of $K_D \approx 5.4$ at about 50 mol% Co_2SiO_4 .

INTRODUCTION

Inter- and intracrystalline partitioning behavior of $3d$ transition-metal ions in the olivines is of great geological, geophysical, and geochemical significance because the olivines are important constituents of the upper mantle. In Fe-Mg olivine solid-solution series, it was clarified that the larger Fe^{2+} ions preferentially occupy the smaller M(1) octahedral sites (Finger, 1970; Finger and Virgo, 1971; Brown and Prewitt, 1973; Smyth and Hazen, 1973; Wenk and Raymond, 1973). These results, based on X-ray data, are supported by Mössbauer (Bush et al., 1970; Finger and Virgo, 1971; Virgo and Hafner, 1972) and crystal-field studies (Walsh et al., 1974, 1976). The refined cation occupancies on the two octahedral sites for $\text{Ni}_{1.03}\text{Mg}_{0.97}\text{SiO}_4$ (Rajamani et al., 1975), $\text{Ni}_{1.16}\text{Mg}_{0.84}\text{SiO}_4$ (Bish, 1981) and $\text{Co}_{1.1}\text{Mg}_{0.9}\text{SiO}_4$ olivines (Ghose and Wan, 1974) revealed that both Ni^{2+} and Co^{2+} ions are strongly enriched on the M(1) octahedral sites. These results, based on X-ray data, are consistent with predictions by Burns (1970) and Walsh et al. (1974, 1976).

The intracrystalline distribution coefficients, $K_D = [\text{Mg}_{\text{M(2)}}\text{Co}_{\text{M(1)}}]/[\text{Mg}_{\text{M(1)}}\text{Co}_{\text{M(2)}}]$, in Fe-Mg olivines of various composition have been reported by Finger (1970), Bush et al. (1970), Finger and Virgo (1971), Virgo and Hafner (1972), Brown and Prewitt (1973), Wenk and Raymond (1973), Smyth and Hazen (1973), and Aikawa et al. (1985). However, a significant correlation of K_D with composition could not be found among them, because natural Fe-Mg olivines that crystallized under different cooling

conditions were utilized in the structural studies. It is probably possible to find the correlation of K_D with composition in the Fe-Mg olivine solid-solution series with the same cooling histories. The correlations of K_D with composition were also unknown in the Ni-Mg and Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series. The relationship between K_D and composition in the olivines is of great importance for determination of the factors controlling the site preference of $3d$ transition-metal ions.

In the present study, five Co-Mg olivines ($\text{Co}_{0.23}\text{Mg}_{1.77}\text{SiO}_4$, $\text{Co}_{0.4}\text{Mg}_{1.6}\text{SiO}_4$, $\text{Co}_{0.92}\text{Mg}_{1.08}\text{SiO}_4$, $\text{Co}_{1.45}\text{Mg}_{0.55}\text{SiO}_4$, and $\text{Co}_{1.76}\text{Mg}_{0.24}\text{SiO}_4$) and Co_2SiO_4 have been synthesized by a floating-zone method and investigated by X-ray diffraction in order to clarify the intracrystalline partitioning behavior of Co^{2+} ions as a function of composition. The octahedral distortions of the M(1) and M(2) sites and the intracrystalline distribution coefficients in the Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series are discussed on the basis of our results, compared with the previous results (Ghose and Wan, 1974).

SPECIMENS

The single crystals used in this study were synthesized by the following procedures. CoO , MgCO_3 , and SiO_2 were mixed in the desired proportions, and intimate mixtures were shaped into rods by a rubber-press method. Rods sintered at about 1500°C were set in an infrared thermal-image furnace with two halogen lamps. The single crystals were elongated along the a axis at a growth rate of 1 mm/h. Large single crystals of synthetic olivines have not been obtained in the past, since they were synthesized by a flux method. Takei et al. (1982) and Inoue et al. (1982)

* Present address: Nihon Kogaku Co., Tokyo, Japan.

