CORDIERITE-SPINEL-QUARTZ ASSEMBLAGES: A POTENTIAL GEOBAROMETER

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The composition of (Mg-Zn-Fe\(^{2+}\))-aluminate-spinel coexisting with cordierite and quartz is potentially a sensitive geobarometer in rock types such as cordierite — anthophyllite rocks which are not well suited to most other geobarometers. Calculations based on thermodynamic data and the end member reactions demonstrated that the compositions of (Mg-Fe) — cordierites and (Mg-Fe-Zn) — aluminate spinels are only slightly affected by temperature but the effect of pressure is dramatic. With increasing pressure the \(X_{\text{Mg}}\) of the spinel changes from less than 0.1 at 1 bar to about 0.8 at 9 kbars.

Comparison of pressures derived from this model for natural assemblages with known PT conditions shows good agreement but also points to the necessity of treating the effects of water on the stability of cordierite more quantitatively.

Key words: geobarometer, cordierite, spinel, quartz, phase relations, thermodynamic data.

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Introduction

Since the classical study by Eskola (1914) on the petrology of the Orijärvi region in southwestern Finland cordierite — anthophyllite rocks have attracted the interest of petrologists and mineralogists because of their peculiar bulk-rock chemistry and their unique assemblages. The protoliths of such rocks and their commonly associated sulfide or deposits (such as at Orijärvi, Outokumpu, or Falun) are believed to have formed by hydrothermal processes and metamorphism at relatively low temperatures and pressures (cf. Treloar et al. 1981). However, the present mineral assemblages formed in a later metamorphic event at higher temperatures and pressures. Despite the variety of their mineral assemblages, cordierite-anthophyllite rocks are not particularly suited to derive pressure — temperature estimates of this metamorphism by conventional geobarometers, mostly due to the structural and chemical complexities of the orthoamphiboles and their not yet quantified stability relations. On the other hand, Eskola (1914) mentions gahnite-rich spinel as a widespread accessory phase in the cordierite-anthophyllite rocks. It is the purpose of the present study to demonstrate that the assemblage cordierite —
(Mg-Zn-Fe\textsuperscript{2+}) aluminate spinel — quartz could be used successfully as a sensitive geobarometer after further calibration.

Theory

Phase relationships

For discussing assemblages of cordierite, quartz and spinel the dry system MgO—Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}—SiO\textsubscript{2} represents a convenient starting point. It has been recognized early (Rankin and Merwin 1918) that, in this system, spinel cannot coexist stably with a SiO\textsubscript{2} phase. On the other hand, cordierite-spinel assemblages are stable over a wide range of temperatures and up to water pressures of about 4 kbars, where the cordierite — spinel tie-line is broken by enstatite + sapphirine (Seifert 1974).

In the system ZnO—Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}—SiO\textsubscript{2} no stable cordierite-type compound exists (Behruzi, pers. comm., 1984), and gahnite (ZnAl\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4}) + SiO\textsubscript{2} form a stable assemblage, at least at high temperatures and low pressures (Bunting 1932). In the combined anhydrous system MgO—ZnO—Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}—SiO\textsubscript{2}, for which no experimental data exist, we may represent expected phase relationships between cordierite, a MgAl\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4}—ZnAl\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4} spinel solid solution and quartz in a plane SiO\textsubscript{2}—MgAl\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4}—ZnAl\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4} (Figure 1). It is assumed here that cordierite cannot incorporate Zn for Mg to any significant extent, due to the strong tetrahedral site preference of Zn. Supporting evidence for this assumption will be given below, and even if this assumption would not hold strictly, the following deductions would not become invalid. Within the stability field of cordierite + spinel in the MgO—Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}—SiO\textsubscript{2} system a two-phase field cordierite + Mg-rich spinel is to be expected in the ZnO-bearing system. This will be separated from a field quartz + Zn-rich spinel by a three-phase field cordierite + spinel + quartz, which represents the subject of the present study. The composition of this spinel is fixed, at given P and T, by the phase rule. When a further component entering any of the participating phases is added to the system (such as FeO), the spinel composition in this assemblage will be a function of pressure, temperature, and bulk rock chemistry.

Calculation of the cordierite — spinel — quartz equilibrium in the system MgAl\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4}—SiO\textsubscript{2}

In this system, the phases spinel (sp), cordierite (crd) and quartz (qz) are related by a univariant reaction

\[
\text{Mg}_2\text{Al}_4\text{Si}_5\text{O}_{18} \text{(Mg-crd)} = 2\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4 \text{(sp)} + 5\text{SiO}_3 \text{(qz)}
\]

(1)

For this equilibrium we may obtain the thermodynamic parameters by starting from those given for the participating phases by Helgeson et al. (1978). It is assumed here that the \(\Delta V\) of the reaction is not a function of pressure and temperature. The thermodynamic properties of low-quartz will be used throughout the paper. Possible structural discontinuities in cordierite as postulated by Mirwald (1982) are ignored.

