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1 The *in vacuo* release of Ar from minerals: 3. The degassing of He, Ne, Ar, Kr and Xe
2 from irradiated apatite

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Abstract

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15 A 200 mg shard of Durango fluorapatite was stepheated after neutron irradiation. It contained
16 radiogenic ⁴He from natural U decay and artificially produced rare gas isotopes: ²⁰Ne from F, ³⁷Ar
17 from Ca, ³⁸Ar from Cl, ⁸⁰Kr and ⁸²Kr from Br, ¹²⁸Xe from I, and ¹³¹Xe from Ba. The ⁴He release rate
18 was compared with that from an unirradiated aliquot.

19 He was expected, and observed, to degas at the lowest furnace temperatures, with a degassing peak
20 around 1000 °C and nearly complete exhaustion by 1200 °C. Ne followed a bimodal degassing
21 pattern, with a peak at 1178 °C and a higher one at 1406 °C. Ar degassing showed the same peaks.
22 Kr and Xe were both released in a single, major burst between 1360 and 1460 °C.

23 The two Xe isotopes 128 and 131, produced from I and Ba, respectively, followed exactly the same
24 degassing pattern. The crystallographic site of the target element had no control on the successive
25 movement of the irradiation-produced rare gas atom after it had recoiled during irradiation and
26 before it exited the crystal by crossing a large number of unit cells.

27 The He release from the irradiated and unirradiated aliquots gave two nearly overlapping
28 alignments in the Arrhenius diagram at intermediate temperatures between 500 and 1100 °C. The
29 two slopes are indistinguishable at the 1 sigma level and yield an average activation energy of 60±6
30 kJ/mole. In the same temperature interval, all five rare gases showed parallel trends with an
31 activation energy around 60 kJ/mole and diffusion constants decreasing from He to Xe by about 3-4
32 orders of magnitude. Arrhenian trajectories for Kr and Xe sharply steepen, with a degassing rate
33 about 2000-5000 times higher than at intermediate temperatures, and merge at 1290 °C, with an
34 activation energy of ca. 1600 kJ/mole. The high-T modes of the Ar and Ne release also fall on the
35 same steep Arrhenius line, with indistinguishable diffusivities as Kr and Xe. This break in

36 Arrhenius slope and the merger of four trajectories that were well separated below 1200 °C indicate
37 a major, energetically very costly structural reordering of apatite around 1300 °C.

38 The structural reordering was looked for, and well documented, by three mineralogical techniques:
39 Raman spectroscopy, X ray diffractometry, and microchemical analysis by laser induced
40 breakdown spectroscopy. Complete loss of structural fluorine heavily modified the apatite structure.
41 Complete outgassing of Ne, Ar, Kr and Xe was only achieved after the defluorination reaction and
42 attending structural collapse.

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45 Key words: Ar diffusion, noble gas diffusion, apatite degassing, crystal structure modification

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Introduction

An unsolved issue with gas release studies is the role of the atomic radius in enabling the transport of rare gas atoms through the mineral structure. It was established (e.g. Cherniak et al., 1997a,b) that diffusion of tri- and tetravalent cations strongly depends on the ionic radius, whereby the activation energy is constant and only the pre-exponential factor (the jump frequency) varies. It is therefore expected that *bona fide* diffusion of rare gases should obey the same law. On the other hand, Ar release from micas is controlled by a structural breakdown (Villa, 2021, and references therein), and structural rearrangements strongly affect the Ar release also from feldspar (Kung and Villa, 2021). The present experiment is designed to assess the relative roles of diffusion and of structural breakdown in the release of the five rare gases, whose ionic radii are very different, from apatite, a nominally anhydrous mineral containing measurable amounts of all five when neutron-irradiated.

Analytical methods

Rare gas release was studied on a crystallographically coherent, roughly cubic fragment hereafter referred to as Fragment A, of the Durango apatite, donated by P. Vermeesch. Fragment A was irradiated at the Triga Research Reactor, University of Pavia, carefully avoiding Cd shielding, which would suppress the production of rare gas isotopes from halogens. Another small roughly cubic fragment of the same crystal, Fragment B, was analyzed unirradiated, in order to compare the He degassing rate before and after irradiation. The equivalent grain radii were $a_{\text{irr}} = 2.47$ mm and $a_{\text{unirr}} = 0.67$ mm for the irradiated and unirradiated fragment, respectively. For the subsequent mineralogical analyses a 200 μm thick slice, perpendicular to the c axis, of the Durango apatite was microsampled from a different euhedral crystal.

Stepwise heating and rare gas analyses were performed at Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ambiente e della Terra at Università di Milano Bicocca, Italy, hereafter DISAT, using the same protocol and apparatus as described by Villa (2021). It is important to point out that in the reverse geometry furnace at DISAT the cylindrical heating element surrounds the bottom-up Ta crucible, into which a Mo liner is inserted from the bottom, completely enclosing the content of the Mo liner from all sides. In this experiment the temperature was never reduced between heating steps, each of which lasted between 10 and 155 min. The furnace temperature was calibrated by the melting points of

81 pure metal wires between 318 and 1440 °C (Pb, Al, Ag, Cu, Be, Ni), held at constant temperature
82 for 15 minutes.