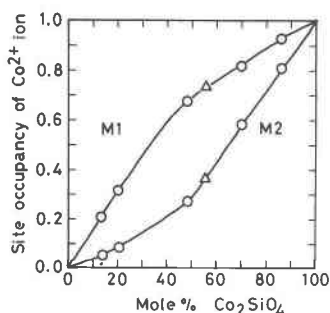


Fig. 1. Plot of site occupancies versus mol% Co_2SiO_4 for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series. Results of Ghose and Wan (1974) are shown as triangles.

first met with success in growing large and high-quality single crystals of the olivines by the Czochralski-pulling and floating-zone methods. Single crystals with dimensions 5 to 10 mm in diameter and 20 to 70 mm in length were obtained over the Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series. The colors of the obtained crystals vary from light reddish purple to dark purple with increasing Co^{2+} content.

Weissenberg photographs showed that the synthetic crystals all belong to the orthorhombic space group $Pbnm$. The distribution of Co and Mg atoms in the obtained crystals was examined along the a axis and the direction perpendicular to the a axis by an electron-probe microanalyser (EPMA). The EPMA technique revealed that the ratio of Co/Mg atoms is constant in the inner region of the synthesized crystals. The single crystals for intensity collection were cut down from the homogeneous regions of the rod crystals with compositions of 11.5 (Co_{03}), 20 (Co_{05}), 46 (Co_{10}), 72.5 (Co_{15}), 88 (Co_{18}) and 100 (Co_{20}) mol% Co_2SiO_4 and were shaped into spherical crystals of about 0.15 mm in diameter. The chemical compositions of the single crystals used were quantitatively analyzed by atomic absorption spectrophotometry (Table 1).

STRUCTURE REFINEMENTS

Intensities were measured on a Rigaku automated four-circle diffractometer with $\text{MoK}\alpha$ radiation, monochromated with graphite, up to $2\theta = 90^\circ$ by ω - 2θ scan technique. The scan speed was $2.0^\circ \text{ min}^{-1}$ in ω , and the scan was repeated three times when the total counts were less than 10 000. A scan width was determined according to

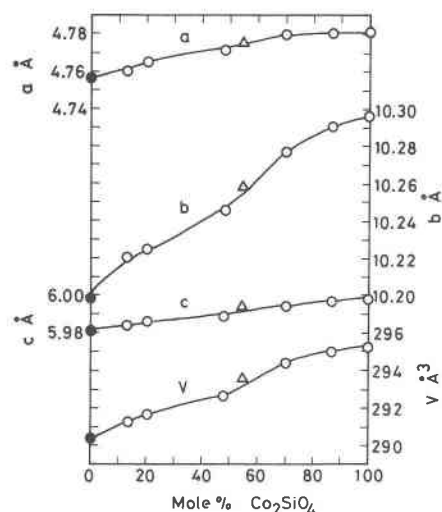


Fig. 2. Plot of cell dimensions versus mol% Co_2SiO_4 for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series. Results of Matsui and Syono (1968) and Ghose and Wan (1974) are shown as filled circles and triangles, respectively.

the formula $(1.8 + 0.4 \tan \theta)^\circ$. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors. The numbers of the collected independent intensity data satisfying the condition $|F| > 3\sigma(|F|)$ are listed in Table 1, and these data were used for the structure refinements, where $\sigma(|F|)$ is the standard deviation due to counting statistics.

The positional and thermal parameters including the occupancies of Co^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions on two octahedral sites were refined with the full-matrix least-squares program LINUS (Coppens and Hamilton, 1970), starting with the positional parameters given by Ghose and Wan (1974) and Tamada et al. (1983). The occupancies, x_1 and x_2 , of Co^{2+} ions on the M(1) and M(2) octahedral sites were employed as parameters, and those of Mg^{2+} ions were reset by $1 - x_1$ and $1 - x_2$, respectively. Corrections for isotropic secondary extinction and absorption factors were carried out in the course of the structure refinements, assuming the crystals to be spherical. The atomic scattering factors and the dispersion-correction factors for neutral atoms were taken from the *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1974). Unit weights were allotted to all reflections. The R values and the positional and thermal parameters for the final anisotropic refine-

TABLE 1. Comparison between results by atomic absorption and site-refinement techniques, number of independent reflections, and R value for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series

