Here we discuss the phase diagram and physical properties of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) under pressure-temperature conditions relevant to planetary interiors. Recent studies show that the melting curve of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) increases rapidly above a recently discovered triple point at approximately 35 to 47 GPa and 1000 K, indicating a large increase in \( \Delta V/\Delta S \) (volume versus entropy change) and associated changes in the physical properties of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) at high pressures and temperatures. Existence of the triple point is thought to be associated with the formation of a superionic phase, dynamically-disordered ice VII, or extension of the ice VII-ice X phase boundary; although the precise pressure and temperature of the triple point, curvature of the melting line, and nature of the solid-solid transition below the triple point all remain to be further explored. The steep increase in the melting curve of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) at high pressures and temperatures has important implications on our understanding of planetary interiors. Depending on its curvature, the melting line of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) may intersect the isentropes of Neptune and Uranus as well as the geotherm of Earth’s lower mantle. Furthermore, if the triple point is due to the occurrence of the theoretically predicted superionic phase, besides leading to significant ionic conductivity, fast proton diffusion would cause enhanced chemical reactivity and formation of complex compounds in these planets. For example, reaction of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) with iron and other metals to form metal hydrides such as \( \text{FeH}_x \) could provide a mechanism for incorporation of hydrogen as a light element into Earth’s core. The equation of state of water is also presented as it pertains to the properties of hydrous fluid and melt phases in the mantle.

**INTRODUCTION**

Due to a triple point that occurs near the Earth’s mean surface temperature and pressure, \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) is present in three different forms within the biosphere; water, vapor, and solid ice-Ih. \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) is also believed to be a major component of the intermediate ice layers in the interiors of Uranus and Neptune [Nellis et al., 1988; Hubbard et al., 1991].
Komabayashi et al., (2006) of this volume] or even as ice-VII in cold subducting slabs [Bina and Navrotsky, 2000]. Therefore, the physical and chemical properties of H$_2$O at high pressures and temperatures (P-T) play an important role in planetary science. The behavior and phase diagram of H$_2$O at high P-T are also of fundamental interest in physics, chemistry, and biological sciences because the flexibility of hydrogen bonding gives rise to a myriad of crystalline, amorphous, and liquid phases with unique physical and chemical properties [Petrenko and Whitworth, 1999].

Shock-wave experiments have served as the main tool to characterize liquid water under high P-T. The results have been used to derive and to constrain a variety of equation of state (EOS) models [Homles et al., 1985; Nellis et al., 1988]. Shock wave studies have also been used to determine additional properties of water at high pressure such as Raman spectra [Holmes et al., 1985] and electrical conductivity [David et al., 1960; Hamann et al., 1969; Holzapfel, 1969; Mitchell et al., 1982; Chau et al., 2001; Celliers et al., 2004]. These experiments suggest that high P-T conditions generate highly mobile charge carriers through molecular dissociation leading to an increase in ionic conductivity [David et al., 1960; Hamann et al., 1969; Holzapfel, 1969; Mitchell et al., 1982; Chau et al., 2001] and eventually to the onset of electronic conduction in liquid water [Celliers et al., 2004].

In addition to shockwave and theoretical studies, static measurements of the melting curve, phase behavior, and physical properties of H$_2$O have recently been performed under P-T conditions that are relevant to the interior of planets, such as Earth. These studies have found strong evidence for a rapid increase in the melting temperature of H$_2$O above 35 to 47 GPa. Here we discuss recent developments in high-pressure experimental and theoretical studies on the behavior and physical properties of H$_2$O in terms of possible implications for planetary interiors.

