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1 Speciation of iron in high pressure high temperature H₂O-CO₂ fluids

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Injection of CO_2 in the subsurface will result in the production of acidic H_2O-CO_2 fluids which will dissolve iron, among other ionic species, from major iron-bearing minerals, mainly siderite $FeCO_3$. It is important to understand the speciation of Fe in those fluids since it will determine the thermodynamics of iron-bearing silicate and carbonate alteration under subsurface storage conditions.

An original experiment was designed for monitoring in-situ the speciation of iron in H_2O-CO_2 fluids, by X-ray absorption spectroscopy at beamline BM30B (FAME) of the ESRF synchrotron ring. Siderite FeCO₃ was loaded in fluids, in some cases containing additional CO_2 in the form of oxalic acid, in an high pressure cell [1, 2], well adapted to mineral/fluid interactions studies at deep storage conditions. Speciation of Fe²⁺ ions in the H_2O-CO_2 fluids was studied by interpreting the XANES and EX-AFS of the X-ray absorption spectra at different pressure (0-800 bar), temperature (25-300°C), pH and ionic strength.

It is shown that the presence of CO_2 and Cl^- has no major effect on Fe speciation at the investigated conditions. Distinct changes in the first coordination shell are observed above 150°C which are tentatively interpreted as entrance of Cl⁻ in this coordination shell. Finally, the interpretation of spectra obtained on the CO₂-richest solutions as iron-organics complexes due to a reduction of CO₂ by Fe²⁺ above 200°C will be discussed.

REFERENCES:

- 1. D. Testemale et al., Review of Scientific Instruments, submitted.
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