	Co_{03}	Co_{05}	Co_{10}	Co_{15}	Co_{18}	Co_{20}
Nutrient composition	$\text{Co}_{0.3}\text{Mg}_{1.7}\text{SiO}_4$	$\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{1.5}\text{SiO}_4$	$\text{Co}_{1.0}\text{Mg}_{1.0}\text{SiO}_4$	$\text{Co}_{1.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{SiO}_4$	$\text{Co}_{1.8}\text{Mg}_{0.2}\text{SiO}_4$	Co_2SiO_4
Atomic absorption technique	$\text{Co}_{0.23}\text{Mg}_{1.77}$	$\text{Co}_{0.40}\text{Mg}_{1.60}$	$\text{Co}_{0.92}\text{Mg}_{1.08}$	$\text{Co}_{1.45}\text{Mg}_{0.55}$	$\text{Co}_{1.76}\text{Mg}_{0.24}$	—
Site-refinement technique	$\text{Co}_{0.26}\text{Mg}_{1.74}$	$\text{Co}_{0.40}\text{Mg}_{1.60}$	$\text{Co}_{0.95}\text{Mg}_{1.05}$	$\text{Co}_{1.41}\text{Mg}_{0.59}$	$\text{Co}_{1.74}\text{Mg}_{0.26}$	—
Number of independent reflections	986	1155	1013	1063	947	1023
R^*	0.043	0.018	0.021	0.019	0.043	0.021
R_w^{**}	0.048	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.057	0.023

* $R = \sum |F_o| - |F_c| / \sum |F_o|$.

** $R_w = [\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \sum wF_o^2]^{1/2}$.

TABLE 2. Positional and thermal parameters for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series