HIGH P-T PHASES OF H$_2$O

Our current understanding of the phase diagram of H$_2$O is summarized in Figure 1. In the following, we will focus primarily on the high PT regions that are most relevant to planetary interiors (the liquid and solid phases above 2 GPa and 300 K). As illustrated in Figure 2a, Ice VII is a molecular crystal consisting of oxygen atoms arranged on a body-centered cubic (bcc) lattice and hydrogen atoms arranged in random (disordered) positions that satisfy the ice rules. The overall structure is often described as two interpenetrating hydrogen bond networks of cubic ice disconnected in the sense that they do not share any hydrogen bonds in common. In addition, there is experimental evidence that in the range of 2.2 to 25 GPa, ice VII exhibits spatially modulated (incommensurate) phases; a modulation in the periodicity of the structure [Loubevrey et al., 1999].

All of the ice phases observed below 60 GPa have structures that closely follow Pauling’s ice rules [Pauling, 1935]: 1) molecular crystals composed of water molecules with “gas-phase” like geometries, 2) each water molecule is oriented so that it participates in four hydrogen bonds with neighboring water molecules in tetrahedral coordination, and 3) at most one hydrogen atom is located between any two neighboring oxygen atoms. However, at higher pressures the ice rules are no longer satisfied as symmetrization of the hydrogen bond leads to protons residing midway between adjacent oxygen atoms, resulting in stable forms of ice that are non-molecular [Holzapfel, 1972; Polian et al., 1984; Benoit et al., 1996; Aoki et al., 1996; Goncharov et al., 1996].
As illustrated in Figure 2b, with increasing pressure, nearest neighbor oxygen-oxygen distances in ice VII decrease, and eventually in the pressure range of 40 to 60 GPa the hydrogen atoms are located at the midway point between neighboring oxygen atoms leading to a transition from a molecular to an atomic crystal called ice X. At even higher pressures, near 150 GPa, additional structural phase transitions have been proposed based on both theory [Demontis et al., 1988; Benoit et al., 1996] and experiment [Loubeyre et al., 1999] where the bcc oxygen sublattice in ice X undergoes a transformation to an anti-fluorite or a hexagonal-close packed (hcp) structure.

In addition to the intriguing high P, low T behavior of ice, ab initio simulations indicate that the high P-T behavior of H2O may hold surprises as well. For instance, it has been predicted that many of the high P-T phases of ice have regions characterized by fast protonic diffusion with stable oxygen sublattices, which could lead to significant increases in ionic conductivity while still in the solid phase [Demontis et al., 1988; Benoit et al., 1996; Cavazzoni et al., 1999; Goldman et al., 2005]. These high P-T domains of fast proton diffusion in ice are often referred to as a superionic phase [Cavazzoni et al., 1999; Goldman et al., 2005].

The liquid phase of H2O also undergoes significant changes with increasing P-T. In particular, the local structure of liquid H2O changes from the open four-fold hydrogen bonded structure at ambient P-T conditions to a nearest-neighbor coordination shell of up to 13 at pressures of 10 GPa (Figure 2c) [Schwegler et al., 2000; Strässle et al., 2006]. This change from low to high density H2O appears gradually based on neutron diffraction studies up to 400 MPa [Soper et al., 2000]. However, there is also indirect evidence from Raman spectroscopy that the transition is abrupt and possibly first-order [Kawamoto et al., 2004]. It is perhaps surprising to note that below 15 GPa and at temperatures near the melting curve, the large increase in coordination number from four-fold bonded to higher nearest-neighbor coordination is not accompanied by a corresponding decrease in the average nearest neighbor oxygen-oxygen distance or an appreciable change in the number of hydrogen bonds [Schwegler et al., 2000; Strässle et al., 2006]. Although this process is typically referred to as a simple collapse of the second coordination shell down on the first [Schwegler et al., 2000; Soper et al., 2000], one could speculate that the collapse occurs primarily between H2O molecules that are not connected via “hydrogen bond wires”, and results in a set of interpenetrating hydrogen bond networks in the high-density liquid that closely resembles structures of the ice phases (e.g. ice VII) found at corresponding pressures (Figure 2).

