

Phonon Density of States and Compression Behavior in Iron Sulfide under Pressure

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We report the partial phonon densities of states (DOS) of iron sulfide, a possible component of the rocky planet's core, measured by the ^{57}Fe nuclear resonant inelastic x-ray scattering and calculate the total phonon DOS under pressure. From the phonon DOS, we derive thermodynamic parameters. A comparison of the observed and estimated compressibilities makes it clear that there is a large pure electronic contribution in the observed compressibility in the metallic state. Our results present the observation of thermodynamic parameters of iron sulfide with the low-spin state of an Fe^{2+} ion at the high density, which is similar to the condition of the Martian core.

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Iron sulfide, FeS , has been attracting attention in geosciences as well as condensed matter physics. The crystallographic properties of FeS have been investigated extensively at high pressures and/or high temperatures by x-ray diffraction measurements [1–5] because it is believed to be a component of the core of rocky planets such as Earth and Mars. Although the pressure vs temperature phase diagram has been contradictory, FeS undergoes two successive first-order phase transitions at room temperature, from the troilite ($P6_2c$) to a MnP-type ($Pnma$) structure at 3.5 GPa and then to a monoclinic structure at 6.5 GPa with about 7% volume reduction. The compressibilities in those three phases were measured to be 13.6, 17.5, and $7.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$, respectively. The thermodynamic properties under pressure are essential for understanding the core materials of the planets. However, there is no experimental knowledge of the lattice dynamics in FeS under pressure. Phonon dispersion relations and phonon densities of states (DOS) characterize the thermodynamic properties of the materials.

At ambient conditions, FeS is an antiferromagnetic semiconductor with $T_N = 589 \text{ K}$ and belongs to the charge-transfer regime [6,7], where an electron correlation plays an important role. Electrical resistivity measurements of FeS under pressure [8] show that the semiconductor-metal and metal-semiconductor transitions occur at 3.5 and 6.5 GPa, respectively, corresponding to the structural phase transitions at room temperature. The energy gap in the semiconductor state below 3.5 GPa is caused by the electronic correlation,

while the gap opens up between the nonbonding and antibonding bands in the semiconductor above 6.5 GPa. These phase transitions cause simultaneous changes in the electronic and structural properties. Therefore, we need to investigate the phonon properties of FeS in each phase and around these phase transitions from both the geophysics and condensed matter physical points of view. A new method based on nuclear resonant inelastic x-ray scattering (NRIXS) was introduced to measure partial phonon DOS in samples containing suitable Mössbauer nuclei [9,10]. Recently, this technique was successfully applied to measure the phonon DOS of $\epsilon\text{-Fe}$ under pressure [11,12].

In this Letter, we have applied this new method to extract the partial phonon DOS of FeS under pressure and then calculated the total phonon DOS. It is found that the phonon DOS of FeS is modified by the pressure-induced phase transitions, and we derive the pressure dependence of thermodynamic parameters from these phonon DOS. In these thermodynamic parameters, the pressure dependence of a force constant is determined by Hund's rules of Fe^{2+} ion in FeS . We evaluate the pure electronic contribution in the compressibility of the metallic state.

The polycrystalline samples enriched with 50 at.% ^{57}Fe were prepared by a method described elsewhere [8]. The obtained samples were confirmed to be in the single phase by x-ray diffraction and have a stoichiometric composition within the experimental accuracy. Experiments under high pressure were performed on

3-ID beam line at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory using a special diamond anvil cell (DAC) up to 12 GPa [12]. The pulsed synchrotron radiation was monochromatized with 2 meV resolution by a high-resolution monochromator [13] and then focused on a $5 \times 5 \mu\text{m}^2$ area of the sample in the DAC by two orthogonal Kirkpatrick-Baez mirrors. The ^{57}Fe NRIXS spectra were measured by tuning the highly monochromatized beam in an energy range of about ± 100 meV. Under high pressure, the powder samples were loaded with ruby crystals into a sample cavity of a 0.15 mm diameter in a 0.2 mm thick Be metal gasket. The use of Fluorinert as the pressure-transmitting medium ensured quasi-hydrostatic conditions. Pressure was calibrated by measuring the wavelength shift of the R_1 luminescence line of the ruby crystal. We have also measured the delay-time spectra of ^{57}Fe coherent nuclear forward scattering in FeS under pressure to monitor the phase transitions [14].