	Co ₀₃	Co ₀₅	Co ₁₀	Co ₁₅	Co ₁₈	Co ₂₀
M(1)						
Co	0.208(3)*	0.316(1)	0.675(2)	0.816(2)	0.928(7)	1.0
Mg	0.792	0.684	0.325	0.184	0.072	0.0
U ₁₁ **	0.0032(3)	0.0040(1)	0.0043(1)	0.0044(1)	0.0036(2)	0.0048(1)
U ₂₂	0.0074(3)	0.0063(1)	0.0062(1)	0.0061(1)	0.0076(3)	0.0068(1)
U ₃₃	0.0060(3)	0.0045(1)	0.0046(1)	0.0044(1)	0.0072(3)	0.0050(1)
U ₁₂	0.0001(2)	-0.0002(1)	-0.0002(1)	-0.0000(1)	-0.0001(2)	-0.0000(1)
U ₁₃	-0.0006(2)	-0.0005(1)	-0.0005(1)	-0.0006(1)	-0.0006(2)	-0.0006(1)
U ₂₃	-0.0008(2)	-0.0011(1)	-0.0010(1)	-0.0011(1)	-0.0011(2)	-0.0010(1)
B†	0.44	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.48	0.44
M(2)						
Co	0.053(3)	0.085(1)	0.278(2)	0.589(2)	0.807(7)	1.0
Mg	0.947	0.915	0.722	0.411	0.193	0.0
x‡	0.9913(2)	0.9911(1)	0.9909(1)	0.9909(1)	0.9911(2)	0.9912(1)
y	0.2771(1)	0.2770(1)	0.2767(1)	0.2765(1)	0.2765(1)	0.2765(1)
U ₁₁	0.0039(4)	0.0049(1)	0.0051(1)	0.0054(1)	0.0050(3)	0.0058(1)
U ₂₂	0.0052(4)	0.0042(1)	0.0043(1)	0.0042(1)	0.0060(3)	0.0051(1)
U ₃₃	0.0063(4)	0.0054(1)	0.0052(1)	0.0049(1)	0.0081(3)	0.0055(1)
U ₁₂	0.0003(3)	0.0003(1)	0.0002(1)	0.0002(1)	-0.0001(2)	0.0001(1)
B	0.41	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.50	0.43
Si						
x	0.4267(2)	0.4268(1)	0.4274(1)	0.4278(1)	0.4277(3)	0.4283(1)
y	0.0942(1)	0.0944(1)	0.0948(1)	0.0948(1)	0.0948(2)	0.0949(1)
U ₁₁	0.0021(2)	0.0029(1)	0.0032(1)	0.0034(1)	0.0027(5)	0.0035(2)
U ₂₂	0.0056(3)	0.0041(1)	0.0044(1)	0.0042(1)	0.0058(5)	0.0049(2)
U ₃₃	0.0053(3)	0.0043(1)	0.0047(1)	0.0043(1)	0.0072(5)	0.0044(2)
U ₁₂	0.0002(2)	0.0001(1)	0.0001(1)	0.0001(1)	0.0002(4)	0.0001(2)
B	0.34	0.30	0.32	0.31	0.41	0.34
O(1)						
x	0.7660(4)	0.7666(2)	0.7674(2)	0.7670(2)	0.7665(8)	0.7675(3)
y	0.0920(2)	0.0923(1)	0.0930(1)	0.0925(1)	0.0921(4)	0.0918(2)
U ₁₁	0.0027(6)	0.0033(2)	0.0042(3)	0.0040(3)	0.0037(11)	0.0046(5)
U ₂₂	0.0069(6)	0.0072(3)	0.0074(4)	0.0071(3)	0.0096(14)	0.0064(5)
U ₃₃	0.0065(6)	0.0058(2)	0.0060(4)	0.0061(3)	0.0088(13)	0.0062(5)
U ₁₂	-0.0001(5)	0.0005(2)	0.0006(3)	0.0003(3)	-0.0003(10)	0.0000(4)
B	0.42	0.43	0.46	0.45	0.58	0.45
O(2)						
x	0.2200(4)	0.2186(2)	0.2160(3)	0.2154(2)	0.2154(8)	0.2158(3)
y	0.4470(2)	0.4475(1)	0.4477(1)	0.4481(1)	0.4483(4)	0.4486(1)
U ₁₁	0.0036(6)	0.0053(2)	0.0058(4)	0.0060(3)	0.0053(12)	0.0062(5)
U ₂₂	0.0060(6)	0.0044(2)	0.0040(3)	0.0042(3)	0.0056(12)	0.0052(5)
U ₃₃	0.0074(6)	0.0067(2)	0.0066(4)	0.0070(3)	0.0104(13)	0.0069(5)
U ₁₂	-0.0001(5)	0.0001(2)	-0.0001(3)	-0.0002(3)	0.0003(10)	0.0004(4)
B	0.45	0.43	0.43	0.45	0.56	0.48
O(3)						
x	0.2783(3)	0.2787(1)	0.2800(2)	0.2810(2)	0.2816(6)	0.2818(2)
y	0.1633(1)	0.1635(1)	0.1640(1)	0.1640(1)	0.1641(3)	0.1641(1)
z	0.0331(2)	0.0334(1)	0.0337(1)	0.0335(1)	0.0337(5)	0.0339(2)
U ₁₁	0.0043(4)	0.0051(2)	0.0058(2)	0.0060(2)	0.0069(9)	0.0063(3)
U ₂₂	0.0072(4)	0.0068(2)	0.0073(2)	0.0077(2)	0.0088(9)	0.0079(3)
U ₃₃	0.0072(5)	0.0052(2)	0.0054(3)	0.0054(2)	0.0080(9)	0.0057(3)
U ₁₂	0.0003(4)	0.0004(1)	0.0004(2)	0.0003(2)	0.0004(7)	0.0009(3)
U ₁₃	-0.0006(4)	-0.0002(1)	-0.0004(2)	-0.0004(2)	-0.0005(7)	-0.0007(3)
U ₂₃	0.0018(4)	0.0016(1)	0.0014(2)	0.0018(2)	0.0015(8)	0.0017(3)
B	0.49	0.45	0.49	0.50	0.62	0.52

* Numbers in parentheses are calculated standard errors and refer to the last digit quoted.

** $U_{13} = U_{23} = 0$ for M(2), Si, O(1), and O(2). Anisotropic temperature factors have the form $\exp[-2\pi^2(U_{11}h^2a^{*2} + U_{22}k^2b^{*2} + U_{33}l^2c^{*2} + 2U_{12}hka^*b^* + 2U_{13}hla^*c^* + 2U_{23}klb^*c^*)]$.

† B is isotropic temperature factor and calculated from the anisotropic temperature factors according to the expression $B = 8\pi^2(U_{11} + U_{22} + U_{33})/3$.