For reaction (1) we thus derive the following thermodynamic parameters:
Cordierite-spinel-quartz assemblages: A potential geobarometer

Fig. 2. Calculated $X_{Mg}$ isopleths for MgAl$_2$O$_4$—ZnAl$_2$O$_4$ spinels in coexistence with Mg-cordierite and quartz. The dashed lines represent the stability limits of anhydrous Mg-cordierite according to Newton et al. (1974). Abbreviations: Crd = cordierite, Sa = sapphirine, Qz = quartz, En = enstatite, Sill = sillimanite.

\[ \Delta G^\circ_{R(298,1)} = 4037 \text{ cal} \]
\[ \Delta S^\circ_{R(298,1)} = -9.39 \text{ cal/K} \]
\[ \Delta V^\circ_{R(298,1)} = -0.9646 \text{ cal/bar} \]
\[ \Delta C_P = -14.18 + 0.02803 T + 5.682 \times 10^5 T^{-2} \text{ cal/K} \]

where $\Delta G^\circ_{R(298,1)}$, $\Delta S^\circ_{R(298,1)}$, and $\Delta V^\circ_{R(298,1)}$ represent the Gibbs free energy change, entropy change, and volume change of the reaction at 298.15 K and 1 bar. $\Delta C_P$ is the change in isobaric heat capacity and $T$ is temperature (in K).

Using the format of calculation proposed by Carmichael (1977) we may then calculate $\Delta G^\circ_R$ as a function of temperature. To derive the equilibrium pressure for (1) at a given temperature, the relationship

\[ \Delta G^\circ_{R(T, P)} = \Delta G^\circ_{R(T, 1)} + \Delta V^\circ 1_R (P - 1) \]
\[ = 0 \]  (2)

(Carmichael 1977) is used, where $P$ stands for pressure (in bars). In the PT-field, equilibrium (1) corresponds to a (metastable) univariant curve, which intersects the 1 bar line at $-210^\circ C$ and $2000^\circ C$ and which attains a maximum pressure of 10.3 kbars at $975^\circ C$ (cf. curve labelled 1.0 in Figure 2). The high-temperature intersection with the 1 bar line is supported by the experimental study of the system Mg-cordierite — Co-cordierite (Wandschneider and Seifert 1984) where a metastable equilibrium among Mg-cordierite, Mg-spinel and christobalite can be inferred at about $1600^\circ C$.

As an alternative to the thermodynamic data provided by Helgeson et al. (1978), data sets of Robie et al. (1978), Bucher (personal communication 1985) and Harris and Holland (1985) might also be used. The basic result of such calculations are similar to those described above and to those derived in the following on the basis of Helgeson et al.'s (1978) data, but with some systematic deviations: Robie et al.'s (1978) data yield equilibrium pressures ca. 700 bars, and Bucher's (1985) data pressures 1.5 kbars higher than the Helgeson et al. (1978) data, whereas the recent data set of Harris and Holland (1985) for 1000 K deviates by only +300 bars. Further complications might arise from the temperature-dependent cation distribution in spinel, which has not been considered here. These discrepancies point to the necessity of a further refinement of the thermodynamic data.

The system $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4—\text{ZnAl}_2\text{O}_4—\text{SiO}_2$

The effect of a Zn component in the spinel on equilibrium (1) may be taken into account by

\[ -RT \ln K_1 = \Delta G^\circ_{R(T, 1)} + \Delta V^\circ_R (P - 1) \]  (3)

where

\[ K_1 = \left( \frac{a_{MgAl_2O_4}^{sp}}{a_{SiO_2}^{sp}} \right)^{2} / a^{crd}_{Mg_2Al_4Si_4O_{18}} \]  (4)

The a's stand for the activities of the components in the phases indicated, and $R$ is the gas constant. In the system $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4—\text{ZnAl}_2\text{O}_4—\text{SiO}_2$, cor-
Fig. 3. log $K_1$ for the cordierite — spinel — quartz equilibrium (1) as a function of pressure for different temperatures.

dierite and quartz are assumed to be pure phases and, hence, $a$ equal to 1. Thus (4) reduces to

$$K_1' = \left(\frac{X_{sp}^{Mg}Al_2O_4}{X_{crd}^{Fe}Al_2SiO_3} \right)^2$$

The solution of (3) and (4) is given in Fig. 2 in terms of $X_{sp}^{Mg}Al_2O_4$ isopleths in the PT field. The isopleths form rather flat-lying curves, i.e. the $X_{sp}^{Mg}$ is mostly a function of pressure. Part of the calculated equilibria, in particular those with high $X_{sp}^{Mg}$, will be metastable because cordierite breaks down to assemblages other than spinel + quartz within the field of the divariant reaction (Newton et al. 1974, and Figure 2).