Figure 1 shows typical NRIXS spectra, which consist of large center peaks originating from elastic scattering and sidebands resulting from inelastic scattering with the annihilation and creation of phonons. The resolution is sufficient to resolve the modification of inelastic components in the observed spectra by the structural phase transitions as shown in Fig. 1. The inelastic components in the spectra extract lead to the partial phonon DOS assuming a harmonic lattice model [15]. The extracted partial phonon DOS are shown in Fig. 2. At 1.5 GPa in the

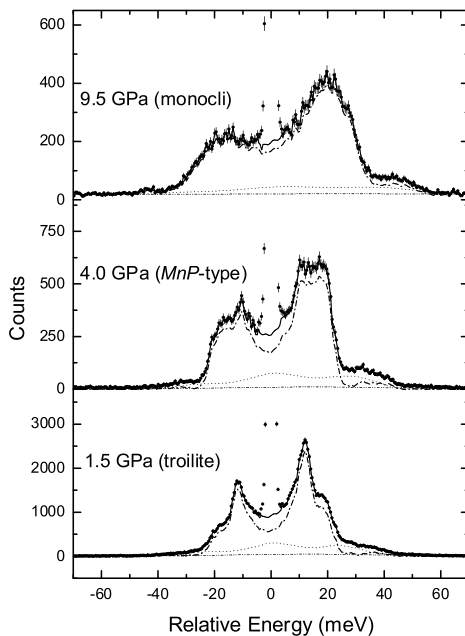


FIG. 1. Typical NRIXS spectra at 1.5, 4.0, and 9.5 GPa. The circles with error bars indicate the observed spectra and the solid lines represent the calculated inelastic components. The dash-dotted lines show the single phonon contribution sub-spectra and other two lines show two and multiphonon contribution sub-spectra.

semiconductor with the troilite structure, there are two peaks at 12 and 18 meV in the phonon DOS which probably originate from the transverse and longitudinal acoustic phonon branches. Furthermore, the highest-energy peak at 37 meV is probably caused by the optical phonon branches. At 4.0 GPa in the metallic state with the MnP-type structure, there exists a strong peak at 20 meV with a shoulder around 10 meV in the phonon DOS. The spectrum of phonon DOS at 9.5 GPa is shifted to higher energy because of the large volume reduction at 6.5 GPa. Since there are three different Fe sites in this unit cell [5], the spectrum has a more complicated structure than in the other two phases.

Ab initio calculations based on density-functional theory (DFT) in the generalized-gradient approximation were performed to determine the total phonon DOS of FeS at the same pressures using the projector augmented wave approach. Calculations were performed using the VASP code [16]. We calculated the force constant matrix and then the phonon frequencies of FeS with the three structures using our implementation of the small displacement method [17]. It was found that the troilite structure is unstable in the present calculation. Since FeS in the troilite structure is the semiconductor due to electron correlation, it is possible that this instability is due to the well known inaccurate DFT description of

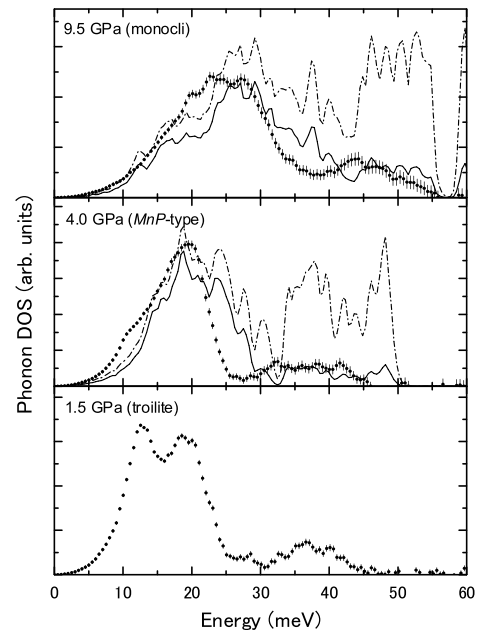


FIG. 2. Phonon DOS of FeS. The circles with error bars represent the partial phonon DOS extracted from NRIXS spectra at 1.5, 4.0, and 9.5 GPa. The dash-dotted and solid lines indicate the calculated total and partial phonon DOS, respectively. The partial phonon DOS is the measured Fe phonon DOS, and the total theoretical phonon DOS is the sum of Fe and S. The calculated Fe phonon DOS agrees reasonably well both in terms of energy scale, as well as absolute magnitude.