83 He and Ne were measured sequentially in a single gas introduction, performed while Ar, Kr and Xe
84 were retained onto charcoal by liquid nitrogen. The possible presence of isobaric interference on the
85 ^{20}Ne peak by doubly ionized ^{40}Ar had previously been tested by analyses of atmospheric pipettes
86 (much gas-richer than the actual sample gas) using the same liquid nitrogen trap, and observed to be
87 negligible. Ar was then introduced while Xe was retained on the charcoal by an ethanol-solid CO_2
88 mixture. About half of the Kr was introduced together with Ar, but not analyzed due to the probable
89 isobaric interference of the ^{40}Ar dimer on the ^{80}Kr peak. Trapping Kr only partially by this protocol
90 provides relative Kr outgassing rates reliably; absolute Kr outgassing rates could be inferred by
91 calibrating the ratio of the proportion of Kr introduced with Ar to that introduced with Xe. The
92 heavy rare gases, Xe and the remaining Kr, were then introduced together into the mass
93 spectrometer by warming the charcoal to ca. 120 °C and analyzed sequentially. The results for all
94 five gases are presented in Supplementary Table S1.

95 The mineralogical analyses made use of a thin, unirradiated hexagonal slice, which was divided in
96 two halves, referred to as fragments C and D, having a rhomboidal shape with the longest side of 5
97 mm. Fragment C was analyzed, non-destructively, by Raman microprobe and by XRD. It was then
98 stepheated, unirradiated, to the same temperatures as the irradiated Fragment A. During the
99 stepheating, He and Ne were also collected; the He release pattern of C closely reproduced that of
100 A. The purpose of analyzing Ne in fragment C was controlling the efficiency of the Ar trapping
101 described above, ascertaining that that no $^{20}(\text{Ar}^{2+})$ was detectable in any heating step and that no
102 spurious non-atmospheric ^{20}Ne excess could have biased the fluorine-derived $^{20}\text{Ne}_F$ measurements
103 in irradiated Fragment A. After the stepheating, Fragment C was again analyzed by Raman
104 microprobe in the same position and setup as when it was unheated. After the Raman analysis its
105 composition was analyzed by LIBS and by XRD. Unheated fragment D was kept in reserve.

106 Raman spectroscopy was performed at DISAT using a Micro-Raman Renishaw - inVia
107 spectrometer (Andò and Garzanti, 2013). Results are shown in Fig. 4.

108 The X-ray diffractometry (XRD) analysis was performed at DISAT using a PANalytical X'Pert
109 PRO PW3040/60 diffractometer. Results are shown in Fig. 5.

110 The in situ chemical microanalysis was performed by Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy
111 (LIBS) at Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano Bicocca, using a Thermo-Fisher Niton
112 Apollo Handheld LIBS Analyzer.

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Results and discussion

The He degassing rate is presented in Figure 1. The degassing of the irradiated Fragment A does not coincide with that of the unirradiated Fragment B, which occurs at lower T . This may have two, mutually not exclusive, causes. (i) The two degassing routines are not identical. Heating of Fragment B started at 309 °C and resulted in rapid He outgassing, and reached the degassing peak in step 9 (778 °C) after 4440 s; Fragment A was heated starting at 428 °C and reached the peak in step 9 (880 °C) after 14760 s. Thus any transport mechanism that has a non-thermally-activated component will make the two degassing rates not comparable. (ii) The irradiated fragment has a larger number of irradiation-produced defects, and therefore (see below) starts with a low degassing rate and a higher activation energy. The two trajectories merge at 455 °C. Since merging Arrhenius trajectories have been argued to represent a structural modification (Villa, 2021), this may be the temperature at which both natural tracks (alpha recoil and U fission) and artificial irradiation tracks are annealed. A similar effect could be the explanation for the observations by Farley (2000, p.2909). Annealing was measured by laser heating (Willett et al., 2017) at slightly lower temperatures than the present work; see the discussion on temperature calibrations below.

Figure 1a is an Arrhenius plot comparing the present data with those obtained by Wolf et al. (1996) by laser heating. Two general features are reproduced: the observation that the Arrhenius trajectory shows a break in slope, from steeper to shallower; and the absolute value of the slope at higher degassing temperature, corresponding to an activation energy of 60 ± 6 kJ/mol (see below) in the present experiment and 56 kJ/mol in Wolf et al. (1996). Two features are different; however, even if they are briefly mentioned here, they are secondary for the present experiment, whose crux lies in the intercomparison of the five rare gases with respect to each other, obtained in the same heating step, and not in a critique of Wolf et al's (1996) use of laboratory data on He degassing to infer quantitative thermochronometric models for apatite helium dating. The differences pertain to the temperatures, at which the break in slope occurs, and at which complete outgassing of the Durango apatite is recorded. Wolf et al. (1996) state that in their experiment apatite degassing was complete below 600 °C. As the experimental setup of Wolf et al. (1996) is based on short heating by a laser beam, whereas our inverted furnace guarantees a 4π heating geometry for the present experiment, the long step durations achieved thermal equilibrium, and temperatures were calibrated by wire melting in the same geometry, it is likely that the two temperature estimates are not comparable. This is supported by our observation (Supplementary Table S1) that the most intense differential He degassing of the irradiated Fragment A of the Durango apatite occurs around 1000 °C, above the melting temperature of Ag, and is only complete about 100 °C above the melting temperature of Cu, using average heating durations of 33 min.

151 The very existence of a kink in the Arrhenius trajectory should be interpreted in terms of atom-scale
152 processes, a factor not considered by Wolf et al. (1996), who only envisage macroscopic
153 mechanisms. Lasaga (1981, p. 276) explicitly predicts Arrhenius kinks due to transitions from
154 extrinsic to intrinsic diffusion regimes. Recent calculations by Gerin et al (2017) using Density
155 Functional Theory confirm the suggestion by Shuster et al. (2006) that crystal defects caused by
156 alpha particle recoil *increase* the activation energy of He transport in apatite, whereas the older
157 literature available to Wolf et al. (1996) assumed incorrectly that the opposite was true. As alpha
158 tracks are annealed at sufficiently high temperature, it follows that above this temperature He
159 transport becomes less energetically costly than below it. This results in a convex Arrhenius
160 trajectory, providing a confirmation of Lasaga's (1981) predictions.