For easier evaluation log $K_1$ (identical to log $K_1'$ in the MgAl$_2$O$_4$—ZnAl$_2$O$_4$—SiO$_2$ system) is plotted as a function of pressure and temperature in Fig. 3.

**Effect of the FeO component**

For natural assemblages, the FeO component has to be considered since it can enter both the spinel and the cordierite phase in significant amounts as hercynite (Fe$_2$Al$_2$Si$_2$O$_8$) and Fe-cordierite (Fe$_2$Al$_2$Si$_2$O$_8$) end member, respectively. We will first discuss cordierite — spinel — quartz equilibria in the Zn-free system MgAl$_2$O$_4$—FeAl$_2$O$_4$—SiO$_2$ which contains the complete solid solutions series between Mg-cordierite and Fe-cordierite as well as that between spinel sensu stricto and hercynite.

The reaction

$$Fe_2Al_4Si_4O_{18} (Fe-cr) = 2FeAl_2O_4 (hercynite) + 5SiO_2 (qz)$$

which is the Fe-analog of equilibrium (1) may be described by its equilibrium constant

$$K_2 = \frac{(a^{sp}_{FeAl_2O_4})^2 (a^{qz}_{SiO_2})^5}{(a^{crd}_{FeAl_2SiO_3})^2}$$

Equilibrium (6) has been determined by hydrothermal methods by Richardson (1968) and Holdaway and Lee (1977). In order to compare these data to those of the anhydrous Mg-cordierite breakdown the effect of water on the stability of cordierite has to be removed by using the format of Newton and Wood (1979). Volume data given by Weisbrod (1973) and Robie et al. (1966) yield a $AV°_R(298,1)°$ of $-0.9900$ cal/bar. Taking into account that a metastable equilibrium among Fe cordierite, hercynite, and tridymite can be inferred from the 1 atm liquidus phase diagram (Schairer and Yagi 1952) to lie at about 1200°C, the dry Fe-cordierite breakdown curve to hercynite and quartz can than be approximated by the relationship

$$P (bars) = 5170-4.1 T(^0C)$$

The main uncertainty comes from the linear extrapolation of the equilibrium towards lower temperatures, which is equivalent to neglecting the $AC_P$ term.

$K_2$ can now be evaluated as a function of pressure and temperature from
where $P_{eq}$ stands for the equilibrium pressure of the end-member reaction at the temperature considered.

For these data and from those of the Mg end-member reaction (1) P-X diagrams for the system Mg-cordierite — Fe-cordierite may be calculated with the format given by Thompson (1976, p. 434). We obtain

$$\ln \frac{X_{spFe}}{X_{crdFe}} = \Delta V^o_{Fe} (P_{Fe} - P)/2RT$$

(11) and

$$\ln \frac{X_{spMg}}{X_{crdMg}} = \Delta V^o_{Mg} (P_{Mg} - P)/2RT$$

(12)

where $P_{Mg}$ and $P_{Fe}$ refer to the equilibrium pressure of the two end-member reactions (1) and (6) and $\Delta V^o_{Mg}$ and $\Delta V^o_{Fe}$ to the corresponding volume changes.

By simultaneous solution of the two equations (11) and (12) the divariant $P$-$X$ loops for the breakdown of cordierite into spinel + quartz are derived. Figure 4 illustrates the strong partitioning of Fe into spinel and of Mg into the coexisting cordierite. Again, part of the depicted equilibria will be metastable because both the Mg-end member and the Fe-end member of the cordierite solid-solution series break down to assemblages other than spinel + quartz in the temperature range considered (Richardson 1968, and Fig. 2). As to be expected from the small temperature dependence of the end-member reactions the effect of temperature on the compositions of coexisting cordierite and spinels is only slight, particularly in the central portion of the diagram, but the pressure effect is dramatic.

As a next step, we now add the ZnAl$_2$O$_4$ component to the Mg-Fe system. Phase relations in the system MgAl$_2$O$_4$—ZnAl$_2$O$_4$—FeAl$_2$O$_4$—SiO$_2$, which contains both the binary cordierite and the ternary spinel solid-solution series, may be projected for our purposes from the quartz apex. The singular spinel compositions that than coexist with cordierite and quartz at given $P$ and $T$ in the limiting MgAl$_2$O$_4$—ZnAl$_2$O$_4$—SiO$_2$ (Fig. 2) and MgAl$_2$O$_4$—FeAl$_2$O$_4$—SiO$_2$ (Figure 4) systems will then, in the combined system, become a line of compositions.