strongly correlated systems. We used supercells containing 128 and 24 atoms for the MnP-type and the monoclinic structures, respectively. The calculated phonon DOS spectra are shown in Fig. 2. The phonon modes related to S atoms are mainly above 30 meV, although the projection of the total phonon DOS onto S atoms is never zero even at the low energy region. The largest peak in each calculated partial phonon DOS qualitatively corresponds to that in the extracted partial phonon DOS within the experimental resolution. In the MnP-type phase, the calculated phonon DOS in the region from the peak to about +10 meV is enhanced over the measurement. This discrepancy originates in the difference between the experimental and the predicted volume and is reduced in the monoclinic phase.

We extract thermodynamic parameters by integration of phonon DOS with various energy weights and mean force constant from the experimentally measured phonon excitation probability, based on normalization sum rules as given by Lipkin [18] and Sturhahn *et al.* [10]. Above 3.5 GPa, the pressure dependences of the Fe components in these calculated thermodynamic parameters qualitatively agree with those obtained from the extracted partial phonon DOS as seen Fig. 3. These pressure dependences obtained from the experimental results show no discontinuity at 3.5 GPa although about a 2 order decrease of magnitude in electrical resistivity was observed [8]. On the other hand, all thermodynamic parameters show distinct steplike features around 6.5 GPa.

First, we discuss the pressure dependence of the mean force constant (\bar{D}). In an ionic crystal, a short-range repulsive force determines the interatomic force constant. This short-range repulsive force arises from the charge distributions and Hund's rules of atoms. In a simple metal, there also exist interactions connecting a large number of ions in addition to this force because of a nonlocal electron ion potential. The measurement of ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra was carried out under pressure [19]. It was found that the pressure dependence of the center shift changes significantly at 6.5 GPa. This result indicated a substantial change of the 3d-electron configuration on the Fe ion at the second phase transition. Recently a Mössbauer study showed a nonmagnetic quadrupole spectrum down to 5 K at 12 GPa and x-ray emission experiments observed a pressure-induced reduction of the satellite amplitude in these spectra around 6.3 GPa [20,21]. These results strongly suggest the second phase transition is high spin to low spin (HS-LS) in the Fe^{2+} ion. Consequently, the distinct change in the pressure dependence of \bar{D}_{Fe}^0 around 6.5 GPa is caused by the HS-LS transition. Since \bar{D}_{S}^c is larger than \bar{D}_{Fe}^c above 3.5 GPa, the repulsive force range of the S atom exceeds the first nearest neighbor distance. The atomic radius of the S^{2-} ion is about twice as large as that of the Fe^{2+} ion and is comparable to half the S-S bond length in the three phases. The short-range repulsive force that acts on the

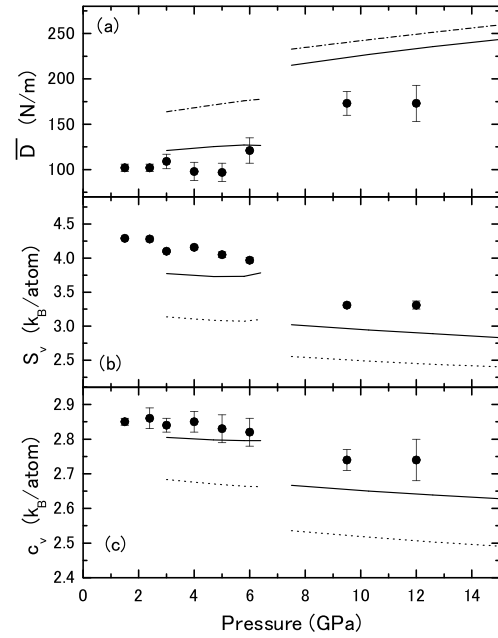


FIG. 3. Variation of the thermodynamical parameters estimated from the phonon DOS as a function of pressure: (a) mean force constant (\bar{D}) (b) entropy at constant volume (S_v) and (c) specific heat at constant volume (c_v). The circles with error bars represent \bar{D}_{Fe}^0 , S_v , and c_v evaluated from the extracted partial phonon DOS. The solid and dash-dotted lines in (a) indicate the calculated \bar{D} for the Fe and S atoms, respectively. The broken and solid lines in (b) and (c) indicate S_v and c_v estimated from the calculated total and partial phonon DOS, respectively.