Shock wave studies have shown that the conductivity of liquid water increases rapidly along the primary Hugoniot (the locus of states reached by passage of a shock wave through a material initially at ambient P-T conditions) above 10 GPa and eventually levels off to values typical of molten ionic salt above 20 GPa [Nellis et al., 1988]. The increased conductivity of liquid H2O at high P-T is commonly interpreted as being caused by a rapid increase in the fraction of dissociated H2O molecules in the liquid [Holzapfel, 1969]. As illustrated in Figure 2c, a similar onset of molecular dissociation in water is found in ab initio MD simulations [Schwegler et al., 2001] and estimates of the ionic conductivity along the planetary isentrope of Uranus agree well between simulation [Cavazzoni et al., 1999] and reverberating shock measurements [Chau et al., 2001].

Figure 2. Schematic representations of ice VII (a), ice X (b), and a snapshot from an ab initio MD simulation of liquid water at 27 GPa and 1400 K (c) [Schwegler et al., 2001]. The large black spheres represent oxygen atoms, the small white spheres are hydrogen atoms, and the black dashed/dotted lines in Fig. 2a are hydrogen bonds. The isosurfaces in Fig. 2c are the orbitals involved in a typical dissociation event in the liquid as a proton is shuttled between neighboring oxygen atoms.
EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL METHODS
AT HIGH P-T

A variety of techniques have been used to study the behavior of H$_2$O under extreme conditions. Here we focus on static and theoretical methods capable of reaching P-T conditions relevant to planetary interiors. In particular, externally-heated diamond anvil cells (EHDAC) and laser-heated diamond anvil cells (LHDAC) are two common high-pressure techniques used to reach to static high P-T conditions [Bassett et al., 1993; Fei et al., 1993; Lin et al., 2004a]. Because commonly used pressure calibrants such as samarium-doped yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) and ruby have a tendency to dissolve in water above 600 K (Dachi et al., 2002), secondary holes near the sample chamber have been used to hold the pressure calibrant in optical spectroscopic studies [Lin et al., 2004a]. In order to avoid reaction between H$_2$O and metal-based gasket materials, various other metal gaskets and gasket inserts, such as Re, Au, Ir, W, and Pt, have been tested and shown to successfully confine H$_2$O at high P-T [Lin et al., 2005]. Inert pressure calibrants such as Au or Ta has also been used in thermal EOS studies with X-ray diffraction [Lin et al., 2005]. The EHDAC apparatus can be readily interfaced with a variety of experimental probes, such as in situ Raman spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction, and/or visual observations for investigating the phase diagram of H$_2$O.

LHDACs have also proven to be a useful tool for studying H$_2$O at in-situ high P-T conditions. Because H$_2$O is transparent to the 1 μm infrared laser often used in these experiments, metal foils (Pt, Pt-Ir alloys, Ir, Re, or W) are used as a laser absorber, both with and without a small hole of 10–20 μm in diameter in the center of the foil [Schwager et al., 2004; Goncharov et al., 2005; Lin et al., 2004b]. The temperature of the laser-heated sample can be determined from either the surface temperature of the foil [Schwager et al., 2004] or from the intensity ratios of the Stokes-to-anti-Stokes Raman peaks [Goncharov et al., 2005]. In these experiments, chemical reactions with Fe, Re, Pt, and W foils to form metal hydrides have been observed at high temperature [Schwager et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2005; Ohtani et al., 2005], while Ir foils apparently react with H$_2$O only if the system is heated to several hundred degrees above the melting curve [Schwager et al., 2004], and Pt-Ir (20% Ir) foils do not show any evidence of reactions with H$_2$O up to temperatures of 1500 K [Goncharov et al., 2005].