From the two equilibrium constants

$$K_1 = \frac{(X_{spMg})^2}{(X_{crdMg})^2} = \frac{(X_{spMg})^2}{(1-X_{crdFe})^2}$$

(13) and

$$K_2 = \frac{(X_{spFe})^2}{(X_{crdFe})^2}$$

(8)

the composition of (Mg, Fe, Zn) aluminate spinels coexisting with quartz and binary (Fe—Mg) cordierite solid solution can be calculated for any pressure and temperature. Such ternary spinels which are assumed to behave ideally are also described by the mole fractions $X_{spMg} = Mg/
Fig. 5. Calculated compositions of (Mg, Fe, Zn)Al₂O₄ spinels in equilibrium with quartz and anhydrous (Mg, Fe)-cordierite as a function of pressure, at three different temperatures.

(Mg + Zn + Fe), \( X^{sp}_{Fe} = \frac{Fe}{(Mg + Zn + Fe)} \) and \( X^{sp}_{Zn} = \frac{Zn}{(Mg + Zn + Fe)} = 1 - X^{sp}_{Mg} - X^{sp}_{Fe} \). The combination of (13) and (8) yields, after rearrangement,

\[ X^{sp}_{Mg} = \text{SQRT} \left( K_1 \cdot X^{sp}_{Fe} \right) \cdot \text{SQRT} \left( \frac{K_2}{K_3} \right) \]

The results of these calculations is shown in Figure 5 for three different temperatures. Again, the effect of temperature on the composition of spinel coexisting with cordierite and quartz is only slight.

In principle, the two independent equilibrium constants \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \) could be used for a determination of both pressure and temperature from the compositions of cordierite and spinel coexisting with quartz. Because of the uncertainties in the location of the end-member reactions and their similar slopes at high temperatures, this will not be investigated further. We will return to this problem in the section on Mg-Fe distribution after considering the hydrous system.

**Effect of water**

In the above model anhydrous conditions have been assumed for the end-member reactions. However, in a natural environment, water may enter the cordierite structure and stabilize it relative to its anhydrous breakdown assemblages (Newton 1972; Newton and Wood 1979). Since the water content in cordierite as a function of pressure, temperature, and composition is still poorly understood and even for pure Mg-cordierite exhibits considerable complexity (Mirwald 1982) and it cannot yet be adequately modelled thermodynamically. As a result, we will evaluate the effect of water only qualitatively. For these gross purposes the model of Newton and Wood (1979) might still serve the needs. For instance at \( T = 700^\circ\text{C} \) and \( P = 5000 \) bars (corresponding to a water content in cordierite of about 0.6 moles \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) p.f.u., Mirwald 1982) we estimate a stabilization of hydrous cordierite on the order of +1500 bars as compared to anhydrous cordierite. The magnitude of this pressure correction to be applied to data read from
e.g. Figures 3 and 4 will vary sympathetically with water pressure. From these considerations it follows that any chemical variable that affects the water content in cordierite (such as CO$_2$ or alkalies in the channel of cordierite) will also influence the cordierite-spinel-quartz geobarometer to some extent.

**Fe-Mg distribution between cordierite and spinel**

The equilibrium constants $K_1$ and $K_2$, given for the end-member reactions (1) and (6) implicitly contain the iron-magnesium distribution coefficient $K_D$ between cordierite and spinel, since

$$K_D = \frac{X_{\text{sp}}^{\text{Mg}} X_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{cord}}}{X_{\text{sp}}^{\text{Fe}} X_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{cord}}_{\text{Mg}}} = \sqrt{K_1/K_2}. \quad (14)$$

An evaluation is shown in Figure 6. The effect of pressure on $K_D$ is only slight, due to the small difference in $\Delta V_R$ for the end-member reactions, and $\ln K_D$ is predicted to become more negative with increasing temperature up to some 750°C where the trend is reversed. This result is at variance with the deductions by Vielzeuf (1983). Water pressures will affect the end-member equilibrium constants $K_1$ and $K_2$, but the effect on the Fe-Mg distribution coefficient will cancel if $K_1$ and $K_2$ are affected in the same way (cf. (14)), i.e. the amount of water and its interaction energetics with the crystal structure are not a function of $X_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{cord}}$. Then the curves labelled 1 bar and 8 kbars in Figure 6 would describe equally well the dry equilibrium and hydrous equilibria with no influence of $X_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{cord}}$ on the cordierite water content. If, on the other hand, the equilibrium water content at any given temperature and pressure were also a function of the Mg/Fe ratio of cordierite, this would lead to a pronounced effect on $K_D$. For instance, if the water content of Fe-cordierite was only 0.8 times that of Mg cordierite at the same temperature and pressure (which is still within the precision of the data available, C. Boberski, pers. comm. 1984), then the $K_D$ would behave differently (Figure 6). It is concluded that at least at present the Fe-Mg distribution coefficient between cordierite and spinel cannot be used as either a geothermometer, or a barometer.