S atom originates from second nearest neighbor S atoms as well as from first nearest neighbor Fe atoms. Therefore, \bar{D}_{Fe} and \bar{D}_{S} are mainly given by the short-range repulsive force both in the semiconductor and metallic states in which the electronic structure is highly correlated. No significant anomaly is observed in the pressure dependence of \bar{D}_{Fe}^0 at 3.5 GPa

Second, we discuss the relation between \bar{D} and the compressibility (κ_V). The compressibility splits into two parts, one stemming from the interatomic force (κ_{fc}) and the other one resulting from electronic contribution (κ_e) which is the key parameter to describe the metal-insulator transition and the metallic state near the insulator phase [22]. In the homogeneous electron gas, κ_e is defined as

$$\kappa_e = \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu}, \quad (1)$$

where n denotes electron density and μ denotes chemical potential. In the case where the short-range repulsive force acts between near neighbors [23], κ_{fc} is expressed by

$$\frac{1}{\kappa_{fc}} \propto \frac{M}{\sqrt[3]{v_a}} \sum_i \frac{\bar{D}_i}{2}, \quad (2)$$

where v_a is the volume of a polyhedra, M is a constant determined by the geometry of the polyhedra, and i indicates an atom in the polyhedra. Thus κ_{fc} is directly related to \bar{D} .

In the monoclinic phase, two of three different Fe sites have S atom coordination similar to the MnP structure although the structure is a more complicated one [5]. Even though we cannot estimate the exact value of M in FeS, we assume in Eq. (2) that M in the monoclinic phase is the same as in the MnP-type phase. Furthermore v_a can be replaced by a volume of the chemical unit in the phases. Thus we evaluate the κ_V/κ_{fc} ratios to be 0.68 and 0.50 for the MnP-type and the monoclinic phases, respectively, using \bar{D}_{Fe}^c and \bar{D}_S^c . Since \bar{D}_{Fe}^o shows no discontinuity at 3.5 GPa, we assume \bar{D}_{Fe}^o and \bar{D}_S^o in the troilite phase equal to those in the MnP-type phase. The ratio of the troilite phase is evaluated to be 0.46. This ratio is in good agreement with that of the monoclinic phase in spite of the large difference in κ_V . Thus, this large difference originates from the interatomic force determined by the 3d-electron configuration of the Fe atoms in FeS, rather than electron correlations. Furthermore, the ratio in the metallic phase is much larger than those in the semiconductor phases. Since the electron-hole excitation with infinitely small energy occurs in a metallic state, the κ_e value is usually finite. On the other hand, κ_e can be neglected in a semiconductor state because the electron DOS vanishes at the Fermi energy. Consequently the larger κ_V value in the metallic state is provided by a purely electronic contribution which is estimated to be about 40% of κ_V . Therefore, this discontinuous change of κ_e characterizes the phase transition at 3.5 GPa.

Finally, the density of FeS in the monoclinic phase at room temperature is comparable to that of FeS with a hexagonal NiAs-type structure at the conditions of the Martian core, and recent x-ray diffraction measurement indicates the monoclinic phase is stable up to 1225 K at 35 GPa [24]. Since the value of c/a in the NiAs-type phase shows an abrupt change at 6 GPa and decreases below the ideal c/a ratio of the hexagonal closed-packed structure [3], it is strongly suggested that the electronic state of the Fe atom in FeS is the low-spin one at the conditions of the Martian core. The vibrational parts of the thermodynamic properties are not free of the 3d-electronic configuration. Therefore, our thermodynamic data of FeS in the monoclinic phase give rise to a fundamental knowledge of physical states and a structural model of the Martian core.

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