‡ x = y = z = 0 for M(1). z = 0.25 for M(2), Si, O(1), and O(2).

ments for Co-Mg solid-solution series are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. Listings to the final observed and calculated structure factors may be ordered.¹

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The cation composition for each crystal estimated by the site-refinement technique is compared with that by

¹ To obtain structure factors, order Document AM-87-336 from the Business Office, Mineralogical Society of America, 1625 I

Street, N.W., Suite 414, Washington, D.C. 20006, U.S.A. Please remit \$5.00 in advance for the microfiche.

TABLE 3. Cell dimensions for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series

	Co ₀₃	Co ₀₅	Co ₁₀	Co ₁₅	Co ₁₈	Co ₂₀
a	4.760(2)*	4.765(2)	4.771(1)	4.779(4)	4.780(1)	4.781(1)
b	10.221(3)	10.225(2)	10.245(1)	10.277(3)	10.290(1)	10.296(1)
c	5.984(2)	5.986(1)	5.988(1)	5.995(2)	5.997(1)	5.998(1)
V	291.13	291.65	292.69	294.44	294.97	295.25

* Numbers in parentheses are calculated standard errors and refer to the last digit quoted.

the atomic absorption technique in Table 1. The results agree with each other within experimental error. The room-temperature olivine structures of various compositions generally exhibit isotropic temperature factors, *B*, for the M(1) and M(2) octahedral sites in the range from 0.2 to 0.45 Å² (Rajamani et al., 1975). The isotropic thermal parameters for the M(1) and M(2) octahedral sites in Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series agree fairly well with this range, as is seen in Table 2, and support the assigned octahedral site chemistry. The occupancies on two octahedral sites indicate that Co²⁺ ions are strongly enriched on the M(1) octahedral site over the Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series. The plot of the site occupancies of Co²⁺ ions against mol% Co₂SiO₄ in the Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series is shown in Figure 1. The results for Co_{1.1}Mg_{0.9}SiO₄ (Ghose and Wan, 1974) are included on these curves.

The cell dimensions for the crystals determined by powder X-ray diffraction are listed in Table 3, and the plot of the cell parameters against mol% Co₂SiO₄ in the Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series is shown in Figure 2. The *b* axis expands more than the *a* and *c* axes with increasing Co²⁺ content and shows a drastic increase in the range from 40 to 70 mol% Co₂SiO₄. These changes were not found in previous studies (Matsui and Syono, 1968).

Interatomic distances (Table 4) and bond angles for each Co-Mg olivine were calculated by the program UNICS (Sakurai, 1967). The general structural details of the oliv-

ine have been thoroughly discussed by Birle et al. (1968). The mean Si-O bond lengths were found to be constant within this series and close to those in other olivines (Finger, 1970; Finger and Virgo, 1971; Brown and Prewitt, 1973; Smyth and Hazen, 1973; Wenk and Raymond, 1973; Ghose and Wan, 1974; Rajamani et al., 1975; Tamada et al., 1983). The mean M(1)-O and M(2)-O bond lengths increase with increasing Co²⁺ content. The mean M(1)-O bond length shows a large increase below values of 50 mol% Co₂SiO₄, whereas the mean M(2)-O bond length shows a small increase beyond values of 50 mol% Co₂SiO₄.

The M(1) octahedral sites in the olivine structures are inherently smaller and more distorted than M(2) octahedral sites. The calculated octahedral distortions (Robinson et al., 1971) for the M(1) and M(2) sites of each olivine in this study are listed in Table 5. Co²⁺ ions exhibit a strong preference for the smaller M(1) octahedral sites, and the octahedral distortion of the M(1) site increases significantly with increasing Co²⁺ content. The increase of the octahedron distortion is particularly large below values of 50 mol% Co₂SiO₄. On the other hand, as Co²⁺ ions show weak preference for the larger M(2) octahedral site, the increase of the octahedral distortion of the M(2) site is small. The variations observed in the *b* axis, the mean bond lengths of the octahedra, and the octahedral distortions are attributed to the change in site preference of Co²⁺ ions for the M(1) and M(2) octahedral sites at about 50 mol% Co₂SiO₄.