161 Figure 1b compares the He degassing rate of the irradiated and the unirradiated aliquot in the
162 temperature interval where the two stepheating experiments overlap, 500-1100 °C (*i.e.* abscissa
163 intervals between 0.73 and 1.3). The two activation energies are 57.3 ± 3.7 and 64.3 ± 6.1 kJ/mol for
164 the irradiated and unirradiated aliquot, respectively, indistinguishable at the 68% confidence level.
165 The weighted average of the two experiments is 60 ± 6 kJ/mol. It is possible that the neutron
166 irradiation dose, $5.4 \text{ E}17 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (*i.e.* 3.8 MWh), created less point defects than the natural dose
167 accumulated by the untreated aliquot. This is compatible with the observation that the sum of all
168 halogen-produced Ne+Ar+Kr+Xe nuclides in Fragment A is over 100 times lower than the
169 measured He atoms.

170 The degassing rate of the heavier halogen-derived rare gas isotopes $^{20}\text{Ne}_F$ and $^{38}\text{Ar}_{Cl}$ is illustrated in
171 Fig. 2. The differential release plot (Villa, 2021, and references therein), or DRP (Fig. 2a), shows
172 that the $^{20}\text{Ne}_F$ release is bimodal: much of the Ne_F is released in the same steps as He, around 1000
173 °C, but degassing continues above the exhaustion temperature of He and a secondary burst is
174 observed up to 1400 °C. $^{38}\text{Ar}_{Cl}$ also shows a bimodal release, at 1000 and 1400 °C, whereby the
175 principal peak is shifted to 1400 °C. An additional Ar isotope that was analyzed and is discussed
176 here is $^{37}\text{Ar}_{Ca}$. The DRP shows that the release patterns of the two Ar isotopes are practically
177 identical. This similarity in the differential release of two isotopes of the same gas produced in
178 different crystallographic sites is also observed in Xe (see below). The Arrhenius plot (Fig. 2b)
179 compares the He trajectory (from Fig. 1) with those of $^{20}\text{Ne}_F$, $^{38}\text{Ar}_{Cl}$ and $^{37}\text{Ar}_{Ca}$. In the 500-1100 °C
180 temperature interval $^{20}\text{Ne}_F$ and $^{38}\text{Ar}_{Cl}$ suggest an activation energy compatible with that of He
181 release, with y-axis intercepts (D_0 values) lower than that of He by factors of 7.5 and 714,
182 respectively. This is compatible with the quantum mechanical calculations by Gautheron et al.
183 (2020, p. 356), which reveal that the atomic radius is not the main control on the activation energy
184 E ; in the present case, the control on diffusivity occurs via D_0 , which does depend on the atomic
185 radius. In contrast, $^{37}\text{Ar}_{Ca}$ exhibits a different behavior: it has a lower diffusivity and a higher

186 activation energy until 632 °C, then its trajectory coincides with that of $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ at or near 780 °C,
187 when the released $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$ fraction reaches 0.7 %. A possible reason for the discrepancy is the higher
188 recoil energy of $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$ relative to $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ (Onstott et al., 1995) produced by neutron irradiation. The
189 potential well of the point defect thus created might be deeper in the case of $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$, resulting in a
190 lower jump frequency and a higher activation energy in the temperature range below the annealing
191 of the point defect, inferred to be lower or near 780 °C. As a note of caution it should be mentioned
192 that the absolute amounts of $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$ and $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ involved in the very low temperature Arrhenius
193 trajectory are quite small (such that (peak height/background) ratios were <1) and may be affected
194 by comparatively large uncertainties.

195 The degassing behavior of the heavy isotopes $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$, $^{128}\text{Xe}_{\text{I}}$ and $^{131}\text{Xe}_{\text{Ba}}$ are illustrated in Fig. 3.
196 Isotope $^{82}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$ was also measured (Supplementary Table S1) and is numerically and graphically
197 identical to $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$. The non-atmospheric isotope ^{85}Kr was produced from ^{235}U induced fission, but
198 was significantly above detection limit only in the 1406 °C step, in which most of the artificial Kr
199 and Xe isotopes were released (Table S1). The Kr and Xe release patterns (Fig. 3a) are very similar
200 to each other. In particular, the release patterns of the two Xe isotopes, produced in the very
201 different crystallographic sites of their target elements, are identical. This is evidence that the
202 crystallographic site did not control the successive movement of the neutron-produced Xe atom
203 after it had recoiled during irradiation and before it left the crystal after crossing a very large
204 number of ca. 1 nm wide unit cells. The DRP further evidences a shift of the peak of the differential
205 gas release to the temperature range 1360-1460 °C. The Arrhenius plot (Fig. 3b) reflects this shift as
206 a massive steepening of the trajectory; the absolute value of the activation energy is ca. 1600
207 kJ/mol. This degassing peak occurs over 200 °C below the melting temperature of apatite, 1618 ± 5
208 °C (Bhatnagar, 1969). The mechanism of Kr and Xe degassing is clearly not the same as that of the
209 three lighter rare gases. A similar effect had been observed for Ar and Xe by Hetherington and Villa
210 (2007, their Fig. 6). A major structural rearrangement (cfr. Kung and Villa, 2021, and references
211 therein) was suspected, and additional mineralogical constraints by comparing heated and unheated
212 fragments are presented below. A defluorination reaction (expected to have an extremely costly
213 energy budget) was suggested by a black rhomboidal print on the Mo liner at the position of
214 Fragment A; it would result in extensive structural reordering, resembling in a more extreme way
215 the fate of hydrous minerals upon dehydroxylation (Villa, 2021, and references therein). In the 500-
216 1100 °C temperature range, where the light rare gases follow approximately linear Arrhenius
217 segments, the degassing rate of Kr and Xe also follows a linear Arrhenius trajectory, about 3.5
218 orders of magnitude lower than that of He.