In addition to the recent developments in DAC technologies, first-principles theoretical approaches have proven to be a useful tool for investigating the high P-T properties of H$_2$O. Ever since the first classical molecular dynamics (MD) simulation of liquid H$_2$O [Rahman et al., 1971], a great deal of effort has gone into the development of improved models. In fact, for modest P-T conditions, a variety of different classical potentials are known to accurately reproduce the properties of both the liquid and solid phases of H$_2$O [Mahoney et al., 2000; Sanz et al., 2004]. However, as one considers the extreme conditions that are relevant to planetary interiors, many of these simple empirical models are known to break down. This general failure is partly due to the overall lack of reliable experimental data to fit the potentials to, but more importantly, as higher P-T are considered, molecular dissociation begins to play a dominant role. For instance, at pressures above 15 GPa, the Hugoniot of water obtained from commonly used empirical potentials deviate significantly from experiment due to the empirical potentials’ inability to describe molecular dissociation effects. It is in these regimes of high P-T where first-principles based methods can be used to go beyond the limitations of a typical classical model. In addition to providing enough predictive power to reliably investigate regions of phase space where there is little or no existing experimental data, first-principles methods are appropriate for investigating extreme P-T conditions, since bond making and breaking processes are taken into account in a quantitative fashion.

There are several notable exceptions to the general failure of empirical models (such as theoretical models with classical potentials) to describe H$_2$O under extreme conditions. For instance, a rather simple model based on Morse potentials was first used to successfully argue that hydrogen bond symmetrization should occur in ice VII as it is compressed, and eventually result in a transition to ice X [Holzapfel, 1972]. Subsequent calculations with increasingly sophisticated levels of theory such as ab initio MD and path integral sampling were used to further characterize the transition to ice X in much greater detail [Bernasconi et al., 1998; Benoit et al., 1998] and to propose additional structural phase transitions at higher pressures [Demontis et al., 1988; Benoit et al., 1996].

THE MELTING CURVES OF H$_2$O

Precise determination of the melting curve of H$_2$O is essential for modeling planetary interiors, understanding how numerous chemical reactions may affect the stability field of mineral assemblages at extreme conditions, and verifying theoretical predictions. Recently, conflicting reports on the melting curve of H$_2$O below ~30 GPa have been resolved using angle-dispersive synchrotron X-ray
diffraction, Raman spectroscopy, and visual observation as melting criteria [Lin et al., 2004a; 2005] (Figures 3, 4 and Plate 1). The disappearance of diffraction peaks from the oxygen lattice of solid H$_2$O phases in an EHDAC has been used as an indication of melting in previous studies [Fei et al., 1993; Dubrovinskaia and Dubrovinsky, 2003a,b; Frank et al., 2004]. However, recrystallization of ice VII in different orientations at $P$-$T$ conditions close to the melting line makes it difficult to identify the onset of the melting in such experiments [Datchi et al., 2000; Lin et al., 2004a]. Use of the very intense synchrotron X-ray source now makes it possible to detect diffuse X-ray scattering characteristic of water, providing a very reliable melting criterion (Figure 3). Future advances in modeling diffuse X-ray scattering patterns will further provide knowledge of the local structure of water at high $P$-$T$.

A change of Raman-active OH-stretching bands and the appearance of the translational modes (specific modes of the lattice vibrations) have also been used to reliably detect melting in ice VII (Figure 4) [Lin et al., 2004a; Lin et al., 2005]; the low-frequency $A_{lg}$ mode is the dominant band in ice VII while the high frequency mode dominates in liquid water. The change of the Raman-active OH-stretching bands can be used to detect melting [Lin et al., 2004a; 2005].

![Figure 3](image-url)

**Figure 3.** Angle-dispersive X-ray diffraction and diffuse scattering patterns of the solid (a,b) and liquid (c) H$_2$O at high $P$-$T$. A monochromatic beam (wavelength = 0.4157 Å) was used as the X-ray source and the diffracted X-rays were collected by a CCD (MARCCD). The diffraction patterns a and b showed diffraction peaks of the oxygen atoms in a bcc sublattice, indicating the existence of the solid ice phase. The observation of the diffuse scatterings (pattern c) showed clearly the occurrence of the liquid water under high $P$-$T$.