**Natural cordierite — spinel — quartz assemblages**

We have compiled natural cordierite — spinel — quartz assemblages from the literature (see Table 1) for comparison with the predicted behavior of the equilibrium discussed above. In addition, these data serve as a preliminary data set for evaluating the effects of P, T, and composition of the Fe-Mg distribution between spinel and cordierite. This knowledge will be necessary for assessing the usefulness of the barometer proposed. The following discussion also includes a graphical example of spinel — quartz — cordierite phase relations.
Phase relations

In general, natural assemblages will contain more phases than the examples discussed above. We will, therefore, first examine the effects of bulk composition and overall phase relations on the cordierite — spinel — quartz equilibria.

In spinel-bearing rocks the compositions of the spinel reflects its assemblage, which in turn is an indicator of bulk composition. This is schematically illustrated in Figure 7 in the ZnO(Z) — MgO(M) — Al₂O₃(A) — SiO₂(S) and FeO(F)MAS systems at constant T and P for one set of phase relations representing upper amphibolite grade. Assemblages involving various combinations of corundum (cor), sillimanite (sill), spinel (sp), cordierite (crd), and quartz (qz), excluding (qz + cor), are reported by Robinson and Jaffe (1969), Schumacher (1983), and Lai et al. (1984), and serve as a basis for this discussion. For aluminium spinel-bearing compositions in both the ZMAS and FMAS systems the same sequence of assemblages is seen as Mg/Zn and Mg/Fe increases and is as follows: Qz + Sill + Sp, Qz + Sill + Crd + Sp, Sill + Crd + Sp, Cor + Sill + Crd + Sp, and Cor + Crd + Sp. In addition to changes in assemblage, the spinel composition in the ZMAS system (Figure 7A) and both the spinel and cordierite compositions in the FMAS system (Figure 7B) also vary sympathetically with the bulk composition.

Figure 7 further illustrates the special compositional relationship among spinel, cordierite, and quartz, which results from the fact that the cordierite formula can be expressed as quartz + spinel end members (cf. (1)). As a consequence, the coexistence of these three phases fixes the Zn-Mg ratio of spinel and the Fe-Mg ratio of spinel and cordierite at constant P and T. Because of this the fourth phase of the assemblage (sillimanite) in Figure 7 is not required to specify the compositions of the phases, as is the case with the Crd + Sp + Sill + Cor assemblage, where no such compositional relationship exists among any three of these phases.

The compositional effects of the strong P dependence of the Sp-Crd-Qz equilibrium, which was discussed previously, can also be visualized in Figure 7. As cordierite stability increases with decreasing P, the four-phase volumes will shift to Zn-richer (Figure 7A) and Fe-richer (Figure 7B) compositions, which results in increasingly Zn- and Fe-richer spinels coexisting with cordierite and quartz.

![Figure 7](image-url)

Fig. 7. ZnO—MgO—Al₂O₃—SiO₂ (A) and FeO—MgO—Al₂O₃—SiO₂ (B) tetrahedra that show one set of phase relations in these two systems (see text). Crd = cordierite, Cor = corundum, Qz = quartz, Sill = sillimanite, Sp = spinel, and subscripted ss = solid solution. Heavy tie lines connect four-phase assemblages and the lighter tie lines connect three-phase assemblages. Some Crd:ss-Sill and Crd:ss-Cor tie lines from three-phase assemblages have been left off B for clarity.
The phase relations in the ZFMAS system are more complex. Here the cordierite Fe-Mg ratio and the proportions of Fe, Mg, and Zn in spinel can vary. However, at constant P and T, and at a fixed $X_{\text{Mg}}$ of cordierite the spinel composition is also fixed, and it would represent a point on a Fe-Mg-Zn spinel compositional ternary. Varying the $X_{\text{Mg}}$ of cordierite would also shift the ternary spinel composition. As a result, at constant T and P, the spinel compositions that coexist with quartz and cordierite of various $X_{\text{Mg}}$ values will plot as a line on a Fe-Mg-Zn spinel composition ternary. The contours in Figure 5 represent such sets of spinel compositions calculated at different pressures and temperatures.