219 Individual atoms of Ne, Ar, Kr and Xe in a crystal do not behave as noble gases, sometimes
220 suggested to be "free to hover around because they make no bonds". Instead of bonding, what is

221 limiting their mobility is the fact that they are occluded in the mineral structure (be it in interstitial
222 positions or in Frankel defects) and trapped there due to their atomic radius larger than the
223 interatomic distance of the structure-forming ions. In the present work, it was observed that the
224 large atomic radius of the four heavy rare gases effectively slows down (to different extents) their
225 release during stepheating. It is highly inappropriate to reduce the physics of noble gas transport to
226 Fick's Law, since Fick's Law was defined as the transport of nutrients in aqueous solutions, such
227 that its extension outside the boundaries of its definition is likely to produce inaccurate results, as in
228 the present case. Seeing as the mobility of noble gases in a solid crystal matrix is not accurately
229 quantified by Fick's Law, it is mandatory to instead take into account at least two factors that forbid
230 a linear downslope extrapolation of Arrhenius trajectories obtained in the laboratory at high
231 temperature: (1) the atomistic behavior of defects in solids (Lasaga, 1981; Gerin et al., 2017;
232 Gautheron et al., 2020), noting that even in a defect-free crystal structure quantum mechanics
233 forbids rectilinear Arrhenius trajectories (Panzarini and Colombo, 1994); (2) the crystal-structural
234 modifications that occur at discrete temperatures, such as dehydration (Villa, 2021, and references
235 therein), phonon mode changes (Kung and Villa, 2021, and references therein), and phase
236 transitions in general. The rate of gas release due to structural modifications is over three orders of
237 magnitude faster than the mobility of atoms in an inert matrix (an inert matrix would be
238 mathematically necessary if Fick's Law were an accurate description of rare gas mobility in solids).
239 The outgassing rates of ^{80}Kr and ^{128}Xe at 1406 °C, calculated by extrapolating upslope the data
240 between 428 and 1293 °C, should be 3.6 E-8 and 9.8 E-8 s⁻¹, respectively, whereas they are
241 observed to be 1.5 E-4 and 1.6 E-4 s⁻¹, respectively.

242 The Raman spectroscopy (Fig. 4) provides hard evidence for the suspected structural
243 modification(s). Unheated Fragment C shows a sharp peak at the 964 cm⁻¹ wavenumber, which
244 corresponds to the principal vibration mode of apatite. After heating, the same Fragment C shows a
245 less sharp 964 cm⁻¹ peak, which is interpreted as loss of crystallinity (Fig. 4a). Furthermore, the
246 Raman map of the unheated fragment exhibits a (color-coded) heterogeneity (Fig. 4b). This
247 observation confirms the compositional heterogeneity reported by Hasebe et al. (2004) and Marks
248 et al. (2012). After heating, the Raman map in the same part of Fragment C shows a homogenized
249 composition. Pre-melting, diffusional re-equilibration and mm-scale recrystallization following the
250 suspected structural modification are all mechanisms compatible with the observation.

251 X-ray diffraction on unheated Fragment C has yielded a sharp 002 reflection, with a minor peak due
252 to the 004 reflection. The analyzed material was indeed practically ideal apatite. After heating, the
253 same fragment C has yielded a spread-out pattern with multiple peaks (Fig. 5), indicating changes
254 of the crystal structure, supporting the Raman spectroscopy, and the probable formation of a
255 reaction product different from apatite.

256 LIBS in situ analysis on heated Fragment C has documented halogen loss, with [F] below detection
257 limit (ca. 0.01%). At least 99.7% of the initial fluorine were lost by heating. It is intuitive that the
258 defluorinated crystal had a different cell volume from the original crystal. These structural changes
259 were observed 200 °C below the nominal melting temperature. The delayed release of increasing
260 amounts of Ne, Ar, and especially Kr and Xe only after a major structural reordering had already
261 been described by McDowell (1983) for the Ar release from K-feldspar. The present results suggest
262 that not only hydrous but also anhydrous minerals require structural collapse to be completely
263 emptied from isotopic inheritance.

264 265 266 267 Implications for rare gas transport in geological materials 268

269 Some sort of "diffusion" always occurs, as atoms always move when $T > 0$ K. The real question that
270 would legitimate diffusion modelling is thus not if diffusion occurs, but rather if Fick's (1855)
271 formula, based on classical continuum mechanics, is adequate to describe the transport of atoms
272 through a solid at all temperatures, so that downslope extrapolation to geologically relevant
273 temperatures is always legitimate. In theory, no (Lasaga, 1981; Panzarini and Colombo, 1994;
274 Gautheron et al., 2020). In practice, it could be argued that Fick's Law Diffusion (FLD) is
275 sufficiently close to reality, albeit inaccurate "to some extent". The question should therefore be
276 rephrased: "Is FLD always the one and only, mathematically invertible, transport process in all solid
277 matrices?", or in a less rigorous formulation, "is FLD always the fastest transport mechanism, such
278 that all other transport mechanisms play subordinate roles?". In geological systems on Earth, this is
279 not the case. The rates of competing transport mechanisms are several orders of magnitude *faster*
280 than FLD: recrystallization after reaction with aqueous fluids (Wood and Walther, 1982), and
281 structural reshuffling after phase transitions (this work). A further result of this work is that at least
282 four of the five rare gases (Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe) are not free to leave apatite unimpeded, as was
283 commonly believed of non-bonding noble gases, and need instead a structural breakdown of the
284 host mineral to be completely released. This guarantees isotopic inheritance in all geological
285 situations that do not include complete recrystallization.