![Figure 4](image-url)

**Figure 4.** Representative Raman spectra in liquid and solid H$_2$O in shock wave (pattern a) (Holmes et al., 1985) and static DAC (pattern b: Kawamoto et al., 2004; patterns c,d,e,f: Lin et al., 2004a; 2005) studies. a,b,c,d: liquid water; e,f: solid ice. The OH-stretching modes change significantly across melting; the low-frequency $A_{lg}$ mode is the dominant band in ice VII while the high frequency mode dominates in liquid water. The change of the Raman-active OH-stretching bands can be used to detect melting [Lin et al., 2004a; 2005].
breaking of intermolecular hydrogen bonding [Holmes et al., 1985]. In both static and shock wave Raman spectra measurements there is a lack of broad band centered at 2900 to 3000 cm\(^{-1}\) that is characteristic of the hydronium ion (H\(_3\)O\(^+\)) at low pressures [Holmes et al., 1985; Kawamoto et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2004a; 2005]. This has led to the suggested that the dissociation of water under high pressure conditions results in the formation of free H\(^+\) and OH\(^-\) ions, which in turn are responsible for the observed conductivity increase in water for pressures between 3 to 30 GPa [Holmes et al., 1985; Chau et al., 2001]. However, a series of ab initio MD simulations at similar thermodynamic conditions found evidence that the dissociation of water still occurs through a bimolecular process similar to what is found at ambient conditions, leading to the formation of short-lived OH\(^-\) and H\(_2\)O\(^+\) ions [Schwegler et al., 2000; 2001]. For pressures above ~25 GPa, the OH-stretching modes begin to overlap with the second order Raman signal from the diamond anvils, making it difficult to use these modes to detect melting. Nevertheless, subtraction of the second-order Raman scattering of the diamond anvils from the Raman spectrum taken from a LHDAC has been used to measure the phase diagram of H\(_2\)O up to 56 GPa and 1500 K [Goncharov et al., 2005].

Plate 1 shows a comparison of recent experimental and theoretical melting lines [Cavazzoni et al., 1999; Dubrovinskaia et al., 2003a,b; Frank et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2004a; Schwager et al., 2004; Goldman et al., 2005; Goncharov et al., 2005; Lin et al., 2005]. Although significant discrepancies occur in these reported melting curves, these studies, in general, point to a discontinuous increase along the melting line approximately between 35 GPa to 47 GPa. MD simulations from 30 to 300 GPa first indicated a discontinuous increase in the melting curve at high P-T relative to the extrapolated experimental melting curve of ice VII from lower P-T conditions [Cavazzoni et al., 1999]. According to these and subsequent MD simulations, the change in slope is likely due to the appearance of a superionic phase below the melting curve [Cavazzoni et al., 1999; Goncharov et al., 2005; Goldman et al., 2005]. On the experimental side, visual observations of the laser-speckle pattern in a LHDAC first reported a distinct change in melting slope at 43 GPa and 1600 K, and it was speculated that this change was due to a first-order transformation from ice VII to ice X [Schwager et al., 2004]. In situ Raman spectroscopy in a LHDAC confirmed the discontinuous melting curve and indicated the presence of a triple point at about 47 GPa and 1000 K [Goncharov et al., 2005], which is accompanied by a substantial decrease in the intensity of the O-H stretch band in the Raman spectra. Similar trends in the power spectra obtained in ab initio MD simulations indicate that the observed change in the melting curve may be due to the occurrence of a superionic phase at high pressure [Goncharov et al., 2005]. EHDAC experiments with in-situ X-ray diffraction, Raman spectroscopy, and reliable P-T determinations also showed a discontinuous change in the melting curve at approximately 35 GPa and 1040 K, although the melting temperature of H\(_2\)O above 40 GPa is beyond the temperature capability of the EHDAC, leading to a large uncertainty in the curvature of the extrapolated melting curve [Lin et al., 2005]. Inconsistencies between reported melting lines from various experimental techniques highlight the importance of reliable melting criteria and precise P-T determinations, as well as the need for expanded high P-T capabilities and improved techniques for detecting subtle changes in oxygen-hydrogen bonding in future experimental studies of these unresolved regions of the high P-T phase diagram of H\(_2\)O.

