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# Electronic Spin Transitions of Iron and Geoelectrons in Earth's Mantle

J.-F. LIN[1]

[1]Department of Geological Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712 (*afu@jsg.utexas.edu)

Based on a pyrolitic compositional model, the lower mantle is mainly made of ferropericlase, aluminous silicate perovskite, and calcium perovskite. Silicate perovskite transforms into silicate post-perovskite structure just above the core-mantle region, the D" layer. The existence of iron in the lower-mantle minerals can affect a broad spectrum of the minerals' physical and chemical properties. In this presentation, I will address recent results and current understanding on the pressure-induced electronic spin-pairing transitions of iron and their associated effects on physical properties of host phases in lower-mantle minerals [1]. The spin crossover of $Fe^{2+}$ in ferropericlase occurs over a wide pressure-temperature range extending from the middle part to the lower part of the lower mantle. Furthermore, a high-spin to low-spin transition of $Fe^{3+}$ in the octahedral site of perovskite occurs at pressures of 15-50 GPa [2]. In post-perovskite the octahedral-site $Fe^{3+}$ remains in the low-spin state at the pressure conditions of the lowermost mantle. These changes in the spin and valence states of iron as a function of pressure and temperature have been reported to affect physical, chemical, rheological, transport properties of the lower-mantle minerals. These effects of the spin transition can thus significantly affect our understanding of the deep Earth. I will present and evaluate the consequences of the transitions in terms of their implications to deep-Earth geophysics, geochemistry, and geodynamics [1-3].

The electrons of ferrous and ferric iron ions that occupy some of the lattice sites in mantle minerals become slightly polarized in the presence of the Earth's magnetic field. Using recent deep-Earth geophysics and geochemistry results, we have developed a model of the polarized electron spin density within the Earth. We have examined possible long-range spin-spin interactions between these spin-polarized geoelectrons and the spin-polarized electrons in recent particle physics experiments [4]. Such information might eventually help reconcile seismic observations and mineral physics data with geochemical models.

[1] Lin et al. (2013) *Rev. Geophys.* (in press). [2] Lin (2012) *Am. Miner.* **97**, 592-597. [3] Lin et al. (2013) *Am. Miner.* **97**, 583-591. [4] Hunter et al. (2013) *Science* **339**, 928-932.