**Comparison of pressure estimates**

An investigation of natural examples of spinel — cordierite — quartz assemblages was done using the data from sources listed in Table 1. The mole fractions of MgO, FeO, and ZnO ($X_{\text{Mg}}$, $X_{\text{Fe}}$, $X_{\text{Zn}}$) are listed for spinel and the $X_{\text{Mg}}$ is given for the coexisting cordierite. It should be noted that ZnO was analyzed for in some of the cordierite samples (Schumacher 1983; Wolter and Seifert 1984), but was not found. This emphasized that solid solution of Zn in cordierite is at least negligible, if not totally absent, under normal geologic conditions. In addition, Mn-contents of cordierites (Table 1) are very low (less than 0.010 per 18 oxygens). Also listed in Table 1 are the coefficients $K_1$ and $K_2$, which have been discussed earlier, and $K_D = \frac{X_{\text{spFe}}}{X_{\text{spMg}}} = \frac{X_{\text{Mg}}}{X_{\text{Fe}}}$, and $K_D = (X_{\text{spFe}} \cdot X_{\text{spMg}})/(X_{\text{spFe}} \cdot X_{\text{spMg}})$, $T_a$ and $P_a$ are temperature and pressure estimates based on other geothermometers and barometers for the various terrains as given by the authors. $P_m$ = pressure estimated from Figure 3 (see text). $T_a$ for samples 8—12, $P_a$ for samples 16—19 represent averages of P and T ranges.

**Table 1. Compositional data, distribution coefficients, and P-T data for natural cordierites and spinels coexisting with quartz.**

| Sample No. | $X_{\text{Fe}}$ | $X_{\text{Mg}}$ | $X_{\text{Zn}}$ | $X_{\text{Mg}}$ | $K_1$ | $K_2$ | $K_D$ | $T_a$ (°C) | $P_a$ (kbar) | $P_m$ (kbar) | Reference |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1          | 0.340           | 0.660           | 0.000           | 0.810           | 0.176 | 12.07 | 0.121 | 900         | 7 ± 1        | 6.0          | Lal et al. (1984) |
| 2          | 0.355           | 0.590           | 0.055           | 0.840           | 0.179 | 13.60 | 0.115 | 900         | 7 ± 1        | 6.0          | Lal et al. (1984) |
| 3          | 0.328           | 0.672           | 0.000           | 0.810           | 0.164 | 12.51 | 0.114 | 900         | 7 ± 1        | 5.7          | Lal et al. (1984) |
| 4          | 0.404           | 0.575           | 0.022           | 0.872           | 0.215 | 20.18 | 0.103 | 900         | 7 ± 1        | 6.5          | Lal et al. (1984) |
| 5          | 0.313           | 0.665           | 0.021           | 0.792           | 0.156 | 10.22 | 0.131 | 800         | 6 ± 1        | 5.6          | Lal et al. (1984) |
| 6          | 0.224           | 0.766           | 0.010           | 0.694           | 0.104 | 6.27  | 0.129 | 730         | 4.3          | 5.0          | Loomis (1972, 1976) |
| 7          | 0.204           | 0.688           | 0.058           | 0.834           | 0.060 | 3.01  | 0.141 | 675         | 6.5          | 4.0          | Cornen (1980) |
| 8          | 0.505           | 0.495           | 0.000           | 0.891           | 0.321 | 20.62 | 0.125 | 940         | 7 ± 1        | 7.5          | Ellis et al. (1980) |
| 9          | 0.084           | 0.155           | 0.761           | 0.731           | 0.013 | 0.33  | 0.199 | 610 < 3.8   | 1.2          | Dietvorst (1980) |
| 10         | 0.126           | 0.246           | 0.629           | 0.731           | 0.030 | 0.84  | 0.189 | 610 < 3.8   | 2.5          | Dietvorst (1980) |
| 11         | 0.081           | 0.286           | 0.633           | 0.607           | 0.018 | 0.53  | 0.184 | 610 < 3.8   | 1.8          | Dietvorst (1980) |
| 12         | 0.078           | 0.219           | 0.702           | 0.607           | 0.017 | 0.31  | 0.234 | 610 < 3.8   | 1.7          | Dietvorst (1980) |
| 13         | 0.091           | 0.464           | 0.445           | 0.630           | 0.021 | 1.57  | 0.115 | 550         | 2.5 ± 2      | 2.3          | Wolter and Seifert (1984) |
| 14         | 0.067           | 0.395           | 0.538           | 0.630           | 0.011 | 1.14  | 0.098 | 550         | 2.5 ± 2      | 1.2          | Wolter and Seifert (1984) |
| 15         | 0.106           | 0.225           | 0.638           | 0.709           | 0.022 | 0.60  | 0.192 | 550         | 2.5 ± 2      | 2.2          | Wolter and Seifert (1984) |
| 16         | 0.284           | 0.277           | 0.439           | 0.887           | 0.103 | 6.01  | 0.130 | 625         | 6.5 ± 2      | 5.1          | Schumacher (1983) |
| 17         | 0.392           | 0.442           | 0.166           | 0.887           | 0.195 | 15.30 | 0.113 | 625         | 6.5 ± 2      | 6.3          | Schumacher (1983) |
| 18         | 0.291           | 0.336           | 0.373           | 0.880           | 0.109 | 7.84  | 0.118 | 625         | 6.5 ± 2      | 5.2          | Schumacher (1983) |
| 19         | 0.342           | 0.383           | 0.275           | 0.880           | 0.151 | 10.19 | 0.122 | 625         | 6.5 ± 2      | 5.8          | Schumacher (1983) |
| 20         | 0.123           | 0.853           | 0.024           | 0.522           | 0.056 | 3.19  | 0.132 | 750         | 4.8 ± 3      | 3.7          | Schumacher 1984, unpubl. |