286 287 288 289 Conclusions 290

291 The degassing rate of the five noble gases from apatite is not compatible with Fick's Law diffusion
292 of non-bonding atoms out of an inert matrix. Instead, it shows the following regular features.
293 1. The differential gas release rates peak at increasing temperatures, from He to Kr and Xe.
294 2. The Arrhenius trajectories of He, Ne and Ar show a kink around 500 °C, as predicted by the
295 atomistic theory (Lasaga, 1981).
296 3. The five diffusivities in the intermediate temperature range (500-1100 °C) vary by a factor 3000.
297 4. The Arrhenius trajectories of Ne, Ar, Kr and Xe, which are well distinct below 1100 °C, merge
298 above ca. 1300 °C. This requires a major difference in the degassing mechanism.
299 5. The release of Kr and Xe only sets in at very high temperature, accompanying a major
300 disordering of the apatite structure, documented by Raman spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction, and
301 laser ablation compositional analysis.
302 6. In addition to the very immobile Kr and Xe, also Ne and Ar are only completely released when
303 the host mineral is completely recrystallized.

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 359 Research*, 45, 121-142.

361 Figure Captions

362

363 Fig. 1 - He degassing rate of Durango apatite. (a) Arrhenius diagram of the present experiment
 364 (crosses) and of the literature results of Wolf et al. (1996), displayed as a steep low-temperature
 365 array (open circles) and shallower high-temperature array (filled triangles). (b) Arrhenius diagram
 366 of the irradiated and the unirradiated aliquots. In the temperature range 500-1100 °C (*i.e.* for $0.73 <$
 367 $x < 1.3$) the two aliquots are indistinguishable.

368

369 Fig. 2 - Halogen-derived Ne and Ar degassing rate. (a) Differential release plot. The ordinate axis is
370 the differential gas release in a given step, divided by the temperature difference to the previous
371 step and the square root of the duration of that step. He, solid line; Ne, dashed line; $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$, dotted
372 line; $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$, dash-dotted line. The release of the two Ar isotopes is identical over practically the
373 entire temperature interval. (b) Arrhenius diagram. He, filled circles; ^{20}Ne , open circles; $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$,
374 open triangles; $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$, filled triangles. The fit line to the He data of the irradiated aliquot, from Fig.
375 1b, is repeated here. The Arrhenius trajectory of Ne is parallel to the He trajectory, shifted by an
376 average factor 7.5 towards lower diffusivity. The trajectory of $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ also has a slope compatible
377 with the He activation energy, 57 kJ/mol (dashed reference line). The trajectory of $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$ deviates
378 from that of $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ at $T < 780\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and then merges with it.

379

380 Fig. 3 - Reactor-produced Kr and Xe degassing rate. (a) Differential release plot. $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$, dashed
381 line; $^{128}\text{Xe}_{\text{I}}$, dotted line; $^{131}\text{Xe}_{\text{Ba}}$, long-dashed line; $^{37}\text{Ar}_{\text{Ca}}$, solid line, for comparison with Fig. 2a.
382 (b) Arrhenius diagram. $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$, diamonds; $^{128}\text{Xe}_{\text{I}}$, squares; $^{131}\text{Xe}_{\text{Ba}}$, crosses. The points below 1300
383 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ are hardly meaningful, as the neutron-produced isotopes are calculated after subtraction of
384 atmospheric contribution and have a high uncertainty (especially Xe). What is very robust is the
385 massive break in slope at 1300 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

386

387 Fig. 4 - Raman spectroscopy results on Fragment C before and after stepheating. (a) Principal
388 apatite vibration mode (964 cm^{-1}). The sharpness has drastically decreased upon heating. (b) Color-
389 coded Raman map (ca. $1.8 \times 0.7\text{ mm}$) obtained in a corner of Fragment C. The heterogeneity of the
390 unheated sample is smoothed away by heating.