There are also significant differences between recent theoretical studies of the melting curve of H\(_2\)O. For instance, ab initio MD calculations have predicted that at 2000 K, H\(_2\)O will melt at pressures ranging from 30 GPa [Cavazzoni et al., 1999], to 65 GPa [Goncharov et al., 2005], to 75 GPa [Goldman et al., 2005]. The large discrepancy in the calculated melting pressures at 2000 K is somewhat surprising given the nearly identical levels of theory and simulation protocols used. In addition to issues related to finite size effects and simulation timescales, it is possible that a large fraction of this discrepancy comes from the specific computational approaches used to determine the phase boundary. In all of the previous investigations with ab initio MD, the simulations have started with a single phase (either the liquid or the solid) and have proceeded with a “heat-until-it-melts” or a “squeeze-until-it-freezes” strategy for locating the transition between the liquid and the solid phase. The primary objection to these types of approaches is that the observed phase transition does not directly correspond to the melting temperature (or pressure), but instead to conditions of thermal metastability, which for small system sizes and short simulations timescales can be significantly different from the equilibrium melting point. The two main approaches for reliably computing a material’s melting temperature is to use either a free-energy based method where the equivalence of the Gibbs free energy of the solid and the liquid is computed [Alfe, et al., 2003], or a two-phase approach where coexistence between the solid and the liquid is directly simulated [Ogitsu et al., 2003]. To date, neither of these computational techniques has been applied within an ab initio MD context to examine H\(_2\)O, and as such, the accurate computation of the high-pressure melting curve remains an open challenge to theorists.
Plate 1. Melting curve of H$_2$O at high P-T. Black solid line, melting curve of ice VII determined by Raman spectra, optical observation, and X-ray diffraction [Lin et al., 2004a; 2005]; black dashed line and grey area: upper bound and lower bound of the extrapolated melting curve [Lin et al., 2005; also see Fig. 1]; blue dotted line: occurrence of the theoretically predicted superionic phase [Cavazzoni et al., 1999]; red dash line with dots: melting curve determined by Raman spectroscopy in a LHDAC [Goncharov et al., 2005]; blue solid line: theoretically calculated freezing of H$_2$O [Goncharov et al., 2005]; solid gray line: melting curve determined by angle-dispersive X-ray diffraction [Dubrovinskaia and Dubrovinsky, 2003a,b]; gray dotted line: melting curve determined by energy-dispersive X-ray diffraction in an EHDAC [Frank et al., 2004]; red solid line: optical observation in a LHDAC [Schwager et al., 2004]; solid triangle: liquid to superionic transition in ab initio MD calculations [Goldman et al., 2005]. The melting line of Datchi et al. [2000] is in agreement with that of Lin et al. [2004a, 2005].
THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF LIQUID AND SOLID H₂O PHASES

A detailed understanding of the EOS properties of liquid and solid phases of H₂O under extreme conditions is essential to the development of accurate models of planetary interiors. Information on the thermodynamic properties of H₂O under extreme conditions has come from a variety of sources, depending on the specific P-T of interest. For the liquid phase under moderate P-T conditions, a large amount of experimental data has been combined into EOS models based on highly parameterized formulations of the Helmoltz free energy [Wagner et al., 2002]. Although this has proven to be quite useful for interpolation of data, the highest P-T conditions that are relevant to planetary science fall outside the range of these models, so their direct use would require large extrapolations with questionable levels of accuracy.

For this reason, EOS models for liquid water under extreme P-T conditions have been based on either shock wave experiments [Walsh et al., 1957] or MD simulations [Belonoshko et al., 1991; Brodholt et al., 1993; Sakane et al., 2001]. In particular, the TIP4P empirical potential [Jorgensen et al., 1983] has been used to tabulate P-V-T data for water up to 2500 K and 35 GPa. By adding virial terms to a modified Redlich Kwong-style EOS equation:

\[ P = \frac{RT}{V - b} - \frac{a}{V(V + b)} + \frac{c}{V^2} + \frac{d}{V^3} + \frac{e}{V^4} + \frac{f}{V^5} \]