*a* Ellis et al. (1980) give 8—10 kbar but Grew (personal communication, 1984) considers 7 kbars more realistic.

*b* Sample from Bodenmais, Bavaria. $P_a$ estimated from composition of garnet coexisting with cordierite (Thompson 1976).
The calculations suggest that $K_D$ is relatively insensitive to pressure and temperature variations and would not be particularly affected by retrograde reequilibration. As a result, in the absence of quartz, cordierite — spinel assemblages could be used to give maximum $P$ estimates. Spinel analyses highest in Zn and lowest in Mg from cordierite-bearing rocks will give the lowest (nearest to actual) pressure estimate (compare Figure 2). As an example, the lowest maximum $P$ estimated from Berg (1977) for cordierite ($X_{Mg} = 0.642$) and spinel ($X_{Mg} = 0.178$) is 4.3 kbar (from Figure 3) which is in reasonable agreement with Newton's (1983) 2.45—3.80 kbar estimates for this terrane.

Quartz — spinel assemblages give minimum $P$ estimates, and spinel analyses lowest in Zn and richest in Mg from quartz-bearing assemblages will give the highest (closest to actual) minimum
Cordierite-spinel-quartz assemblages: A potential geobarometer

P estimate (compare Figure 2). Spinel from a cordierite-free assemblage from Dietvorst (1980) gives 1.3 kbar (from Figure 8), which is consistent with the 3.8 kbar maximum P estimated by the author, and the 1.2 to 2.5 kbar estimated from the cordierite-bearing assemblage (Table 1).

Fe-Mg distribution between spinel and cordierite

Recently Vielzeuf (1983) has suggested that the Fe-Mg distribution between spinel and cordierite is temperature dependent. However, values of \( \ln K_D \) versus temperature for samples used in Table 1 suggest there is very little correlation between these parameters (Figure 9A, compare with Figure 6). The average \( \ln K_D \) from the data used here is \(-2.055 (K_D = 0.120)\). This value is systematically lower than that predicted by the theoretical treatment \((-1.63 to -1.87)\) and this difference might be due to the effect of water in cordierite (see above, and Figure 6).

With the limited number of examples presented here it is even more difficult to determine the effects of pressure on \( \ln K_D \) (Figure 9B). If the data point at 2.5 kbar is ignored, then the \( \ln K_D \) appears to decrease with increasing pressure (in agreement with theory, see Figure 6); however, if the three data points (from the same source) with the largest in \( K_D \) (approximately \(-1.650,\) Figure 9B) are ignored, then the data would suggest that there is no correlation with pressure.

A possible explanation for the variation in \( \ln K_D \) is that this parameter is affected by the Zn content of the spinel. Figure 9C shows that there seems to be a slight but systematic increase in \( \ln K_D \) where the spinel contains more than about 0.3 Zn per 4 oxygens \( (X_{Zn} > 0.3)\). This would mean that at higher Zn contents Mg is increasingly favored over Fe in spinel, which in turn might suggest a nonideality in the Zn, Mg, and Fe substitution in Zn-rich spinels. The validity of this relationship could further be studied using Zn-bearing spinel — cordierite pairs from quartz-free rocks, and compilation of these data is in progress. If it proves necessary, these additional data could be used to help model the effects of high Zn in the spinels in the proposed geobarometer.