391

392 Fig. 5 - X-ray diffraction of Fragment C before and after stepheating.

393

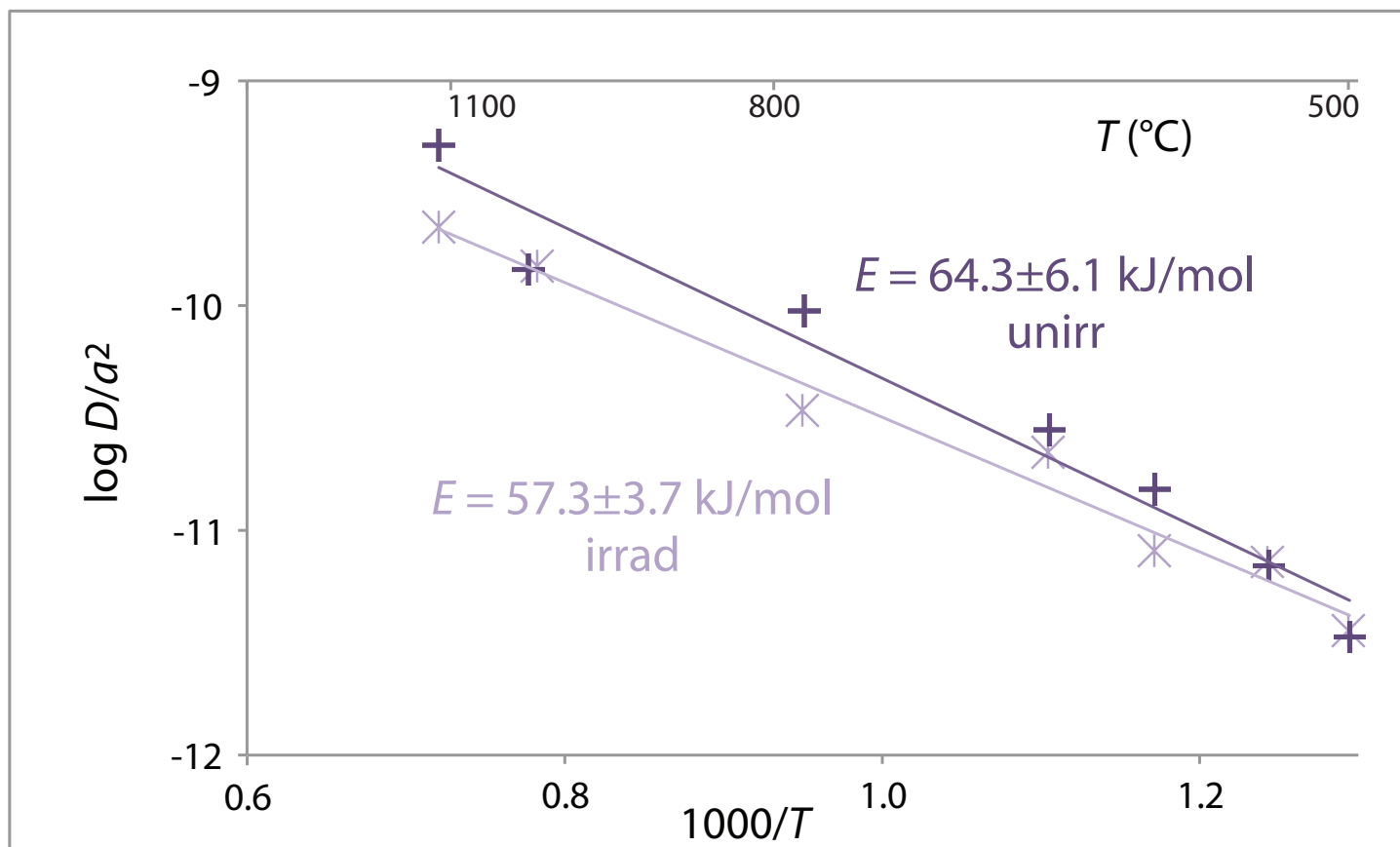
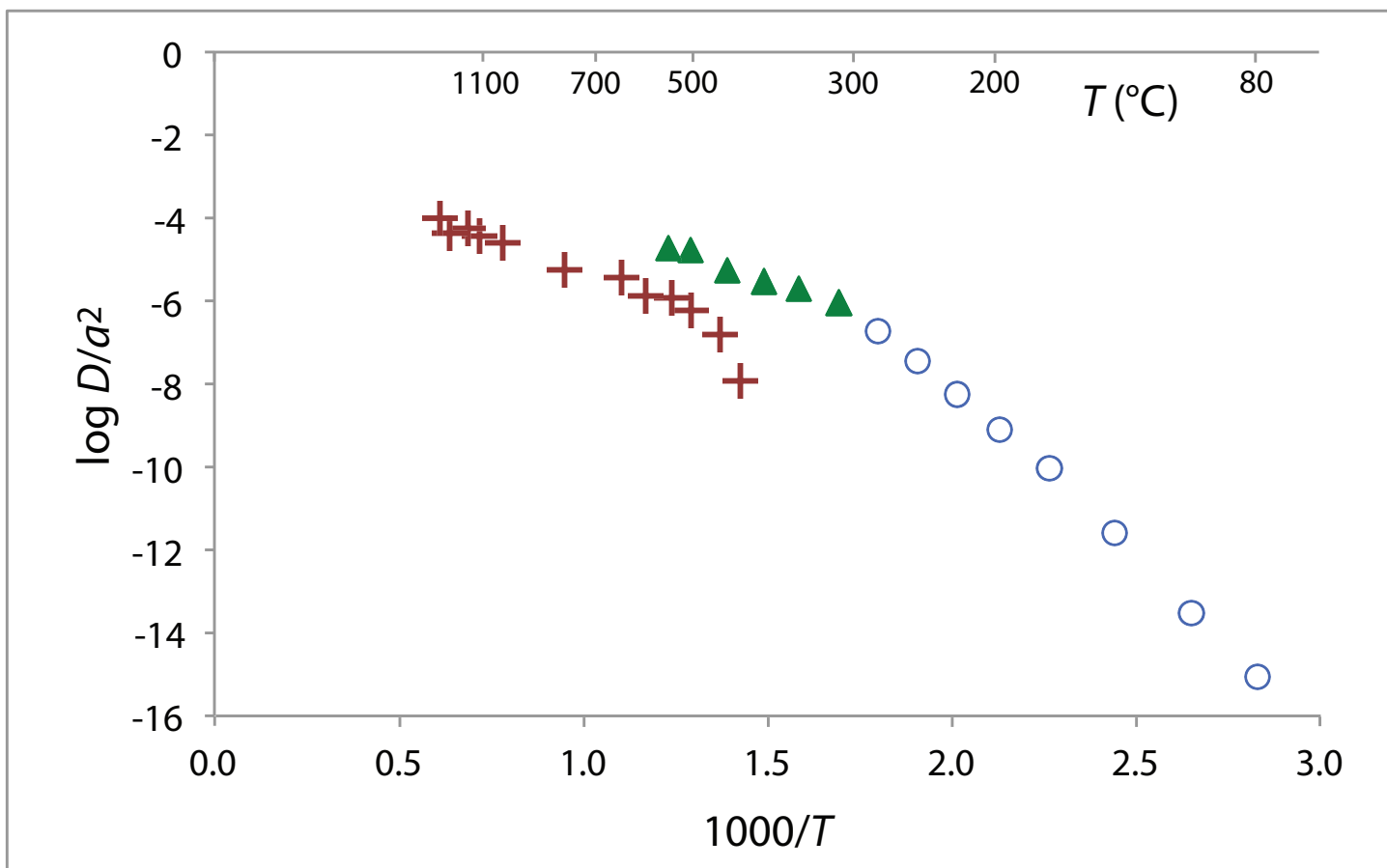
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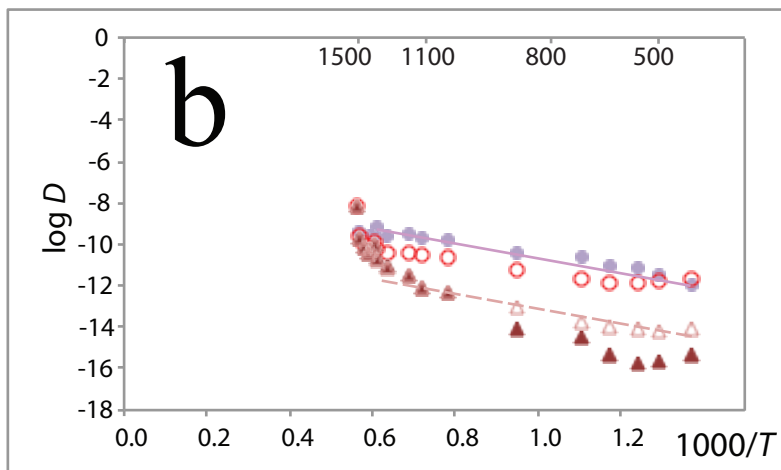