\[ a = 1.582468 - 3038.797T - 9.24574 \times 10^{-5} T^2 + 3.02674 \times 10^{-6}/T^2 \]

\[ b = 3.90463 \times 10^{-2} - 0.991078V^2 \]

\[ c = 3.64905 \times 10^4 \]

\[ d = -1.02451 \times 10^7 \]

\[ e = -1.79681 \times 10^8 \]

\[ f = 2.18437 \times 10^9 \]

where \( V \) is the volume in cm³/mol, \( P \) is in bars and \( T \) is in Kelvin, the simulation data can be faithfully reproduced over a wide range of phase-space [Brodholt et al., 1993]. However, some care should be exercised when using empirical potentials like TIP4P for describing water under high-P conditions. As mentioned earlier, simple empirical models typically do not allow for intramolecular dissociation reactions, which most certainly readily occur in liquid water for conditions that are relevant to planetary science fall outside the range of these models, so their direct use would require large extrapolations with questionable levels of accuracy.

Most thermodynamic data on ice under pressure have come from room temperature DAC measurements due to the difficulty of simultaneously achieving high P-T in a DAC and the rapid rise in T characteristic of shock experiments. As shown in Table 1, DAC experiments on ice VII have been reported and used to fit different isothermal models with relatively good levels of agreement for properties such as the bulk modulus and the equilibrium volume. However, in the development of a complete EOS model for ice VII, some difficulties are encountered due to the fact that ice VII is not recoverable under ambient P-T conditions, which could otherwise provide a convenient reference point for determining the Gibbs free energy. To deal with this complication, EOS models for ice VII are usually developed by taking advantage of the fact that along the melting curve, the Gibbs free energy of the liquid and the solid are equal. By starting from an appropriate EOS for the liquid phase (e.g. from shock wave measurements or MD simulations) and matching to an accurate measurement of the melting curve, thermodynamically consistent EOS models for both liquid and solid H₂O can be readily constructed [Frank et al., 2004; Dolan et al., 2005].

PLANETARY AND GEOPHYSICAL APPLICATIONS

The discontinuous and rapid increase in the melting curve of H₂O at and above the triple point at ~35 to 47 GPa indicates a large increase in ΔV/ΔS (entropy versus volume change), significant changes in the physical properties of H₂O, and possible existence of a solid ice phase at higher P-T. The unusual behavior of H₂O has several important implications to understanding planetary interiors, including Earth’s. Based on extrapolations of the H₂O melting curve [Datchi et al., 2000], Bina and Navrotsky [2000] suggested that ice VII exists in portions of the coldest subducting slabs after H₂O is liberated from hydrous minerals by successive dehydration processes. Although recent studies on the melting curve of H₂O are consistent with the calculations, an eutectic behavior and melting point depression of H₂O with surrounding materials are expected in a multi-component system such as the Earth’s mantle, making the presence of solid ice VII phase in the Earth’s mantle unlikely. Depending on the curvature of the extrapolated melting curve above the triple point, the solid-liquid phase boundary may intersect the isentropes of Neptune and Uranus and the geotherm of Earth’s lower mantle (i.e., at 60 GPa based on the extrapolated melting curve by Lin et al. [2005]) (Figures 1, Plate 1). Thus, H₂O could exist in a solid form at P-T conditions between the middle to lowermost mantle and the intermediate layers of Neptune and Uranus. Based on seismic and geodynamic data, a high viscosity layer with strongly suppressed flow-induced deformation and convective mixing has been proposed to exist near 2000 km depth [Forte and Mitrovića, 2001]. The intersection between the melting curve of H₂O and the mantle geotherm at approximately 60 GPa suggests significant changes in the physical properties of H₂O and the stability of hydrous minerals within the mid-lower mantle and may provide an additional explanation for its viscosity heterogeneity [Forte and Mitrovića, 2001; Lin et al., 2005]. However, if the significant increase in the melting curve
is due to the occurrence of a superionic phase [Cavazzoni et al., 1999; Goncharov et al., 2005; Goldman et al., 2005], fast protonic diffusion could enhance chemical reactivity with silicates and oxides and lead to the formation of hydrous silicate and oxide compounds in the Earth's lower mantle. Based on cosmochemical abundances and density profiles of Uranus and Neptune, $H_2O$, $CH_4$, and $NH_3$ are presumed to be major components in the middle layers of these icy planets. Fully disassociated, ionic $H_2O$ and $NH_3$ (and possible $CH_4$) would lead to reactions between these components, and the formation of complex oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, and hydrogen compounds. In addition, the reaction of $H_2O$ with iron at high P-T to form iron hydrides ($FeH_x$) provides a mechanism for the incorporation of hydrogen as a light element into growing Earth's core [Okuchi, 2007; Williams and Hemley, 2001; Ohtani et al., 2005], but also raises complications regarding possible solid ice phase in the Earth's mantle.