The strong pressure effect of the cordierite — spinel — quartz equilibrium (1) on the \( X_{Mg} \) of cordierite and spinel is shown in Figure 10. Because of the possible Zn effect on \( X_{Mg}^{sp} \), Zn-rich spinels \( (>0.05 \) Zn per 4 oxygens) are omitted from Figure 10, but the cordierites were all plotted. The data for cordierite and coexisting Zn-poor spinel represent the limbs of a P-\( X_{Mg} \) loop, and they are in good agreement with the calculated P—\( X_{Mg} \) loop for 700°C (from Figure
Fig. 10. Plot of P (kbar) versus $X_{Mg}$ ($Mg/(Mg + Fe^{2+})$) for cordierite (squares) and spinels (circles). Filled symbols represent spinel — cordierite pairs where the spinel contains less than 0.05 Zn per 4 oxygens. Spinels with higher Zn contents are not shown (see text). Open squares are cordierites coexisting with Zn-rich spinels. Some symbols represent more than one analysis.

4). Because of the stabilizing effect of Zn in spinel, cordierites coexisting with Zn-rich spinel should have a higher $X_{Mg}$ than cordierites coexisting with Zn-free spinel at a given pressure. This can be seen in the natural examples by comparing the cordierites from low-Zn assemblages (filled squares, Figure 10) to cordierites from high-Zn assemblages (open squares).

Other elements in spinel

The failure to account for ferric iron in microprobe analyses could affect the $Fe^{2+}/Mg$ ratio calculated for an individual spinel. However, spinel stoichiometry can be used to estimate the ferric content, and this is commonly done in the literature. There are additional reasons to believe that the ferric content in most spinels in the rocks under discussion is not large. Work by Turnock and Eugster (1962) on the magnetite — hercynite join indicates that hercynite has less than about 5 per cent solubility towards magnetite below 500°C. Higher temperature spinels with greater $Fe^{3+}$ contents should exsolve magnetite as they cool. Such exsolution in Fe-Mg-Zn-Al spinels is commented on by Ramdohr (1969). In most of the spinel — quartz — cordierite assemblages used here, magnetite, which indicates $Fe^{3+}$ saturation, was not reported, nor was any exsolution in the spinel discussed. This suggests that these spinels contain less, perhaps much less, than 0.10 $Fe^{3+}$ cations per oxygens.

Incorporation of large amounts of Mn in spinel (galaxite component, MnAl$_2$O$_4$) could affect the proposed geobarometer. However, in the samples from Table 1 Mn was less than 0.013 per 4 oxygens and generally less than 0.010 per 4 oxygens. In addition, galaxite-rich spinels have only been recognized in relatively Mn-rich rocks, and Essene and Peacor (1983) further suggest that to form galaxite SiO$_2$ activity must be so low as to preclude spessartine formation. For these reasons the MnO contents of the spinels are not expected to be a problem in the calibration of the barometer.

Work on spinel — olivine assemblages (e.g. Irvine 1965; Engi 1983) have demonstrated that the Fe-Mg distribution between these two phases is dependent on the Cr-content of the spinel. As a result Cr potentially could affect the calibration of the quartz-spinel-cordierite geobarometer. Fortunately, the majority of metamorphic spinels taken from the literature contain little or no Cr. In addition, work by Evans and Frost (1975) and Evans (1977) on metamorphosed ultramafic rocks indicates that original chromites become increasingly more aluminous as metamorphic grade increases. At conditions of the upper amphibolite facies the spinels are either Cr-free or contain only minor Cr, which indicates that Cr is preferentially incorporated into Fe-Mg-Al silicates rather than into oxides. Consequently, correcting for Cr in most metamorphic spinels is also not anticipated to be a problem in the application of the barometer.
Outlook

It has been demonstrated that, in the assemblage cordierite — spinel — quartz, the composition of the spinel changes drastically with pressure and is slightly temperature dependent. This should make the proposed barometer extremely sensitive to pressure variations. Comparison to natural assemblages supports the model. The application of the new geobarometer to cordierite — anthophyllite rocks that are linked to sulfide deposits might, for instance, help to further elucidate their genesis and tectonic setting: It is generally agreed that the protoliths of most of these rocks originated through rock — seawater interaction at low temperatures and that the present-day assemblage is the product of a later metamorphic event. This event might either be associated with a regional orogeny (with a medium-pressure geothermal gradient) or a seafloor metamorphism characterized by rather high temperatures and very low pressures. If, therefore, rather low pressures could be assessed for such cordierite-anthophyllite rocks, this could be taken as evidence for a single process that lead, in its initial stages at low temperatures, to the formation of the protolith and, subsequently, to the formation of the high-grade assemblage at higher temperatures.

For a further refinement of the barometer data on the hydration state of cordierite as a function of P, T, and X (including gaseous species), and the activity — composition relationship of both cordierite and spinel will be required. An experimental study of the Mg-cordierite — (Mg, Zn)-spinel — quartz equilibrium is presently under way. This is coupled with an application of the data to natural assemblages on a regional scale in Scandinavia.

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