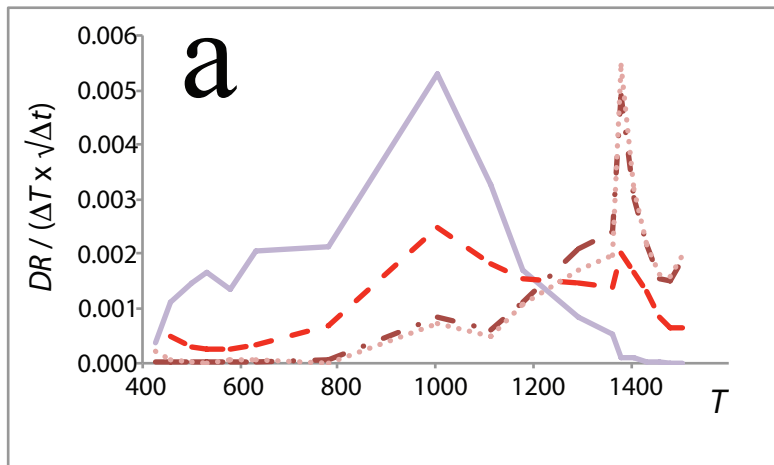
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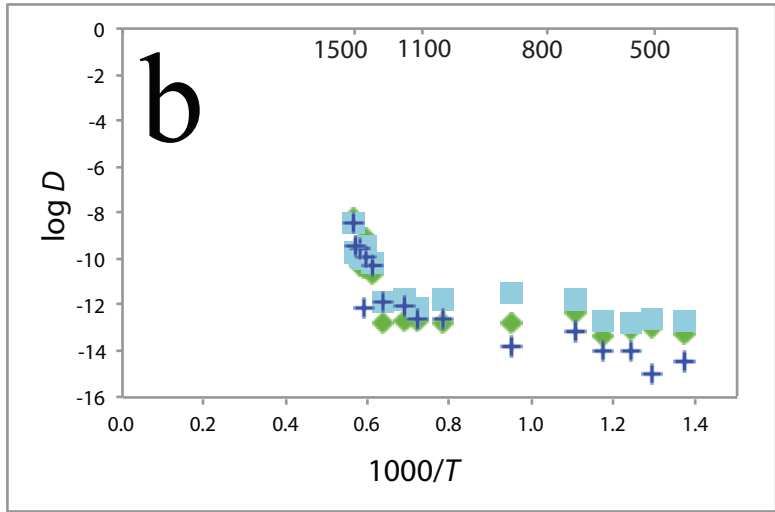
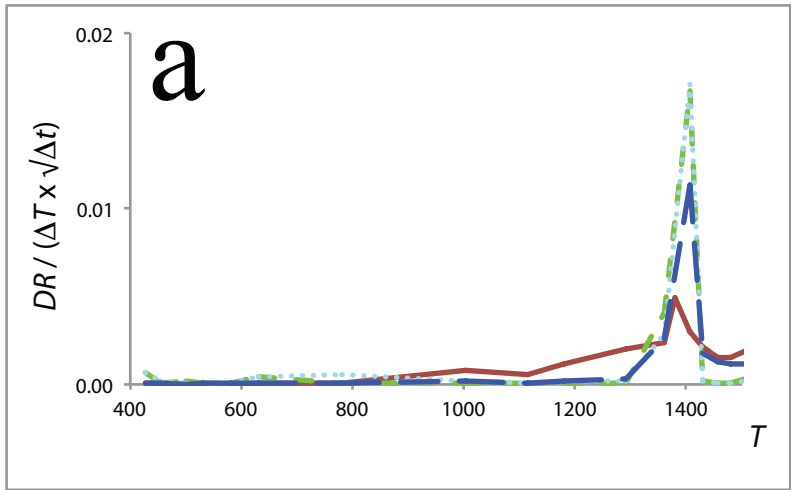
Supplementary Materials