TABLE 4. Interatomic distances (Å) for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series

		Co ₀₃	Co ₀₅	Co ₁₀	Co ₁₅	Co ₁₈	Co ₂₀
Si tetrahedron							
[1]	Si-O(1)	1.615(2)	1.619(1)	1.623(1)	1.621(2)	1.620(4)	1.622(2)
[1]	Si-O(2)	1.659(2)	1.654(1)	1.655(1)	1.655(1)	1.656(4)	1.657(2)
[2]	Si-O(3)	1.638(2)	1.637(1)	1.636(1)	1.638(1)	1.637(3)	1.636(1)
Mean	Si-O	1.638	1.637	1.638	1.638	1.638	1.638
M(1) octahedron							
[2]	M(1)-O(1)	2.089(1)	2.090(1)	2.093(1)	2.095(1)	2.096(3)	2.093(1)
[2]	M(1)-O(2)	2.076(1)	2.080(1)	2.089(1)	2.093(1)	2.093(3)	2.092(1)
[2]	M(1)-O(3)	2.140(1)	2.145(1)	2.156(1)	2.164(1)	2.169(3)	2.170(1)
Mean	M(1)-O	2.102	2.105	2.113	2.117	2.119	2.118
M(2) octahedron							
[1]	M(2)-O(1)	2.174(2)	2.170(1)	2.163(1)	2.173(1)	2.180(4)	2.181(2)
[1]	M(2)-O(2)	2.050(2)	2.052(1)	2.055(1)	2.064(1)	2.068(4)	2.072(2)
[2]	M(2)-O(3)	2.066(2)	2.067(1)	2.066(1)	2.066(1)	2.067(3)	2.068(1)
[2]	M(2)-O(3)	2.214(2)	2.215(1)	2.217(1)	2.223(1)	2.224(3)	2.225(1)
Mean	M(2)-O	2.131	2.131	2.131	2.136	2.138	2.140

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to the multiplicity of the bond. Numbers in parentheses are calculated standard errors and refer to the last digit quoted.

TABLE 5. Octahedral distortions and intracrystalline distribution coefficients for Co-Mg olivine solid-solution series

	Co ₀₃	Co ₀₅	Co ₁₀	Co ₁₅	Co ₁₈	Co ₂₀
σ_6^2 [M(1)]*	96.01	99.06	102.07	102.95	103.15	104.58
σ_6^2 [M(2)]	90.02	90.65	91.56	92.15	92.91	93.79
K_D^{**}	4.69	4.97	5.39	3.09	3.08	—

* σ_6^2 (oct) = $\sum_{i=1}^{12} (\theta - 90^\circ)^2/11$ (Robinson et al., 1971).

** $K_D = \frac{[Mg_{M(2)}Co_{M(1)}]}{[Mg_{M(1)}Co_{M(2)}]}$ for the exchange reaction $Mg_{M(1)} + Co_{M(2)} = Mg_{M(2)} + Co_{M(1)}$.

The intracrystalline distribution coefficient, K_D , as defined earlier, was calculated for each crystal and listed in Table 5. The estimated K_D attains a maximum, $K_D \approx 5.4$, at about 50 mol% Co₂SiO₄. The maximum value is intermediate between the values for Ni-Mg (Rajamani et al., 1975; Bish, 1981) and Fe-Mg olivines (Finger, 1970; Bush et al., 1970; Finger and Virgo, 1971; Virgo and Hafner, 1972; Brown and Prewitt, 1973; Wenk and Raymond, 1973; Smyth and Hazen, 1973; Aikawa et al., 1985). This means that in the olivine structures, the preference for the M(1) octahedral site is in the order Ni²⁺ > Co²⁺ > Fe²⁺, and this order is consistent with the previous results and predictions. As the obtained K_D does not represent the equilibrium distribution between Co²⁺ and Mg²⁺ ions on the two octahedral sites at the temperature of synthesis, it is necessary to investigate the high-temperature structures for Co-Mg olivine in order to establish the equilibrium distribution between these cations and to estimate the free energy.

We are investigating the Fe-Mg olivine solid-solution series synthesized by the floating-zone method in order to clarify the correlation of K_D with composition. Homogeneous, large single crystals of Ni-Mg olivine could not be successfully synthesized by the floating-zone method in the region of high Ni²⁺ content. This is ascribed to the strong preference of Ni²⁺ ions for the M(1) octahedral site.

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