Knowledge of the EOS of liquid $H_2O$ is also needed to understand the behavior of possible hydrous fluids and melts that may be present in the Earth's mantle. In addition to the formation of fluids/melts upon dehydration of hydrous minerals in the subducting slabs, regions deeper in the mantle that may become saturated in $H_2O$ would result in formation of dense melts rich in $H_2O$, MgO, SiO$_2$, and other components that fractionate into the melt. Since $H_2O$ is likely the most compressible component in the melt, the presence and concentration of $H_2O$ would have a large influence on the melt density and physical properties at depth [e.g. Richet and Polian, 1998; Matsukage et al., 2006]. High-pressure studies have shown that wadsleyite and ringwoodite, two major minerals in the transition zone (410-660 km depth), have anomalously high water solubility on the order of 1 wt% (and as much as 3 wt%) whereas the solubility of water in upper- and lower-mantle minerals is 5 to 10 times lower [e.g. Hohlstedt et al., 1996; Bolfan-Casanova et al., 2000; Murakami et al., 2002]. Bercovici and Karato [2003] proposed that a thin melt layer may form at 41-km depth if the wadsleyite in the transition zone contained more hydrogen than is soluble into olivine just above 410-km. Thus, passively upwelling mantle crossing the 410-km discontinuity would experience dehydration-induced partial melting. In order to test this hypothesis, it is necessary to know if such a melt layer at 410-km depth would be denser than the solid material above it. Therefore, the physical properties of water and hydrous melts and fluids must be further understood for geodynamic modeling of Earth's potential deep-water cycle.

Acknowledgments. This work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy at the University of California/Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract No. W-7405-Eng-48. Support for the study was also provided by the Lawrence Livermore Fellowship to J. F. Lin. We thank S. D. Jacobsen for numerous comments and discussions. We also thank G. Galli, W. J. Evans, Z. Jenei, E. Gregoryanz, M. Somayazulu, B. Militzer, V. V. Struzhkin, S. Gramsch, R. J. Hemley, and H. K. Mao for helpful discussions. J. F. Lin and E. Schwegler contributed equally to the paper.

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### Table 1. Comparison of reported EOS parameters determined for ice VII and liquid water by isothermal compression at 300 K. The transition to ice X (~40–60 GPa) is often neglected in determining the EOS parameters of ice VII. $V_0$: the zero pressure volume; $K_{0T}$: isothermal bulk modulus at ambient conditions; $K_{0T}'$: the derivative of the isothermal bulk modulus at ambient conditions; $P$: the pressure range that the measurements were taken over; EOS: 3rd order Birch-Munaghan (BM), Vinet, or Murnaghan (M).

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<th>$V_0$ (cm$^3$/mol)</th>
<th>$K_{0T}$ (GPa)</th>
<th>$K_{0T}'$</th>
<th>$P$ (GPa)</th>
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Datchi, F., P. Loubeyre, and R. LeToullec (2000), Extended and accurate determination of the melting curves of argon, helium, ice (H₂O), and hydrogen (H₂), *Phys Rev. B*, 61, 6535–6546.


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