396

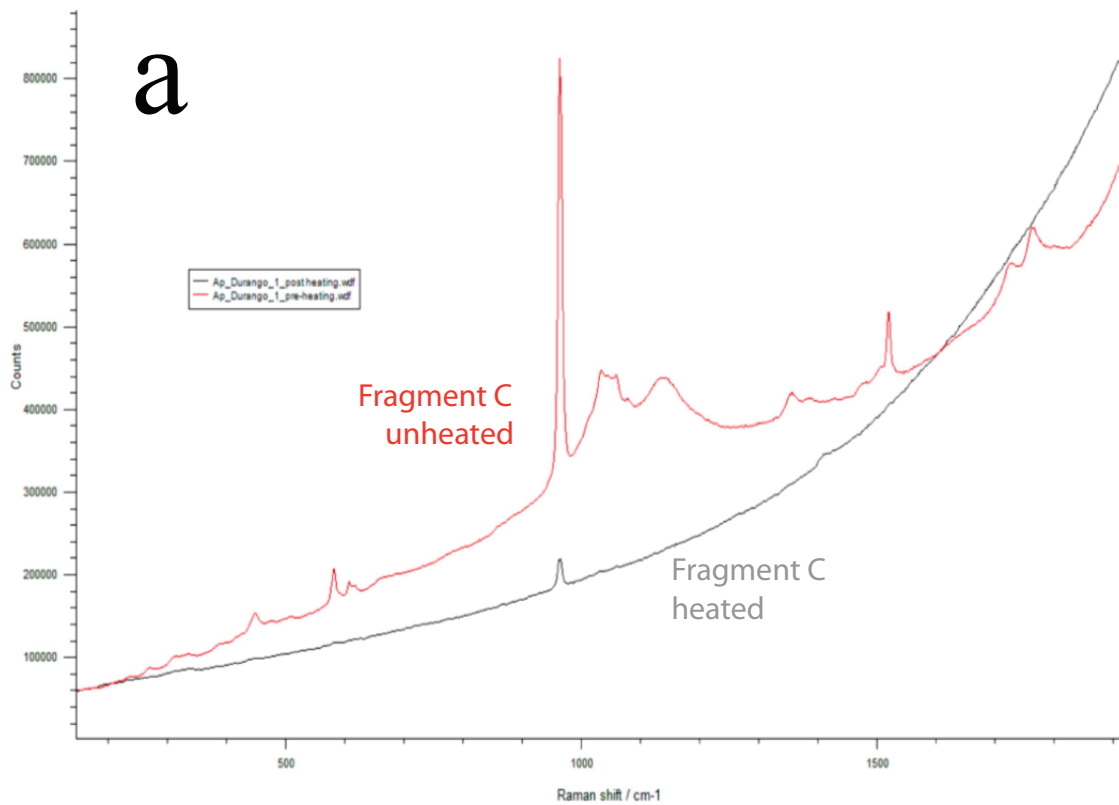
397 Table S1 - rare gas results



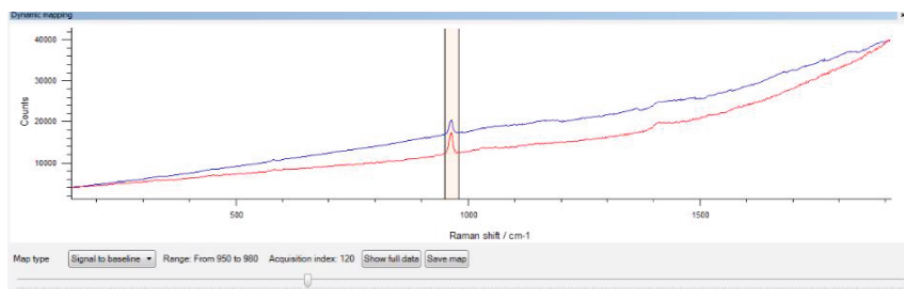




Villa et al Fig. 3



b

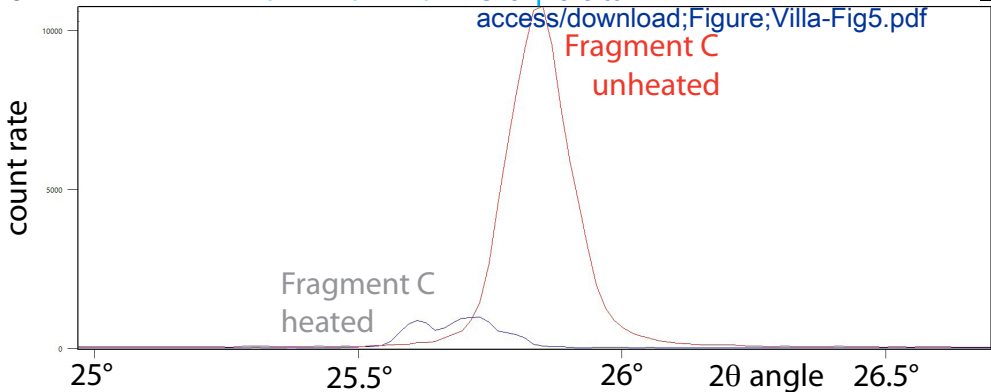


Figure

Apatite peak position

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